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HUDSON IN 1800

Hudson June 2nd, 1862

Eds Beacon: It is with pleasure that I occasionally notice in the Beacon, sketches of the early settlement of the Reserve. I take the liberty of sending you some extracts from a letter received from my brother in law, Dr. Wm. N. Hudson, now a resident of Middleport, O, in reply to some inquiries that I had made of him relative to this subject. He writes from recollection and not from record. Yours, Harvey Baldwin

He commences with the first settlement of Hudson and says, I have first taken up the families, five in all, that were on the ground the 5th day of June 1800, and who I believe, all sat at a table made of elm bark on the 4th of July, 1800, of that year, in the shade of the forest on what is now a part of the green, a few rods north of the actual center of the township, and a very little west of the north and south road. I recollect that the number who sat together at the dinner was 42 being all the inhabitants then in the township old and young. Their names are as follows, Viz: David Hudson, his wife Anna Hudson, their children Samuel, Ira, Wm N, Milo L and Abigail L. Hudson, 8. Thaddeus Lacy, his wife Rosannah Lacy, their children Isaac H., Ann and Susan Lacy, 5. David Kellogg, his wife Mrs. Kellogg, their children Eleanor, Hiram and infant, 5. Samuel Bishop, his wife Mrs. Bishop, their children Ruth, David Luman, Reuben, Joseph G. Bishop and a maiden sister of Mrs. Bishop, Ruth Gaylord, 9. Elijah Noble, his wife Anna Noble, and child Ira Noble, 3.

Those not having families at the time, or whose families were still at the east were Joel Gaylord, Heman Oviatt, Dr. Moses Thompson, Stephen Perkins, Wm. Leach, Reuben Parker, George Darrow, Joseph Darrow, Gordon Crandall, Richard H. Blinn, Allen Gaylord, and John Wood, 12; Total 42. If any others I do not now recollect them. If you wish to be more accurate, apply to some who are living that were on the ground at the time. Their number is now few. I will name a few I do not know are dead: Allen Gaylord of Newburgh, Stephen Perkins of Solon, Phebe Hollenbeck, formerly Phebe Bishop, and our brother, Timothy Hudson. All the others I suppose are deceased. If you know of any others who are living, please state it in your next. (David Bishop still lives), or if any of those just above named are deceased, please inform me. I asked Dr. Hudson if he could inform me when the first grist mill was erected on the Western Reserve, in reply he says, I am not able to tell you certainly when the first mill was erected on the Reserve, but I will give you the dates of some that I know, and nearly the date of some others in the eastern part of the Reserve. In the summer of 1800, Wm. W. Williams, put mills in what is now Newburgh in Cuyahoga County, where we got the flour and meal made for us in the north western territory. Previous to that all our ground flour and meal was brought from Steele and Norton mills in Bloomfield, Ontario County, New York. But you know, I suppose, that we made in those days meal from corn, some in wooden mortars and more on what we called Blood Mills, those being a tin grater made by punching many holes through a piece of tin, then giving it a curve, and nailing to a piece of wood. In 1801 Ezra Wyatt, and Aaron Norton, commenced building mills

on Tinkers Creek in the northeast part of Hudson, they had the saw mill running late in the fall of the year 1801; and the grist mill so it grind, but not bolt, in the spring of 1802 not far from the first of April. David Abbott, built mills on the Chagrin near Willoughby, I think in 1803 or 1804, and to which we sent frequently for grinding when the water was low in Tinkers Creek and at Williams Mill, for by the way of this last mill, we had to go to reach Abbotts Mill and the journey through the then existing roads occupied more than a weeks time. (Dr. Hudson is incorrect about the date of Abbotts Mills being in operation they commenced running in 1800, a short time after Williams Mills were in operation (C.C.B.) The first mills put in operation on the Western Reserve, was those built by Williams in Newburgh, the second Mills that was put in operation was Abbotts in Willoughby, this fact is settled (C.C.B.) Austins Mills at the bend of Grand River, in Austinburg, were put in operation in 1801 (C.C.B) About the same time (ie) 1803 or 1804, Mills were erected on the Cuyahoga Rapids, on the extreme Northern line of what is now Portage County (the rapids are in the town of Hiram C.C.B.) And also Jedediah Beard built mills on the west branch of the Cuyahogs in the west part of Burton township (now) Geauga County. I think it must have been in 1806, that Allexander Walker, put up a cheap grist mill in Revenna, where we obtained some flour and meal. Aaron Norton, erected both a grist and saw mill at the falls of Mud Creek in Northampton in 1806, changed his location and did the like in what is now middlebury in 1808. Deacon Septimus Witter put up the first mills in Aurora, near where is a rail road station in 1810. Probably the next year, Lemuel Punder-son built a cheap grist mill in the eastern part of Newbury, Geauga County (In the life of Judge Eleazer Hickox of Burton, he says the mill was built in 1810, C.C.B.) There were mills quite early in this century, in a number of places in the eastern part of the Reserve, Viz: at Austinburg, Kinsman, Poland, Warren, and probably some other places. Your old barn was put up in 1802, of the first lumber made at the Hudson saw mill, I know not but it was the very first framed barn erected on the Reserve. The next season (1803) Ebenezer Sheldon Esq. had one erected in Aurora. I believe the house you now occupy was the first two story frame house that was built west of the longitude of Warren. It was erected in the summer of 1806. Well may we all ask, where are the actors of the early settlement of this Western Reserve? If in your opinion, this will interest your readers; I will assume the responsibility of its publicity, although it is taken from a letter to me, and not designed for publication. Should you think it not best to publish it, you will please hand it to Mr. Bierce, as I believe he is yet to collecting facts relative to the early settlement of the Reserve.

With sincere respect, I am truly yours;

Harvey Baldwin

STEPHEN PERKINS

Mr. Perkins was a resident of Tallmadge from 1821 to 1820 and as Mr. Perkins was a neighbor and ready and willing to relate the stories of pioneer life, which he endured and as I was a listener, I will write from memory the incidents of pioneer life as he used to relate them. The meager sketch of his life I obtained from Mrs. Judith, the widow of Mr. Elisha Perkins of Northampton, a short time before she died. C.C.B.

Stephen Perkins was a native of Vermont, and was born in 1774. He was by trade a tanner, currier and shoemaker, learning his trade in Conn, if I am not mistaken. When his apprenticeship was closed by his becoming 21, which brings us to 1795, he went forth to seek his fortune. How he labored and where, in the five years intervening from 1795 to 1800, is unknown to the writer. But he seems to have been carried west by the tide of emmigration for we find him in Bloomfield Ontario County, N. Y. in the spring of 1800. When David Hudson and his colony arrived in Canandagua from Goshen, Conn on their way to settle Town No. 4, Range 10 of the Connecticut Western Reserve, now called Hudson, in the county of Summit Ohio. Mr. Perkins being young and full of adventure, he was ready to go with this little band on their long and toilsome journey; and Esq. Hudson, was ready to receive him into their colony. They had come from Conn by land to Ontario County N Y Boats were to be put in readiness for the remainder of their long journey. The point from which the colony were to embark in the boats was a place known in early days as Ferundagut Bay, but at this day is called Irondequoit, on Lake Ontario. These boats were flat open boats being provided with sails and oars. They left for and arrived safe at Queenston in Upper Canada, they hired teams to draw their boats around Niagara Falls.

At Fort Erie, they embarked on Lake Erie, bound for the mouth of the Cuyahoga River, in the territory north west of the Ohio River. Mr. Perkins said that navigating Lake Erie with open boats was a dangerous as well as a laborious business. When the wind was favorable they could use a sail; and when the wind was unfavorable they would make use of their oars. This was a very slow way of propelling watercraft; then again there was the absolute necessity of a constant watch for those sudden storms of wind and rain, and being prepared for every emergency that might arise, by keeping the boats near the shore. Then at the approach of night, there was the necessity of looking for a convenient harbor for their boats, and also to get on shore for a good place to make their camp for the night. In this slow way they finally arrived safe in their destined port the mouth of the Cuyahoga River, which ended their lake navigation; just in time to escape one of those sudden and violent storms, which Lake Erie is subject to. Mr. Perkins, made the remark that as they approached the mouth of Cuyahoga, they perceived the storm approaching, and with the aid of oars and sails, they succeeded in running into the mouth of the river, just as the storm began and they all safe.

And in a very short time they could see the waves lashing the beach with great fury. Having thus escaped the perils of lake navigation, and time being precious; they at once made preparation for proceeding up the river with their boats. This was to be done by rowing, poling and warping (using boatmens language); poleing was performed with a pole 20 or 25 feet long, which was used by boatmen to push their boat against the current of the stream. Warping was done in the following manner; a long rope was provided, and one end was taken on shore and made fast to a tree; then those on the boat would pull at the rope, and in this laborious manner they propelled their boats up the river into Town 4 in Range 11, (now Boston) In answer to the question how they could know where to stop on the river, I think he said Esq. Hudson counted township lines. These township lines had been run 3 years previous. And let it be understood that at this time the west side of the Cuyahoga River was Indian Territory. Having arrived at a point on the river most elligible for them to get their effects through the trackless wilderness to where they designed to make their future home. They immediately commenced cutting a path through the woods to what is now Hudson, the town they desired to settle. And on the 5th day of June 1800, they had succeeded in transporting their goods, and at last had sat down on what is now the public square of the township of Hudson. The 59th draft Town 4 Range 10 Samuel Fowler, Daniel Goodwin, Timothy Allen, Ephrm. Starr, Joseph Lyman, Julian Hubbard, Enoch W. Thayer, David Hudson, Elihu Lewis, Birdseye Norton, Stephen W. Jones, Roger Newbury, Justin Ely, Elijah White, Jonathan Brace, Enoch Perkins, annexed Lot No. 3 in Town No. 8 in the 9th Range (now Chester Geauga Co.) the township had been surveyed the year previous 1799, for the proprietors into 100 lots or subdivisions, beginning at the south west corner lot of the township to number and Lot 100 was at the N.E. corner. Mr. Perkins used to relate the celebration of the 4th of July 1800, as a day of enjoyment. Esq. Hudson gave to each owner of a rifle or musket a half pound of powder, with which to celebrate the day. The grand old woods of Hudson that day resounded with the roar of musketry. There was a large shag bark hickory standing near covered with its loose bark and they amused themselves among other things in standing at the root of the tree and shooting off the loose bark. And thus passed away the first celebration in Summit Co. After the little colony was sheltered from storms the men all went in common into the south west part of the town and on Lot No 11 found 40 acres free from timber which they cleared and sowed with wheat in the fall of 1800. This was the first land cultivated in Summit County. Perkins was the first tanner in the county, his tanning was done in great troughs that were dug out from portions of the great whitewood trees which were common at that day, his tannery was on the brook the north side of the road west of the public square. He went from Hudson to Northampton, then back to Hudson, thence to Stow, then to Tallmadge, from there to Solon, Cuyahoga County, where he lived several years, then went west where he died in 1859. Mr. Perkins was twice married, his first wife was Miss Ruth, daughter of Samuel Bishop. They were married Nov. 5th, 1801, by David Hudson, J.P. being the second marriage in Hudson, and in the present county of Summit. His first wife died in Hudson leaving

a large family. His 2nd wife was Miss Lydia Harrington, they were married in Stow Feb. 11th, 1818 by Stephen Butler, J.P. Mr. Perkins was a well disposed man and a good neighbor; was not a man to accumulate much property, but was a good citizen.

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE BRONSON FAMILY

By the most authentic information it appears that all of the name of Bronson are decended from John Bronson, who came to Hartford Conn with Rev Thomas Hooker, and his colony from Dorchester and Watertown, Mass in 1635. The native place, the date of birth, the date of his arrival in Mass, the date of his marriage and to whom, seems to be among the things not yet brought to light. He seems to have been living in Hartford, and when Capt John Mason, with his small but trepid band of soldiers went forth to the celebrated attack of the Pequot Fort on the 12th of 1637, in what is now the town of Groton, in New London Co Conn. The ancient records of Hartford, his name is mentioned in 1639, who by the "towns courtesie" had liberty "to fetch woode and keep swine or coves on the common". His house lot was in "Soldiers field", so called, in the north part of the old village of Hartford, on the "Neck Road", (supposed to have been given for service in the Pequot War) where he lived in 1640. Nov. 9th, 1640, he (John Bronson) and Andrew Warner were fined five shillings for their hogs over the Great River, and five shillings for every day they left them there". There is a tradition that John Bronson was a native of Wales. Bennet Bronson Esq., a native of Waterbury, and a lawyer, and also was appointed in 1824, Chief Judge of the County Court of New Haven County, an office he held with honor for six years. He spent much time in searching the ancient records of Hartford the Ancient Records of Farmington, and the papers in the state paper office at Hartford, and also the records of Waterbury, the result of his research was a valuable collection of papers known as the Bronson Manuscripts; he was frequently applied too, to have them published but he declined. Mr. Barber in his Historical Collections of Conn, published in 1837, had permission to draw from them, and his article on Waterbury was drawn almost if not entirely from those manuscripts. After Judge Bronsons death in 1850, his son Dr. Henry Bronson, professor in the medical department of Yale College, he undertook the task of preparing them for the press in connection with a general history of the ancient town of Waterbury. In 1641 the little colony at Hartford seems to have been in straitened circumstances for land. There had been a discovery made of beautiful interval land on the Tunxis River, 10 miles west of Hartford, among those who want to make the new settlement was the Bronson Family, John Bronson it appears had 7 children, 4 sons and 3 daughters, he appears to have been somewhat prominent in Farmington, not only in the church but in the town. He died Nov. 28th, 1680. His estate L312. Isaac the third son was born in Nov 1645 and was baptized Dec. 7th, 1645 in Hartford, by Mr. Hooker. He married Mary Root of Farmington about 1669, they having joined the Farmington Church May 15th, 1681, and was active in establishing a church in Waterbury. He was a petitioner with Mr. Peck to the General Court for liberty "to

gather" a church and was one of its seven pillars at its final organization in 1691. When the train band was reorganized, after the town was incorporated in 1689, he was appointed corporal. About 1695, he became seargeant, and ever afterwards was known as Sergeant Bronson. He was deputy in May, 1697 and Oct. 1701, and other offices in the town. He seems to have been one of the most respected of the early settlers.

Serg Isaac Bronson died about 1719, and his widow soon after. His estate L.386. There seems to be a propriety in giving an Historical Explanation, the General Court which is mentioned was about the same as our legislature but had much more jurisdiction, if they wished to organize a church they must petition the General Court, and if they had found an eligible site for a new settlement, those interested must petition the court for a committee to explore and report at the next session of the court. Thus we find for an example; That in 1673, a number of inhabitants of Farmington petitioned the General Court for a committee to view Mattatuck. The committee appointed were Lieut Thomas Bull, Lieut Robert Webster, and Nicholas Olmsted. The committee viewed and reported to the court at its April Session in 1674, they close their report, "and our apprehensions are that it may accommodate thirty families. By a deed bearing date Aug 21st 1674 to a tract of land lying on both sides of the Naugatuck River, ten miles in breadth from East to West, butting east on Farmington bounds, south on Pegasset (now Derby) west on Pegasset, and Pomperaug, (Woodbury) and Potatuck, (now Southbury) and north on the wilderness. The considerations was thirty eight pounds in hand and divers good causes. This tract of country now is divided into the following towns and parts of towns Viz; Plymouth and Water-town in Litchfield County. Naugatuck, Wolcott, one half of Prospect, two thirds of Middlebury the City and Town of Waterbury.

Isaac Bronson the eldest son of Sergeant Isaac was born in Farmington in 1670, He owned land at Breakneck Hill at an early date. Bronson in his history of Waterbury speaks of him as being one of the most respectable and influential men of the town for many years. Cottrens History of Ancient Woodbury says that the first settlement of that town commenced in the spring of 1673. We may very reasonably infer that the inhabitants of these infant settlements being only about 8 miles apart would have intercourse with each other. How this was done at first has not come down to us, the streams all running from the North to the South through Conn; made it quite an undertaking to travel east and west through some portions of the state, the rocks and hills between Waterbury and Woodbury, are by no means to be counted out. In all probability the communications was on horseback or on foot, and not much at that; being simply a bridle path, and like the Indian Trails, those highways of the Savage Nations. Bronson in his chapter on the ancient roads of Waterbury says, "The third road running out of Waterbury, chronologically speaking was the Woodbury Road.

Though it is mentioned incidentally as early as 1687, though it could not have been much used at that time. After Rev. Mr. Peck was disabled by illness (in 1698) the inhabitants of Waterbury, went by this road to Woodbury to obtain baptism for their children.

It passed up the west side hill, nearly where the present road runs, then across Breakneck Hill, and north of the pond in Middlebury". Thus we have at least three well established points, West Side Hill in Waterbury, and Breakneck Hill and Quassapaug Lake in Middlebury. In June 1720, Isaac Bronson, Timothy Standley and Thomas Judd, laid out a rode towards Woodbury", commencing at the "Weste bars", being twenty rods wide for a distance up the hill running by Isaac Bronsons farm at (Breakneck) and ending "at the going down of Wolf pit Hill to the Bridg Brook at Woodbury bounds". At what points this road deviated from the old one, I am unable to say. "The old path" is referred in only one instance".

This road is open and travelled at this day through the town of Middlebury, and is eleven rods wide and remains that width as it was laid 156 years ago (1876) In the days of my childhood when my parents were residents of Middlebury, I heard those speak of the first settlement of Middlebury, I suppose the fact was placed beyond a reasonable doubt, that the Bronson farm in Breakneck was the first farm surveyed and entered on the proprietors book in that portion now called Middlebury, and this farm was owned and settled by Isaac Bronson, and his oldest son Isaac was the first child born in the township. My informant first was Mrs. Azuba Munson, who was the daughter of Lieut Josiah Bronson, and was born in Breakneck April 28th, 1745 and her married life was spent within a mile of where she was born, she died in 1817. She informed me that they came out from Waterbury and work on the farm and return to their home to sleep all this was done for fear of the indians, they erected a log house and had a strong door made for it and loop holes for musketry and observation, this course was pursued for several years. The Historical reader will readily call to mind the fact that "from 1689, when William and mary ascended the throne of England, to the peace of Utrecht, in 1713, with the exception of about four years from 1697 to 1702, England and France were constantly at war. Maurauding parties of French and Indians from Canada, made frequent hostile expeditions to the infant settlements of New England, destroying the crops, driving off the cattle, firing dwellings, and massacring the inhabitants, or carrying them into captivity. During this whole period, Waterbury was a fron tier town and much exposed from the small number of its inhabitants the want of fortified places and its distance from effectual succor. This might be considered a good and sufficient reason for my ancestor Isaac Bronson, not moving his family onto the farm at Breakneck, this farm was known as the Bronson Farm for nearly a century. One incident I will relate one day they wanted to go out to the Breakneck farm, and they had a desire to remain over night and carried provisions with them sufficient to do so, at night those that remained retired into the log cabin. In the night the inmates being on the alert they were satisfied that they heard footsteps around and looking in the direction of the door they thought they perceived that the latch of the door move, one stepped to the door and put his hand on to it and perceived that someone was trying to raise it to open the door. He stepped back and took his musket, and raised the muzzle of it so as to be sure to hit an object in a vital part, he fired off

his musket, well loaded with ball, through the door, there was running from the door. They remained quiet until morning. They looking out through their loop holes, after day light of their fortress, they made no discovery of anything hostile. But the time and place demanded caution, they had to resort to strategy. They opened the door, and put a hat on the muzzle of a loaded musket and put in the door as it opened for a mark if there should be any Indians, lurking about the premises. But no bullet or arrow perforated the hat. They then ventured forth, and found blood at the door, and was able to trace blood from the door to the woods and their lost all trace and never found anything more, who it was is among the mysteries of this day. Isaac Bronson, the son of Serg Isaac, as has been before stated was born in 1670, the day of the month in which he was born, the date of his marriage and who he married has not come down to us. In what year Isaac Bronson Jr. moved his family onto the Bronson farm at Breakneck is not known, but his oldest child named Jerusha, was born Nov. 8th, 1703, leaving us to infer that somewhere between 1703 and 1707 he moved his family into what is today the town of Middlebury. On the 29th of March, 1707, his son Isaac was born. On a plain marble slab in the cemetery in Middlebury is this inscription "In memory of Isaac Bronson who departed this life Dec. 7th, 1799, aged 93 years. He was the first child born in this place". He was the father of nine children, 5 sons and 4 daughters, 3 died young, 3 of daughters married and two of them settled in New Milford, Conn. Three of the sons Isaac, Josiah and James will be mentioned hereafter. The family with one exception appears to have been born in Middlebury. My informant and her information was corroborated by my Grand Parents and others said their house was the only one between Waterbury, and Woodbury, a distance of 5 or 10 miles the house on the Bronson Farm being four miles from Waterbury, a little south of west. How many acres was comprised in the original Bronson Farm is unknown to the writer, it lay on the north side of the Woodbury Road the east line being 40 or 50 rods from the foot of the Hill on the east side. The house stood where my Uncle Leonard Bronson died in Feb. 1869. I will relate another incident after the family removed to Breakneck, there were strong indications of an addition to the population, and they living in solitude the nearest house being 4 miles distant the Sabbath came. The mother in hourly expectation of being confined, the father expressed his unwillingness to go to Waterbury to meeting, under those circumstances, but she persisted on his going and he still remained unwilling to leave. But it is said that necessity is the mother of invention, she proposed to shut up the dog, (for like his master and mistress it appears he was a dog that went regularly to meeting. Or like a horse that belonged to Dea Ebenezer Richardson of Middlebury, in the days of my childhood, if they did not want that horse to use on the Sabbath, he would break out of the pasture and go with others and stand at his accustomed post and would return from meeting with the rest; surely a good example) And if I am taken sick while you are gone, I can let out the dog, and he will follow you, on these conditions he consented to go, and mounting his horse he went to meeting. In a short time after he left, she was taken sick, and the dog was set at liberty and was on his way to Waterbury, in the time of sermon, the dog came into the Meeting House, went to the pew where

his master sat, this was sufficient notice for him to go home, he went to the pew where the doctor was sitting and they left the meeting house, and left in company with the doctor for home. And the result was an addition to the population of the township.

This might have been Isaac, the first born in the township. At another time, a large buck was caught by his horns in some grape vines south east of the house on Goat Lot Brook, and one of the daughters killed it with an axe and bore it home in triumph. On a red stone in the ancient cemetery in Waterbury is the following inscription which I copied in 1865. "Here lyeth ye body of Mr. Isaac Bronson who departed this life June ye 15th 1751 in ye eighty second year of his age". As I stood by this ancient tomb stone, more than a century had past since the mortal remains had been buiried their. I could not help pass in review before my mind, the changes which had taken place, in the century past not only in the surrounding but in the town of Middlebury, where he died and was brought here to be buiried, he being the first settler of Middlebury.

In June 1701 it appears he purchased of Thomas Warner, twelve acres on the south side of the Woodbury Road. How many acres of land he possessed is unknown to the writer, or how much his estate inventoried after his death in 1751.

Isaac Bronson Jr, had a portion set off to him on the south side of the Woodbury Road. Here he commenced for himself. He married Eunice, daughter of Thomas Richards July 3rd, 1734. Their children were as follows, Viz, 1st, Lois born Jan 26th, 1735, married Isaac Prichard of Waterbury, died in 1824, aged 89. 2nd - Isaac born Oct. 2nd, 1736; 3rd Hannah born Jan 31st, 1738-9 married Timothy Clark, died in 1815, aged 78. 4th - Lydia born June 29th, 1741, died Sept 1749, aged 7 years. 5th - Eli born June 30th, 1743. 6th - Patience born Dec. 12th, 1746, died Sept. 6th, 1749, aged 3 years. 7th - Seth born Dec. 7th, 1748. The oldest inscription of my own ancestors in the ancient cemetery of Waterbury was a gray tomb stone with this inscription, "Here lyeth the body of Mrs Eunice Bronson, ye wife of Mr. Isaac Bronson, who died Sept. 6th, 1749 in ye 34th year of her age."

He married for his 2nd wife Abigail, widow of Caleb Munson of Wallingford, and by her he had 8th - Titus, born Oct. 15th, 1751; 9th - Abigail born Aug 12th, 1753, married Ambrose Hickox of Watertown. Mr. Isaac Bronson was a successful business man kept adding to his farm so when his sons became of age, he would give a portion of his farm and help them to commence in life his land all lay south of the Woodbury Road. In 1741 he built a large frame house, it was taken down in the spring of 1820, and a new house was erected by his grand son Capt. Philo Bronson, the place is now owned by Mrs Maria B Townsend. If the writer did not live in Ohio, and could have access to the records of Waterbury it could be ascertained how many acres of land he owned and how much his estate inventoried etc, but I have been told that he was one of the wealthy men of his day; when a man was very rich who was worth \$5000. He was a man that paid great attention to fruit had a large orchard and had choice grafted fruit from

various sources, wherever he could find it. He has been represented to me as a man decided in his opinion and was not backward in expressing his opinions if he deemed it necessary; was a man of intelligence and a high tone of moral and religious principle, a puritan of the strictest kind, and imparted the same characteristics to his children.

At what time of life he made a profession of religion is unknown, for the early records of the First Cong. Church in Waterbury are supposed to be lost. He was one who petitioned for society privileges in 1790 and was one of the original members when the church was organized in 1796. His 2nd wife's maiden name was Abigail Brockett (or as it was pronounced at that day) Brackett, she had by her first husband 5 sons viz; Abner, Benjamin, Harmon, Cornelius and Caleb. Their father died in Wallingford in 1749 and there was some considerable property left them by their father, they came to Middlebury with their mother with the exception of Cornelius who learnt the trade of a silver smith, and never resided in Waterbury. Abner settled on the farm now (1876) owned by Julius Bronson, Harmon settled on the farm across the road sold to Dea Seth Bronson and went to Waterbury to reside. Benjamin was a black smith by trade, he settled on what is now Middlebury Green, raised a family and in 1797 sold his property removing to Paris Oneida County, N. Y. Caleb settled in the north part of the town, the three Munsons raised large families.

In the Revolution Abner, Benjamin and Caleb were Whigs and ranged themselves on the side of the colonies. Harmon and Cornelius were Tories, and to show their zeal left their home and friends and joined the British Army. The treatment he received was such he took advantage of the proclamations of Congress and returned home or in other words deserted from the British Service. Cornelius died in the British Army. As before related Mr. Bronson died Dec. 7th, 1799 aged 93. Mrs. Bronson died Nov 17th 1800 aged 90 years. The latter part of her life was rendered unpleasant by partial insanity. She was never placed in confinement and there would be intervals of return of reason when she would deeply deplore her own conduct. She was called a devoted Christian woman making a profession in early life. The 1st child of Isaac and Eunice Bronson married and lived and died in Waterbury, and raised a family. The 2nd known as Capt. Isaac Bronson lived and died within 50 rods of where he was born, he might be with propriety considered one of nature's noble men; of a strong constitution, an iron will and indomitable perseverance, he was well calculated, to give battle to the stern realities of life, as they were presented to him in his day, and he appears to be one that acted well his part in his day and with those who acted with him. He became enamoured of a girl in the neighborhood, and his father had strong objections her parents were in low circumstances and she was compelled to work for her living, Isaac was but 19 years of age, he was bound to marry the girl of his choice. He was according to law published on the Sabbath, his father arose in the meeting and in a voice and manner not to be misunderstood forbid any authorized person marrying them as his son was still a minor on penalty of the law. But this did not

prevent action, for Sabbath evening Isaac mounted a horse and taking his bride on a pillion behind him they rode to Westbury, now Watertown, and was married by Rev. Mr. Trumbull. His father finding himself outwitted he was very much disturbed. The next morning when breakfast was ready, instead of sitting at the table with the rest, his father peremptorily, ordered him, as a mark of his displeasure, to take a pewter basin of bean porridge and sit in the chimney corner to eat his breakfast. His wife said if Isaac must eat in the chimney corner, she would too; and they both sat together and eat their breakfast, out of the same dish. He found he could not punish him in this way, he then threatened to disinherit him but all this did not avail, for he had the sympathy of his relatives and friends. Isaac was a natural mechanic, and his friends helped him to some tools, and he made cart wheels, and he put up the frame of barns, and other carpenter work. He and his wife were very industrious, prudent and with the strict economy which is requisite for success, he was able to overcome all difficulties in his pathway convincing all around him that he was bound to secure a home. His father seeing he and his wife were determined to obtain a living and were getting along finely, he relented and gave him a piece of land and helped him to build a house in which he lived untill his death, which occurred April 15th, 1826, aged 90. He was an active man in all he undertook, he added acre after acre to his farm which he cultivated with energy. He was also a very public spirited man always ready to assist in all public improvements such as building roads and bridges and he ultimately became wealthy, and was a prominent man in society. When the first meeting house was built in Middlebury in 1792, the society was small and feeble and the vote was to build the house without a steeple. This Capt. Bronson strongly opposed, but he had to submit; he then resorted to other methods to carry out his wishes. He owned a saw mill on Hop Brook, he proposed to furnish the timber (ie) all the square timber, and saw it, if they would cut it, draw it to the mill and then draw it to where the house was built. And by this means the house was built with a steeple. He never made a profession of religion but was always a supporter of the Sabbath Ministrations, always helped to support the preaching of the gospel. He was an honest upright man, in all his dealings with his fellow men; any dishonest act in any one was sufficient for him to set his mark upon them, and he was not backward in expressing his opinion in language easily understood. In 1775 he was Lieut in a company that went from Waterbury, they went to the north as far as Montreal, and returned to St. Johns where they wintered, he afterwards rec'd a Captains Commission. He was a Federalish in his politics, he always violently opposed Mr. Jeffersons administration.

He was no ordinary man, he was inteligent and had a mind of his own. His first wife Mary died suddenly of Apoplexy, Aug. 10th 1810, aged 76 years. They had a family of 9 children. Isaac his oldest son better known as Dr. Isaac was known as one of the great bankers of his day and was extensively known for his great financial ability. Ethel, another son born July 22nd, 1765, he

married Hepzilah, daughter of Judge Joseph Hopkins, he became a prominent man in his native town, was a Justice of the Peace, (like his father) he was a member of legislature for six sessions. While he lived in Middlebury he occupied the house east of his fathers where the road turns to the north to Watertown. In 1804 he removed to Jefferson County, N. Y. settling in Rutland. He was three times elected to the legislature, and in 1813 was Judge of the County Court. He died in 1825, aged 60. Laban the 4th child of Capt. Isaac Bronson was born Feb. 14th, 1762, he in connection with his brother Dr. Isaac, was engaged extensively in buying soldiers claims and in land speculation, and died in Wheeling West Virginia in 1801, aged 39 years. The youngest and 9th child was named Virtie he was born March 22nd, 1778, he was employed as a clerk for many years in the land office of Oliver Phelps and Nathl. Gorham at Canandague N Y in disposing of the great Phelps and Gorham purchase of land in Ontario and adjoining counties.

The 5th child and 2nd son of Isaac and Eunice Bronson, was Eli; he was born June 30th, 1743. And he lived and died in the house in which he was born. He was also one of the honorable men of his day. He was often sent to the legislature and was an active man in the town and society his life was that of a Christian although for some reason his name does not appear on the catalogue of the church.

He was married to Mehitable, daughter of Capt Enos Atwater of Wallingford, March 4th, 1773. They had 6 children, 2 died young Enos born March 31st, 1774, he was a graduate of Yale of the Class of 1798. He was editor of the United States Gazette. "Under Mr. Bronsons management, the Gazette became the leading newspaper of Philadelphia, and exercised a powerful through out the country. The Editor was a strong Federalist, bold and fearless in the expression of his opinions." He died April 17th, 1823, aged 49. (See Bronson History of Waterbury, Page 384) 3rd child Mehitable married Mr. Eli Thompson lived and died in her native town a noble woman. Diantha married Amos Curtiss, removed to Otsego County, N Y. Capt Philo, "He was a deacon, a frequent representative to the legislature from his native town, and a most excellent man, and died at Geneva N. Y. Nov 20th, 1855, aged 73.

The 7th and youngest child by the first wife was the one known as Deacon Seth, he was born Dec. 7th, 1748. On coming to his majority and wishing to settle in life with his fathers assistance bought the farm belonging to his step brother, Harmon Munson, and on this farm he spent the rest of his life. He was possessed of the same characteristics of the family but his high tone of Christian principle enabled him to control himself. But the same habits of industry, prudence, perseverance that characterized the race was in him. He was retiring in his habits, and was not in public life. A man of good sense and information, he made a public profession of religion, and when the church was organized in Middlebury, Feb. 10th, 1796, he was one of the original twelve members, and Nathan Osborn and Seth Bronson were chosen the Deacons.

In 1799 John Stone was chosen Deacon and from that time he was the senior Deacon until his death. He was married to Chloe, the daughter of George Pritchard of Waterbury, Nov. 27th, 1770. She died Jan 16th, 1805, aged 59 years. He married 2nd Wid Esther Curtiss. He died Oct. 11th, 1828, aged 80 years. His 2nd wife died March 3rd, 1847, aged 88. Dea Bronson was the father of five children one died young, the 3rd Jonas born Sept. 25th, 1779, married Melinda Baldwin, is deacon of a congregational church in Rutland, Jefferson County, N Y. Marcus born Sept. 8th, 1781, married Rebecca Thompson, spent his life in Middlebury, a very worthy upright man. He died on the place where he was born Feb. 27th, 1869, aged 87. His wife died Sept. 17th, 1872, aged 91. The 8th child was first by his wife Abigail, was Titus born Oct. 15th, 1751. He appears to have remained at home on the farm and like his older brothers attended school long enough to be able to read and write and enough of arithmetic to be able to keep accounts. The Bronsons of Breakneck, in the controversy before the Revolution, were on the side of the colonies, the battles of Lexington, and Concord, made them all firm and uncompromising Whigs. It does not appear that any of them enlisted into the Continental Army, but Capt. Isaac and Titus Bronson. A company was raised in Waterbury, and commanded by Capt. Phineas Porter, and Isaac Bronson was Lieut, they were ordered to go to the north, they went by Albany to Lake Champlain thence down the lake to St. Johns and Montreal, Capt Bronson was at the taking of Montreal, with Generals Montgomery and Wooster in 1775; Capt. Bronson was in winter quarters at St. Johns during the winter of 1775 and 1776. Titus was taken sick on Lake Champlain, his term of enlistment having expired and not being able to continue in the service he was discharged and returned while many of the soldiers remained, some were at the storming of Quebec when Montgomery fell in Dec 1775. In 1776 Titus enlisted and was on Dorchester Heights when the British evacuated Boston in March 1776. But being unable to withstand the hardships and duties of camp life; he was discharged and returned to his native town, but still acted as a minute man. I have in my possession the musket that I suppose he carried in these campaigns. He went to work on the farm. His father gave him a piece of land off the south side of his farm on the west side of the road leading south from the old homestead on this he built a house and barn. He was married to Hannah, daughter of Moses and Dinah Cook, Feb. 11th, 1779. He was also a successful farmer he never had the health to perform the labor requisite but by prudence and good management on the part of himself and his wife they accumulated a handsome property. He was one of the honored in church and society, was one of the original 12 members at organization of the Middlebury Church. He died very much lamented May 21st, 1820 aged 69 years. Mrs. Hannah his widow died April 2nd, 1841, aged 86 years. In many respects she was a very superior woman, and honorable mention of her can be made. The 31st chapter of Proverbs, several verses are applicable, more particular the 26th, 27th and 28. Her mother died in Jan 1760 when she was 5 years of age, she then went to live in the family of a Mr. Collins in the east part of Wallingford, or rather in the Parish of Northford where she lived (I suppose until she was 18) she returned to Waterbury where she lived until her marriage. Her father Moses Cook went to New

Haven on business and on his return, he put up for the night at a tavern in Bethany and one of the Mohegan Indians was in the house in a state of intoxication, was very noisy and troublesome, and he wanted more liquor, which was denied him, which made him more enraged; he became so outrageous that the landlord wished to have him put out of the house. Mr. Cook being a muscular and resolute man he assisted in putting him out of the house. He then became boisterous but promised to go away if they would give him his basket which was in the house. This the owner of the house did not like to do, Mr. Cook said he would and as the door was Mr Cook was struck and his skull fractured so he did not live but a short time. Some of the bones taken from the fracture were preserved by Mrs. Bronson, and at her death in 1841 they were buried with her 70 years after the accident. The act was committed Dec. 7th, 1771 and he died Dec. 12th. The Indians name was Moses Paul, he was tried in Feb 1772 convicted and sentenced to be hung June 17th, but the General Assembly on petition postponed the execution till Sept. 17th, 1772 when he was hung in New Haven. The prisoner expressed great sorrow for the deed, had no wish to injure Mr. Cook. At the request of Paul, the celebrated Sampson Occum preached the sermon on the occasion. The sermon was published. One remark in his sermon was this, "a drunken Indian is worse than the Devil; for who ever heard of a drunken Devil?".

They were married and commenced house keeping like others of their day; with honesty, industry and with that prudence and close economy that have to use who succeed in business, they maintained their position in society raising a family of 8 children, who took respectable positions in society. They instructed their children by precept and example in the Puritan Principles of New England. They being of the Puritan stamp, the family were brought up to reverence the holy Sabbath and religion and all its institutions. He was a man of good sense, good judgement and decision of character. she was a woman of decision and a great taste for reading. There was a township library established which the people had access, which has been in operation more than 80 years.

And the family seemed to have the same thirst for information possessed by the mother. And it was no hardship for her sons to stay at home and read to their mother, and by this means they all had a taste for reading which was mostly historical, never indulging in works of fiction to any great extent. In the early years of this republic, they were Federalists. The parents were strong advocates of the great issues that were before the people in Washingtons Administration, the joining the confederation, or Mr. Jays Treaty or Gen Hamiltons Funding System, or Gen. Washingtons System of Neutrality, they were found able advocates of all these measures with reason and argument. They were warm advocates of the Administration of John Adams, but there were two measures of his that after years and the mists of prejudice had ceased to blind them they saw and felt and were convinced by the workings of the alien and sedition laws were not laws calculated to put forth the principles of the Declaration of Independence, and of the Constitution, more particularly the Sedition Law, which

was aimed at the Freedom of Speech, and Freedom of the press. But Mr. Jeffersons Administration they did oppose strong, they were bitter opposers of his Gun Boat System, the embargo, and non-intercourse and also the War of 1812 in Mr. Madisons administration, and also opposed the Tariff of 1816, which only carrying out Mr. Jeffersons great American System. This opposition arose from the fact that New England was engaged in foreign commerce, in the first Napoleons Career of 30 years, war, the United States had become, the great commercial nation of the earth and the capital of New England was invested in shipping to do business on the great waters. But the Tariff bill passed and New England found her capital unproductive from the fact that pacification of Paris and Buonapart being sent into exile in Elba, the war had ceased, the immense armies in the field were disbanded, and instead of consumers had become producers, and of course no market for the produce of the country and no use for her ships. Thus New England found that her capital must seek other channels. The Tariff had been advocated and passed for the avowed purpose of creating and ptotecting manufacturing interests in the United States.

The Capitalists of country were seeking other channels where to invest and the result Lowell, Waltham and a multitude of other manufacturers had sprung up in various parts of the country, that 20 years later down with the tariff, down with manufacturers, down with the cotton and woollen nabobs. With the facts before them those who were living became as strong advocates of the great American System, as any Jeffersonian Democrat ever thought of being. They were Anti-Slavery to the core, but did not follow Mr. Garrison in all his views, but they were Whigs untill that party went by the board, then all were adherents of the Republican party. The oldest child of Titus and Hannah Bronson was a son and they gave him the name of Jairus. He was born Dec. 11th, 1779, being known in the annals of the country as the hard winter (ie) the winter of 1779 and 1780. My fathers facilities for an education were in a common school and limited at that. He learnt to read, and spell, also writing and arithmetic . He had a well stored mind of useful knowledge, he was a great reader of standard authors in History and in the news of the day, like his parents before him he took and read with great interest the weekly newspaper. He was no reader of fiction, he had a very retentive memory particurly of dates. Among the early recollections he used to relate was the march of the French army after the battle of Yorktown, this was probably in Oct. 1782, they marched from the head of Chesapeak Bay, through Penn, and New Jersey to the Hudson River, crossing at Fish kill and then east across Connecticut to Newport, in order to embark for the West Indies. In passing through Conn north of his fathers on the ancient road, and they encamped on Breakneck Hill; Count Rochambeau and his staff made headquarters at Capt Isaac Bronsons, while some of the officers slept in his fathers house, this was about 2 months before he was 3 years of age. His father went up to see them in camp and my father went with him and he see them march out of camp and on their way east it made such an impression on his mind he did not forget it. He remained at home on his fathers farm untill he was 21. His father then gave him 10 acres of land to make him freeman,

a property qualification being necessary to enable one to be a voter previous to 1818.

In the fall of 1803 he made a journey to Paris, Oneida County N. Y. but he returned to Conn and was married to Miss Irene, daughter of David and Hannah (Curtiss) Mallory. In the spring of 1804 he built a house on the land his father had given him, he bought 15 acres more and built a barn. But being on a small and stoney farm, and an increasing family, he began to feel the necessity of a change of habitation. On some of the first days of Jan 1819 he sold his place and in Feb he left his native town in company with his brother Augustus, and Ebenezer Richardson, they left, destination Ohio. They went with a horse and waggon, taking the road through Central N. Y. by Buffalo, and thence on to the Western Reserve, arriving in Tallmadge in March. They bought of Col Benj. Tallmadge Lot No 1 in Tract No. 4 and they articted for Lot No. 2 in the same tract, both in Tallmadge. My father and Uncle Augustus commenced chopping on the line between the two lots 3 acres on each which they underbrushed and girdled, planted 4 acres with corn and 3 acres with oats and fenced it. And in June left Ohio for Conn for his family; and on the 25th of Aug 1819 bid farewell to parents, relatives and their native town, and with an ox waggon and two yoke of oxen, and one horse and waggon, well equiped for pioneer life we started for Ohio, Dan Saxton driving the ox team. We stopped to visit some relatives we had in Otsego and Oneida Counties in N. Y. The family were taken sick with the dysentary and a son died in Augusta Sept. 24th, aged 5 years, having been detained three weeks by sickness. We beg an our journey again in health, and drove about ten miles and put up for the night and another son of three years was taken sick, but we continued our journey consulting physicians and on the 3rd of Oct 1819, he died between Genesee River and Caledonia Sulphur Spring. We moved on again and came to Buffalo, here we were strongly solicited to put our effects on board a schooner, lying in Buffalo Creek, to bring to Cleveland. On consultation and considering the late season and the liability of very bad roads they finally obtained a reluctant consent; Dan Saxton Jr our ox teamster went on board to come up the lake. The captain and crew proved to be a gang of willians, who had possession of the crazy old hulk that lay in the creek, and were lying in wait for other emigrants and obtained household goods from others besides our family that the bare freight bill was over \$700. They divided the goods and fled in different directions, one of the gang went to Toronto, another went to detroit with portions of our goods which were identified. In this condition the family arrived in Tallmadge, which had been selected to be the future home of his family; on the 23rd of Oct. 1819. We were truly in a destitute condition in many respects; our clothing, bed clothing, crockery, and other articles necessary for household use were gone. We had purchased many articles, such as pins, needles, combs, etc. which were in demand and readily exchanged for provision needed in a family. Our money was paid out for our land except for our outfit, and to get the family to their new home. In this situation we had to commence pioneer life; but destitute as we were we found kind and sympathizing friends among strangers who cheerfully ministered

to our wants and our necessities. To whom we have always held in very grateful remembrance and they lived to do good, while they lived but all or nearly all have gone to their final account (1860) My uncle Augustus Bronson had erected a log house on the west line of Lot 2 in Tract 4, the farm now owned by Hiram A Sackett, and the house stood in what is now his west orchard. In this house we lived ten in a family, my parents and 7 children, my uncle and aunt and D. Saxton. My father began immediately preparations to build a house on Lot No. 1, Tract 4, as it was expected that it would be several years before a frame house could be built, he was desirous to build well, and he selected his timber which was split and hewed on one side 30 by 19, in Dec it was raised, the good people of Tallmadge, volunteered their assistance in true pioneer style, the roof was put on, the doors cut out, and also the window, and a floor was laid, and we moved into our own log house on the first day of Jan 1820. No chimney or fireplace, but plenty of wood, no road but followed the tract line by blazed trees, in the spring the road was cut out.

We had our health however which was a great blessing, but in June 1820 our only cow died, the one we drove into the country with us with the Murrain, a common disease among cattle at that day. In June 1821 we lost one of our oxen with the same disease, these losses bore very heavy upon us for had but little to help ourselves with. In the fall of 1821, the fever and ague began to make its appearance among the inhabitants and all with few exceptions had it. The good people would come in and administer to our wants, and bring in nice articles of food and tonics for our comfort, and try to administer consolation, by telling us that it was nothing but that the ague was something to bear. This remark "it is nothing but the ague" arose from the fact that a person would be taken very sick and send for a physician, he would come and find it a bilious attack but could not tell at first whether the patient would have a run of bilious fever or whether it would at last be the ague. But in time we wore it out as the saying was, but was 4 or 5 years doing it. Feb. 3rd, 1822, a sister of 3 years fell into the spring where we obtained water for household purposes and was drowned. This melancholy accident was on the Sabbath, all efforts to resuscitate was unavailing. March 26th, 1822, a brother of one year died making in all five children of the family that have died, a brother died in Conn in 1815. But God in his providence favoring, we have been able to overcome all of the difficulties that beset our path. We have been enabled to clear our farm of timber, set out our orchard, erect the necessary buildings and have been prospered with enough of this worlds good so we have never been deprived of the comforts of life. He was a man possessed of a good constitution, a man of uniform good health till near the close of life; he always enjoyed the good of his labor. He was one that was always in his seat in the house of worship on the Sabbath, and was in the singers seat, at an early age and continued to sing till his voice became broken. He did not make a profession of religion untill Nov 1831. He was not a man that said so much as some on the great subject of religion, but he had a strong, clear and consistent view of the great fundamental

doctrines of Christianity, as held by those of the Calvinistic faith. And he was able to defend his theological belief and opinions at any time and at any place. He was a man of large, and comprehensive views, and free from selfishness. He took a deep interest in all the great improvements of his day, he was a warm advocate of good roads, when the subject of turnpike roads was before the minds of the people, as the best means of passing through the country, he was one that felt that a good road was a good thing, and that they could well afford to pay toll for the sake of having a good road to travel on.

When the subject of canals was put forth and pressed upon the attention of the people of the state of New York, by Dewit Clinton, he was one that was an advocate for he could see that it would open a way to the seaboard for the vast western country. When he was moving his family to Ohio in 1819, the Erie Canal was approaching completion on what was called the middle section, from Utica to Montezuma and we first saw the Canal at Syracuse. He was called by the Bucktails, a visionary as well as a foolish man, to move his family to Ohio with the expectation of deriving any benefit from Clintons Big Ditch. But my father would defend Clinton and his policy. And his public spirit was manifested here in Ohio in cutting out and making roads in assisting to build the meeting house, and the school house; and as rail roads came to occupy the attention of mankind, he was not the one to be in opposition. The same with the telegraph and he took a deep interest in all these things and he took a large and comprehensive view of all things that calculated for the benefit of mankind. On the 7th of July 1857 he was taken with a rheumatic trouble, which disabled him from business, but he enjoyed the society of his friends and all the social relations of life, as much as ever. His last sickness was short but severe, he had full possession of his mental faculties to the last. He died of congestion of the lungs, April 5th, 1858; his age was 78 years and 4 months.

THE CHILDREN OF JAIRUS AND IRENE (MALLORY) BRONSON WERE:

- 1st - Charles Cook, born July 5th, 1804
- 2nd - Butler, born Jan. 31st, 1806 died June 19th, 1815 aged 9
- 3rd - Lucia Jenette, born Sept. 28th, 1807
- 4th - Bennet David, born July 28th, 1810
- 5th - Marcia Amelia, born July 24th, 1812
- 6th - Jairus, born Aug. 25th, 1814, died Sept. 21st 1819, aged 5
- 7th - Butler, born Oct. 20th 1816, died Oct. 3rd 1819, aged 3
- 8th - Clarissa Eliza, born Sept. 21st 1818, died Feb. 3rd, 1822, age 3
- 9th - Jairus, born Jan. 31st 1821, died March 26th 1822 aged 1
- 10th - Harriet Eliza, born Dec. 25th, 1823
- 11th - Cornelia Maria, born Dec. 26th, 1825

The 2nd child of Titus and Hannah C. Bronson was Horace. Horace Bronson was born Feb. 15th, 1784. His education was obtained in the common school; he served an apprenticeship to the carpenter and joiners trade of Mr. Amos Curtis, who then resided in Middlebury. When he became of age he worked at his trade in his native town, he married Charry thompson of Middlebury and bought a place

and was a resident of his native township with the exception of the last two or three years of his life. His was a long active useful life the same traits of character of the Bronson families belonged to him. The following are the children of Horace and Charry T. Bronson:

- 1st - Alfred H., born
- 2nd - Henry C. "
- 3rd - John T.
- 4th - Eliza
- 5th - Mary
- 6th - Caroline
- 7th - Sarah
- 8th - Joseph

He made a profession of religion in joining the Cong. Church in his native town in 1817. As age and its infirmities creeped on and feeling that the cares of his place was too much for them, they left the place that had been their home for half a century and moved to Waterbury, and lived in the family of his son-in-law and daughter Mr. Merrit and Mrs Mary Platt. He died in Waterbury May 24th, 1868, aged 86 years.

The last years of his life he was much crippled with sciatica. The following was copied from the Waterbury American of May 29th 1868.

Died in this city May 24th, at the residence of his son in law, Merit Platt, Horace Bronson in the 86th year of his age. The deceased untill recently resided in Middlebury, and belonged to one of the ancient families of his name - a man highly respected and honored among his townsmen.

The 3rd child was Augustus, he was born June 24th, 1784, he married Nancy Bradley in 1818, he moved to Tallmadge, O and settled, he removed his family to Van Wert County, O in 1836, settling in the township of Pleasant, here lived untill his death, Aug. 18th, 1838, aged 54 years. His wife died May 1st, 1865, aged 67. He had a common school education, he was a man of extensive reading, a very retentive memory, hardly any subject but what he coyld converse upon and could at all times bring out a large amount of valuable information, making him a very agreeable companion, for anyone desiring valuable information. The children of Augustus and Nancy B. Bronson are as follows:

- 1st - Mary Jane
- 2nd Sarah Jennette
- 3rd - Eliza
- 4th - Calista
- 5th - Augustus Aaron

The next child in order being the 4th was a daughter and was named Esther, she was born Oct. 19th, 1786, she was married to Mr. John Hine of Waterbury. She had two daughters Harriet and Mary. She died in New Haven.

The 5th child was Titus and he was born Nov 27th, 1788. He was one of the eccentric men of the world. He remained home on the farm until he was 21, but contending that there was a much more desirable country to obtain a living in than the rocky hills of Conn. The first adventure he made was to go to New Haven and take a voyage to the West Indies; one voyage was enough. He then left home for the state of New York, he stopped a short time in the family of an uncle in Paris in the County of Oneida, then he went on visited some old acquaintance in Onandaga County. Not feeling satisfied he left Onandaga for the Holland Purchase as all the State of N. Y. was that day called west of Genesee River. He crossed the Genesee River, at a noted place in Indian History called Big Tree; the place at this day is called Geneseo, and is the county seat of Livingston County. Here was the celebrated Genesee Flatts, well known in early days as being very sickly, he was shown a log house from which eleven heads of families had been carried from it to their graves besides many others. He travelled on that road west, called the Big Tree Road, on the south shore of Lake Erie, near Freedonia, in western New York. Continuing his journey onto the Reserve, he visited old acquaintance in the town of Columbia, in Loraine County, from Columbia he went to the town of Liverpool in Medina County, visiting friends from Waterbury Ct. He worked some and travelled from place to place not being settled, in any one place on the Reserve. Then war was declared in June 1812, and a draft was ordered for able bodied men, on the Reserve; to go on to the frontier for the protection of the people, he not feeling disposed to be a drafted soldier, he strapped on his knapsack and left somewhat sudden for Conn. Here I would say, that all these journeys were made on foot by him. He remained in Conn, until near the close of the year 1814, when prospects of peace were quite flattering, he returned to the Reserve and soon all was quiet on the frontier. His roving disposition still prompted him to go further to the west. He left the Reserve and went to detroit; crossed the river into Canada, and went into the wilderness of michigan. He was among the first settlers of Ann Arbor Washtenaw Co., Mich, also the first settler of Kallamazo. At the close of the Black Hawk War he went onto Rock Island Illinois, and settled, he crossed the Mississippi and squatted on land and was the first settler of Davenport, Iowa. He was a man of extensive reading and would express his opinions without fear or favor on all the great questions that agitated the public mind in his day. He was a strong Anti-Slavery man, a strong advocate of Temperance, a violent opposer to the use of tobacco, in politics he was Republican, and was always ready to defend his principles at all times. He returned to Connecticut in the fall of 1852, and was taken sick while visiting in his native town and died in the full possession of his mental faculties, trusting in the promises of God, and in His Holy Word. A plain marble slab marks his last resting place in the cemetary in his native town. On it this inscription.

"Titus Bronson died Jan 6th, 1853 aged 66 years. A western pioneer returned to sleep with his fathers".

He married Mrs. Sally (Richardson) Bartholomew in 1827, they had two daughters both married and raised families. She died at

Rock Island Ill Oct. 9th, 1848, aged Mrs. Bronson came to Ohio in 1819, then in the spring of 1830, they removed to Kalamazoo Mich and went 50 miles beyond settlements then to Rock Island and Davenport Iowa, they were pioneers in earnest.

The 6th child of these parents was Hannah born April 18th, 1791, and died in 1851, aged 60 years, unmarried.

The 7th child was Sally, born Sept. 13th, 1794, she married Mr. Alba Benham of Middlebury. They had children, 1st, William, 2nd, John, 3rd, Enos, 4th, Sarah, 5th, Franklin.

The 8th, Leonard, he was born June 24th, 1797, he was a man of good natural abilities, a good education, a man well read, a retentive memory, a mind well stored with useful knowledge. And he was prominent man in the church, and in society. He was representative in the legislature from his native town a number of sessions, was elected to the state senate from the district in which he resided. Was Justice of Peace, Administrator on estates and called upon to appraise property, a very active energetic business man. He remained on the old homestead and see to the wants of his parents while they lived. He married Nancy, daughter of Nathaniel and Comfort (Stone) Richardson, and was born on the old Richardson homestead in Middlebury March 8th, 1797, she married Mr. Merritt Platt in May 1815 and he died Sept. 1815. April 14th 1819 she married Mr. Leonard Bronson of Middlebury. Their children were:

- 1st - Julia Maria, born Jan 12th, 1820, died Sept. 1841, aged 21 years
- 2nd - George F., born Jan 21st, 1821
- 3rd - Catharine born 1823 Died Aug 28th, 1825, aged 2 years
- 4th - Isaac Richardson, born May 22nd, 1826. He married Miss Louisa, daughter of Capt. Philo and Chloe Bronson. He was a Capt. of Com Conn V.I, wounded at the Battle of Chancellorville, died June 2nd, 1863 in hospital at Aquia Creek, buried in his native town aged 37, a noble man and a brave soldier who laid down his life for his country in the hour of its great peril.
- 5th - Edward Leonard, born

Mr. Bronson sold the home of his father in 18 and went to Waterbury, but not succeeding to his satisfaction, he returned to Middlebury and bought the ancient Bronson homestead the place where the first house was built in the town, here he lived for several years, in the enjoyment of the society of his friends and all the social relations of life, with a competence of worldly goods. He made a profession of religion in early life and adorned his profession in a well ordered life.

Died in Middlebury Feb. 16th, Leonard Bronson Esq. in the 72nd year of his age, and one of the most prominent and honored of its citizens. Copied from the Waterbury American Feb. 19th, 1869.

OBITUARY
DEATH OF HON. LEONARD BRONSON

The death of Hon Leonard Bronson of Middlebury, the word of which reached this city on Teusday afternoon fell with surprise upon this community, as he was in the city last week apparently in his usual health, but a sudden prostration by lung fever terminated fatally in a few days thereafter. The deceased had reached his three score years and ten, having passed a life of usefulness, honored and respected by his townsmen and all with whom he had enjoyed acquaintance. As he was a man who had much to do during his life with public business, he was well known throughout the country and state, having served several terms in the legislature, and once in the state senate, also for several years in the capacity of Justice of the Peace. Though bred a farmer, he was a man of culture and extensive information. He took a lively interest in passing events and identified himself with its political, religious, educational and benevolent institutions. His political sympathies in early life were with those of the old Whig party untill its disolution since then he has acted with the Republicans. In private life Mr. Bronson was a model of uprightness, amiable in his disposition, and the kindest of neighbors. The deceased was from the John Bronson stock, one of the original proprietors of the town, of genuine Puritan ancestry, of which he was justly proud; and educated in that faith which distinguished the "May Flower" adventurers who first instituted self government and republican ideas in opposition to kingly authority and ecclesiastical supremacy - holding in reverence that great bill of rights, guaranteed by the immortal Declaration of Independence, now brought to a practical and fundamental basis. The deceased was the last lineal representative of that generation, and he leaves a vacancy in that community which will be much felt and not easily supplied. The church in particular, of which he was a prominent member and long a Deacon, will miss him in his accustomed seat when for so many years he worshiped and united in its prayers and the conference room. The bereaved widow survives her faithful partner, and two grown up sons with their families and a daughter in law are thus called upon to mingle their sympathies in this their sad bereavement.

E.B.C. Edward B. Cook

After Mr. Bronsons death no one of the family being disposed to take the farm it was sold and the ancient Bronson homestead thus passed away out of the Bronson name after it had decended from one generation to another for a hundred and seventy five or eighty years, but such are the changes that are constantly going on.

The 4th child and 2nd son of Isaac the first settler of Middlebury, was named Josiah and was born on the ancient homestead June 1713, "Blest by nature with a robust constitution, a cheerful, buoyant spirit and an iron will, he was eminently fitted to grapple with the many difficulties incident to the times in which he lived. He was shrewd, calculating and social, became a lieutenant, secured wealth, and obtained an honorable position in society. With less of the puritan strictness which characterized most men of his day, he was a professor of religion and died at a good old age of 92. He married for his first wife, Dinah, a daughter of John Sutliff, Jult 23rd, 1735. she died Sept. 10th, 1736, she gave birth to a daughter on the same day which was named Lucy, and

was married to James Porter of Middlebury, Nov. 9th, 1762, she died Oct. 14th, 1776, aged 40, leaving 4 children. Lieut Josiah married for his 2nd wife Sarah, widow of David Leavenworth of Woodbury, May 15th, 1740. His 2nd child, and the first by his 2nd wife was David, born June 25th, 1741. He married Anna, daughter of Daniel Porter, she was born in Waterbury Dec. 6th, 1738. And was married March 1st, 1772. Their children were:

- 1st - Hannah, born Nov. 10th, 1774
- 2nd - David, born Feb. 3rd, 1777
- 3rd - Anna born Nov. 3rd, 1778

He lived on the north side of the road leading from Hop Swamp to Waterbury, and near the east line of Middlebury when it was set off for a town, here he lived and reared his family, his daughter Hannah married Ezekiel Stone of Middlebury. Anna married Zerach Brown and moved to Oneida County N.Y. David Jr Married Betsey Estabrook, raised a large family lived and died on the farm where he was born. David Bronson Sen died July 23rd, 1799, aged 58, he was buiried in Middlebury, Mrs. Bronson died Nov. 16th, 1814 aged 76 buiried by her husband. Mr. David Bronson died March 16th, 1831 aged 55. The 3rd child of Lieut Josiah was Aber, known in his day as Dr. Bronson, he had a farm north west of his father over the line in Watertown, which he carried on with his profession, he was a skilful physician in his day. He was born May 30th, 1743, was married 1st Lydia Benham, Dec. 15th, 1768, she had 3 children and June 6th, 1782. His 2nd wife was Esther Hawkins, they were married Oct. 24th, 1784, his 4th child and first by his 2nd wife was named Lydia born March 21st, 1787. Married Col Ebeazer Judd of Watertown, she died in Hudson, O. The 5th child of Dr. Abel and Esther H. Bronson was Elvira, born Aug 1789. She married Joseph Hall. 6th - Sarah born April 1st, 1791, she married Capt. Ebenezer Abbott of Middlebury, they moved to the state of N. Y. 7th - Joseph Perry, born Sept. 25th, 1794, resided in Watertown. 8th - Homer born March 20th, 1796, lives in the town of Egremont, Mass. Dr. Bron son accumulated a handsome property. He died Aug. 2nd, 1805 aged 62. His widow Esther committed suicide by drowning in Quasapang Lake, being insane June 13th, 1823 in the 58th year of her life.

The 4th Azuba born April 28th, 1745 married Abner Munson. They raised a family of six sons and three daughters; Mr. Munson died of apoplexy Dec. 12th, 1807 ag ed 77 years. Mrs. Azulah Munson died April 18th, 1817 aged 71.

The 5th Reuben, born June 5th, 1747, he married Jemima, daughter of Lieut Samuel and Mary (Upson) Porter, who was born in Waterbury, Nov. 13th, 1752. Married Nov. 1st, 1770. He owned the farm on the opposite side of the road from his brother David Bronson. He sold this farm and removed him family to Cheshire. There 2 children mentioned viz: Edmund born July 1772 died in 1774, 2nd Samuel born Sept. 1774.

The 6th was Thaddeus born July 22nd, 1749. He settled west of the homestead nearly on the top of Breakneck Hill on the west side.

He married Abigail Wilmot Dec. 10th, 1772. Their children were:

- 1st - Abigail born June 1st 1773 and married Didymus Prichard and moved onto the Unadilla N. Y. and raised a family
- 2nd - Uri, born May 30th, 1778, he married Anna, daughter of Elijah and Annah (Jocelyn) Atwood, who was born in Woodbury baptized May 15th, 1768. Married Dec. 5th, 1799, lived and died at an advanced age in the state of N.Y.
- 3rd - Olive born March 1779, she married David Howe, a native of Tyrringham, Mass, they removed to the state of N.Y. where she died leaving children
- 4th - Lucy, born March 21st, 1781, married Amasa Gaylord, she lived in her native town raised a large family, was a very active woman through a long life, she died Nov. 29th, 1872, aged 91.
- 5th - Jerusha, born May 21st, 1784. she married Sherman Curtis, has always resided in Middlebury, raised a family of five children. He was Deacon of the church, a man respected and beloved by all; he died Oct. 3rd, 1848, aged 68 years.
- 6th - Jared, born June 18th, 1791, he spent his life in Middlebury. He married for his first wife Lydia, daughter of Thomas and Esther (Benham) Mallory. She was born Nov. 3rd, 1794, they were married Dec. 2nd, 1813, died Dec. 8th, 1830, aged 35. He married for his second wife Anna, the 9th child of Thomas and Esther Mallory, his first wife's sister. She was born May 5th, 1808, and they were married Nov. 29th 1831, He was an industrious farmer, and was known in his native town as Capt. Jared the last years of his life he was a helpless invalid. He died Jan. 16th, 1876 aged 84 years.
- 7th - Child of Thaddeus and Abigail Bronson was Ruth, born May 17th 1793. She married Stephen Atwood of Woodbury. They had nine children and he was a man of wealth.

Thaddeus Bronson died March 2nd, 1825, aged 76 years. Abigail W. Bronson died of cancer May 25th, 1793, aged 43. His 2nd wife was Ann Hitchcock, they were married Jan. 5th, 1794. She died in Middlebury, Aug. 15th, 1831, aged 73.

The 7th child of Lieut Josiah Bronson was named Josiah he was born Feb. 1st, 1751-2 He married Tabitha, daughter of Ezekiel and Tabitha (Hickox) Tuttle, they were married Jan 20th, 1780, he purchased a farm south of Middlebury meeting house. Here he built a large dwelling house in 1797, and barn and sheds carried on extensive business for that day. Here their 5 children were born, 4 sons and one daughter. In 1803 he sold his property to Amos Camp of Milford and removed with his family to Onondaga N. Y. where he spent the remainder of his life. His family were respectable citizens, and his 2nd son Alvin Bronson, was a very prominent man in his day at Oswego.

Lieut Josiahs 8th child was Elijah, he was born May 15th, 1755. When he became of age he built a house near the house where he was born. He married Lois daughter of Mr. Stephen Bunnell of Wallingford, March 10th, 1778. They had 8 children 5 sons and 3 daughters, the sons all left their native town when young the daughters all were married and lived in Conn. Silas the 5th child

and third son was the only one succeeded in becoming a wealthy man and has perpetuated his name by founding the Bronson Library in Waterbury, Conn. Mr. Elijah Bronson about 1816 became surety for a friend and he was compelled to dispose of his home and pay the debt. In 1818 he removed to the town of Tully, Onondaga Co. N. Y., where he spent the rest of his life.

Lieut Josiahs 2nd wife Sarah died Aug 28th, 1767. His 3rd wife was Rebecca, daughter of Moses Hurlbut of Woodbury, Dec. 23rd, 1767. She was baptized Oct. 4th, 1745. She died June 5th, 1797. He married for his 4th wife Widow Huldah Williams, June 12th, 1798. He was one of the original members of the Cong. Church in Middlebury at its organization, and his name is handed down on one of the cups of communion service of the church. He lived to an advanced age. He died Feb. 20th, 1804, aged 91.

JAMES BRONSON

The 9th and youngest child of Isaac, the first settler was James, he was born Oct. 22nd, 1727. Being the youngest of the family he had as his profession the homestead of his father. About 10 months before his fathers death, he was married to Sarah, daughter of Josiah Brockett of Wallingford, Aug. 2nd 1750. Their children were:

1st - Roswell, born Sept. 9th, 1751; he married Susanna, daughter of Wm. Adams of Waterbury. She was born Nov 4th 1749, they were married Nov. 25th, 1773. The children of Roswell and Susanna Bronson - 1st, Benoni, born Sept 25th, 1774, died 1777; 2nd Roswell, born Jan 26th, 1777 lived in Clinton, Oneida Co N. Y., 3rd, Amelia born Feb 2nd 1779, died Sept 2nd, 1826, aged 47. She lived in Middlebury, never was married. 4th Nancy born 1787, married Stephen Stone of Middlebury, raised a family of children and died on the 28th of Sept 1828, aged 41 years. The 5th, Garry was born in 1791, he married Maria, daughter of Nathl. and Comfort (Stone) Richardson in 1814. He built a house near his fathers house where spent his life. They raised a large family and in his early life an active farmer but his last years a great sufferer. He died July 9th, 1841 age 50. His widow died Aug 5th 1869 in Ill; buiried in Middlebury, aged 74.

Mr. Roswell Bronson settled on a farm in the north east part of the town of Middlebury, where he lived and died. He was a man of intelligence, a retentive memory was able to express his views on a great variety of subjects; but was very eccentric and it was not always clear where you might place reliance upon him. He was a man of good abilities, but they were not always used to promote peace and harmony in society. His son Garry, as he became of age, he was married before his house was ready for his wife to remove. But in May 1815 Miss Nancy Richardson was married to Mr. Merritt Platt and Mr. and Mrs. Bronson were invited guests, and he composed the following for the occasion:

1st V The birds have their nests and the foxes their holes;
But neither of the boys can take their wives home;
For neither a shelter from the cold north west

Yet marrying they suppose is all for the best.

2nd However the fellows may think that they need them,
The Esq. for his comfort has still got to feed them,
For Merritt considering in sweet flattering fancy,
Thinks he shall want nothing if he holds tight by Nancy.

3rd The Esq. quite fortunate in finding things so,
For neither of the girls have anywhere to go,
So fixing them out will not be pressing,
Since he will have time to give them his blessing.

4th Tis marriage they have proved and have moved it already
By marrying so long before they are ready:
For they have married and married till they have married
 them all,
And he that seeks more must wait till next fall

A word of explanation seems to be necessary in this connection, 1st Nathaniel Richardson the father was Justice of the Peace for a great number of years. The young men who married his daughters had both built new houses but were not finished at the time of their marriage. The two last lines is alluding to the fact that as there were but two daughters in the family, there was an addition to the family in June or July 1815 which explains the waiting. Mrs. Bronson died April 4th, 1821 aged 73 years.

He married a woman in Woodbridge, a notice of his marriage appeared in the Connecticut Journal stating that the united ages of Mr. and Mrs. Bronson were a hundred and twenty years, then adds, "Now Hymen, light thy torch afresh as natural force abates and eye balls flatten in their socketts".

He united with the Cong. Church in Middlebury in 1800, he had some peculiar views respecting the managing of the affairs of the church which the brethren did not feel disposed to adopt. This called forth some very spirited and harsh remarks; for which he was censured by his brethren which called forth unchristian conduct on the part of Mr. Bronson, his course was such that he was called to render satisfaction to the church, for the harsh remarks he had made, this he declined to do and the church withdrew watch care from him. He remained without the pale of the church for several years. But he finally came before the church voluntarily with a written confession of his course and in the most humble and Christian manner acknowledged his unchristian conduct asking forgiveness of the church and congregation for his bad example and unchristian conduct. The church were so well convinced of his penitence and sincerity that by vote they restored him to full communion in the church. At the next communion season he was with them and partook of the sacrament and before the next Sabbath he was in his grave. He died March 20th, 1836 aged 84.

The 2nd child of James and Sarah B. Bronson was Sarah, born Jan 5th, 1754, she was married to John Adams of Waterbury, May 25th, 1780; they had 6 children and she died nov 21st, 1793, aged 39.

3rd, Levi born June 12th, 1757; he married Matilda Slaughter, and had children. She died Feb 3rd, 1835 aged 83 Town Charge. 4th was Asahel born Nov 28th, 1759; he married Esther daughter of Stephen and Sarah (Clark) Upson, she was born in Waterbury Sept. 21st, 1760; they were married Feb. 12th, 1784. Their children were 1st, Sally born Dec. 1st, 1784; married Daniel Tyler of Middlebury, raised a large family. Mr. Daniel Tyler died Jan 2nd, 1862; aged 83. Mrs. Sally Tyler died in Bethlehem April 24th, 1865 aged 80 years buried in Middlebury. The 2nd child William born May 27th, 1787; he married Almira, daughter of Roswell Tyler of Middlebury, he raised a family was successful man in business lived in his native town and died within 20 rods of where he was born. His wife died Dec. 28th, 1855 age 66 years. He died suddenly Sept. 28th, 1856 age 69. He was one of the honest upright successful business men of his day, was Justice of the Peace of the township. 3rd, James born 1790. He lived and died on the old homestead unmarried, June 17th, 1816 of consumption aged 26.

The 4th Doct Tracy born . He studied medicine removed to Ohio in the spring of 1816; and settled in the south part of the township of Newton in Trumbull County. He was skilful in his profession had an extensive practice was sent to the legislature of Ohio by the Whig Party of Trumbull Co. He raised a family and died

The 5th and 6th, Alma and Amy, born in 1798; Amy died young, Alma married Lyman Camp in 1820, lived in Middlebury, had one child Calvin B. Camp of Brooklyn N.Y. has a family. Lyman Camp died suddenly July 18th, 1848 aged 50. Mrs. Alma B. Camp died Feb. 18th, 1865, aged 67 years. The 7th and 8th (twins) were Asahel and Esther born 1800, Asahel died young, Esther died May 16th 1826, aged 26. Mr. Asahel Bronson occupied the ancient Bronson homestead, the spot on which he was born and where he died, he was a man successful in business had accumulated a fine property. In early life he imbibed somewhat of infidel principles of the French School reading the works of Volney, Voltaire, Hume, Tom Paine and others. But at last he was brought to embrace that religion he had professed to despise. He and his wife united with the Cong. Church in his native town in 1817, and ever after adorned their profession with a well ordered life and conversation. He was a soldier of the Revolution. and he was a follower of Mr. Jefferson and his political school. But the last years of his life he belonged to the Whig Party in his political views. He died April 24th, 1850 aged 91.

Mrs. Bronson for a while before her death, her mental faculties became much impaired. She died Dec. 1847, aged 87.

The 5th child of James and Sarah B. Bronson was Thankful, born March 5th, 1762, married Amos Hinman, settled in Hop Swamp had children about 1800, sold and moved to the state of New York.

The 6th and last child was Jesse, born July 1st, 1763; he married Esther daughter of Nathan Osborn of Woodbury, Sept. 30th, 1784; he settled in the west part of Middlebury, called by some Tyler Town. Here he lived several years, but finally left he was hired by

by Capt. Samuel Gunn who moved his family to the south part of Ohio on the Sciota river near its mouth. Here Mr. Bronson died the date of his death is unknown to the writer. His children were 1st, Benoni, born March 1st, 1786; 2nd, Marshall born Nov. 22nd 1787, in 1827 he lived in Kirtland Lake Co O built a saw mill on the east branch of the Chagrin River from there he removed to Mich. The 3rd was a daughter named Alvani, born Aug. 30th, 1789. The 4th Lemman born Jan. 15th, 1792. I suppose the family were all born in Middlebury. James Bronson, the father of the above named family became alienated from his relatives some of them and from his fellow citizens, and left his family and home soon after the close of the War of the Revolution; taking a small sum of money and he could carry in a knapsack he made the journey on foot to Fort Schuyler, now Utica, then south to the present village of Clinton, being the first settler (I think) purchasing a piece of land, building a little cabin for a home began to clear his land of the heavy timber; he went on foot to Herkimer bought apple trees and carried them home on his back and set them out as an orchard and by grafting select fruit an orchard of very fine fruit and that of various varieties. He was very excentric living along; untill the infirmities of age admonished him that a man of his age should not live alone and he consented to have his grandson, Roswell Bronson come and take care of him while he lived and have the farm and its improvements when his grandfather had done with it, he died with a cancer about 90 years old.

In closing with these recollections we find some things cheerful and some things sad to contemplate but in the main they show as good a record as most families can exhibit in the way of wealth, of honor, of office or position in society in church or in state, for the last 240 years. In the rural township of Middlebury, the name of Bronson has stood forth with more or less prominence from its first settler down to the present time. And the home of the first settler remained in the name of Bronson for a period of 180 years or about that. The last one of the name who owned it was my Uncle Leonard Bronson, after his death it passed out of the name.

REV. JOSEPH MARTIN HAYES

The following communication was sent to me by my request; Mr. Hayes being for a time Stated Supply of the First Cong. Church in Tallmadge. C. C. Bronson

My fathers name was Martin Hayes, son of Dea Samuel Hayes of Granby, Hartford County, Conn. My mothers name was Mary Camp, daughter of Rev. Samuel Camp, first pastor of the Cong. Church of Ridgefield, Fairfield County, Conn. My parents became pious in early life and were married Dec. 25th, 1798. They were among the first settlers in the Town of Marcellus N. Y. They afterwards removed to Prattsburgh, Steuben County, N. Y. at which place I was born June 6th, 1812. It was a great anticipating mercy of God to give me a pious ancestry (so far as I as informed) and taking in this country from the early settlements of Mass, and Conn, colonies. It was another great anticipating mercy that my parents accepted the Abrahamic household and Church covenant, and consecrated their children to God by baptism and deed, a deed "which verily did me nuch good", Gods love and faithfulness thus anticipating my labor, faith and acceptance of his grace. The name then given me was Joseph Martin. Not long after my birth, my parents returned to Granby Conn. My mothers health failed and the family were scattered, no more to live together. Here the mercy and faithfulness of God appeared again , veriphyng the declaration of Psalm 27th 10th: "When my father and my mother cannot care for, forsake me, then the Lord will take me up". At twenty months old I was received into the family of a cousin, Dea. Thaddeus Hayes. Here I was cared for as an own son untill I was fifteen years of age. Here I was brought up under the influence of morning and evening family worship and of regular attendance upon Sabbath services in the sanctuary, and was taught the moral law of God. Under this training I first felt the fact of sin the desirableness of holiness and the need of a Savior.

But the time of my fully accepting the riches of Gods grace was not yet. At the age of fifteen, Sept. 1827, I went to live with my parents in Erie Co. Penn. They lived six miles from Erie, and were then members of the First Pres. Church. The country was new, roads not good and attendance on Sabbath Worship could not be regular, and I became careless of my religious state. Once more God remembered me. It was a stormy Sabbath in the spring of 1829. I was sitting in the house, and the thought of my thoughtlessness came with power to my heart and I felt that if ever, I must then attend to the subject of religion. Then and there I resolved, that God helping me, if there is anything in religion I will learn in my own experience what it is, and if there is mercy for me, I will obtain it. For six long months I struggled, first against thoughtlessness, then against sin, and then against God, sinking deeper in the mire, I tried the doctrine of universal salvation, but it did not meet my wants as a sinner, could do me no good and I rejected it as contrary to common sense and to scripture. I came near settling down in a dark and hopeless dispair, thinking there was no mercy for me and giving up all further effort. But God did not let go his hold on me. Sometimes the spirit whispered a gospel promise and its conditions to my heart and I tried to pray again.

Sometimes that great doctrine of grace, the doctrine of election was brought to mind by the Spirit. Without that doctrine we could not know that any will be saved, but it teaches that some will be, perhaps I am of that number. This encouraged me to ask once more. And sometimes the spirit told me of my Infant Baptism, how parental faith was before hand with me, that God will remember his covenant and respond graciously and fully to parental faith; then my heart said I will not give up mercy may yet be mine. In all this I had been much mistaken about the state of my own will, which was that of trying to be saved by something of my own. At length I could hold out no longer, and the following strong expression escaped from my lips as indicating my complete submission and the trust following: "Thy will, O God be done, whether life or death, heaven or hell". This occurred as I was preparing for my nights rest, in Oct I think. The next morning the sun shone with a mild but glorious light, and the birds sang Jehovahs praise, the world seemed to have been made into a new one and the name of Jesus was above every name. At the next communion Jan. 3rd, 1830, I was received to full membership in the First Pres Church of Erie Penn. My thoughts were soon turned to the ministry, but various things seemed to prevent and it was not untill the spring of 1835 that I commenced and prosecuted study continuously for it. In Sept of that year I was examined and received under the care of the Presbytery of Erie, and recommended to the Board of Education for aid. In Nov I entered the preparatory department of Jefferson College at Cannonsburg Penn and was graduated in the Class of 1840. I then taught one year in an academy in Butler Penn. In Dec. of 1841, I entered the Theological department of Western Reserve College at Hudson Ohio; completing the course in 1844. In April of this year I was licenced to preach the gospel by the Presbytery of Erie, and after leaving Hudson, first supplied the pulpit a few Sabbaths in Brecksville, whose pastor was absent.

About Nov. 1st I was in Tallmadge, contrary to any plan of my own, guided thither by an unseen hand, and by manifest providences. I remained as Stated Supply to the church one year and a half, from Nov 1844 to May 1846, preaching as a licentiate not ordained. On closing my labors in Tallmadge, I made this entry. "Though I know of but one, Mary Treat, converted under my labors here, yet I trust the church has been benefitted and some seed sown, may another reap a rich harvest from it".

At that time the congregation had in it many youth and presented a very hopeful field of labor. While I aimed to instruct I failed to be sufficiently inviting, persuasive and winning. Certain questions of the day, rather diverted and divided the thoughts of the church and prevented an appropriate concentration of interest by the church and its acting pastor for the conversion of those young people at that time. I was married Aug. 12th 1845 to Miss Hannah Ann Bassett of New Haven, Conn. Being unordained I did not administer baptism or the Lords supper, but secured their timely observance by exchanges or by agents of the various benevolent societies and must refer you to your church records for the various statistics. I performed the marriage ceremony, but twice, I attended many funerals but have not their number at hand. Sept. 1st, 1846; I began labor in Peru, Huron

Co Ohio. Here I was ordained and installed Pastor of the Cong. Church Oct. 6th, 1847. I continued to minister to this church till March 1851. At the same time I ministered to the Pres. Church at Bronson, and at Olen a, from March 1847 to March 1850. In April 1850 I moved to Norwalk and took charge of the Norwalk Female Seminary, a new institution. I remained there three years; but my connection with the school practically ceased with the second year and a half, my nervous system gave out from over taxation and care, and has never resumed its former strength and endurance. During the summer of 1852, I supplied the Cong. Church in Milan for a few months. In Sept. 1853, I began labor with the Pres Church in Plymouth, Richland Co Ohio, and remained here to April 1856, two and a half years. While ministering to this church my nervous system again failed me, which led to my removal to Trempaleau, Wisc at which place I arrived May 1st, 1856. This was a new field, and I labored under the patronage of the American Home Missionary Society. Here I organized a church, and labored as a Home Missionary for four years. Ceasing from this charge and resting for a time from mental labor, in the fall of 1861, I took another new field, Durand Pepin Co and Mandani Buffalo Co Wis. While at Durand in Sept 1862, my wife was taken from me, to enter into the joys of her Lord. She had been earnestly devoted to help her husband in his ministry and to Sabbath School work in every place. Hers was great gain, his was loss to be felt. In the fall of 1864, I removed to West Salem, La Crosse Co Wis, and was married to Mrs. S. W. Publee. This place has been my home to the present time. For about five years I continued to preach in various places, under the patronage of the A. H. M. Society, and in all have received some eleven or twelve yearly commissions from that Society, since coming to Wisconsin. Such was the state of my nervous system and health that with other considerations, I felt it best to cease the work of the ministry and in the spring of 1869, I commenced the cultivation of a few acres of land and have followed this labor for six seasons. As from this point in my life I look back, I see much to cause regret and sorrow and also much to cause thankfulness and joy. As I look forward, my prayers hope and trust is that I shall be saved by grace, and be counted worthy, to meet and inherit with those saints of the Tallmadge Church to whom I ministered for a short time and some of whom were called away while I was with them.

Perhaps it may be remembered by some, that when with you in Tallmadge, I was in the habit of using tobacco in a very gentlemanly manner, if that is possible (ie) in small quantities and to attract as little notice as might be. I regret that I ever set such an example before the church, and before the youth of the congregation, I ask pardon of all. I trust I have repented, for about twelve years I have used none and have demonstrated that Christians and men can give it up after using for twenty five years. I believe it was a curse to the world and a snare of the Devil. I believe it hurtful to pocket, to conscience, to character, and a hindrance to conversion, on the part of sinners and of growth of grace on the part of Christians. Christians should no more use it, than they would use the intoxicating cup.

When first entering on a religious life the subject of baptism came, as to mode and subject. I had been baptized by sprinkling in infancy. Was I then a proper subject for baptism? Was sprinkling a rightful mode? Some friends in the Baptist Church told me that only believers could be rightfully baptized; he that believes and is baptized, etc and again that baptize in the bible always means immerse; they went down into the water etc and further that "I ought to follow the bible and not to pin my faith on any mans sleeve", they thus made it very plain that I could not then satisfactorily reply to these things, nor was I then capable of intelligently examining into the whole matter.

I reasoned in the following manner. My parents are pious and honest, they are persons of good judgement and of more than ordinary education, my father has some knowledge of Latin and Greek. I may therefore place confidence in them and in what they done in regard to me, and either the church in which they are members, and where God seems to have cast my lot. Again I reasoned, there are the Pres and Cong Churches, ministers as pious, learned and capable as any in the Baptist church, and they must have good reasons for infant baptism and for sprinkling as the mode. For me to go to the Baptists would be "to pin my faith on mens sleeves" as much as to remain where God seems to have cast my lot. And further in my individual case, the part of my baptism in infancy and parental faith connected with it, was one of the things that sustained me when sinking in despair and led to my conversion. I was thus led to enter the church with my parents and wait for further light. The first work which I obtained and read was on the Baptist side. This simply gave me a clearer view of their arguments, five points of which I could not meet. I reason ed as before and resolved still to wait for light, on the other side if it could be found. After a TIME I came across a work written by a Pres Minister in reply to the one I had read. To my mind and judgement it fully met and answered the arguments that had held me in doubt and I settled down satisfied with my baptism in infancy on parental faith and the Abrahamic covenant and satisfied with my church relations. I have ever since been very thankful that I did not ignorantly yield to a proselyting spirit and leave the broad evangelical ground on which the Cong. and Pres. Churches rest.

During my ministry I have had occasion to reexamine the whole matter in the fullest manner and unhesitatingly affirm my belief that the apostles as ministers of religion never preacted immersion on conversion to the Christian religion and never taught such immersion.

And further, that any washing as immersion performed was by the candidate or himself alone or with the assistance of friends, while the minister of religion performed the proper baptism by sprinkling as the Jewish priests sprinkled purifying water. I also fully believe, they baptized families, (ie) children on the faith of parents. I am not anxious to appear in print in the manner you speak of, and had thought of no such thing untill I received your communication. While trying to cover the ground of which you spake, I have aimed to condense and omit what did

not seem needful to your purpose, yet to avoid a mere skeleton of dates and places, I have put in such things in my personal experience, as possible interest and profit others.

May God continue to bless your church and people.

My kindest regards to all, respectfully yours,

Joseph M. Hayes

The following is copied from the Painesville Telegraph of May 13, 1876

FROM AN OLD CITIZEN

The following communication is from the pen of Col. H. E. Paine, our much esteemed friend and former resident of this county, now of Monmouth, Ill. Col. Paine is now in his 86th year, yet writes a plain, firm hand, as though only in the prime of life.

In your paper of April 22nd, under the head of Conneaut, are some mistaken historical accounts of the first courts said to have been held in Capt. Skinners barn in 1801. They are so far from the truth as to the times the first courts were held there, that I think the writer of that article intended it for a joke on the early settlers of Painesville, or they were not well posted in the early history of the Western Reserve.

My father died at Painesville, the 4th day of Feb, 1804, and the probate business for closing up his estate was done at Warren, Trumbull County. The whole Western Reserve was at that time one county, and Warren was the county seat. In 1805 the Western Reserve was divided into two counties, the south half retained the name of Trumbull County, with the county seat at Warren. The north half took the name of Geauga, which was the Indian name of Grand River; and Painesville was the county town, and Capt Skinners barn the court house. I attended the first court held in Capt. Skinners barn, which was in 1806. I now recollect the time and place as distinctly as if it was yesterday. It was the first courthouse or barn where courts were held that I was ever in. I do not now recollect the name of the circuit Judge who presided at the courts held in the barn. The associate Judges were Aaron Wheeler, John Walworth and Jesse Phelps. Judge Pease may have resided at the Cart Body Trial in 1801, when Ohio was a territory, but he was not a judge in Geauga County in 1806. In 1810 the courts were taken to the village of Painesville, and from Painesville the county seat was removed to Chardon in 1812.

At page 78 Vol, 1st of Historical and Biographical Collections, will be found a biographical Sketch of Capt. Nathaniel Bettes. The following papers I copy from the original papers in possession of his Grand Daughter, Mrs. Mary Bettes, wife of Mr. George Allison of Tallmadge, Sept. 1876.

By Edward Wiggelsworth Esq.
Col commanding one of the battalions of Foot, from
the State of the Massachusetts Bay
to Nathaniel Bettes

I reposing espeical Trust and Confidence in your courage and good conduct do appoint you to be a second Serjent in Captain Noah Allens Company and the above named regiment; and by virtue of this warrant you are to be obeyed as such: and you are carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of a serjent, in said regiment and company, for which this is you sufficient warrant-----

Given under my hand. Edwd Wiggelsworth Col. Camp Valley Forge
9th Feb 1778.

From John Porter Esq. Major Commanding the thirteenth Massachu-
setts Regiment

To Nathaniel Bettes, Serjeant

I reposing especial trust and confidence in your patriotism, valour, conduct and fidelity, do by virtue of the powers vested in me, constitute and appoint you to be a Serjeant Major, in the regiment under my command. You are, therefore, carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of a serjeant major by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging: And I do strictly charge and require all under your command to be obedient to you and your orders as a Serjeant Major.

And you are to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time, as you shall receive from me, or any your superior officers, according to the rules and Discipline of War.

And this is your sufficient Warrant-----Given under my hand this 27th day of August, 1779.

John Porter, Major Commandant

Statement of Nathl. Bettes to the War Office

Ensign Nathaniel Bettes, testifys that he was in the Revolutionary War, as followeth, viz: that he was one of those men called Minute Men, and went to Roxbury immediately after the action at Lexington in April 1775, under Captain Sole, Col Fellows, Regiment so called but not then properly organized; and that he was one who was under General Arnold at Quebec, and suffered every thing but death through the winter and that the next spring; retreated from the unfriendly country, under the command of General Thomas. Was very sick and dismissed to come home. Some time in the summer of 1776, I enlisted into Capt. Noah Allens Company Col Wiggelsworth Regiment for three years, and remained in the recruiting service untill the spring of 1777, and joined the regiment of West Point. Then went up the Hudson River to meet and attack Burgoyne, and was in both actions with him and was slightly wounded in my knee.

Returned down the river and went to winter quarters at Valley Forge, suffered very much by nakedness and want of provision. In the spring of 1778 marched from Valley Forge to Monmouth, where I was in that engagement and wounded by the bursting of my gun which spoiled my left hand. From Monmouth, went to Providence and from thence to Rhode Island and in the retreat from that place, was in an engagement with a party of Hessians, three times came to the bayonet, and received two wounds in my left leg. And then I returned to Providence, and lay there all winter. The next summer I returned to West Point, did common duty part of the time and part of the time did adjutants duty under John Porter, Major Commandant in Col Wiggelsworth Regiment; where I resigned my commission as ensign, which commission I sent to the War Department which is dated April 10th, 1779, and was discharged April 10th, 1780. I have struggled through life to the present time, though somewhat lame. I am now in my 73rd year, have a wife and four minor children, and all my property is 150 acres of wild Ohio land (nearly wild) and a few neat cattle, the whole worth 550 dollars; and that I am altogether unable to support myself and family at this time of life.

I inclose as farther proof a serjeants and serjeant majors Warrants.

To the Honorable Court of Common Pleas, to be holden at Revenna August 7th, 1820.

Signed Nathaniel Bettes

A Second Statement of Nathaniel Bettes

A Minute Man to Boston. To Quebec with Arnold; after coming from Quebec to West Point. Afterwards up the river to meet Burgoyne, in both battles with him. Afterwards at Valley Forge, then at the Battle of Monmouth, then to Newport, Rhode Island; in battle was in Sullivans retreat, was three times wounded, remained in the service untill April 1781, one year before the close of the War. Was in every grade of a soldier from a private to Adjutant of a Regiment; when I was under the necessity of resigning my commission by reason of my wife being dangerously sick in the last stages of consumption.

War Department
Pension Office
9th July, 1824

Sir:

In answer to yours of the 15th Ultimo, I have to state, that it appears from our records, that you were restored to the pension list, and a notification thereof sent to Seth Day Esq. at Revenna Ohio on the 16th of April last. Your name will be reported to the Ohio Agency, for payment in Sept. next. I am respectfully your obedient Servt: J. L. Edwards
Mr. Nath. Bettes, U, S. Pensioner, Tallmadge, Ohio

The following is a form found among the papers of Mr. Bettes:

State of Ohio Portage County - Be it known that Nathaniel Bettes personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace in the County aforesaid, and made oath, that he is the identical Nathaniel Bettes, named in an original certificate in his possession of which the following is a copy.

"War Department, Revolutionary Claim - I certify that in conformity with the law of the United States of the 18th of March 1818, Nathaniel Bettes, late an Ensign in the Army of the Revolution is inscribed on the Pension List, Roll of the Ohio Agency, at the rate of Twenty Dollars per Month. That to commence on the 22nd day of April 1818 - Given at the War Office of the United States this day of on e thousand eight Hundred and eighteen. That he is entitled to a pension of Twenty Dollare per Month, that he served in the Army of the Revolution and that he resides in the State of Ohio.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day of
1819.

Received of William Creighton June President of the Office of Discount and Deposite of the United States agent
Dollars being for six months pension due to me from the
day of to the day of
inclusive for which I have signed duplicate receipts.

The following biographies were read by C C Bronson before the T.H.S. Jan 24th, 1877.

Died on the 7th of June 1876, Mrs. Eliza R. Elston, aged 64 years. Mrs. Elston was the 5th child of Capt. Samuel and Rebecca (Prichard) Root, and was born in Waterbury, Conn April 12, 1812; and on the 4th of July 1820, she arrived in Tallmadge, with her fathers family, and has been a resident of the town ever since. Before her marriage she was a school teacher. She married David Elston April 24th, 1832, by Rev. John Keys. They were the parents of a son and three daughters. Mr. Elston was a carpenter and joiner by trade and was an energetic man. Mr. Elston died Mrs. Elston being left a widow with four small children, and but a very small amount of property. But not following the advice of some to put her children into good families, untill they were of sufficient age to earn their own living. She resolved to keep her children with her, and see to all their wants herself. Although the way looked hard, and it seemed like a great undertaking, yet time proved that she was equal to the emergency. Her children all respectable members of society, and the last years of her life, she was provided with the comfort of a pleasant home provided by her son, with its various and pleasant surroundings, and with the society of relatives and friends. She united with the Cong. Church in Tallmadge, May 3rd, 1841. Her daily life and conversation was such that it was convincing proof, that she was all she professed to be, a humble follower of her Lord Saviour Jesus Christ.

It is proper to remark in this connection, these three sisters in the Church Mrs. Pierce, Mrs Root and Mrs Elston; although they were advanced in life, they chose to manifest their Christian principle by example as well as by precept; and they all were attendants in a Bible Class in the Sabbath School, for very many years when they were able to attend meeting. Thus showing to the rising generation the importance of attending not only the meetings on the Sabbath, but the Sabbath School also. Thus manifesting in connection with those cotemporary with them their deep interest in the advancement of the Redeemers Kingdom.

ELMORE P CARRUTHERS

1877

Elmore Perry Carruthers was the son of Perry C and Cynthia P (Clark) Carruthers. He was born in Tallmadge Oct 9th, 1841. He was in his childhood, somewhat noted for his manliness of character, not disposed to resort to those boyish tricks, to annoy his teachers or school mates. He was in school an attentive schollar, always quiet and peaceful in his disposition, in the family, in the school and in the social circle. And it always appeared to be the great end of his life to be cheerful, hopeful and sunny himself, but to do all in his power to make others feel pleasant and happy. He remained on his fathers farm and performed the laborious duties of the farm, with the same cheerfulness and happy turn of mind, that was characteristic of him in all his relations in life.

When he made up his mind, that he would like to obtain a thorough collegiate course of education; his parents freely acquiesced in his wishes, and he left the farm and he commenced studies preparatory, and entered the Western Reserve College and graduated in the Class of 1865. While a member of College, he was a member of Company B 85 Regy O.V.I. formed mostly by students of the college and preparatory classes; they under the command of Prof Charles A. Young, Capt. They were detailed by government for four months service, from May 1862 were mustered out of service in Sept 1862. They went to Vicksburg, with rebel prisoners. After he graduated, he was called to act as teacher of the Deaf and Dumb Assylum of Ohio at Columbus, from 1865 to 1870. He was so successful in this institution that the executive of the State of Arkansas applied to him to take the charge of the Assylum at Little Rock in 1870. He accepted the position, and removed his family there and performed the duties of his office with acceptance untill failing health compelled him to retire from his position. He came north with his family and left in company with his father for Colorado, in search of health. They bought a team and carriage with camp equipage and cooking utensils and made their way into the mountains hoping that the air of these high altitudes would be beneficial to his health, but after spending the summer months in various localities they left for home where they arrived Sept and on the 3rd of Sept 1876 he breathed his last at his fathers house in Tallmadge, aged 35 years. He made a public profession of religion by uniting with the Cong. Church in his native town. He was dismissed Sept. 23rd 1866. He married Miss Cornelia E, the 2nd daughter of Dr. F. W. and Delia C. Upson.

LEMUEL P. WOLCOTT - 1877

It is not every death in a community that creates a sorrow among all classes; and still such deaths do occur in all communities. This was the case on the morning of Nov. 10th, 1876 when it was announced from house to house that Lemuel Porter Wolcott was no more. Mr. Wolcott was the son of Guy and Annis (Porter) Wolcott, and was born Aug 18th, 1831 in Tallmadge. He remained at home on his fathers farm untill he was 21 years of age. He obtained a good education, had chosen farming for his occupation. His father gave him 70 acres off the south end of his home farm in Lot 2 Tract 8. On this he built a house and barn, and other necessary buildings. He was married to Miss Harriet E., daughter of Richard B. and Amoret H. Treat.

Mr. Wolcott was one of that class of men that enjoyed life in all its various ways, his home, his farm, his family the society of his numerous acquaintance and relatives, the social circle, all had charms for him, and no one enjoyed them better than he did. He was also a man of energy in his business, shrewd in his calculations, honest in his dealings with his fellow men, in judgement cool and steady, cautious but when his mind was made up he was decided and remained steadfast in his opinion. He was also ready to do his part in all things that were productive of good to his fellow men. He was a man of few words, but was a safe counsellor and in all things with which he was acquainted, his judgement could be relied upon at all times. He united with the Cong. Church in the town where he was born, Sept. 6th, 1857. He was an active man in Church and Society and also in the township, but by works instead of words. He had arrived at that age when his abilities were made manifest and were fully appreciated as far as he was known. He and his wife went to the Centennial Exposition and returned and he worked very hard to secure his crops and finally had to give up to sickness. Medicines did not seem to reach his case, and he continued to decline untill he died on the morning of the 10th of Nov 1876 aged 45 years.

JAMES O. WOLCOTT - 1877

And just at the close of the year, we are called upon to record another death of another of the valuable citizens of Tallmadge, It is seldom that an aged widowed mother, or a surviving brother and sister are called upon to mourn the loss of two noble sons and brothers, with families, and the pleasant relations of social life. Or is a church and community often called upon to part with two active and energetic men in the short space of 45 days, but such is life. James Orrin Wolcott, was born in Tallmadge April 8th, 1822. He continued on his fathers farm untill he was 21 years of age; in the meantime he obtained a good education and being fond of reading, he had a mind well stored, with useful knowledge. And with the aid of a retentive memory, he was able to converse on a variety of subjects, making him a very agreeable companion in the social circle. As he had decided to be a farmer, his father purchased in Northampton, on which he commenced in 1846. On the 4th of Nov 1846 he married Miss Jane E., daughter

of Dea George and Fanny Brainerd Lewis, of Northampton. She died Feb. 8th, 1850, leaving two daughters. He married for his 2nd wife Miss Ellen A. Lewis a sister of his first wife, June 26th, 1850. In 1855 he sold his farm in Northampton and returned to Tallmadge. His father feeling a disposition to have less care, he sold his farm to James, and thus he returned to his native town where he remained until his death. He united with the Cong. Church in his native town July 3rd, 1840. Mr. Wolcott was a man fond of controversy, on a great many subjects, having the gift of language to express his thoughts, he was very fond of debate, and was a regular attendant on Lyceums, and always taking an active part, in sustaining them, by debating on the various subjects or questions, that was brought before them. His taste for reading was in some respects different from farmers generally; he would read with a high relish, works on metaphysics, geology, and various other scientific works; theology and the various speculations of the many writers on the many speculative ideas, that are advanced by many writers of the present day. He spent considerable time, reading the news of the day, in the periodicals, but fiction he did not read, he informed me a few months before his death, that he had never indulged in reading a fictitious book in his life.

In early childhood he attended Sabbath School, then he became a Sabbath School Teacher; and in that capacity until his death, which took place Dec. 29th, 1876, aged 54 years. The aged and afflicted mother, has the sympathy of the community; and there appears a singular occurrence in the death of her three sons.

Elizur V., died on Friday Dec. 20th, 1873, aged 40, buried on the Sabbath Dec. 22nd. Lemuel P. died Friday, buried on the Sabbath Nov 12th, 1876, aged 45; James O. died Friday and was buried Sabbath Dec. 31st, 1876, aged 54.

Thus in a family of eight children, one dying young, the eldest daughter Elizabeth E. died at Mount Holyoke Mass May 14th, 1845 aged 21. The youngest Ellen Coe, wife of Lyman W. Peet died in Nebraska April 5th, 1871, aged 26.

Four buried in Tallmadge, and two are still living.

FOWLER FELLOWS FENN - 1877

He was the son of Wyllys and Emmeline (Root) Fenn. Was born in Tallmadge. He remained at home on the farm, and he rented the farm of his father for a number of years. He was successful in business, was very ambitious was able while in health to accomplish a large amount of labor. But his health began to fail, but his ambition seemed to keep him up, but at last he died of consumption, July 24th, 1876, aged 38 years.

Among those who had been former residents in Tallmadge, it is well to make a mention in a brief manner, and the following was read before the T H S by C. C. Bronson

DAVID WASHINGTON CARRUTHERS

This man was the youngest son of John and Nancy (Allen) Carruthers, and was born in Tallmadge, 1822. When he became of age, he chose the medical profession, and entered upon the preparatory medical studies with Dr. Amos Wright of Tallmadge. He graduated with the Class of 1845 of the Medical Department of the W R College. He went west and went into practice. He married Miss Mary Root of Tallmadge. She died July 26th, 1861 aged 42. She united with the Cong. Church in Tallmadge, July 6th, 1834. He united May 7th, 1843; both were dismissed Nov. 5th, 1847. After practicing for a while he studied theology and was licensed to preach the Gospel by the M.E. Church. He died in Wheatland, Clinton Co., Iowa, Jan 29th, 1876.

HARRIET J. (LYMAN) SPERRY - 1877

This estimable woman was the eldest daughter of Edward and Mrs. Emily A. Lyman, was born in Braceville, Trumbull Co O Feb. 22nd, 1843. She had a good education, and she made a profession of religion in early life at Newton Falls, O. She became connected with the church in Tallmadge Nov. 1st, 1863, and was one of the active members of the church, always ready to do her part, as soon as her duty was made manifest to her mind; in every good word and work. Her life was comparatively short, yet it may have answered lifes great end as well as some of a longer period She married Alfred Sperry Dec. 16th, 1874, and died in Warren O. May 27th, 1876, aged 33. She was brought to Tallmadge, for interment.

MRS. ANNA AIKINS WOODRUFF - 1877

This lady long a resident of Tallmadge, was the youngest daughter of Asher and Rozella (Wilcox) Aikins and was born in Vernon in 1805. Her parents were among the early pioneers of the Reserve, settling in Smithfield, now called Vernon, in Trumbull County. The hardships they had to meet in the early settlement of the Reserve appears almost incredible at this day. Her father died in Vernon, leaving her mother with a son by the name of Miller Aikins and Laura Melissa, and Anna. Their mother became acquainted with Dr. Daniel Upson and wife of Hartford, and by this means was introduced to Dea Nathaniel Chapman of Tallmadge. They were married March 3rd, 1817 by Rev. H. Coe, the two daughters Laura M, and Anna came with their mother and lived in the Chapman family. Anna obtained a good education, taught school several seasons in Tallmadge. She experienced religion at the Four days Meeting in Aug 1831; and made a public profession of her faith Nov. 6th, 1831. She married Gen Charles Woodruff of Vienna Trumbull Co.

She transferred her church relations to Vienna, in 1833. Readmitted May 5th, 1861, Dis Sept. 23rd, 1866. She was the mother of four sons and one daughter. M. Amelia Woodruff united with

the Cong. Church in Tallmadge Jan 3rd, 1864, dis Nov 5th 1870. She married J. D. Minkler, and died at Funda Iowa April 9th, 1876 aged 32 years. She was brought to Tallmadge and buiried by the side of her father. Mrs. Anna A. Woodruff in her school days was one that wrote good compositions. And in 1822 when the Sabbath school was first established in Tallmadge; Col. Lemuel Porter was waited upon by several of the young gentlemen and ladies of the Congregation, to take charge of a bible class in the school house. He consented but had fears of not being competent, but it continued through the summer. Weeks Catechism was used, the schollars reciting passages of scripture in answer to the questions. And another feature of the exercises of that Bible Class, was written essays which were read before the class, on some practicle or doctrinal subject, and individual members would write out their thoughts on the question propounded. After Mrs. Woodruff returned to Tallmadge to reside; among other inquiries of her I asked for her recollections of the early Sabbath School efforts, which she gave me, and also handed me four essays she had written out of her reflections on as many different subjects. At this time she was not a professor, but these essays showed that she had clear and consistent views of practical Christianity, and also of the great fundemental doctrines as taught by her Puritan Ancestors and as they were held by the Calvinistic Churches of the Reserve, and elsewhere, fifty years ago. She died of cancer at Oberlin, O. July 3rd, 1876, aged 71 years. And was brought here to Tallmadge and buiried by her husband and daughter and those that were cotemporary with her in years gone by.

GEN CHARLES WOODRUFF - READ IN 1877 BY C. C. BRONSON

He was the husband of the lady who is the subject of the above sketch. Mr. Woodruff was born in Farmington Hartford Co Conn, in 1789. In 1815 he came to Ohio and settled in Vienna Trumbull Co. His occupation farming. He married Miss Anna Aikins of Tallmadge in 1832. He was one of those men that by industry and economy and that shrewdness in his business relations, and good financial ability, had from a small beginning accumulated a large property. He had a taste for millitary tactics, and when the laws of Ohio called out every able bodied man from 18 to 45 years of age to perform millitary duty, Mr. Woodruff passed the various grades of millitary offices to Brigadier General of the Ohio Militia. He was a man of inteligence and republican. He removed to Tallmadge in 1860. The last years of his life he suffered from spinal difficulty and died instantly Oct. 22nd, 1864, aged 75 years.

CALEB PALMER

Caleb Palmer was employed by Gen Simon Perkins of Warren to survey Town Two Range 10 (Tallmadge) into sections one mile square, this survey was made in 1803.

Canfield, May 10th, 1860

Platt Benedict, Esq. President of the Fire Lands Historical Society

Dear Sir: - In the biographical sketch of Caleb Palmer, published by your Society (in No. 3, Vol 1st, March 1859) little is said of his history untill he removed to New Haven, Huron County in 1811. In collecting incidents of the early settlements of Canfield, I have the following sketch of Mr. Palmer. My information was principally derived from Mrs. Hale, a daughter of Nathan Moore, who surveyed Canfield in 1798. Mrs. Hale is a very intelligent old lady who resides in Springfield Summit County Ohio.

Caleb Palmer was born in that part of Greenwich, called Horse Neck Fairfield Co. Conn, on the 13th of Sept. 1775. He studied surveying with Moore, the father of Nathan Moore, in Salisbury Conn and came to Canfield, Trumbull Co, North Western Territory in the spring of 1800, with Nathan Moore as a surveyor, and assisted Mr. Moore in surveying the townships of Ellsworth, Johnston, and other surveying in Trumbull Vounty in 1800 and 1801 and probably longer.

The first schoolhouse built in Canfield was in the fall of 1800 on the N.W. corner of the cross roads 1-1/4 miles east of the Center. Mr. Palmer taught school there for three months, commencing about the first of Jan, 1801, this was the first school taught in Canfield. Mr. Palmer married Miss Harriet, a daughter of Gen Martin Smith of Smithfield, now Vernon, one of earliest and most respectable citizens of the Reserve. I send you this, believing that the decendants of Mr. Palmèr will be glad to get this little sketch of his early life, which they do not appear to have.

Yours very respectfully,
Fred'k Wadsworth

The account says: Afterwards moved to Cuyahoga Falls, (this must be a mistake it was probably Cuyahoga Portage) C.C.B. where he stayed about 3 years, here his eldest child was born May 13th, 1811. Moved into this township (New Haven) before the war in 1811, where he made the first settlement and built the first log cabin, and where was born his daughter Ruth, the 29th day of April, 1813, being the first white child born in the township. Three times during the war he was driven from his house by the Indians and took refuge in a block house at Mansfield. Owing to a peculiarity of his, which was a disposition to destroy all traces or records of his early history and with it the early history of the township, it has been extremely difficult to obtain definite information in regard to those things, but the following incidents have been obtained entirely from the recollection of his children of what he has said at different times, and from the recollection of those who lived cotemporary with him. Shortly after the commencement of the war, himself and one or two neighbors started for Lower Sandusky, or what at this day is known as Fremont, in Sandusky County, with an ox team, after a barrel or two of pork. It took them three days to go and three to return, and when there

they first heard of the alarming news of Hulls surrender, which left the frontier defenceless, open to the depredation of the Savages, who were numerous and hostile and admonished the settlers that they must depend upon their own vigilance, energy, and bravery for defense. But these hardy pioneers wended their way homeward, slowly and watchfully determined to be on their guard and prepared for the worst. On another occasion, while the Indians were skulking around the settlements, lying in wait for victims and plunder, five hostile Indians camped on the bottom, just across the river, and although they came across and took corn from his field to roast for their evening meal, yet by some fortunate circumstance they failed to discover that Palmer and his wife were at home. They probably did not expect to find anybody so far from the shelter of a fort in such perilous times, and consequently did not make a strict search.

Thus again was this hardy pioneer preserved from imminent danger by the interposition of a kind providence. The roads at that time were mere trails, and could only be followed by the marks upon the trees, called blazing. The bushes were lopped off, so as to admit a person on horseback to pass, and in this way went around logs and other obstructions in all directions. Palmer has been heard to say that in those early days, when he was engaged in surveying, he was the owner of a mare that had acquired intelligence sufficient to follow these trails or lines by the blazing on the trees; and frequently at night, when away from camp and so dark that he could not distinguish objects, this mare would take a line and follow it by the blazing on the trees untill she struck another line running at right angles, perhaps which she would follow as correctly, and thus bringing him safely into camp. The movements of the Indians were narrowly watched as well as could be done by the scattered inhabitants, and scouts were constantly upon the march, so that if any considerable body of Indians should make a movement for the settlements, a timely warning of the approaching danger might be given. One night in the fall of 1812, these scouts came to Palmers cabin and told him that Indians were about, and that if he cared for his own life or the lives of his family, he must immediately leave for a place of security. Accordingly in the morning the horses, three in number, were caught and packed with such movables of value as could be conveniently carried, and Palmer, his wife and three children, again started for Mansfield; all his other goods, together with his provisions and crops which he had secured during the season were stored in the house. The family had been gone but a short time when the Indians made their appearance and finding no victims upon whom to wreak their vengeance, the torch was applied and the whole consumed - Palmer himself returned in a few days, only to discover that his home and goods were all gone. After this he went with his family farther south into Knox County, and remained a few months, but his attachment for his first home was so strong, that as soon as it was considered safe to do so, he returned again to this township and settled on the farm now (1859) owned by John Kiser, a short distance N E of the Village, on the Norwalk road. Here he erected another cabin

and made permanent improvements and those who had occasion to traverse the wilderness in those early days will remember this cabin from the hospitalities which were ever extended by its owner. Here were planted the first apple trees started in the township, which still remain and are in bearing condition, near the yard and very near the residence of John Kiser. Palmer was the first Justice of the Peace elected in the township and obtained a commission bearing date Nov. 24th, 1815, and continued to serve in this capacity until the fall of 1822, when he was succeeded by Elisha Stewart, besides filling various other township offices for years in succession. He was also the first Post Master in the township, and a receipt is still in preservation which reads as follows:

General Post Office
Washington City May 9th, 1816

Sir - this serves to acknowledge the receipt of your accounts from the 31st of Aug, 1815, to 31st of Dec. 1815.

I am sir, yours, Return J. Meigs, Post Master Gen.

Caleb Palmer, Charles Parker and Eli S. Barnum were the first commissioners of Huron County in 1815. His descendants are as follows: Meigs Palmer, born in at or near Cuyahoga Falls on the 11th day of May, 1811. Is at present living in this township on the old homestead. Ruth Palmer, born in this township April 29th, 1813, being the first white child born in this township; in consideration of this fact, her father received in trust for her, from Isaac Mills, one of the proprietors of the township, a gratuity of Ten Dollars. She married Jesse Youngs, and at present is living with her family in Tompkins Jackson County, Mich. Electra S. Jackson, born in this township married Jacob Guyselman, and is at present living in the village of New Haven. Mr. Palmer died in this village at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Guyselman, on the 7th day of April, 1854, in his 79th year, and his remains were deposited in the cemetery one mile south of the village. For a long time he had been an active, influential and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and died in the full enjoyment of the Christian hope. Copied from Vol 1st, No 3rd, of the Fire Lands Pioneer, for March 1859, Page 11. May 21st, 1877 by C. C. Bronson.

DANIEL BEACH

He was born in Warren, Litchfield Co., Conn March 16th, 1785. In 1805 he came on foot to Canfield Mahoning Co., Ohio and worked one year, then returned to Conn, married Lorinda Sackett Jan. 1st, 1810. His father gave him forty acres of land which he traded for two hundred acres of land Tallmadge, Portage co, now Summit Co., Ohio (this trade was made with Col Benj. Tallmadge of Litchfield Conn CCB) To which he removed in 1811, coming through with a horse and a yoke of oxen. He was drafted into the U. S. Service for six months in 1812, was most of the time at

Fort Crogham. He came to Ruggles in the spring of 1823, with Bradford Sturtevant to look for land, then again in June when he and Mr. Sturtevant bought of Jessup and Wakeman of Conn (who owned the greater part of the town) one mile square, in the south west corner of Section 3rd, Mr. Beach taking the western and smallest part. He also bought in Sec 4th at the same time. He left Tallmadge, July 28th, 1823 with his wife and five children, viz: Cyrus S, Reuben Kimball, Cordelia M, Harriet L, and Daniel B, accompanied by Elezer C. Sackett and Ezra D Smith. They atarted with two yoke of oxen, but were obliged to hire another pair to assist them. They camped out one night in Guilford Medina Co, where Mr Beach and Mr Sackett went back four miles for a jug of water to drink.

At Sullivan they hired John Soles for one dollar to pilot them to New London, this being the first team that had ever passed that way. They lay out one night in Troy. They reached Mr Beaches land Saturday Aug 2nd, at 4 o'clock P.M. having been just one week making the trip. Cyrus and Reuben Kimball Beach found fire at a deserted Indian Camp with which they cooked their supper, after eating which Messrs Beach and Sackett commenced that onslaught upon the forest, which continued so ruthlessly for many years. As Mr Beach was the leader of the party he probably cut the first tree. They that night built of poles cabin ten by fifteen, in which they lived till the next week without any roof. They soon built a log house, but before moving in discovered that it stood in the middle of the road. They took it down, but having no time to rebuild it, went to clearing. After putting in five acres of wheat, they rebuilt their house, having lived six weeks in the little cabin where they one night entertained so many visitors that the sleepers numbered sixteen. About this time Cordelia and Harriet went to Mr Meads in Greenwich, visiting and were lost on their return. A general hunt resulting in Mr Beach finding them about midnight lying beside a little stream. The following winter, Mr Beach employed hands enough to enable him to chop one hundred acres, which he cleared the next summer. In the fall of 1824, he and Mr. Sturtevant went to Tallmadge for apple trees which still produce fruit on their sons farms. Mr. Beach owned various tracts of land which he gave to his children, and sold to others. His home farm consisted of about three hundred acres which in his old age, he gave into the hands of his sons Wakeman and William, (both born in Ruggles) on condition that they should pay all his debts, which they were soon able to do. In 1854 he removed to Bowne, Kent Co Michigan where his daughter Cordelia resided. His wife returned to Ruggles in 1856 and died Nov 10th 1856, at the residence of her son Cyrus.

Mr. Beach returned the following winter, and the next May married Mrs Frances, widow of Tyler Peck with whom he lived until his death which occured May 16th, 1862, at his residence at Ruggles Center. Mr Beach was an ambitious persevering man, and did much towards opening up the township to settlers. His memory will long be respected by the people of Ruggles.

ACCOUNT OF DECENDANTS

- 1st - Cyrus S. married Norah Gates, Children; Cynthia, Marion, Norah C, and Wakeman. Cynthia married D Fox, they have two children, Paul and Marion, (1864)
- 2nd - Reuben Kimball, married Fanny Curtiss; children: George, Columbus, William, Irena, Miles and Mary.
- 3rd - Cordelia, married Isaac Cowell: Children; Burton, Daniel, Lorinda (dead) Betsey, Jane, Norah and William
- 4th - Harriet L married Rollin Curtiss; children: Charles (dead) Horace, Frederick, now in Cal, Fanny and Harriet
- 5th - Daniel B, born in Tallmadge, died unmarried year since
- 6th - Wakeman J married Phebe Ann Washburn; children: Diora, Wanda and Mary Allice.
- 7th - William, unmarried, June 1864

A biographical sketch of Mr. Daniel Beach of his residence I had previously written and finding the foregoing in the 5th Vol of the Fire Lands Pioneer; I copied as a continued sketch of Mr Beaches pioneer life C. C. Bronson May 1877. The sketch refered to will be found Vol 2nd His & Miss page 113 of my coll.

Extracts from a pamphlet very kindly loaned me by Mrs. Nancy (Wright) Jones, which was entitled; A Review of the Cong. Church of Groton Conn: with sketches of its ministers, from 1704 to 1876 by J. A. Woodhull, the Pastor.

Mr. Woodhull in closing a biographical Sketch of Rev Jonathan Barber, the fourth pastor of the church in Groton, says: "His sleeping place beside that of his beloved wife in the Starr Cemetary is marked by an appropriate tablet and register thus the graves of Woodbridge, of Owen and of Barber, are with us still to guard and to love for their sakes".

We might go back in spirit and attend the funerals of these men of God. At the death of each, darkness settled upon the town and all were mourners. Yet no hearse came to bear away the dead, and no coaches to carry mourning friends to the buirial. Upon a shoulder bier were the honored remains borne by many chosen pall bearers, taking turns while a long procession of footmen followed. No money was wasted in display, but hearty were all the expressions of reverential love. Next comes the pastor of the Revolution. Rev. Aaron Kinne, was born at Newent, in the present town of Lisbon, Sept 26th 1745, and graduated at Yale in 1769. He was ordained and made pastor of this people Oct. 19th 1769 about one year after the dismissal of Mr. Barber and about fourteen years before his death. If we go back just one hundred years, we find ourselves in the midst of stirring scenes.

Here

Here as else where the people are conversing in earnest tones about the wrongs they are enduring, but will not long endure. Men are talking of entering the army, and the question is uppermost, "who will care for mother, or sister, or wife?". Meetings are called and votes passed to relieve of such cares. On the Lords day, religious meetings are some what tinged with politics. If we enter the house of God to worship we shall need to walk the aisle with some reverance, because it is without carpet, and shall lack one temptation to sleep in the pew, viz: A cushion. In the Deacons Seat we may see the venerable Ebenezer Avery, who afterwards fell in Fort Griswold. In the other corner is Solomon Morgan, lately elected and younger, but old enough to have been the pastors father-in-law, for the past six years. In the pulpit, a man with the vigor of youth, rises to speak and lifts his head well towards the sounding. His voice is clear and fills easily the room. His whole manner is decided, while devout. Everything he utters is watched in its bearing on the war. Words spoken on both sides of the ocean had already come to blows at Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill. What now is the word of the Lord? The preachers style broadens and kindles with holy patriotism. The singing under five choristers with no instrument, is spirited indeed. This was a hundred years ago. Our nation was then born; but our Church was then seventy two years old, and as a religious enterprize, it was ninety years of age. Mr. Kinne had now performed nearly seven years of his ministry under the British Crown. Under a new reign, both church and pastor started forth upon this century, which has just been completed. They had now to struggle as a part of the new born nation, through seven and one half years for those privileges which were claimed, but not yet granted. They were obliged to try new things. The new meeting house built in a new location, had not yet won the favor of all. Many in the north eastern and eastern portions of the town had left this for other congregations. But this loss bore no comparison to that one which came by the sad slaughter of the 6th Sept, 1781 in Fort Griswold. Concerning this event, I quote the words of a grand daughter of Rev. Aaron Kinne, still living at Tallmadge, Ohio: (Mrs. Nancy (Wright) Jones, "I think I have heard my mother say that all of the male members of the church, excepting her grand-father, and Deacon Solomon Morgan (then a very old man) were killed in the battle at Fort Griswold. My aunt Nancy Avery, who was the oldest of my grandfathers children - six in number at that time, said she remembered being called a number of times in the night to help her mother carry the babe and lead the child next older, a distance of two miles through the woods to find safety in her grand fathers house. My grand fathers residence was three fourths of a mile from the fort. On the morning of that fatal day my grand father upon hearing the alarm rose from his bed and went to the fort. He came back soon and told his wife to prepare for him cordials and linen for the wounded and dying, for said he, there will be a fearful battle. Our men are determined to hold the fort and there are not enough of them: they cannot do it. He said afterwards he believed they would have done it if their ammuniton had not failed. He returned and

spent the day carrying his flag of truce, going to and fro, ministering to the suffering. Meanwhile his family went to Deacon Morgans, together with many other terror stricken wives and children for refuge".

What Pastor besides this one, ever had sixty widows and three times as many orphans, all made in one day, looking to him for spiritual consolation? What church has borne a more stunning shock? The voice of weeping and of lamentation, like that in Rama, was heard among these hills and many Rachels refused to be comforted, because of dear ones that were not! The conflicts of the Rev. Aaron Kinne, did not close with the war, in 1783. The people being free from the British yoke would now be rid of the English custom of supporting of religion by taxation. The dispute over the legal ministers rates, was greatly agravated both by the decrease of monied ability and by the increace of separatists. The errors which James Davenport had sown forty years before this time were now well grown and abundantly ripening. When Mr. Kinne, favored the application of law in collecting as well as in assessing the rates, some influential persons set up another religious meeting in the "great room" of the historical Avery Mansion" From such a beginning in 1784, we are told that the proprietor of that dwelling gradually advanced to the title of Elder Park Avery. Among the trials of that day, a very inflated and uncertain currency made itself felt much and often. Surely here was enough pressing upon the spirit to bring, at least, a wreath of cloud upon the brow. In 1793 and 1794, Mr. Kinne was preaching as a missionary in the region of the Mohawk River, state of New York. To such service he was appointed by the Gen Association of Connecticut, and was allowed five dollars a sabbath, and also four dollars to fire a supply for his pulpit at home. Thus he soon appeared upon the crest of every wave that had, for a time, swept him from standing place.

It seems to be due to his faith and energy under a gracious providence that "Ichabod" was not written upon this church as upon the one in North Groton. Fiting it was that his pastorate of twenty nine years should be surpassed in length by none, throughout the unbroken life of this church for one hundred and seventy two years. It is a matter of deep regret that we have no church records (with slight exceptions) concerning his pastorate - not even the name of a person received into membership. From other sources we learn that like Rev. M. Owen, he married a Miss Anna Morgan of this town. The marriage occurred May 31st, 1770. Their children 11 in number were all born in Groton . After Mr. Kinnes dismissal on the 15th of Nov, 1798, he supplied the pulpit at Winsted, and removed with his family to that place. In 1804 he removed to Egremont, Mass and in 1806 to Alford, in the same county. He was subsequently employed by the Massachusetts Missionary Society to preach at Mount Washington, and in several other destitute places. About this time he published a work on the "Sonship of Christ". In 1813, he published a book on the "Prophecies" in 1814 a work upon "Types

and Prophecies and Revelation", in 1821, an essay upon "The New Heavens and Earth". On the 14th of July, 1824, he died of apoplexy at the house of his son in law Dr. Amos C. Wright in Tallmadge, Ohio, being at the time in the 80th year of his age, and in the 55th of his ministry. His tomb is in the Tallmadge Cemetary.

HUDSON

Township No 4 Range 10 of the Connecticut Western Reserve was the 59th Draft, and was drawn by Samuel Foulmer, Daniel Goodwin, Timothy Allen, Ephraim Starr, Joseph Lyman, Julian Hubbard, Enoch W Thayre, David Hudson, Eliha Lewis, Birdseye Norton, Stephen W Jones, Roger Newberry, Justin Ely, Elijah White, Jonathan Brace and Enoch Perkins. To which was annexed Lot 3 in Town No 8 in the 9th Range, (Chester,) this was one of the equalizing towns the lot lines running east and west and Lot 3 was the South Lot. This was annexed to town Four Range ten to make good the swampy land in the township. These first proprietors, sold their claims to this Draft to Birdseye Norton, David Hudson, Theodore Parmelee and Benj. Oviatt. These 4 gentlemen all resided in Goshen Conn. Mr Norton was the largest proprietor they began to make early efforts toward a settlement of Town 4 Range 10. Rev John Seward Pastor of the Cong. Church in Aurora for 30 years, in his frequent intercourse with the first pioneers has left much valuable historical information of the early settlers and their hardships. In a series of articles which Mr. Seward wrote for the Ohio Observer a newspaper, printed in Hudson, and files of which are in the library of the W. R. College his articles are headed "Early Settlement of the Reserve". And are replete with valuable history. He gives the results of his frequent conversations with Esq. Hudson on the hardships he and his fellow colonists endured in settling the township, that bears his name. Mr. Seward's articles commence June 24th, 1830*. Mr. Seward says: In 1799 Mr. Hudson, undertook a journey to explore and survey such parts of their land, as he should judge would best promote their mutual interests. On the 25th of March, 1799, (*The article respecting Hudson, No 15, commence March 17th, 1837) he met at Albany, Joseph Darrow, a man by the name of Mechum, Thaddeus Lacy, with a waggon, and Wm McKinley. The company when thus united immediately proceeded westward. After travelling about two days, it was found, by reason of the depth of snow impossible to proceed with the waggon. Lacy with Ira Hudson, a lad of 11 years old, a son of Mr. Hudson, were left till winter should break up, on the Mohawk; whilst Messrs Hudson, Darrow and McKinley, pursued their journey on foot to Bloomfield Ontario County, N. Y. Here they tarried a few weeks making preparations for the prosecution of their voyage through the Lakes Ontario and Erie. Not hearing anything from Lacy, and being solicitous to proceed, Hudson after purchasing supplies of provisions and other articles for him to bring, started for New Connecticut, with Darrow, McKinley and Richard H. Blinn, a man fired in Onandago. Having a small quantity of provisions, they proceeded in

a boat belonging to Benj. Tappan, who had come from Schenectad-
aday, by water and was also bound for New Connecticut. Having
only one man with him, he found the additional assistance of
Mr. Hudson and his men a great convenience in navigating his
boat. They started from Gerundiquoit Bay in Lake Ontario (now
called Irondequoit) early in May and fell in company with Elias
Harmon (since known as Judge Harmon) in a boat with his wife
having been recently married; bound also to New Connecticut, to
a place which by the surveyors had been named Mantua. For the
purpose of mutual assistance, they agreed to continue in com-
pany through the lakes. On arriving at Niagara, they found the
river full of ice. After considerable difficulty in passing
the floating ice, they landed safely at Queenston and getting
their boat and loading transported around Niagara Falls, to
Chipeway, they embarked again on the river, still full of float-
ing ice, and with much difficulty made their way to Fort Erie
on the British side. Not knowing the danger of the attempt and
fearing as little as they as they knew, they determined to cross
to the American side through the violent current which forms the
outlet of Lake Erie, amidst vast bodies of floating ice, which
exhibited a most appalling aspect. Providentially, neither of
the boats became so entangled in the ice, as not to be extri-
cated, and landed safely on the opposite side, with no other
loss, than that of falling considerable distance down the rapid
stream. With much labor and toil and no little danger, they pur-
sued their voyage close along the shore, through immense fields
of floating ice, having some of their men on the shore dragging
with ropes, untill they had proceeded so far up the lake as to be
above the current which urges everything with it towards the
falls of Niagara. They now discovered that the lake was filled
with broken ice as far as the eye could reach, and were reluc-
tantly compelled to conclude that further navigation was at
present utterly impracticable. After remaining several days
on the beach, a strong west wind to their great joy, on the 25th
of May 1799, cleared the lake and after digging through a bank
of ice, thrown up by the storm to the height of 8 or 10 feet, they
embarked again with good spirits upon Lake Erie. From that time
they had a prosperous voyage, untill they arrived on the coast
of New Connecticut, when a storm arose and drove both of the
boats on shore. By dexterous management, Tappans boat was safely
thrown on to the beach, with no other injury than drenching in
water every article on board. Mr. Harmons boat being driven by
the tempest and suffered to strike the shore with her broad side
was torn to pieces, and rendered a complete wreck by the violence
of the waves. Having thus lost his boat Mr. Harmon and his wife
proceeded to Mantua by land through the pathless wilderness. Mr.
Hudson purchased the wreck of Harmons boat for a small consider-
ation and having with him a keg of nails, he repaired it with
such means as he had in such a manner, as to venture although
it was very frail and leaky, to ship aboard it his effects,
which had been brought thus far in Tappans boat. After thus ar-
ranging matters, they proceeded with the two boats, and nothing
material occurred untill they arrived at Cleveland, on the 8th
of June 1799. Messrs Hudson and Tappan, as before stated arrived
at Cleveland June 8th, 1799, where they found no white persons,
excepting Lorenzo Carter and his family, consisting of his wife,

and several small children, some of whom were shaking with the ague. The next day with their two boats, they began to ascend the Cuyahoga River. As they had little knowledge of the river, except what they had obtained by a perusal of Morses Geography, they supposed it capable of sloop navigation to its forks; and the season being dry, they were astonished, after traversing the river a few miles from its mouth, to find in many places, not more than 8 or 10 inches of water. By joining hands in difficult places, and dragging their boats they made slow progress a number of days, until they guessed that they must have arrived about in the latitude of No. 4 in the 10th Range, which town was the particular object of their search. As the country abounded with Indians, they took the precaution to watch their boats, and Mr. Hudsons boat being guarded one night by Blinn and McKinley, they on the approach of the savages, abandoned their post in a cowardly manner, and tamely suffered the boat to be robbed of a considerable share of the small stock of provisions on board. In other circumstances the loss would not have been so great, but placed as they were it was very severely felt. The river being shallow, and very crooked their progress to the south was much slower than they imagined and having no means ascertaining their latitude, Mr. Hudson commenced searching for a surveyors line much too far north to lead to the place of their destination and not knowing that No 5 in the 11th Range (Northfield) had been surveyed into lots of 160 acres each, he was, for several days, completely baffled, by following lot lines in that township. After six days of laborious and painful search after some line that would be a guide to the object sought for, he discovered one towards night which led to the southwest corner of the town he had so long, and so anxiously been seeking to find. The succeeding night being very rainy he lodged under an oak tree without any other covering excepting the clothes he wore, with the grateful pleasure of resting on his own land. In the morning he returned to the boats, highly elated with his success and gave information. Tappan and Hudson with the men in the employment of Mr Hudson, immediately made a line in a south easterly direction, for the purpose of striking the Indian Trail, leading to the Salt Spring. They were so successful as to strike the trail near the east line of the town since called Stow, and followed it to a place in the town since called Ravenna, where a man in Tappans service had been waiting for him six weeks. Tappan had employed this man to take a journey from Mass to Penn, and near the western border of that state to purchase a cow, and drive her along the Indian Trail from the vicinity of the Ohio river by the Salt Spring to Tappans township, since named Ravenna. It was the intention of Tappan to have met this man by the time he should arrive at the place designated, but the circumstances attending Tappans journey, which have been already stated prevented. Tappan found him at the place appointed with his cow, having had no food but milk for six weeks, yet continuing during that time, healthy and vigorous, his countenance and complexion however, in some measure resembled the color of his food. While in the county of Ontario, Tappan bought yoke of oxen and Hudson two yoke of oxen and two cows. These eight cattle they committed to the care of Meacham and a

hired man in Tappans service, who brought them safely from Ontario County, on the Indian Trail to Buffalo and continued on said trail, untill they found near the lake, the west line of the Seventh Range on the Reserve. This line, it being the east line of the towns now named Painesville, Concord, Chardon, Monson, Newbury, Auburn, Mantua, Shalersville and Revenna, they followed due south more than forty miles, crossing the Grand and Cuyahoga Rivers and striking the great Indian Trail to the Sale Spring, near the south east corner of Revenna a place now well known as being the residence of the late Gen John Campbell. They followed this trail westward untill they came to the new line recently made by Hudson and Tappan, which they followed to the spot where the boats were lying on the Cuyahoga in the present town of Boston. The difficulties encountered by these men in driving this small drove of cattle about three hundred miles, on an obscure and crooked path or Indian Trail, and in following town lines through swamps, rivers and other obstacles fifty miles farther almost entirely through an unimhabited wilderness, were truly appalling. And what rendered their circumstances peculiarly unpleasant and in some cases hazardous, was they they were strangers to the country and without a guide. Their mode of travelling was to have several bags of flour and pork together with two blankets and an axe, well secured on the backs of the oxen. They waded fordable streams and compelled their cattle to swim those that could not be forded, passing across those streams themselves with their provisions on rafts hastily constructed of sticks. The fortitude and perseverance of these men in performing this most arduous task was highly commendable and God in his kind providence so directed circumstances and events, that the cattle arrived safely at the very time they were needed. Those who are now dwelling at ease and surrounded with abundance in this goodly land, surely we owe a debt of gratitude to those who were pioneers in the settlement of this country; but more espeially to God, who has given so much success in turning the wilderness into a fruitful field, and granted to the people who dwell here, so many blessings, civil, literary and religious. Mr. Hudsons company being thus collected together, his first care after making yokes for his oxen was to open a road to his lands. The gullies on leaving the Cuyahoga in Boston, are exceedingly precipitous and deep; and they run in a direction almost at right angles with that to the lan d where the emigrants wished to go; and not being sufficiently acquainted with the formation of these gullies, they did not make their in a direction parrallel with them untill they reached the summit where the ravines commence. They knew no better method than to make their way across these gullies and in some instances almost at right angles with them. Hence their path across these gullies in some places, ascended and decended almost at an angle of forty degrees, or more. On this road, bad as it was, t hey performed all their transportation, on sleds, during the year 1799, whilst their oxen were tormented and rendered almost unmanagable by immense swarms of flies, which displayed such skill in the science of phlebotomy, that in a short time, they drew out a large share of the blood belonging to these poor animals. The flies actually killed one of Tappans oxen this season. After having conveyed their small stock of provisions on the south west corner of his

town, and erecting a bark hut, to secure it from the weather, and set his men at work in clearing land etc, Mr. Hudson made an attempt for a day or two to explore the town. He found his way hedged up by an almost impassable swamp near the west line of the town, extending north and south, the limits of which he had then neither the time nor patience to discover. His anxiety was now becoming very great, lest he and his company should suffer for want of provisions; the small stock which the Indians left when they robbed his boat, being nearly exhausted. He had four men besides himself to provide for, to whom was added David Kellogg, with his wife and small child, whom Tappan had brought from the Mohawk Country, and who had become entirely discouraged declaring that they would follow Tappan no longer. Although Mr. Hudson was much distressed for himself and men, famine staring them in the face, yet humanity forbade that he should reject the earnest entreaties of this man to be taken into his family; he expecting every day the arrival of Lacy with full supplies, he consented that Kellogg, might partake with them as long as their provisions lasted, trusting that providence would open the way for their supply. Not hearing from Lacy, and dreading the consequences of waiting for him any longer, Mr Hudson, determined to go and meet him and hasten him on, that if possible he might arrive before their provisions were wholly consumed. Having obtained a passage at Cleveland, with some men who were providentially going down the lake, at that time in a boat, he started the latter part of June, and on the 2nd day of July, he found Lacy, lying at his ease, in a small creek four miles west of Cataraugus, with his wife and two children and several hired men, whom Nathaniel Norton had employed and sent on to assist Hudson in his arduous enterprize, who in their circumstances found it difficult to refrain from an expression of his indignation at Lacys, for his remissness and his dilatory course, by which he had caused so much unnecessary trouble, and had exposed the whole expedition to a complete failure. Being exceedingly vexed with the unfaithfulness of Lacy, Mr. Hudson became still more perplexed when informed that most of the loading of provisions was consigned by Norton to Eliphalet Austin of Austinburg, and that Lacy had only a supply for himself and those with him in the boat untill they should meet Mr. Hudson. Mr Hudson had depended on Norton, as an authorized agent to forward full supplies by Lacy: to be utterly disappointed was almost insupportable and involved his mind in a state of unusual distraction. Any course that he could possibly pursue, seemed to be only a choice of evils. To take the company along with him and leave the loading for Austin would be doubling the number who must inevitably starve in the wilderness. To venture to the eastward, abandon the expedition and leave those to perish in the wilderness whom he had placed there and who were depending on him for support, would be cruel indeed. To take on the provision consigned to Austin besides the doubtful morality of the measure might, perhaps subject him and his people to great distress. After a sleepless night and imploring direction from God, his mind became settled with respect to the path of duty. He resolved to go on with the loading and risk the consequences. He wrote a letter to

Austin, stating his situation, and his reasons for taking the provision consignment to him requesting him to supply himself some other way, as he might probably from Harpersfield, where settlement had been commenced a year previous. Mr. Hudson, who assured him that whatever damage he should sustain in consequence of this measure, he would make him satisfaction. The first time he saw Austin, he offered to submit the case entirely to him to decide what damages he should pay him, Austin said "it had done him no damage". After Hudson had settled the question with regard to loading, he dismissed all the men that Norton had sent, except Jesse and Eliala Lindley, with a letter to Norton, stating what he had done, and urging him in the strongest terms to send another boat immediately with further supplies for Austin and himself. As it became necessary to pursue their voyage with the utmost expedition, that they might relieve the wants of those they had left in the wilderness they improved every moment when the lake was sufficiently calm. The lake was frequently rough by day so that they could not proceed, while it would be smooth at night. Hence they were under the necessity of lying by in the day time and prosecuting their voyage at night. Jesse Lindley refused to work by night; alleging that he was hired to work only in the day time. In order to tame this fellow, they rowed him on by night, while he slept, but on those days when they could not keep the lake, Mr Hudson ordered him to take his axe and do a good days work in the woods, chopping timber and piling brush. This measure soon brought him to terms. Having a prosperous voyage, they arrived in season, to the no small joy of those left in the wilderness, who must have been put upon short allowance, had the arrival been delayed any longer. The company being thus furnished with provisions, they undertook to build a large log house, but on account of their inexperience in constructing such buildings, it cose vastly more than was necessary. Mr Hudson, also set his men at work in clearing a piece of land for wheat; and on the 25th day of July 1799, he commenced surveying the township into lots. Including Lacy and Kellogg, with their wives and children thirteen persons were depending on him for support. Hither to health had prevailed among them, but now they were visited with sickness = and during the months of Aug and Sept every individual except Mr Hudson had a turn of being unwell. Several had the fever and ague; and in the progress of surveying the township into lots, the party frequently had to wait for some one of their number to go through a paroxysm of ague, and then resume their labors. Surveying the township into lots, although presecuted with all the energy which the feeble of the people would permit, still went on slowly. About the middle of Sept on examination, Mr Hudson found to his surprise that they had only nine days provision on hand; and as he had heard nothing from Norton, their agent at Bloomfield, N. Y. he was once more alarmed lest they should suffer for want of food. He immediately went to Cleveland and purchased of Lorenzo Carter a small field of corn for \$50, designing to pound it in mortars and live there on in case of necessity. He hastened back to his station and having previously heard that Ebenezer Sheldon had made a road through

the wilderness to Aurora, and that there was a bridle path thence to Cleveland, he thought it probable he might obtain pork for present necessity from that quarter. He accordingly set out on foot and alone and having no compass with him the day being clear, he regulated his course, by the range of his shadow, making allowance for change in the time of day. He found the Cleveland path near the center of Aurora, then a dense forest. He proceeded to Esq. Sheldons Cabin, near where Gershom Sheldon now lives (1830). On inquiring, he found that he could obtain no provisions in that direction within any reasonable distance. He returned next morning, and found to his inexpressible joy, that the boat had arrived with ample supplies of provisions. Having renewed occasion to thank God and take courage, notwithstanding the sickness that still prevailed they pursued the business of surveying with fresh vigor and completed it on the 11th day of Oct 1799. The next day Mr Hudson taking his son Ira, a lad of eleven years old with Darrow and Meacham, and with his best wishes, leaving the rest of the company to the care of a kind providence, proceeded down the Cuyahoga to Cleveland, in the wreck of a boat which he had bought of Harmon. They took with them a quantity of provisions barely sufficient to sustain them in a quick passage, designing to take a good boat, which Lacy had brought on which had been left at Cleveland, to convey them through the lakes on their return home. On arriving at Cleveland they had the mortification to find that the good boat, in which they expected to navigate the lakes had been taken without permission and was then absent on a voyage to Detroit. As no tar could be procured to pitch their boat, Mr Hudson formed and executed, according to his own phraseology, the rash resolution of crossing the lakes in their own feeble boat, which was so leaky that it required one hand most of the time to bail out the water, and so weak, that it bent considerably in crossing the waves. During their passage through lake Erie, the weather was generally cold and stormy. At three different times they narrowly escaped drowning by reason of the darkness of the night or violence of the wind. Being under the necessity of laying by, five days on Chautaugue point, they lived comfortably during that time on boiled chestnuts in order to lengthen out their small stock of provisions. Having a pleasant passage through Lake Ontario, they arrived safe in Gerundagut Bay, on the 1st of Nov 1799, rejoicing that they could leave their frail bark for substantial foothold on firm ground. Mr. Hudson proceeded without needless delay to Goshen Conn and finding his family in good health he immediately undertook the settlement of his affairs, and by the first of Jan 1800 was in readiness to leave his native state with all its tender associations. "Thus says he" ends the eventful year of 1799 filled with many troubles, out of which hat the Lord delivered me". After having made a public profession of religion by becomeing a member of the church in Goshen, under the pastoral care of the Rev Asahel Hooker and taking a solemn and affecting leave of Christian friends, Mr Hudson set out in the month of Jan 1800, accompanied by Ruth Gaylord, an aged maiden lady then a member of his family, and Samuel Bishop, with his numerous family, and his son in law Elijah Nobles. Having a prosperous

journey to Bloomfield N. Y. they tarried there untill spring, making preparations for their voyage through the lakes, and up the Cuyahoga, near to their place of destination. They purchased four boats, from one to two tons burden, and thoroughly repaired the wreck which had brought them through the lakes, the preceding autumn, and lightly loading them with supplies to the value of about \$2000 had completed every necessary preparation by the 29 of April. The next night, says Esq. Hudson, "whilst my dear wife and six children, with all my men lay soundly sleeping around me, I could not close my eyes. The reflection that these men and women, with almost all that I held dear in life, were now about to embark in an expedition, in which so many chances appeared against me; and should we survive the dangers arising from crossing the boisterous lakes, and the distressing sickness usually attendant on new settlements, it was highly probable that we might fall before the tomahawk and scalping knife. As I knew that at that time no considerable settlement had been made but what was established in blood; and as I was about place all those who lay around me on the extreme frontier and as they would look to me for safety and protection; I almost sunk under the immense weight of responsibility resting upon me. Perhaps my feelings on this occasion were a little similar to those of the Patriarch, when expecting to meet his hostile brother. But after presenting my case before "Israels God" and committing all to his care, I cheerfully launched out the next morning upon the "Great deep", The crews of their boats consisted of Samuel Bishop and his four sons, David, Luman, Reuben and Joseph G., Joel Gaylord, Heman Oviatt, Moses Thompson, Allen Gaylord, Stephen Perkins, Joseph Darrow, George Darrow, Wm. McKinley, and three men from Vermont by the names of Derrick, Williams and Shefford. The women in the company were the wives of Messrs Hudson, Bishop and Nobles, with Miss Ruth Gaylord and Miss Ruth Bishop. The six children of Mr Hudson, completed the number. Through the goodness of Divine Providence, the lakes were remarkably calm during the voyage, and the Niagara River, which had given them so much trouble the preceding year, was clear of ice, and they had little trouble untill they reached the mouth of the Cuyahoga. The wind on that day was favorable with the exception that it was rather to high. Mr. Hudson in attempting to enter the river with his boat, which contained his family and many goods of value missed the channel, and the boat struck on the bar of sand. In this very perilous situation the boat received several barrels of water, and in a few momments himself, his wife and all his children must have been drowned had not a mountain wave struck the boat with such force as to float it over the bar. The other boats keeping the channel entered without difficulty. They ascended the river without much trouble, the water being of suitable depth, untill they came within about two miles of their landing place, when they stopped for the night a little north of a spot in Northfield, now known by the name of the "Pinery". A most tremendous rain fell during the night which raised the river so rapidly that by daylight next morning it overflowed the bank where they slept, and even their beds were on the point of floating. Everything was completely drenched with water and they were compelled to wait five days

for the water to subside, before they could force a boat against the current. On the sixth day, which was the 28th day of May, they succeeded in reaching the landing place. This place was near the north line of the town since called Boston, and in Sept of the preceding year, they had but a road from their settlement to this landing place. By cutting this road they avoided the worst part of the river and all the deep gullies, besides saving some in distance. They had made such monuments at this place the year before, as were readily known by them on their arrival. Having landed and dried their goods, Mr Hudson, leaving his wife and children hurried to see the people who had been left through the winter. He found them all well, and with the assistance of the field of corn he purchased at Cleveland, they had sufficient provision and forage for themselves and cattle. About the time they had completed their landing, Elijah Nobles arrived with the cattle, consisting of fourteen cows, a bull and Bishops oxen, together with a number of hogs. He had driven them from Ontario County N Y on nearly the same path, and in the same manner that the cattle were driven the year before. By this arrival Mr Hudson, also received a horse. Being busily employed in making arrangements Mr Hudson did not take his horse to the river to bring up Mrs Hudson and the children for a number of days. When he arrived he found her who had cheerfully submitted to all the inconveniences hitherto experienced, very much discouraged. She and the children suffered severely from the armies of gnats and musquitoes which at this season of the year infest the woods and especially those on the margin of the Cuyahoga. After all the persons belonging to the company had been collected at the settlement, Thanksgiving was rendered to the God of all mercies who had protected them in perils, preserved their lives and brought them safely to their place of destination. Public worship on the Sabbath was resumed, it having been discontinued during the absence of Mr Hudson. "I felt in some measure," says he, the responsibilities resting on first settlers and their obligations to commence in that fear of God which is the beginning of wisdom, and to establish those moral and religious habits on which the temporal and eternal happiness of a people essentially depends. It proved an arduous task to transport the loading of five boats, a distance of eight miles on bare ground on sleds. By committing the error of not bringing any wheels with them, they had no better mode of transportation. By diligence and perseverance, they performed the labor in the of one month. This service in hot weather, deprived the oxen of much of their flesh, while myriads of flies were busily employed in extracting their blood. Through the goodness of God they had a prosperous season; they raised a large supply of turnips and potatoes; had a good harvest of wheat, and suffered but little sickness and on the 28th of Oct 1800, Mrs Hudson become the mother of a promising daughter, favored at the time with no other human assistance than such as could be afforded by ignorant women. This was the first white child born in the township of Hudson, (and the first birth in what is now the County of Summit) she was named Anner May Hudson, she married Mr. Harvey Baldwin and has always resided on the old Hudson homestead, and is the last one living of the family of Esq. Hudson and at this time a hale hearty woman,(C.C.B. 1877)

An event took place in the latter part of Nov of this year (1800) which filled the family with the most exquisite distress. A son of Esq. Hudsons, his name was Milo S he was about 8 years old, strayed into the woods alone, and was unable to find his way home. He was not missed untill about sunset, and it was impossible to ascertain the course he had taken. The weather was uncommonly cold for the season; a light snow was on the ground, the child was barefoot and clad with only a shirt, trousers and under jackett. The night was clear and star light, perfectly still excepting when its silence was broken by the cracking of timber by frost, the tremendous howling of hungry wolves, and the hollow reverberating sound of the horns; which was kept blowing at short intervals through the night. As soon as day light had closed this night of dreadful anxiety and suspense, every man was prepared to search the woods. About eleven o clock the child was found, at a distance of nearly or quite a mile and a half from home. He had spent the night buiried in leaves under a log and when found was not frozen; but before getting to the house, his toes were slightly touched with frost. After this the winter was very mild, which greatly favored their cattle, and was very well adapted to clearing the heavy timbered land. Mr. Bishop undertook to get their wheat to the mill for one half, and found it a hard bargain. Necessity compelled him to start with a load of wheat for the Newburg Mills, immediately after a heavy rain had fallen. In attempting to cross Tinkers Creek, he lost all his load which went down the stream, and was never found, and with much difficulty he saved himself and team from drowning. Thus ended the 18th century, and with it, many of the troubles and difficulties of this infant settlement. In March 1801, to the great joy of the former emigrants, Joel Gaylord, and Heman Oviatt, arrived with their families. They came by land through Penn on the first wheels that ever rolled west of the Cuyahoga with waggons and some part of the way, they had to cut their own road. With them came Benjamin Oviatt, John Bridge, James Newton and two children of Heman Oviatt. In addition to these there came in to the place as settlers, during the year 1801, Amos Lusk, Eliada Lindley, John Oviatt, William Boughton, Aaron Norton, Ezra Wyatt, James Walker, Stephen Thompson with his sons, Abraham, Moses, Stephen Jr and his sons in law, George Pease, and Bradford Kellogg, with their families together with 8 or 9 men who came as laborers in the preceeding year, added much to the strength and stability of the settlement. In the year 1802, it was necessary that Esq. Hudson should return to Connecticut to settle accounts with his partner Birdseye Norton. He started July 15th on horseback. After travelling about fifty miles he found his horse was so reduced in flesh and vigor by the flies that he could not perform the journey. He accordingly sold him and swinging his pack on his back, pursued his journey on foot. Arriving at Cataraugus Creek, and finding no person in the vicinity to help him across, he took an old rotten sled and attempted to cross thereon. Incautiously he started to near the mouth of the creek, there having been a few hours before a severe gale, blowing towards the shore, which had filled the creek much above its ordinary level, and as the wind had subsided, a ciolent current was then setting into the lake. As his feeble raft entered this current,

it was very swiftly carried towards the lake. Seeing his danger, he exerted himself as a man possessing presence of mind naturally would in such a case; and at length succeeded in bringing his raft so near the shore that he leaped onto a point of sand which had thrown up by the gale, and which was every moment washing away. After struggling some minutes in the loose sand, which gave way under his feet, he once more got on firm land, but nearly exhausted with the exertion and saw his raft a good distance out in the lake, apparently bound for Canada. As soon as he was sufficiently rested, he went up the stream some miles to a fording place. Having waded the river, he proceeded onto Eighteen Mile Creek, which he also waded. He passed on to Bloomfield where he obtained a horse and went on to Goshen in Conn, settled his business with Birdseye Norton and had a prosperous journey home with Aaron Norton, and his brother Elisha Norton. In the year 1802, several additional families moved into Hudson, and the settlement being considered as firmly established, they built a log school house and set up a school. When Esq Hudson was in New England in the summer of this year, he made a purchase of books to the amount of one hundred dollars for a circulating library. They were sold in shares and almost every family in Hudson, Aurora, and Mantua procured one or more of these shares. This library was judiciously selected by President Dwight of Yale College, and other literary gentlemen of New Haven, and was very useful in forming the morals and enlightening the minds of many of the youth of the settlements. This year Edward Payne Jr laid out and cut out a road from Chillicothe to Painesville, passing near the center of the towns now called Kirtland, Chester, Russell, Bainbridge, Aurora and Hudson. This road was for many years and is now in some parts of it designated by the name of the Chillicothe Road. This year a settlement was commenced in Northampton by Simeon Prior and his family. On the 14th day of Sept 1802, a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ was organized in Hudson, by Rev. Joseph Badger, that pioneer of Gospel institution on the Reserve. The church at the time of its organization consisted of the following persons, viz: Deacon Stephen Thompson and Mary his wife, David Hudson, Abraham Thompson and Susanna his wife, Stephen Thompson Jr and Abigail his wife, George Kilbourn and Almira his wife, Heman Oviatt and Eunice his wife, Amos Lusk and Hannah Lindley. These individuals were from the churches of Goshen, Conn and East Bloomfield N. Y. And this is the third church formed on the Reserve, Austinburg having been organized the Oct preceding. The people of Hudson, being surrounded in a great measure by the Cuyahoga, fording the stream in high water, was often attended with great danger. They determined to make bridge at the "Narrows" a place in the town since called Franklin. They accordingly set out from Hudson on the 30th of Dec 1802 with a company of 9 men and 3 yoke of oxen, went to the place designated and constructed a good bridge which lasted many years and returned home the next day. In 1803 there were added to the settlement in Hudson, Nathaniel Farrand, Robert and John and Henry O Brian, with their families (also John C. Singletary) In 1804, Charles Miles came into Hudson. In July 1804, William Wetmore, Capt. Gregory Powers, Thomas Royce, John Campbell with their families, accompanied by Titus Wetmore and Josiah Starr, all from Middletown, Conn and commenced a

settlement in town 3 Range 10 and named it Stow. This year 1804 the Rev David Bacon, who had been a missionary among the Indians, at the North West came into Hudson with his family, and officiated as their minister in spiritual things most of the time untill the fore part of the year 1807. Soon after which he removed to Town 2 Range 10 which he and others named Tallmadge, after Col Benj Tallmadge of Litchfield, Conn. He removed his family into Tallmadge in July 1807. He had it resurveyed by Seth I. Ensign in Nov 1806, and laid out the roads in the very singular manner which they still retain, and it is probable will continue to retain while time endures. He commenced a settlement in Tallmadge on the principle that non but professors of religion should become inhabitants. The good effects of adopting this principle in commencing that settlement are felt and are manifested to this day, in the intelligent, enterprising moral and religious character of the inhabitants of the place, although it is a very questionable point, whether this principle ought to be adopted as a general rule.

Mr. Bacon, was a very man, sound in the faith and a good preacher, and the people of Hudson and espeicially of Tallmadge owe him a debt of gratitude which they can only discharge by a zealous promotion of that glorious cause, which he sacrificed ease, health and probably life itself to be advanced. He died in New England, a number of years since (He died in Hartford, Conn Aug 27, 1817 aged 46 years C.C.B.) A son the Rev Leonard Bacon, settled and very useful in the Gospel Ministry at New Haven, Connecticut.

"The sweet remembrance of the just
Like a green root, revives and bears
A train of blessings for his heirs
When dying nature sleeps in dust"

The above historical items, were written by Rev. John Seward of Aurora and printed in the Ohio Observer, in 1830. They were copied from files in the library of W. R. College by C. C. Bronson Aug 1877.

FIFTY YEARS AGO
FRIEND AFTER FRIEND DEPART:
WHO HAS NOT LOST A FRIEND?

Last Monday I saw a notice in the Cleveland Heralds of the death of William R. Henry, aged 62 and on Wendesday following a notice of the death of his brother Reuben I. Henry, of Bainbridge, aged 63.

When I went to Aurora in the autumn of 1811, these two men were boys from 10 to 12 years of age, sons of James and Sally Henry pioneer settlers of that place. Reuben has been a respectable farmer in comfortable circumstances, and his brother William became a merchant and obtained considerable wealth. Both of them were men of industry, probity and substantial worth, as neighbors, friends and citizens. For more than fifty years I have regarded them as among my cordial friends, and regret that

I shall see them no more. I suppose that a volume might be written in giving a description of my intercourse with them, their parents, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, nephews, neices, cousins, and other relatives during the half century of my acquaintance with this numerous circle of relatives.

The death of these two brothers, so nearly at the same time, is one of the remarkable events of Divine Providence which strikes the mind with wonder and surprise.

Tallmadge Aug 16th, 1863

John Seward

Copied from the Fire Lands Pioneer, by C. C. Bronson, Aug 1877.

A STARTLING SCENE IN A CHURCH

There were many thrilling scenes in the New England Churches during the Revolutionary War. The following one occurred in Sharon, Connecticut, under the Ministry of Rev Cotton Mather Smith. It is found in Headlys "Chaplains of the Revolution" Mr. Smith one sunday took text a part of Isaiah 20, 11-12 - "Watchman what of the night? The watchman saith, the morning cometh". The question in the first part of this passage had been the daily, almost hourly inquiry for nearly a month, of every one of the congregation, and hence its appropriateness was keenly felt, but the startling announcement, "The morning cometh", took them by surprise and they could not at first comprehend its significance, nor how it could be adapted to the present gloomy prospect. Had he heard any good news? What had happened that he could so confidently say, "The morning cometh".

No, he had nothing new to tell them, only to proclaim over again his unshaken confidence in Gods promises. He did not attempt to conceal or lessen the calamities that had befallen the country nor deny that a fearful crisis was at hand. He acknowledge that to human appearance "Clouds and darkness were round about Gods throne", but said that the eye of faith could pierce the gloom. The throne was there, though wrapped in impenetrable darkness. In all the disasters that had successively overwhelmed them he traced the hands of God, and declared that to his mind, they clearly indicate some striking interposition of Divine Providence about to take place in their behalf. Mans extremity had come and now was the time for him to make bare his arm for the delivery of the people. Prophet like, kindling with the vision on which the of his faith rested, he boldly dropped the general subject of Gods faithfulness and told his astonished hearers that he believed they were on the point of hearing extreordinary news of victory by our arms. He would not wait for an indefinite future to prove his faith to be well founded - he was willing to bring it to the test of the present. They might judge whether he was right or wrong, for, said he, "The morning cometh, I see its beams already gilding the mountain tops and you shall soon behold its brightness bursting over the land". One cannot imagine the effect of such language uttered by the minister of God in such a time of doubt and suspense. He ceased and as he closed the Bible and exclaimed "Amen! so let it be", a silence profound and death-like rested upon the audience. Each one seemed to feel as if an invisible presence was there and

some weighty announcement was just at hand. Suddenly the deep hush was broken by the distant clatter of a horses hoof along the road. The sharp and rapid strokes told of swift riding and urgent haste. They knew at once what it meant. For days and weeks their eyes had strained up the streets that led northward to catch sight of the messenger of good or evil tidings that was hourly expected.

He had come at last, and as nearer, clearer rang the sound of that gallop on the listning ear, each looked in mute and earnest inquiry into his neighbors face. Right on through the place, straight for the Meeting House, darted the swift rider, and drawing rein at the door, leaped from the saddle, and leaving his foam covered steed unattended strode into the main aisle. On the deep silence that filled the building like a sensible presence, his armed heel rang like the blows of a hammer. As he passed along a sudden paleness spread over the crowd of faces turned with painful eagerness toward him. But looking neither to the right hand or to the left, the dread messenger passed on and mounting the pulpit stairs handed the Pastor a letter. Not withstanding the good mans faith his hand trembled and an ashy hue overspread his face as he reached out to receive it. "Burgoyne has has surrendered", were the first words that met his eye. He staggered under them as under a blow. The next moment a radiance like that of the morning broke over his countenance, and he burst into tears. Rising to read the incredible tidings, such a tide of emotion flooded his heart that he could scarcely utter them aloud. The audience sat for a moment overwhelmed and stupefied, then as their Pastor folded his hands and turned his eyes toward heaven in thankful prayer, impelled by a simultaneous movement, they fell like one man on their knees and wept aloud. Sobs, sighs, and fervently uttered "Amens" were heard on every side attesting the depth of their grattitude and the exstasy of their joy. "The morning had come bright and glorious, and its radiance filled all the heavens".

Copied from the Fire Lands Pioneer, by C. C. Bronson, Aug 11th, 1877

DAVID ABBOT

Abridged from A Manuscript written by Benj. W. Abbot in 1859

David Abbot, the first settler in Chagrin, now Willoughby, Lake Co, Ohio, was born in Brookfield, Worcester County, Mass. He received a common school education, worked on a farm untill he was eighteen or twenty years old, and then learned the art of making shoes, which business he followed for a time, both in his native town, and in Lynn Mass. While thus engaged he prepared for college, entered Yale, in the sophomore year, prosecuted his studies untill near the time at which he would have received his diploma, and then left and commenced the study of law.

After his admission to the bar, he practiced law in Rome, Oneida County, N. Y. He married Mary, daughter of Matthew Brown of Rome. She was a native of Brookfield, Mass. He soon left the

law, and became a merchant, but not meeting with success, he concluded to try his fortune in the fur trade at the west. He built a boat, and about the middle of May, 1797 put his goods on board and set sail for Detroit. Passing through Wood Creek, down the Oswego River, over Lake Ontario, he arrived at the Falls, carried his boat and cargo around them, set sail upon Lake Erie and coasting along the southern shore, arrived at the mouth of the Chagrin River in June. After trading some with the natives, he set sail for Detroit, where he succeeded in exchanging his goods for money or furs, and returned to Chagrin laden with profits. Here he was taken sick and the cold season approaching, he concluded to send home his boat and cargo by a company of surveyors under a Mr. Tinker, and if he should recover to return himself by land. The money and furs which he entrusted to them were valued at from \$3000 to \$4000. The second night after their departure, the boat was capsized in a squall and all, cargo, boat and crew, were all lost, except one man who reached the shore nearly exhausted. At last his illness abated and he reached home after a tiresome journey by the way of Pittsburg, where he soon regained his health. The following spring, 1798, he returned and found that his cabin had been burnt, and the property left there stolen. He rebuilt his cabin and being now employed as a surveyor, he made it his headquarters. Not liking a rendezvous so near the lake, he subsequently located himself on a farm, upon a part of which the present village of Willoughby now stands. About this time Ebenezer Merry, had settled upon the marsh in the present township of Mentor, and as winter approached, Abbot and Merry and Peter French started for the east, their provisions barely sustaining them to the next settlement. At Genesee, French stopped and went to work to await the return of Abbot. Merry and Abbot proceeded and arrived at home in safety.

The next spring Abbot started again with a team and such things as he required and was joined by French at Genesee, reached Buffalo about the first of March and Chagrin on the 22nd of March 1799. They were accompanied in their long and slow journey by a cow which French had purchased in Genesee and which was tied for security to their sled. During this year he put in some crops, built a house and made preparation for his family. About this time Ebenezer Merry, Jared Ward and Charles Parker arrived and settled at the marsh in Mentor.

In 1800 the Western Reserve, (east of the Cuyahoga) in the Northwest Territory was organized as a county under the territorial government and named Trumbull from the two successive governors of Connecticut - Daniel Abbot was appointed Sheriff. Untill this time the few settlers upon the Reserve were without law, yet they were a law unto themselves, treating each other with uniform justice forbearance and kindness. In the spring of 1801, Mrs Abbot and her son Benjamin W Abbot, then about four years old, arrived in Chagrin. (This son was the writer of the manuscript from which this narrative is drawn) They started from Rome N. Y. with a Mr. Hamilton, who was removing to Cleveland. At Auburn they fell in with Judge Austin of Austinburg, and came with him as far as Buffalo, where

meeting with John, afterwards Judge Walworth, of Grand River, they took passage with him in a boat, and reached Chagrin in safety. Mrs. Abbot was the first white female settler of Willoughby and her husband being often absent, sometimes for weeks, she was very lonely, and would frequently visit the squaws of the Indian Camps. They were always pleased to see her, taught her how to weave their belts, etc which was a very curious operation. In the meantime, her little son would play with the Indian children, or listen to the teachings of the old Indians. Wambamong, a chief gave him many a bow and arrows, and taught him how to use them. While associating thus with the Indians, Mrs Abbots eldest daughter, Mary O Abbot received an Indian name; the ceremony which was somewhat like Christian baptism being performed with becoming gravity by an old Indian. He took her in his arms, placed his hand upon her feet, commenced addressing the Great Spirit, and as he proceeded, moved his hand slowly upwards increasing the pressure untill it reached the chest when he pronounced the name.

Detroit was an old settlement, and the only place where many things the settlers needed could be obtained. In the fall of 1801, Mr Abbot with a small cedar open boat and one man David Barrett by name, started to go there for fruit trees, fruit, etc. The boat was capable of carrying about two tons. They arrived in safety, procured their load and set out for home. The night before they should have arrived, when a little below Black River, a severe squall struck them. In vain they attempted to gain the shore. The lake was very rough the wind increasing and to put about and run before the wind seemed the only chance of being saved. This they did and their little craft behaved so well that they began to take courage.

The wind continued to increase untill about nine o'clock the next morning when it abated, and about four o'clock in the afternoon they discovered land ahead, and were overjoyed to find a sandy beach. They landed upon a point, unloaded their boat and drew it up out of the water. But now what could they do? Where were they? They saw no inhabitants, not even Indians, and their provisions were nearly gone. The next day, the wind having abated, they launched their little boat and cruising along the shore, arrived at Long Point. They now had to choose between a long journey around by Buffalo thence to Erie and Chagrin, or a direct run across the lake. They chose the latter arriving at Erie in about eighteen or twenty hours. Recruiting a little here, they set sail again, and reached Chagrin so long after they should have been there, that on their arrival they were met with nearly as much surprise as if they had risen from the dead. The fruit trees brought home at this time were the first ever planted on the Chagrin. Some of the pear trees may still be seen upon the farm owned at that time by Mr. Abbot. In July, probably in the year 1801, Mr Abbot having collected the taxes mostly in specie placed it in saddle bags and started for Cincinnati. His route lay through the wilderness, broken by but few settlements. On his way, while in a dense forest, he was overtaken by two men, who plied him with questions which awakened his fears. He gave them evasive answers, and determined to be

ready for them, if they attempted to rob him. At night they selected a spot to encamp, built a fire and let their horses loose to graze. As he took off his saddlebags, he observed that they were watching him very closely, and he tried to remove them as if they were light. Soon after they retired to a little distance and examined the priming of their weapons. He improved the opportunity to see that his pistols were in readiness. When they had laid down to sleep, the strangers used their saddles for pillows, but Mr. Abbot used his saddlebags for the same purpose, placing his saddle by his side. Not for a single moment did he, during that night lose his consciousness, but whenever they stirred he let them know he was awake. Towards morning he observed that the bell upon his horse grew fainter and fainter and he knew that his horse was wandering away. He could not leave his money to go after him, neither could he take it with him. Racked with the most painful anxiety, he could do nothing but lie still and listen. At length the animal having satisfied his hunger, started and came up to the camp fire and remained until morning. Setting out again on their journey the strangers seemed disposed to loiter, saying that "as they could not get through to the next settlement that night, there was no use in hurrying". Occasionally they would fall behind and converse together in a low tone, and Mr Abbot seizing one of these opportunities, the path being thickly studded with bushes, put spurs to his horse, and he saw them no more. He reached the settlement before sunset.

On his return from Cincinnati, in attempting to strike across from the Sandusky River to some point on the lake, he was lost, and suffered extremely from hunger and thirst. At last he found an encampment of Indians who relieved his wants, and directed him to Huron River, which he followed to the lake and eventually reached his home on the Chagrin. It was at this time that he saw and liked the country about the Huron River. He afterwards purchased eighteen hundred acres of land upon its banks. In 1802, Mr. Abbot was chosen member of the convention to form a constitution for the territory of Ohio, preparatory to its admission as a state. He with Samuel Huntington represented Trumbull County. The convention met Nov. 1st, 1802.

Subsequently, Mr Abbot was a member of the legislature in 1803; and in 1808, he was chosen senator to represent the counties of Geauga and Portage. The Eighth General Assembly which convened at Chillicothe, on the first Monday of Dec 1809, he represented the counties of Geauga and Portage in the senate. He was Senator from Geauga, Portage and Cuyahoga Counties in 1810. In 1821 he was on the ticket to represent the people of Huron and Sandusky Counties in the legislature but his seat was contested and decided in favor of Lyman Farwell.

In 1802 he commenced building his mills. The saw mill was nearly completed when a freshet carried away the dam and would have kidnapped the mill, had he not chained it to a stump. The following year the dam was rebuilt in a more durable manner, the saw mill put into operation and a grist mill commenced. The

irons for these mills were brought from Pittsburg, a considerable portion of the way on horseback. The stones were worked out of boulders in the neighborhood. The grist mill soon became a source of profit, grain brought for grinding from Cleveland, Hudson and the adjacent settlements. "The transcriber would here remark that there is an error in dates, Williams Mills in Newburg were commenced in 1799 and began to grind early in 1800, Abbot it is generally coceded had commenced building his mills on the Chagrin in 1799, but he was not able to grind grain as soon as Williams Mill by some little time, they did go from Hudson to Abbot's Mill to get their grain ground and probably from Harpersfield and Burton, and other town s". In 1803 a mail route was established from Warren to Austinburg, Harpersfield, Painesville, Chagrin, Cleveland, Hudson, Revenna to Warren again, forming a circuit. The contract for carrying the mail Mr Abbot held, it is believed, three or four years. It was sometimes carried on foot, but generally on horseback, the carrier distributing merchandize as well as news. In 1804, Mr Abbot built a vessel of 30 or 35 tons. He was his own builder and the rigging was made and a part of the sails spun and wove at home. A few months afterwards, Mr Blinn, while on a trip to Buffalo run this vessel ashore and abandoned it, a short distance above Buffalo (This was probably Richard H. Blinn, who afterwards settled in Cleveland, C.C.B.) Thieves took possession of it, leaving nothing but the hull for Mr Abbot. This he sold to a Mr Chapin who repaired it. It was afterwards chartered by General Hull, to transport the baggage of the Army from Maumee to Detroit, and while passing through the channel near Malden, it was taken by the British. It would seem that Mr Abbot as a surveyor, had become acquainted with the surface of the country for many miles around, and that in 1808 he had been upon the Fire Lands, and put up a house for one Glinn (Aaron Olmstead, who owned a large tract of land at Chagrin having died in and so disposed of it by will that it could not be sold, Mr Abbot foresaw that the settlement of the country thereabouts, must necessarily be checked by the transaction. Aaron Olmstead of East Hartford, Conn owned thirty thousand acres of land on the Western Reserve. By his last will and testament he gave this land to his three sons, Horace Bigelow, Aaron Franklin and Charles Hyde Olmstead and "to the heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten forever". This entailment made it wholly unsalable and pursuance of their petition we find an act was passed Jan 7th, 1813 for their relief. By this act, Mary S. Olmstead, Levi Goodwin and Caleb Goodwin were appointed trustees with power to sell and invest for the benefit of the devisees) Mr Abbot sold out to a Mr Wirt and having purchased one thousand eight hundred acres in the township of Avery, (now known as Milan) he removed his family on this land in 1810. A small part of this land he sold to Jared Ward, who moved his family from what is now Lake County, in 1809, and it is said that he and his family were the first settlers on the Sufferers or Fire Lands.

Mr. Abbot cleared a small spot, put up a log house twenty feet square, and sowed upon an old Indian clearing, formerly occupied by the Moravian Missionaries, twenty five or thirty acres of wheat. The next spring, 1811 he built the first framed barn, upon the Fire Lands. This barn was in dimensions forty by seventy two feet and was afterwards frequently used for Fourth of July Celebrations, and other general gatherings the participants coming upon horseback for twenty miles around. (Was not this the first frame building erected on the Fire Lands.) In 1811 the commissioners, Ephrm. Quimby of Warren, Joseph Clark and Solomon Griswold of Windsor, Ashtabula County appointed by the legislature to fix the county seat, located it upon the farm of David Abbot, and as he was a member of the legislature when they were appointed, he became therefore the subject of unjust censure. It may be proper here to state the views of which Mr Abbot and probably the commissioners took of this matter. As early as 1802, Mr Aaron Olmstead, an old East India Captain had suggested to Mr Abbot the idea that as soon as the country became well settled, government would remove the sand bars from the mouths of the rivers and that the head waters of navigation would then become important commercial points, furnishing to the more inland inhabitants the necessaries and luxuries of life, as near to their own doors as possible. It was supposed that the Huron River would be navigable to the point named for the county seat, and that it would therefore become a common place of resort for mercantile operations and hence be a convenient place for the holding of courts, etc. In consequence of the War of 1812, the country was not organized until 1815, and the county seat was afterwards removed to Norwalk. Other settlers now came in and every thing looked favorable for a rapid settlement, when war was declared in June 1812. For some time previous to the surrender of Hull, many had begun to fear the Indians, and doubted whether Hull would be able to take Malden and then the news came that he had recrossed the Detroit River. After a considerable interval of painful anxiety, intelligence arrived that he had surrendered and at noon on the same day, that the British and Indians had been seen landing on the shore of Sandusky Bay. The inhabitants in the vicinity of Mr Abbot all collected at the house of Hosmer Merry, which was the largest and best situated for defense, and here awaited from the scouts which they had sent out, more reliable information. About nine or ten o'clock in the evening, some of their messengers returned, saying that the British and Indians had landed at the mouth of Huron River, and were approaching murdering all before them. Abbot, Ebenezer Merry and David Underhill advised a defense where they were, but the majority were for a hasty retreat.

The children of David and Mary (Brown) Abbot were all born before he removed his family to Milan. Benj. W, the writer of the manuscript from which this narrative was drawn, was four years old when he and his mother arrived at Chagrin - Mary O. Abbot, who received the Indian ceremony of naming, married Francis D Parrish of Sandusky, and died in 1838. Lucy Abbot married Guy Stevens, who died in 1841. She is still a widow, and lives in Milan.

Sally Abbot married John B Demund and is also a widow and lives in Milan. Both of these ladies have contributed ancient curiosities to the Fire Lands Historical Society, which may be seen marked in the collection. David Abbot a little blind boy, son of Benjm W. Abbot, son of David Abbot, Sen, has also contributed a trunk, made by his grand father, and covered by him with the skin of a favorite dog, which he was obliged to kill on one of his journeys home.

David Abbot died on the 12th of Jan. 1822

Mrs. Mary Abbot died on the 12th of Jan 1849

FIRE LANDS REMINISCENCES

by Mrs. Lucy A. Stevens, written in 1859

My father, David Abbot came into this country in the year 1808, and erected a house for Mr. Kline. He returned the same year and came back in 1810 with a part of his family, consisting of a wife and two daughters, one being myself, and the other Mrs. J. B. Demund. The balance of the family consisting of a son and daughter, remaining in Oneida Co, N Y to attend school. The incidents of our journey as near as I recollect are as follows: (But to explain my father first located at Chagrin, now Willoughby; my fathers business was a lawyer, but in his travels through the country he was better pleased with the situation of this place than where he was and so determined to remove here). He left the mouth of the Chagrin River in open boat, the crew consisting of two men who knew nothing of the management of a boat. My mother and myself, about six years old, and sister four years making up the passengers. My father intended to join us at Euclid, having to assist in driving his cattle as far as that, but the boat was not destined to reach there, a thunder storm of wind and rain arose after being out a few hours, and the boat being in inexperienced hands, soon became unmanageable and lay at the mercy of the storm. But by dint of bailing they at last went ashore just below Euclid, losing most of their provisions with the exception of a few that came ashore. My mother and the men worked all night, saving what they could from the wreck, we children spent the night upon the beach, wet, cold and hungry. When morning dawned, we cooked some breakfast, and my father having arrived in the night went to Cleveland and obtained assistance and took the boat there to repair it, taking about a week. My mother remained on the beach with us during this time, drying clothes, etc. We then went to Cleveland and remained in the family of Judge Walworth about a week, when we again set sail, and arrived at Huron without adventure. But the strong prevailing winds raised a bar at the mouth of the river, so we could not enter, it being closed entirely across with a bar of sand which had to be dug through to admit of our passage. We arrived at our place of destination the next day, at the place now known as the old county seat. We camped out most of the summer. In the fall we moved into our house. The first school house was an old Indian house which stood between the farm owned by my father on the north and Mr. Merry on the south.

It was taught by a Miss Gilbert, a young lady from Newbury, mother of Mr. Goodwin, attorney at law in Sandusky City. Her future husband was also our first physician, his office being in the garret of our log house; where I have often assisted him in the manufacture of pills and other compounds, they all being great pill takers in those days. The wooden mortar he used is still among us. The scholars were myself, my sister, the two Barrets (I do not know where they are) Rhoda Ward, (who died in Michigan fifteen or twenty years ago) Betsey Ward, (now the wife of Isaac Collins in Huron), and Elam Ward (of Milan) The first religious meeting was held at Mr. Jeffreys, who lived near Mr. Adamses; it was an old fashioned Methodist shouting and clapping of hands, it seemed to do them all good to get together, rough and hardy ones as they were, to worship as was their wont in old Connecticut. At quarterly meetings they came from Greenfield and New Haven, men and women generally on foot. Mr. Gurley was a prominent man among them, and if there ever lived an earnest and self denying man, it was good old daddy Gurley, as he was familiarly called by us young people. Judge Jabex Wright of Huron and my father were the first Magistrates F. W. Fowler, Constable. In regard to the first court trial, etc. I refer you to the late pioneer, Judge Fowlers account, which is correct. Mr. Merrys, mill was the first built in this township, Thompsons in Berlin the first in the county. The first store was kept by Mr. Parsons at the old county seat. Common calico sold for three or four shillings; common tea, ten shillings money. All kinds of produce, flour, etc. were the usual tender. Visiting in those days was done altogether differently from what it is now. Calling was unknown. Instead of making a half a dozen visits in as many hours, as at present, it took as many days. They were not places for the exchange of scandal, but for the interchange of honest friendly sentiment. Milliners and dress makers were unknown, every person acting and dressing as their fancy might dictate, there being no Fall, Spring, Winter nor summer styles. The houses were scantily furnished. Cooking was done in the old fashioned fire place, in suspended on wooden poles and hooks. Baking was done in bake kettles as a general thing, but some had out door ovens. Bedsteads were made in a different manner, sometimes consisting of four upright poles with rails, lacking the varnish and finish of the present day; others by driving poles in the logs of the cabin and weaving elm bark across. Cross legged tables of home manufacture were commonly used. The floors were puncheon in houses usually divided into one room which answered for sleeping, cooking and all the various requisites of a family. As a matter of course, the incidents of such a life were many, but are so entangled with each other that I can remember but few, and those from some cause or other were stamped upon my mind. I have often heard my father laugh heartily over the following: At the time he was Sheriff it devolved on him to collect the taxes and pay them over in Cincinnati. The journey there was through the woods, most of the way. He became entangled and lost his way - after being in this predicament two or three days, he at length came across an Indian cabin and demanded their hospitality. The squaw deeming it a visit of great importance, determined to do the honors of the

house in style. So in lieu of a table cloth, they not being in common use in the family, she obtained her husbands shirt and spreading the meal upon it, she invited my father to partake. He was very much amused by seeing it covered with those animals which generally infest a person of slothful habits. Hunger known no king - so he ate his meals in silence and probably was as thankful as if it had been spread without the company of others.

Dancing was a common amusement in those days, and all participated. It was not looked upon as it is now, as one of the amusements upon which the ban of all Christian Communities should be laid, but as one in which all could partake. In 1810 the first ball was held at Major Russells, three miles this side of Huron. Invitations were sent all over the country two weeks before the occasion and dancers were in attendance far and near. They came in couples on horseback. The old man and his wife, the young gallant and his lady love, one behind the other. My mother went on horseback in company with Mr Woods people. The dancing commenced in the afternoon and lasted until the next day. Great amusement it was in those days. The next large ball was held in my fathers barn on the 4th of July 1812. The managers were Judge Fowler of Milan, Joseph Brooks of Florence and Lyman Farwell, sheriff. The music was furnished by Mr. Wolcott, of the Peninsula. About forty couples were in attendance, and a great time was had.

When David Abbots family resided in Chagrin, the following incident occurred. Mr Abbot had been absent three months, probably on public business, and the time of his return was not known. Mrs Abbot was ill from recent confinement, her infant Lucy Abbot being but one week old, when she heard a signal from the opposite side of the River, announcing that someone wished to cross. Upon looking out, she saw it was her husband, accompanied by another gentleman. She was alone, except her little children. and the boat was upon her side of the river. What was to be done? There was no help and in sight of home, must he, who was so dear to her and so welcome to herself and little ones, stand there calling in vain for the boat to be sent over to him? Feeble as she was, she laid down her child, rushed to the river side, stepped fearlessly into the boat seized the oars and was over and at his side in a trice. Suppose she had said "I can't?"

"A CHIP OF THE OLD BLOCK".

Written in 1867

That same little child Lucy Abbot was often, even in comparative childhood called upon to perform services which required more nerve and courage than it seemed possible for one so young, and of the gentler sex to possess. One afternoon, after the removal of the family to Milan, when she was about twelve years of age, it became necessary that a package of papers relative to Mr Abbots purchase of land, of one Hughes, who was to leave home early the next morning. Mr. Abbot, being ill with rheumatism and no one else at hand, told Lucy to take a horse and carry the papers to him. She took a small black horse, said to be of Arabian decent and which was famous for jumping and start-

ed upon her mission. On her arrival at "Old Womans Creek" so called, she saw with dismay that four or five planks of the rude bridge were gone, leaving a fearful opening too wide to pass by any ordinary leap of man or beast. Here was a dilemma, must she return? What will her father say? What can he do, for the papers must be delivered. She looked at the gap. "It must be passed," she said. She bent her head toward her little Arabian and somehow communicated to him that his prowess and agility were her last resort, and he must do his best to serve her in her distress. They approached the gap. "Jump Mink", said she, "Jump" and with one resolute bound they were landed safely upon the other side, and off they trotted gaily to the house of Judge Ruggles. Upon her arrival the Judge exclaimed "Why Lucy how did you cross the bridge; no one has passed over it for three weeks". "Oh" she quietly replied, "I had no trouble, I jumped Mink over, but Father did not it was unsafe". On her return the Judge sent a person to conduct her by another route, although more circuitous.

THE PIONEERS OF CHAGRIN VISIT ROME

David Abbot who first settled in Chagrin, sold out his property there to a Mr. Wirt, and in June 1808, bought of one Hughes of New Haven, Connecticut, 1,800 acres of land in the township of Avery, now Milan. But before removing his family still farther west, he concluded to take them to visit their relatives in Rome, N. Y. where Matthew Brown, Mrs. Abbot's father resided, and where he himself had, before marriage practiced law. Both Mr and Mrs Abbot were natives of Brookfield Mass. The year before this visit, he had built a boat, with a deck and in this the journey was to be made. They started - four children, with their parents. Two men, who were going for their families accompanied them. One was named Bishop, the other perhaps Hamilton. The boat was drawn round Niagara Falls, by oxen, and launched on Lake Ontario. They continued along the south shore of Lake Ontario to Oswego, thence up the river of the same name. No accident occurred on their way to Rome, but on their return, they were particularly unfortunate. Their party then consisted of Mr and Mrs Abbot, and their two younger children (Benjamin W and Mary O. having been left in Rome, to attend school) Mr. Bishop, wife and six children and the other man and wife. They reached Oswego in safety, but about six miles west of it they encountered a squall, and fearing the loss of the boat, the coast being high and rocky, they concluded to put the women and children on shore, with the provision chest, and if necessary to preserve the boat, to run back to Oswego. The children were carried in the arms of the men, and the women in a skiff. So rough was the lake that it took all the strength and skill of the men, with their setting poles to prevent the boat from being broken in pieces on the shore. The children were laid upon the ground, upon a large tarpaulin, and Mrs. Bishop left to watch them. The other women followed the fortunes of the of the boat, and their imperrilled companions. One lantern was left with Mrs Bishop, and Mrs. Abbot carried another. She with the other woman, crept along on the high bank, above the boat, ready to aid the men below, should opportunity occur. Often the bank

was so high that they lost sight of the boat below. One of the men was sent to Oswego for help, but the night was dark and rainy, and he lost his way, and no help arrived. In the meantime the boat was carried whithersoever the winds and the waves pleased, for the setting poles had broken. At length, they succeeded in throwing a rope up to the women, and by their aid, the boat was worked along until the shore was more broken, and the men could land. The boat went to pieces. Abbot went to Oswego for help, and the other man and the women went back to the children. They found them half covered with water, and poor Mrs. Bishop weeping with fear and trouble. She supposed the whole party was lost, and she left alone, in a wilderness, with eight children to save and provide for. Mr. Abbot found help, and succeeded in saving from the boat such things as the water would not injure, particularly the irons for a mill, which Mr. Bishop was transporting. They were detained several weeks. A kind woman in the vicinity named Brace, hearing that a boat had been lost found the unfortunates, and took them to her own house although it was very small - 12 by 14 feet in dimensions. She cooked in a little crib outside. While they stayed, the children were employed in picking out the nails from the wreck. The irons of the boat were also saved, and Abbot used them afterwards in building another. A bundle of trees, which Mrs. Abbot was carrying carefully to her new home was lost, but Mrs. Brace afterwards found and planted them, and after years had gone by, some of the sprouts reached Mrs. Abbot's friends in Milan, but whether she received any of them is not remembered. All the articles respecting David Abbot, and family were copied from the Fire Lands Pioneer by C. C. Bronson 1877. The above was written in 1867.

EBENEZER MERRY

The following is an extract from the funeral sermon of Ebenezer Merry, preached by Rev. Everton Judson, Milan. Text - Proverbs 22nd chap, 1st verse: "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver or gold". Preached in 1839.

Ebenezer Merry was born in West Hartford, Connecticut, July 21st, 1773. His father removed while the son was a mere child, to the State of New York. Mr. Merry spent his boyhood in Kinderhook. At the age of nineteen, 1792, his father removed to Avon, then known as the "Genesee Country" while it was yet a wilderness. In 1797, when about twenty four years of age, he penetrated the wilderness to Mentor, in Geauga County of this state, where he resided several years. From Mentor he removed to Milan, in the autumn of 1814. It will be seen, that nearly his whole life has been spent as a pioneer, on the outermost borders of the new settlements of the west. His early advantages for education were only ordinary. Possessed however of a remarkably retentive memory, of very careful habits of observation and comparison, and a strong native intellect, he had treasured up a

fund of knowledge that combined with a cheerful temper, made him a most estimable companion, not for those of his age only, but for all classes who desired his society. Both in western New York and Ohio, he was thrown in the early period of his residence, into frequent contact with the Indians, whose confidence he always won, by his kind and affectionate treatment. As an instance of this: since his removal to this state, the old Chief Red Jacket, on his way west to attend an Indian Council turned aside to spend a night beneath the hospitable roof of his ancient friend. I have spoken of Mr Merry as having penetrated the wilderness. In 1800 he returned to move his companion to his new home in Geauga County. (Now Lake County). The journey to Ohio was made on horseback, from the Genesee River, at a time when there was no road, and with the exception of two or three families in Buffalo, one in Leroy and a small settlement at Erie, Penn, there was no white inhabitant in the entire distance. Some hospitable Indian cabin, or the green boughs of the forest trees constituted them shelter by night. Mr. Merry in all the situations of life has shared largely the confidence of his fellow men. He was elected by the legislature an associate Judge of the Common Pleas Court of Geauga County, and subsequently to the same post in Huron County, but in both instances declined the honor. He repeatedly held a seat in the House of Representatives of this state, and filled most of the responsible offices of the county and township at different times.

No feature of his character was more strongly marked than his integrity. If he erred, no one believed it other than an error of his judgment. His benevolence was a marked feature of his character. He would divide the last loaf with a stranger and the guest. He knew how to do this without grudging. Nor was he less distinguished for his public spirit. No object of public interest was before the community in which he was not willing to lend a helping hand, to the extent of his means, and more. Were I to judge from the opinions expressed from time to time, since my acquaintance with him, I should say he had a hundred times been censured for being too liberal, where there had been one expression of dissatisfaction with the smallness of his donations. In a higher sense than is often true of any man, he was the friend of the poor, the protector of the orphan, and the benefactor of the needy. Nor did he wait for the call of the soliciter - "the cause he knew not, he searched out". You will say that I have given our deceased friend in these several respects, a high character. It is true. I have followed the promptings only of my own heart, and the convictions that are the fruit of more than sixteen years of intimate and cherished acquaintance. Rev Mr Judson alludes to the visit of the celebrated Red Jacket. His visit was probably in Mentor and the Council he alludes to was the one held at Fort Industry in 1805 when the Indian title was extinguished to the Western Reserve west of the Cuyahoga River and Portage Path.

C. C. Bronson

MRS. CHARLOTTE MERRY

Biographical Sketch of Mrs. Charlotte Merry by Seth Jennings
in the Pioneer of June 1868.

Mrs. Charlotte Merry, widow of Ebenezer Merry of Milan, was born in Tinmouth, Rutland County Vermont, Aug 17th, 1780. She was the daughter of Aaron and Sarah Adams, and the second of eleven children. She and one sister, Mrs Moore, now living in Des Moines, Iowa and a brother Lysander Adams of Tennessee are all that remain living of the family (this sketch was written by Mr Jennings in 1868 C.C.B.) Her father was born in Canaan, and her mother in New Milford, both towns in Litchfield Co., Conn. When Mrs Merry was 14 years of age (1794) her father moved to Utica N. Y. The inhabitants of that now somewhat noted place, then consisted of the families of Messrs Bagg, Post, House, and Blue with Messrs White and Black for out of town neighbors. Rather an odd combination of names. Probably they thought no "pent up Utica was theirs".

In Feb, 1800, Mr. Adams and family moved to Avon, on the Genesee River. The country was not much settled, and the snow very deep and the journey tedious.

Her father purchased a farm there, which is still occupied by the family of a deceased son. She soon formed the acquaintance of Ebenezer Merry, who had been absent in the distant wilds of Ohio, seeking and preparing a home, but had returned to his fathers (Ebenezer Merry Esq, at Avon, to spend the winter and as he said, get him a wife.) He was born in West Hartford Conn. July 21st, 1773. His father moved to Kinderhook when he was a young lad, and soon to Avon in western New York. But "westward still" was his motto, so he pushed his way to Geauga Co, Ohio, when it was not a county, and commenced clearing land and keeping "Bachelors Hall". His domicil was very scantily furnished, and his wardrobe ditto. When an article was lost, or worn out, it was not easily replaced. On one occasion, he greased his shoes at night, set them outside the door, and in the morning they were missing. Supposing one of his bachelor friends had secreted them in a mischeivous mood, he said nothing, but went out to chopping wood bare footed. In his rounds he found one of his shoes; they had been taken away by a wolf, and gnawed for the grease they contained. He was unable to purchase another pair till he reached Erie, several months afterwards on his return to Avon. In the meantime, his feet had become so hardened that he could stamp chestnuts from the burrs, without pain. As Mr. Merry became acquainted with Miss Adams, he was convinced that she was the one to accompany him back to his new home. On the 5th of May, 1800 they were married, and started in a few days on horseback for Ohio, accompanied by Hosmer Merry, and after passing Buffalo, Judge Austin and Mr. Wright and they all came in company onto the Reserve. This was probably Mr. Austins first visit to the Reserve. He came with family

into Austinburg in 1801, and was a prominent man in his day, C.C.B. The road was an Indian trail, and the streams were sometimes crossed by fording and sometimes in a canoe, while the horses swam over. One stream was bridged by felling a tree, but being rather short, Mrs Merry got over her shoes in water, while picking her way through the branches to the shore. One night they staid at an Indian Cabin and once at a lonely camping ground in the woods; but they generally obtained shelter in the log houses of the scattering settlements. Their romantic wedding tour was completed in twelve days; having left Avon New York May 14th, and arrived in Mentor, Ohio May 26th, 1800.

There were but three families in the town of Mentor, previous to their arrival; viz: Messrs Charles Parker, Jared Ward, (who afterwards removed to Milan) and Moses Park. There were several families in Cleveland. During the War of 1812, Mr. Merry contracted to bring supplies for the army from Pittsburgh to Huron. They learned of Hulls surrender in the night. Mr. Merry got up and went out to rally his neighbors, while Mrs. Merry went to bread making for those who might come in. Six of Mr. and Mrs. Merrys children were born in Mentor, viz: Sarah, Mary, Julia, Martin, Samuel and Lucy. Elizabeth, Ebenezer, and Charlotte, (deceased) were born in Milan. They remained in Mentor, untill the fall of 1814, when they moved to Milan, bringing with them the family of Allexander Mason, who was killed by the Indians on the peninsula the year previous.

They left Mentor Nov 1st, 1814, and reached Milan Nov 8th, requiring more days for the accomplishment of their journey than it would now require hours. They came with two teams, one of horses and one of oxen. On the way, Mrs Merry who was on the back waggon, observed Mr Merry and the driver of the foremost team examining a bridge which lay before them, as though doubtful of its strength. Several of the children were seated on the wagon, and she called to the men to take them from the load; but seeing them determined to drive on, she sprang to the ground and ran after them. Her urgent entreaties prevailed and they reluctantly took them down. It was well they did so, for before the team was half way across, the bridge gave way. By hard urging the oxen got over, taking the front wheels with them, the wagon went down about sixteen feet, bottom side up. "Well", coolly remarked Mr. Merry, "womans fears do good sometimes, dont they?" A Mr. Harvey, to whom Mr. Merry had rented his farm in Milan, lived in a small log house, and the family staid with them yntill a floor was laid, and a temporary chimney built in the block house on his farm at Camp Avery. This building had been occupied by soldiers during the war, and used as a barn the winter previous to their arrival. A log house was soon completed, into which they moved the last of Dec. and was ready to receive company on New Years day, 1815. Mr. and Mrs Abbot, Mr and Mrs Ward, Mr and Mrs Jeffrey, Mr and Mrs Hosmer Merry and Mrs Mason were their guests. The people regarded all who lived within several miles of them as neighbors, and visited them as often as possible. They were their own milliners and dressmakers, and followed the fashions of the day, so far as they knew them, but they never discussed the matter to any

great length. In 1816, Mr Merry "laid out" the town of Milan. Ministers and teachers were soon called into requisition. The first school taught for white children in the village of Milan was in the "Old Mission House" and stood where the back kitchen of the house built by Dr. Harris, now stands, Miss Roxa Whitney (now Mrs Doddridge Paul,) was the teacher. Moravian Missionaries had formerly lived here among the Indians, but at the time of Mr Merrys arrival in Milan, no Indians lived near. They however, often passed back and forth through the place, and always regarded as their friend. Those who had known him in western New York loved to meet him, and the old Chief "Red Jackett" on an excursion west to attend an Indian Treaty turned aside to spend a night with his former friend (The six Nations were represented at the Treaty of Fort Industry on the 4th of July 1805, and this visit was in all probability made in Mentor) Here we will say that his hospitality and his benevolence were unbounded. All that his time and strength and means could accomplish, for those who needed his help was freely done. Every plan for the improvement of the town met with his hearty cooperation, so far as he means would allow. His mind was fertile in plans and expedients for the accomplishment of what he deemed necessary to be done, and his industry untiring. About the time Milan was "laid out", Mr. Merry took measures for the erection of a flouring mill and saw mill, which was a great convenience to the inhabitants and a source of improvement to the town. He several times represented the county in the legislature of the state, and was twice elected to a seat on the bench of Common Pleas but declined the honor in both instances. In 1819 having sold his farm to Messrs Minuse and Kline, he moved into the village and built the house now occupied by Seth Jennings, Esq. It was generally well filled. All who had ever known either Mr or Mrs Merry were sure to give them a call if they came near, and they were heartily welcomed, the sick and afflicted were there sure care and sympathy. His business too required many workmen, and they were always treated with great kindness. He frowned upon all immorality and unfairness, and was truly an "honest man, the noblest work of God". He was strictly temperate in his habits, never taking anything stronger than tea or coffee, and for twenty seven years previous to his death, he ate no kind of meat. In 1837, he built the house now occupied by his widow, and there on the morning of Jan 2nd, 1846, he died aged 72 years, greatly respected.

Mr Merrys business and company that thronged his house brought great care and labor upon Mrs Merry, but she always proved herself equal to her tasks and found much time to visit her friends to attend upon the sick and help the needy. In 1856 the fourth daughter Mrs. Lucy Pier (who with her husband had emigrated to Texas 21 years previous) paid her first visit to her old home. During her stay there was a family meeting. Mrs Merry and her sons and daughters, their wives and husbands, were all present; except Mr James B. Pier. In all that long absence but one link had been broken. When she was 81 years of age she had a severe attack of erysipelas and Typhoid fever and her left hand became

so stiffened that she cannot knit, but now at the age of 86, she sews very neatly, and attends to some domestic duties. Her memory is still good; she takes as much interest in reading the papers, and keeping posted in political as ever in her life. On the 17th of Aug, 1866, a number of pioneers of our village paid her the compliment of a birthday surprise; feeling that they might not have the pleasure of meeting her many more times, and of recalling memories of early life in the "Fire Lands". Early hardships and deprivations were recounted, as page by page of lifes history came up, until the present bright and prosperous condition of our country, but with all the delicacies change had brought, it was agreed that the visit of "today" was no more enjoyed than when, in days of yore, they accepted the simple fare then afforded.

The above communication was copied from the Fire Lands Pioneer of June 1868. This venerable pioneer of the Reserve is still living in Milan. Mrs Charlotte Merry, passed her 97th birthday with her children, grand children and others friends on the 17th of Aug 1877. Mrs. Merry is probably the oldest living pioneer of Mentor, in Lake County, Ohio; she coming into that town from Avon N. Y. on the 26th of May, 1800. Mrs. Merry died Feb. 5th, 1879, aged 99.

HOSMER MERRY

Hosmer Merry was born at Kinderhook columbia County N. Y. in 1783. At the age of eleven years (1794) his father moved to Avon, Genesee County, (at that time). At the age of 17 (1800) he with his brother Ebenezer Merry started for the then far west, stopping at Mentor, Lake County, Ohio at which place there was then no town. when he was 21 (1804) he returned to Genesee County remaining about one year, at which time he returned again to Mentor. Feb. 28th 1807, he was married to Miss Sarah Frost, who was born in Watertown, Litchfield Co Connecticut, Oct. 28th, 1787. In Dec 1810 he came to Milan, locating on a farm one and one half miles below the village on which he built a log house. He did not move his family however there untill in Feb 1811. There they remained most of the time during the exciting times of 1812 and 1813, seeking refuge and protection in case of alarm in the block house at Camp Avery which was situated some two miles from his farm. in 1812, he was drafted for six months. He entered his team and went as a teamster, and as such was frequently at Fort Croghan. He with two or three companions started the next day after the engagement on Lake Erie from Huron, with a boat load of provisions to go to the fleet. On arriving near the fleet, they could see the red uniforms of the British about the American vessel and were in doubt as to whether they had better go ahead or retreat, when they were hailed from the fleet. On their being assured that Commadore Perry was victorious, one of the men in the boat by the name of Harvey, an old Revolutionary hero sprang to his feet swinging his and calling on his comrades to "Row boys, for God sake row". They were the first to

board the fleet after the engagement. In the spring of 1833, he moved to Oxford township. His first wife died Aug 1825, leaving six children, viz: Ebenezer O. Henry F, Fanny, George A., William W, and Betsey P, all of whom are now living except Betsey, who died Sept 3rd, 1843.

He was married the second time in 1826, to Sarah Reed, who at this date is living in Milan, (1867). By her he had two children Mary A, and Stephen. He was Justice of the Peace of Oxford township, at the time of his death, which occurred Aug 23rd, 1835, aged 52.

The above was under the signature of E. O. M., and was copied from the 8th Vol of the Fire Lands Pioneer, printed in 1867. The author or writer probably was Ebenezer O Merry, son of Hosmer and Sarah (Frost) Merry. The foregoing articles copied from the Fire Lands Pioneer are for the purpose of bringing out the early pioneer history of the townships of Mentor and Willoughby, Lake County, Ohio.

LAKE COUNTY PIONEERS

Large meeting at Morleys grove in Kirtland, Wednesday, a pleasant day and an enjoyable time.

Despite the threatening weather of Wednesday morning, the day turned out exceedingly fine, and the meeting of the Lake County pioneers at Kirtland proved an unprecedented success.

Early in the forenoon the old people in Lake and Geauga Counties began to assemble at the grove on the farm of Alfred Morley near Kirtland Flats. There was something peculiarly appropriate about this grove for these meetings. It is made up of maples, gigantic in size, and planted when Kirtland was in its youth, and it stands on the farm of and is owned by the man who helped to plant it, who in the early part of the nineteenth century helped to settle and civilize that portion of the Western Reserve known as Lake and Geauga Counties. As the time advanced toward noon, people living near and far began to arrive in carriages, waggons and every sort of vehicle that could be drawn by horses, and by 11 o'clock the grove was full of old, middle aged and young, bent upon making the day one of happiness and pleasure. At 11 o'clock the meeting was called to order by the President of the Association Alfred Morley, Esq. The minutes of last years meeting were read and approved and after a few remarks by Mr Morley, the meeting adjourned for dinner. The ravenous reporter was kindly taken charge of by a handsome young lady and well fed. At the close of the repast, the company adjourned to the stand, where the meeting was again called to order. Around the stand were arranged seats which the old settlers occupied. Occupying a chair in the place of honor was the oldest pioneer present, a gentleman named Gray, who will be ninety seven years of age the 20th of September. After some greetings and hand shaking the meeting was brought

to order, and Mr. C. C. Bronson was introduced and spoke as follows:

When Martin Luther nailed his celebrated theses on the church door of Wittenburg, how little he thought that simple act was the beginning of what is known in history as the Reformation. When Queen Elizabeth made the attempt to compel her subjects, by her acts of Parliament, they should by her acts of Conformity worship God, they could find no authority to dictate to them, that they should worship God contrary to their conscience, or to the teachings of the word of God. Little did she think, that by this spirit of intolerance it would drive a great number of her loyal and peaceful subjects into voluntary exile; the English, the Scotch and the Irish from the north of Ireland. The persecutions on the continent had the same effect in France, in Germany, and in the low countries, as Holland at that time was called. "There is a destiny that shapes our ends, rough hew them as we will". How true it is that some things that appear small and insignificant to the mind of mankind are the means in the hands of God, of bringing about the most mighty results, When Carver, Bradford, Brewster, Winslow, and Standish with their associates and families went on board the Mayflower to leave their native land and cross the wide Atlantic, to battle with untried scenes on the eastern shores of this vast Western Continent: and why all this? To escape the intolerance of King James and the Acts of Parliament. The set time had come, in the providence of god, when the seed of civil and religious liberty were to be sown on this continent. That immortal compact which the Pilgrims signed in the cabin of the Mayflower, on the 11th of November, 1620, speaks for itself. They were followed by the Puritans of New England; the Scotch and the Scotch Irish, from the North of Ireland; and Germans of Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland, and the French Huguenots of New Jersey, and the Carolinas; with those who settled New York and up the Hudson River, from Holland, and those on the Mohawk River from the German Palatines. All were more or less imbued with the grand principle of civil and religious liberty as they understood it. They all cooperated together in establishing the basis of this great republic - the liberty of the press, the liberty of speech, the liberty of conscience and worship, or in other words, free thought, free speech, free press, and free men.

Admitting that they did not fully understand these things, yet we must admit they were honest in their belief, for it has taken 200 years to bring out those principles as we understand them at this day. The Puritans advocated the church and school house as the basis of their hopes of success and they were the two prominent objects before them, and by degrees these principles have been promulgated untill they are incorporated into the Constitution of our government, together with the principle of toleration, that man may worship God, according to the dictates of his own conscience. And it is conceded by the Christian and moralist, that the church and school house are the

bulwark of a republican government. Our ancestors reverenced the Sabbath and its sanctuary privileges, and they and their families did not forget the assembling of themselves together on the Sabbath. Some of us remember the houses built for public worship 100 years ago; how plain they were in comparison to those built at this day. How many can call to mind the old white meeting house of our native town in New England, its tall spire pointing heavenwards, its high pulpit with its sounding board overhead, the Deacon Seat, the square pews, the front seat in the gallery where the singers sat on the three sides of the house, the psalm books, and let us not forget the ancient pitch pipe in the hands of the Chorister (and here Mr Bronson exhibited one) as he gave the key note to Montgomery Ocean, Mount Zion, Majesty or exhortation C M. Then there was Lenox, Florida, Mortality, Greenwich, Sherburn, New Jerusalem and Bridgewater; or the China, Brookfield, Plymouth, or Complaint, not forgetting the celebrated Judgment Anthem, so popular sixty to eighty years ago. But as the population of New England increased, it became necessary for her sons and daughters to go forth and make new settlements in Vermont, in the state of New York and in Northern Pennsylvania: and where these children of the Puritans settled they carried these principles with them.

As soon as they had provided for the comfort of their families, the preaching of the Gospel, the formation of a church, the building of school houses - the common school for the education of their children - all these things were carried into effect by these hardy pioneer men and women, even on this Western Reserve. There was a class of men like Daniel Boone, of Kentucky who would penetrate these vast western wilds for the sake of adventure in hunting, or to gratify a roving disposition, and if one or two others came into the vicinity the country was becoming altogether too populous, and they would leave. Another class would go in advance, settle by a spring of water, build a small log cabin and clear a few acres, raise some corn and other things, hunt and trap and sell their improvements and go still further beyond and the line of civilization. They were followed by another class who had the love of adventure, but they had an object in view, to make themselves not only a home but a permanent home, and to build up churches, schools and its attendant advantages. The principles advocated by the Puritans of New England are treated with contempt by some, but the result of their teachings is felt from Maine to Florida, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific; and that is, "The people shall govern". The adventurous Yankee had emigrated to Vermont, and into the state of New York, and a colony from Litchfield County, Connecticut had settled at Wyoming on the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania, previous to the Revolution and were the victims of that hellish massacre by the Indians and Tories in July 1778. The soldiers in the Connecticut and Massachusetts line as well as the soldiers from the other states who were in General Sullivans Expedition to chastise the six nations of Indians in 1779 saw the Genesee Flats and the country now called central New York. They found the stoney hills of New England stood no comparison with the land they had seen in

their western campaign. Emigrants from Suffield Conn went to Canandaigue in 1789. Land speculation ran high in those days. Connecticut had compromised with the United States her chartered claims by retaining what is known as the Connecticut Western Reserve. Connecticut, by Act of her Legislature, sold the land on the reserve to the Connecticut Land Company, except 500,000 acres off the west end, given to the sufferers by fire by the British Troops at Danbury, Norwalk, Fairfield and New London in the Revolution. This Tract is known as the sufferers or Fire Lands, and comprises the old county of Huron. On the 2nd of September, 1795, the bargain was concluded. A sufficient number of individuals had presented themselves, willing to take the whole tract at the sum of \$1,200,000. The greatest sum taken by one man was by Oliver Phelps of Suffield, Conn for \$168,185 and the smallest sum, \$1,683 was taken by Sylvanus Griswold of Suffield, Conn. In 1796, the Land Company sent a company to survey their purchase into town ships five miles square. West of the Cuyahoga River, Portage Path and the Tuscarawas branch of the Muskingum was Indian Territory, and the surveyors had positive instructions not to cut a bush or mark a tree on the Indian side of the line. They did not succeed in finishing the town lines. One of the main causes of the delay was the time lost by all the parties when the east and west lines when they came to the Chagrin River; they mistook it for the Cuyahoga. Seth Pease, ran the line between Burton and Claridon: Amos Spafford and Richard M. Stoddard ran the line between Charidon and Hampden which would be the south line of Kirtland. The north line of Kirtland was ran by John Mitton Holly. When these parties arrived at the Chagrin they left their lines going down the river, and all the surveyors were very much perplexed on encountering this stream, and proceeded down it to the lake. Holly in his journal says; "Aug 23rd, 1796; forty sixth mile at forty chains, eighty links, a river supposed to be the Cuyahoga; sun two hours high. Parker and myself set off down the river to find some marks where Porter had been along; went three miles in the rain; no marks were to be found; I supposed they had not been up the river, but from every circumstance thought it must be the Cuyahoga, and determined to begin the traverse in the morning".

"On the 2nd of Oct 1796, Holly took his old line at the Chagrin River and ran it west between towns nine and ten, and ran it to the lake at forty nine miles, thirty seven chains and five links." The Parker here spoken of by Mr. Holly was Charles Parker, one of the first settlers of Mentor, and one of the surveying parties of 1796 and 1797. There was another man, an uncle of the man on whose grounds you are assembled this day: Ezekiel Morley was one of the parties of 1796 and 1797.

In 81 years what a change. On the 4th of July 1796, the Land Companys first surveying party celebrated the twentieth birthday of our nation at the mouth of the of the Coneaught Creek.

They ranged themselves on the beach and fired a Federal Salute of fifteen rounds and then the sixteenth in honor of New Connecticut, and the first time it was celebrated on the Western Reserve. Now eighty one years have passed away and what a change, and what a contrast is placed before us. At that time it does not appear that there was a single white settlement on the Reserve, unless we except the attempt of Samuel Holden Parsons of Connecticut to make salt at the Salt Springs in the present town of Wethersfield in Trumbull County which at this time were abandoned.

The rivers and creeks of the Reserve at this time were pursuing their course unobstructed by the art of man. These grand old woods sung their own requiem, the falls and rapids of the numerous streams being an accompaniment. The noble elk, the nimble deer, the howling wolfe, and the growling bear, the horrid screams of the panther would awaken echoes and re-echoes through the vast solitudes of these primeval forests. Let us consider the labor and gread hardship this surveying party had to endure before they could even begin the survey. There was not a settlement west of Genesee River, if we except Buffalo and Erie, which were millitary posts, and a few settlers in the vicinity of these posts. All their supplies came from Hudson River or Connecticut. They met at Schenectaday, where flat bottomed boats or batteaux were provided. They embarked and made their way up the Mohawk River to Fort Stanwix, now Rome, N. Y., drawing their boats around Little Falls with teams, from Rome down Wood Creek into Oneida Lake, down the outlet of the Lake into the Oswego River, then into Lake Ontario; then along the South Shore to the Niagara River, landing at Queenston, and hiring their boats drawn around Niagara Falls to the mouth of Chippewa Creek, then to the mouth of Buffalo Creek. June 27th started from Buffalo Creek to cross Lake Erie. These boats were propelled by sailing, rowing, poling and warping (using boatmens language). Warping was done by a long rope tied to a tree and those on board pulling on the rope; long setting poles were provided and they would push their boats up the streams. Boats were pushed up Grand River to Windsor and Messopotamia, if I have correct information. This must have been manual labor in earnest. Many of the early pioneers of the Reserve and their families came in this manner. When the survey was finished, the equalizing committee made their report. This committee of equalization and partition were appointed January 17th, 1797, consisting of Daniel Holbrook, Moses Warren Jr., Seth Pease and Amos Spafford. These men with the aid of the surveyors explored every township east of Cuyahoga and Portage Path, and where there were swamps, lakes and much broken land, it was made equal by annexing land in another township. Thus the township of Stow in Summit County had annexed tract three, 5,850 acres in Kirtland which was owned by Joshua Stow of Middletown, Conn. Tract one in Kirtland, 5,460 acres was annexed to Burton. Turhand Kirtland, and Daniel Holbrook were two of the original proprietors.

We may infer that Kirtland was an equalizing township. This equalizing committee made their report from Canandague, N. Y. December 13th, 1797. "On the 29th of January, 1798, the long expected draft took place, consisting of ninety three equal parcels, embracing a township or more". The Land Company proceeded to dispose of it by dividing it as follows" The amount (that is the \$1,200,000) was divided into 400 shares of \$3,000 each. Any one paying in an amount received a certificate entitling him to the same proportion of the whole reserve that his payment bore to \$1,200,000. These certificates were all numbered and then the numbers drawn in the same manner as a lottery, each holder of a certificate drawing an amount of land proportioned to the 4,000,000 acres as his payment was to \$1,200,000. Each proprietor thus received a township or a fraction of a township, according to the amount of his interest. Thus some townships became the exclusive property of an individual, others became the property of various owners. IN this manner, each individual got his proportion of land in severalty and located. All the towns in Lake County but two were equalizing towns, and I am not certain as there is but one; Concord may have been one. Leroy was the sixteenth draft. It was drawn by Benjamin Bates, Moses Kingsley, Amasa Clapp, Samuel and James Hamilton, Benjamin Parsons, Nathaniel Edwards, Ephraim Williams and Ebenezer Parsons, to which was annexed tract fourteen, 1,706 acres in town 1 Range 11 now known as the town of Coventry in the County of Summit. Mentor was surveyed by John Milton Holly into sixteen tracts in 1796. Perry was surveyed into 115 lots by Nathan Redfield, Richard M. Stoddard, Phineas Barker, and Joseph Landon in 1797. Madison (called Chapin) was surveyed into fourteen tracts. Willoughby (called Charleton) was surveyed into sixteen tracts and were originally owned by nearly as many owners. Lake county if it is small among her eighty eight sister counties of Ohio is not to be despised for she has as fine farms and as productive as fine dwellings and as good out buildings, as fine roads and as nice carriages and as fine horses and cattle, and churches, schools and seminaries to educate her children and youth, and the wealth and intelligence and enterprise of her people all prove that little Lake is not behind her sister counties in anything but acres of land. But she has a history and a rich field for some one to explore and to write it out in full. Like other sections of the Reserve, it has been neglected too long already; the early pioneers are mostly gone the way of all the Earth. Their hardships and privations that come to us second or third handed are generally poor material for the historian to rely upon. Two men will relate the same transaction, but will differ and you will have to seek corroborative proof from other sources. It requires a great stock of patience to give the subject that close investigation and it requires much judgment to avoid making mention of anything that is calculated to disturb the fellings of any one. The history of a single township is of interest, not only to its residents, but to those who are acquainted with its localities - the location of the first

settler, the date when he settled, where he was born and when, who he married, in fact a biographical sketch if possible, of all the pioneers, male and female, with incidents of their joys and of their sorrow. After the original proprietors knew the range and number of the town in which their land was located, some felt disposed to commence settlement. It appears that Job P. Stiles and wife passed the winter of 1796 and 1797 in Cleveland with Edward Payne, long a resident of Geauga County and one of its officers. Judge James Kingsburys family passed the same winter at Conneaut; both families were connected with the Connecticut Land Company. Lorenzo Carter and Ezekiel Hawley came to Cleveland as settlers in the spring of 1797. John Young drew Youngstown and settled there in 1798. The Harper families moved from Harpersfield, N. Y. and settled in Harpersfield in 1798. David Abbot appears to have been the first settler of Willoughby and some think of Lake County. Charles Parker and Ebenezer Merry, with Jared Ward and Moses Park commenced what is known in the early history of the Reserve as the Marsh settlement, in Mentor in 1798. There is not much difference in the time of settlement, but the proof is rather in favor of Mentor being the first. There should be biographical sketches of Lake County pioneers, such as Abbot, Merry, Ward, Parker, Park, Phelps, Walworth, Huntington, Skinner, the Paynes, Sessions, Pepoon with many others. And by no means let the pioneer women be forgotten, for they endured hardships and privations that appear almost incredible to their descendants. That venerable pioneer, Mrs. Charlotte Merry is supposed to be living in Milan, who was on the 17th of Aug last ninety seven years of age. She was visited by her friends on the first day of January, 1877 and is in all probability the oldest pioneer of Lake County that is now living. Those hardy pioneer men and women were raised up for the special purpose of penetrating 200 miles beyond the line of civilization, to make New Connecticut another New England, and well have they fulfilled their mission. They were followed by others of the same views and feelings and they all labored to lay the foundations broad and deep for the religious, moral and civil institutions under which we are living today; they have bequeathed to us a rich inheritance, which it is our duty to take care of and to hand down to the future generations. Let us then revere the memories of the pioneers of the Reserve. If it is a thankless task, let us collect their history and preserve it, to be handed down to those who will come after us, for generations yet unborn will thank us for what we have left behind in the shape of history. It may not be known to all here that the road, known as the girdled road, was laid out and underbrushed and the large timber girdled thirty feet wide in 1797, and is the first road that was laid out on the Western Reserve. This road is open and traveled today southeast from Warners Mills in Leroy to Mr Websters in Chardon; from there it is vacated over the mountain. It went north of where we are, crossing the Chagrin River at the mouth of the creek, coming in from the east, thence to Cleveland.

There is another called the Chillicothe Road, laid from the mouth of Grand River through Painesville, and crossing the creek near where we are this day, running about thirty rods east of the four corners in south Kirtland known in early days as the Esq. Crary Place; thence south connecting with the present travelled road near the north line of Chester. This road was cut out by Capt Edward Payne in 1802. It is said also that Capt Edward Payne cut out the first road from Buffalo onto the Western Reserve in 1801. What a work this must have been to get provisions and cut out a road through an unsettled country as it was at that day. In cutting out the Chillicothe road after leaving Painesville, the next town settled was Aurora, with but one family, Ebenezer Sheldon. I would here remark that Esq. Sheldon was a native of Suffield Conn, and was employed by Ebenezer King and others original proprietors of town 5 range 9, named by Maj. Amos Spafford, who surveyed the town into lots, Aurora after Spaffords eldest son. Mr. Sheldon came into Aurora in 1799 and selected a lot of land for his home, cleared a field and sowed it with wheat, and in the fall returned to Conn to his family. In the spring of 1800 he left Conn with teams coming the road over the mountains through Pennsylvania, cutting his road from Warren to Aurora. Here Mr. Sheldon and his family lived from 1800 to 1803 before the Egglestons and other families came in from Berkshire and Hampden counties Mass. Mrs. Sheldon (although laying no particular claim to personal beauty) used to say that these years she was the handsomest woman, the best cook, and the best house-keeper in Aurora. From Aurora to Hudson where there was another settlement; and probably not another settlement between Hudson and Wooster. We also find the pioneers of the Reserve had a high standard of moral principle, for although they had placed themselves beyond the reach of civil law, yet they were a law unto themselves. In proof of this the readers of the Painesville Telegraph will call to mind a recent article on the first marriages on the Reserve. The manuscript or the printer made a mistake, for the first marriage was in Cleveland the parties were Mr Clement and Miss Chloe Inches, and the second marriage on the Reserve was in Mentor, between Mr. James Hamilton of Newburg, and Mrs Parthemia Mingus of Harpersfield, according to the wages of civilized nations; this second marriage was in 1799. These in my opinion speak volumes for those hardy pioneers in having this interesting relation in life performed in as lawful and orderly a manner as possible under the circumstances. The Western Reserve east of the Cuyahoga or treaty line, was first in Washington County, the county seat at Marietta; then in 1797, Jefferson County, the seat of justice was at Steubenville; and it does not appear that there was any law suits or other business went before the courts of quarter sessions, in either county from the Reserve.

On the 10th of July, 1800, Trumbull County was organized by proclamation of Maj. Gen Arthur St Clair, Governor of the Territory north west of the Ohio River. This opened the way for civil law and order to be extended over the Western Reserve as far as the Indian title had been extinguished. William Williams

at Newburg and David Abbot at Chagrin began to erect mills in 1799, and began to grind grain in 1800. It is a disputed point with some which mill was in operation first, but it is generally to Williams of Newburg as being the first. Now if this is so, Lake County has the honor of having the second grist and saw mill on the Western Reserve.

Then let little Lake feel she is of some consequence yet. At the (first) Court of Quarter Sessions, August term, 1800 the court appointed Amos Spafford, David Hudson, Simon Perkins, John Minor, Aaron Wheeler, Edward Payne and Benjamin Davidson, a committee to divide Trumbull County into towns, viz: Youngstown, Warren, Hudson, Vernon, Middlefield, Richfield, Paynesville and Cleaveland. All that tract of country included within a line beginning at the north east corner of town 8 range 7 (Claridon) thence north to Lake Erie, thence westerly on the lake shore to the north west corner of town 9 range 10 (Willoughby); thence east to the place of beginning shall be one township, and be called and known by the name of Paynesville. By this we see that the territory coming within those lines covered the whole county of Lake, except Madison, and also Chardon, and Hampden in the county of Geauga. "The first convention to form a state constitution for Ohio convened at Chillicothe on the 1st day of November 1802. The delegates from Trumbull County were David Abbot of Chagrin and Samuel Huntington of Painesville. David Abbot was the first sheriff of Trumbull County. Samuel Huntington was the governor of Ohio from Dec 12th 1808 to Dec. 10th 1810.

The first town meeting after the state organization was held at the house of Ebenezer Merry on the first Monday of April 1802, Esquire Merry had removed his family from the marsh up onto the south ridge in consequence of sickness and settled on the farm now owned by Mr Isaac Sawyer, of Mentor. In 1814 Esq. Merry sold this farm to Benjamin Sawyer and removed to the old county of Huron, and settled where Milan now stands. At the close of the oration the names of all old residents over sixty years were called and twenty eight responded. Some others whose names were not upon the list were registered. Mr. Albert Hall read two or three old fashioned ballads. Hon Judge Taylor of Claridon was introduced and made some remarks. He was eloquent at times and told many interesting anecdotes of the good old times.

Mr. Taylor taught school in Mentor, in 1819 and yesterday encountered a number of his old schollars, all of whom were gray headed men and over many of whom he had wielded the birch to their lasting remembrance.

Mr. George Paine, a young man, read an appeal in favor of the Lake County Historical Society asking the people and old settlers in the different townships to aid the society in obtaining all the information possible for a history of the county. Mr. Paine produced some very old documents that were very interesting.

At the close of Mr Paines remarks an exhibition of the relics brought to the grounds took place. Among them were many pieces of crockery and glassware of quite ancient date and pattern. There was an oil portrait of Martin Luther dating back to 1523, owned by Mr. James Thompson of Claridon. There was a bassoon, said to be the first made in this country it was made by one Catlin of Hartford, Conn. Supposed to be 100 years old or more. This was exhibited by C. C. Bronson of Tallmadge, and there were numberless other relics of our grandfathers days. After the exhibition of relics the election of officers took place, which resulted as follows: Pres Alfred Morley, Sec Dr L. H. Luse, Vice Pres - Harvey Morse, Kirtland; Calvin Ingersoll, Mentor; E. G. Burnell, Willoughby; Lyman Nye, Painesville; Asa Turner, Leroy; Wm B Tuttle, Concord; Moses Thompson, Perry; John Prentiss, Madison; E. J. Ferris, Chardon. The meeting then adjourned to meet at the same place the second Wednesday in September 1878. The above pioneer meeting was Sept. 12th, 1877. Copied from Cleveland Heralds Sept. 15th, 1877.

Read before the Tallmadge Historical Society Feb. 3rd, 1885
C. C. Bronson

MRS. ANNA (GILLETTE) STRONG

She was the eldest daughter and third child of Dea Nathan and Lucy (Harrison) Gillett, and was born in Forrington in the county of Litchfield Conn; June 21st, 1784. The years of her childhood were spent like others in her day and generation to attend the district school and learn to read and spell and write and perhaps the ground rules in Dilworths Arithmetic. And all this must be mostly obtained before they were large enough to spin tow yarn on a large spinning wheel. How the times are changed, then it was necessary for parents to be making use of foresight how their daughters were to be provided for when they became of marriageable age and would need table linnen, towelling and beds and bedding. Both linnen and wollen and all to be manufactured by hand. At this day it would appear like an undertaking of great magnitude. The spinning wheels and the loom were very necessary appendages of every farm house almost 50 years ago. The father and the sons to provide the wool and the flax; the mother and the daughters to manufacture the raw material thus furnished into cloth for home use. The mother would impress upon the minds of her daughters the importance of industry, strict economy in all things and to be making preparations to furnish a house of her own, when in the common course of events, she would be married and she and her husband would settle down on their own farm, and their own house. Thus it was with the subject of our sketch, with a limited education but with a strong antive talent, she was able to overcome the obstructions in her path and by her retentive memory and extensive reading and close observation all combined to make her a very inteligent woman. Her father being a farmer and her native town was not noted for its fertility, she was inured to labor at an early age and having a

well developed physical system she was well calculated to battle with the stern realities of life. The inducements which were held out by some of the original proprietors of lands on the Western Reserve, had its effect upon many in the New England states and remove with their families to the west. Her brother Ara Gillett, had left his fathers house in the winter of 1801, and joining others in Norfolk they left for the El Dorado of the west known as New Connecticut or the Connecticut Western Reserve. This party consisted of the following young men, viz: Moses (Case) Wilcox, Calvin Stone, Ara Gillett, Cephas Case and George Hawley, this party left Bloomfield N. Y. about the 1st of March 1801, on foot bound for Austinburg on the Western Reserve, in the territory north west of the Ohio River. Being very much pleased with the country, Mr Gillett decided at once to remove with his family to what at that day was called the far west.

The Torrington Land Company made arrangements for him to settle in Town 10 Range 4 now known as the township of Morgan, in the county of Ashtabula. He left Conn with his family being joined at Norfolk with Hosea Wilcox and family all bound for the same destination Morgan Ohio. After a long and toilsome journey of days they with their teams arrived at their journeys end Nov 12th, 1802. The subject of our sketch is thus transferred from the scenes of her childhood and the society of her associates and relatives and to go far beyond the line of civilization with the exception of a settlement here and there, scattered over the country from Genesee River on the east to the Cuyahoga River on the west. And we can say that the settlements in this area of country were like angels visits few and far between. She was on her arrival in Morgan, 18 years and 4 months old; being old enough to fully understand the hardships and privations connected with the life of a Western Reserve pioneer. And well did she act her part as a pioneer woman of the early days of the Reserve. Edmund Strong, a native of Harwinton Conn came to Austinburg in the spring of 1802, he bought him a farm in Morgan and as a housekeeper is very necessary Mr strong took the proper steps to provide himself with one. On the marriage records of Trumbull county there is an entry as follows: "This may certify that Edmund Strong and Anna Gillett were this day married by me Joseph Badger, V.D.M. December 26th, 1803.

They went into their own log cabin with all its pioneer surroundings with earnest hopes looking to bright prospects in the future, and we can say they both lived to see these vast wildernesses become a fruitful field. Mr and Mrs Strong soon after their marriage experienced religion in the great revival of 1804. This revival is noted in the Eccleseastical history of that period, by the Jerking Exercise. Mr and Mrs Strong, united with the Cong Church in Austinburg, on the 10th of June 1804 with 51 others by letter and profession. This church in Austinburg was the first Cong Church organized on the Western Reserve; it was

organized by Rev Joseph Badger on the 27th of Oct 1801. The Presbyterian Church in Youngstown in 1800 by Rev William Wick it is supposed. Here Mr Mrs Strong remained untill 1808; Rev David Bacon had conceived the opinion that if he could obtain control of all the land in a township on this Western Reserve, he could obtain settlers who would accede to his plan in sufficient numbers to control the religious influences of the whole township. He made great efforts to obtain settlers who where apparently ready to cooperate with him in his plan of building up a New England Community with all its appendages according to the ancient order of things. This was to adopt the ancient Puritan principle that was first the church and then the school house, religion and education were the ruling principles. Capt John Wright and three sons John Jr, Dr Amos C and Alpha were induced together with Edmund Strong, Ara Gillett, and were followed by Deacon Nathan Gillett, and Hosea Wilcox. These all emigrated from Morgan, into Tallmadge. All these men mentioned above with their families were active with others in laying the foundations of religious and civil society so broad and so deep that its influence is felt at this time after the lapse of threescore years. Mr Strong visited Tallmadge in Sept 1808, he was highly pleased with the township and its prospects when fully developed. He returned home to Morgan and in Oct 1808 he sold his farm in Morgan, and went to Tallmadge and bought Lot No 3, Tract 6 of Eph Starr of Goshen Conn, being the north east corner lot of the Tract. In Jan 1809 he went to Tallmadge with a load of goods, and hired a man to chop an acre this being the first acre chopped north of the center east and west line. In Feb 1809 Edmond Strong, wife and two children, John Wright Jr and wife and three children, Alpha Wright with a load of goods belonging to his father; with Luman Beach, a son in law of Capt John Wright, to assist them in their work. They left Morgan with three loaded sleds, bound for Tallmadge, came west to Cleveland, then turned south, we infer that all went well from Morgan, to what is now known as Independence. They came to the top of the hill on the north side of Tinkers Creek in the above named township. Mrs Strong, left among other papers has given a description of the journey from the above point to Tallmadge, very kindly furnished me by her youngest daughter Mrs J. Ann Snow, of Austinburg, in Oct. 1877. Mrs. Strongs account is as follows:

"Feb 1809, who is able to describe Tinters Creek Hill in Independence, with its terrors as it was 50 years ago (This Ms was written in Richfield Summit County in 1859). No one I presume. At that time some two or three families were on their way to Portage, now Summit County. On approaching the hill we warned of the perilous decent, at this time several teams were prepared for the decent in company, it was raining the teams and sleds all smooth shod. As the teams decended one after another, and to glide smoothly down the steep road, we concluded we had nothing to fear, and as we struck on a level we supposed we had passed the danger. After a moments respite, the teams moved forward teams gave a side slip to the edge of the awful precepice and was on a ballance far above the tree tops, with a load of live stock, containing a mother and three little ones,

what a moment of suspense. The yawning gulf below seemed waiting to receive them when they would be dashed to atoms for aught we knew; a few little bushes saved it from the fatal leap until human hands were able to grasp it, and thus it was saved. Such an hair breadth escape, I never witnessed until then. To this day, I shudder at the thought of Tinkers Creek Hill as it was then. A very kind providence thus saved from all harm. We again started now a circuitous, now a zig zag, next on beam ends almost, then righting we went down, down-down; it was an awful and a downward course, Oh! such a slide and slip as this, we were never invested with the like dignity before surely not. When we arrived at the bottom of the hill, there was a halt for teams were still descending the hill, the roar and voices appeared to us below, as coming from the clouds almost, we all arrived safe at the foot of the hill. And we were enabled to draw a long breath, and to speak above a whisper, also rejoicing at the sight of a log cabin where we were all soon housed and sheltered, although very closely packed. The next morning the wind had changed its course, and it snowed, the unbridged streams were rising, we were advised not to go on. As we could not cross Sagamore Run, a considerable stream some four miles distant, as it would rise and fall very rapidly; we however moved on, and found it even so, full banks and the water still rising. The first team plunged in over head and horns, but fortunately the load and live stock were left on the bank they got the oxen out and then consulted and concluded to fall some trees across the stream and shove the goods across on them; not much sooner said than done.

We were unloaded with our five little ones, into the snow, the snow and rain falling on us, we were come now to near freezing point; before they had crossed with one load, a dutch waggon came up on the other side on their way to Cleveland for salt; and finding they could not cross the stream, our company hired them to take us in their waggon and carry us two miles to the next house in Northfield. Our little ones were suffering very much with the cold, and our Dutch drivers were charmed with the music of their prattle. But we were soon there, and a blazing fire in the big fireplace in the log cabin soon made all things strait and the little ones comfortable and happy. Towards night the teams all came up, they had towed the oxen across the stream, by a rope fastened to their horns. The next morning on the snow and ice, we left for Hudson, and we put up at Capt Heman Oviatts. Here we met a man who told us that we could not ford the Cuyahoga River, for it was full banks and still rising. Consequently the next morning we turned our course towards Franklin crossing the Cuyahoga on a bridge at the narrows, or Bradys Leap. From thence cutting their way south across the west part of the town now known as Brimfield. Now night was upon us and snow falling, a council was held and it was decided take one sled leaving the others, we all got on and ahead we drove over logs and through bushes mantled with snow, for the axe was laid aside to the south east corner of Tallmadge; from thence west on or near the township line to the north and south center road to

the log house of Ephraim Clark Jr., where they arrived about 9 o'clock at night (Mr and Mrs Clark in true pioneer style gave the hungry wet and weary travellers a hearty welcome). Mrs. Strong resumes - in this uncomfortable situation, we found a good blazing fire, a good warm supper and we soon forgot all our past troubles. This was a journey of three days, from Independence township, to the township of Tallmadge in 1809. I believe the aged in their lonely state often turn back to their youthful days and past scenes which cannot be annihilated, they are more vivid in recollection, we often enjoy and venerate them as things of an ancient date and worth, while present scenes soon pass from the mind. Is not this truth taught let us gather the fragments and let us not lose anything in innocent recollection.

Anna Strong

Bronson's note: Mrs. Strong and Mrs. Wright used to relate that while wending their way through the wilderness, they drove away dull care by singing the feuge music of that day. Mr. John and Alpha Wright, Mr. Beach, Mrs. Strong and Mrs. Wright were among the grand singers of those days. And we may infer that in singing Montgomery Ocean, or Mount Zion, the grand old woods of Brimfield echoed and reechoed.

The transcriber of the above article would say: that the road which this company travelled is known at this day as the State Road (1877) If I have been informed correctly by the early pioneers, this road was laid out by the state in 1807, from Cleveland to Canton. From Cleveland to Newbury, it is with little variation the same as at this time. At Newbury, it crossed the creek, and probably is the same road as then to where it crossed Tinkers Creek at a point since known as Gleasons Mills. On the high almost perpendicular bank on the North side of the Creek, where our narrative begins.

In 1819 when the writer first saw this hill it was considered one of the worst hills on the Reserve, although it was materially changed in its appearance, the old road was to be seen at that time, where these pioneers made their perilous descent. The road at the present day is a gradual ascent but it is slippery clay hill yet. The log house at the foot of the hill, in which they spent the night was what was well known in early days as Parkers Tavern probably. Sagamore Run is a well known point where the state road crosses the creek and here was where they had so much trouble. Tradition says: that the stream takes its name from an Indian Chief or Sagamore, being buried on the bank of the creek not far from where the state road crosses the creek. I am told that there was a large heap of stones that marked the Sagamores grave. This crossing is in the township of Bedford. The next place where they stopped was in the north west part of Northfield. The State Road run across the town of Northfield and crossed the Brandywine at Wallaces, now known as Brandywine Village. There was a point from which was laid to Hudson, it did not vary much from present travelled road leading in a south easterly course through Macedonia, through the township to Hudson. At the junction of these roads, a man

settled at an early day by the name of Cranney he also kept tavern in a log house. That this was the place, where they staid over night, the writer does not know; but it was near it, the old State Road from this point to Brandywine has been vacated for many years. This road from Brandywine Mills run through the East part of Boston, and Northampton by Northampton Mills from thence southerly to Middlebury and thence to Canton. This state road crossed the Cuyahoga River below the falls, and then across the plains and by the old Forge to Middlebury. I would here say that from a mile or two south of what is known as McArthurs Corners in the town of Northampton to the Old Forge, the road has been vacated for nearly half a century. There was at an early and a later date on these roads points like Shermans 4 miles south of Cleveland, Miles at Newbury, Hathaways, Parkers, Gleasons, Cranneys, Wallaces, Bishops, Deweys, Harts in Middlebury. From Cranneys there was Zina Post, Esq. Hudson, Kilbourn, Dea Butler, Hine, Velandigham in Springfield, and McNab in Greentown.

Date on these roads taverns like Shermans 4 miles south of Cleveland, Miles, at Newburg, Hathaways in Independence, Parkers and Gleasons in Bedford, Cranneys and Wallaces in Northfield, Bishops in Boston, Gaffield and Deweys in Northampton, Wm. J. Harts tavern in Middlebury.

AN INCIDENT RELATED BY MRS. STRONG

In the year 1802, while winding our way towards a western home, then called New Connecticut; and we had arrived in Pennsylvania. We came to the waters of Elk Creek, we found the water so high that it was thought impossible to ford it and no bridge. Some people living on the bank came to our assistance, they said: there was one place where we could ford the creek, and only one as the rocks and holes in the bed of the creek, made it dangerous and it was near the Lake. One of the men kept a horse, for the purpose of assisting to pilot people across the stream. He was then hired to pilot our teams through the turbid waters of the creek. Our father procured some boards, then he placed them across the top of the waggon box, then he placed the effects that water would injure on the boards, then the family on top of the effects the driver on the fore board of the waggon. The pilot says: follow me and you will cross well enough. He plunged into the water more than midside to his tall horse; the teams followed with their heads and backs just above water, we thought the waggons floatted part of the way, but we were probably mistaken, our heads were floating doubtless instead. But we followed the pilot, and were carried safe to the opposite shore; we passed through such a rough and tumble of dark waters. It was as great adventure truly, and who would risk in these days no one unless placed in like circumstances. So when we steer for the eternal shore, follow the true pilot and all will go well with us.

Anna (Gillett) Strong

WHO IS JOHN OMICK?

From the year 1802, and for several years in succession; Omick an Indian Chief spent his winters in then Trumbull County, with his family, it was his hunting and sugar making ground. He had two squaws as wives and a number of children. His four sons, were named Pocacaw, Monso, Misshatosh and John Omick, when encamped at Rock Creek, they lived near a settler who they fancied much and to show their respect for him, they added the name of John, (the name of their friend) to their fourth son of Omick. Pocacaw, (not John Omic) was hung in Cleveland for murder. He has spent days and nights in our log cabin, with his brothers. His appearance was pleasing, he was sprightly and active but rather malicious. It was the white mans firewater that done the deed. I am unable to say from what tribe Omick belonged to, I believe Ojibawa. The last time I saw Omic the elder, was in Middlebury, in 1812, he saluted me with umph Strongs squaw, how do, how do, and a generous shake of the hand. The untutored savage had been to the Govenor to get a reprieve for his son, but failing in obtaining executive clemency, his eyes and all his jestures spoke revenge, which doubtless was filled full in the course of the war of 1812. The question is who is responsible for this crime. He suffered the penalty of the law for his crime, but who was the first aggressor? I ask who. In 1802 Omick had two wives, and among the first settlers of Morgan, they were termed his Lady Squaw and his drudge. The one figured in all the pomp and finery of their nature. The other was a faithful mother and servant, she would meekly bear the burdens of flesh from the place of slaughter to the wigwam, while the savage chief would sit and smoke his pipe with his Lady Squaw, apparently quite unconcerned. As I had received several ornaments from the trimmings of her garments, as presents from her queenlike majesty, I will try to describe her in her native costume. She was called handsome, with her black piercing eye, and aqualine nose, (and here it is) her head attire was an ornamented silver headband. The cartilage of the ear was slit and hung with silver rings or jewels, he eye brows were painted, jewels in her nose, her neck was hung with beads of silver and wampum, silver bracelets around her wrists and untold rings on her fingers. Her leggins a tight fit (so to speak) with seam on the outside which were strung many little bells. These bells were brass thimbles. A hole was punched through the top, and with the sinews of the deer, and were drawn so close together, that when she walked the sound was like the tinkle of a sheep bell at some distance. Her moccasins were deer skin, beautifully ornamented with porcupine quills of different hues and shades and with beads of different colors. Her petticoat was blue broadcloth, trimmed with numberless silver brooches, and ribbons and her short gown was changeable lutestring. Her blankett was red broadcloth, trimmed with almost countless silver ornaments, sufficient to dazzle the eyes in a sun shiny day. The presents I received from her ladyship were silver brooches, and for years I preserved them. When pins and buttons were scarce, they became

very useful as fastnings to the shirt collars of the boys when little.

These heathen were not blind to the impulsive and seductive influence of the white mans fire water for evil. In the neighborhood of our home, a number of Indians had collected and they had procured whiskey for a spree. They then put all their offensive weapons into the care of their friend John. They then retired far from sight to give vent to the evils of excess. The wives and children knowing the danger, hid themselves for the time being. Next morning they returned for their weapons in sober silence, and no injury had befallen anyone. Here is the influence of the civillized over the barbarian.

Now where did these evils commence. I need not ask the question to one well versed in the history of our country. You will say the Fur Traders, did much evil to this people in early days. Their love of the money scattered among them produced the evils the Indian has been addicted to. Mr Strong and myself when we lived in Morgan, stepped into a wigwam when a fur trader from Erie came to purchace the furs and skins they had collected through the previous winter. With a little money, and a few trinkets he obtained much value while the Indians were chinking their bits of money, and rejoicing over their good fortune, and probably spend the same soon in another drunken spree. I have ever been a friend to these people, they were a help to the emigrants in pioneer days. I find the impressions of youthful days may for a while lie dormant, and in after life be aroused to vivid brightness far more perceptible than present scenes, they are as a cloud, they soon vanish. Early impressions are firmly fixed in the mind, and as recollection draws them out in after years, so reflection moulds them and makes them appear as new.

To gather the fragments of past events; I believe is right and to draw from them what is instructive, and to cast the bad away. For years the present in my mind has been momentary, objects of the present time, soon cease to be objects of interest. (to recede or fall back to early days, I assure you now is my besetting infirmity, so much so that I use as an occasional hobby, that I have not the power to overcome). Many incidents of past events, have of late been renewed on my mind, which might help to chink a rearing fabrick of history; as drops make oceans, so events make history, and history is the life of the world, in a retrospective view but enough of this. As I have been enabled to command language, so have been my words on this letter. Charles this is written to you, and to you only as an early friend of our family, you can read it for diversion or amusement, or instruction, as you please or if you discover anything worth publication, it cannot be allowed. Shall the point of a point be so vain but I say: to you I live and think and move in concert with this dark world, is all, and it is all necessary to its completion. If the love of God, was the ruling power in my heart, I should never say: this dark this cold world, the world itself or the book of nature is beautiful, but those he created

in his own image to adorn it, only contaminate, as a common whole. What is truth, surely truth will complete what it has begun; pure love to God and man will turn darkness into light.
Richfield Summit County O, July 26th, 1859

Anna G. Strong

The following was copied from an Almanac that was printed in Warren Trumbull County O in the year 1806. It speaks thus of the Total Eclipse of the Sun , June 16th, 1806.

"Wonder Reader, Wonder; knowest that in this year the sun forgetteth her light, and the day goeth into mourning and believed thou these things, thou mayest for so say: the stargazers. And I their servant go abroad to tell the world of it. On that dark day examine me and mark the progress of that great phenomenon."

The price of that almanac, in those pioneer days was 25 cents. The above papers were very kindly furnished me by Mrs. Strong and her youngest son Lucius L. Strong, and also by her youngest daughter Mrs. J. Ann Snow of Austinburg, O.

After their safe arrival in Tallmadge, as has been above mentioned in due course of time they moved into their own log house being the first settlers north of the east and west center line. Nothing daunted she quietly submitted to the privations, she was called to endure for more than a year, her nearest neighbor being the Kilbourn family south of the center. But in time they had neighbors and by their labor they were soon surrounded with what was at that day considered the necessaries of life. In 1817 they sold the farm and improvements having built a frame barn, to Dea Peck Fenn, and bought another on which she had the pleasure of living in a frame house. In the fall of 1835, the farm was sold to Noah Cooper, and in April 1836, they removed to Mayfield in Cuyahoga County on land that belonged to the heirs of John Strong, father of Mr. Edmond Strong. Their children had settled life, and Mr. Strong being dead her youngest son Lucius and wife made a pleasant home for her in their family. In 1850, L. L. Strong sold the farm in Mayfield and removed to Tallmadge, his mother coming and residing with him. In 1857 he sold his farm in tallmadge and removed to Richfield Summit Co O. Here Mrs. Strong lived untill he disposed of his Richfield farm in 1866 and removed to Austinburg, in 1866. Here we find Mrs Strong, after more than 60 years pilgrimage at last returning within a few miles of where her parents settled in 1802 and where she was married and returned to the church she first united with in 1804. She was a strong minded Christian woman, and adorned her profession with a well ordered life and conversation. The latter years of her life, her mind was under a cloud appearing gloomy and desponding, yet at times there would be gleams of sunshine, when she would appear as of old. Mrs. Strong was the mother of six children four sons and two daughters. Her 2nd son Ara Leander died in Tallmadge June 19th 1813, aged 6 years. Her eldest son Henry Fitch died in Tallmadge

Oct. 19th, 1829, aged 24 years. Edmond Strong died in Mayfield July 25th, 1844, aged 63 years. Anna (Gillett) Strong died in Austinburg, Aug 18th, 1868 aged 84.

As has been before stated Edmond and Ann a Strong, made a public profession of religion June 4th, 1804 in Austinburg. They were the subjects of a revival of religion un the first Cong. Church of Austinburg, when its members lived in the surrounding townships of Morgan, Harpersfield, Rome, Messopotamia, and perhaps other townships, they transfered their connection to the first Cong. Church in Tallmadge May 19th, 1816. Dismissed to the Church April 21st, 1836, was readmitted July 7th, 1850. Dismissed to the church in Richfield May 24th, 1857. Mrs. Strong lived to see very great changes and outlived most of those who were her associates, all of her fathers family but one were dead, and she at last was called to enter into that rest which remains for the people of God.

MRS SALLY (SEELY) WRIGHT

John Seely, emigrated from Tinmouth, in the west part of England to Mass. The date of his arrival does not appear to be known; there is among the list of planters in Springfield Mass from 1636 to 1664, appears the name of John Seale. But this is no proof that it has anything to do with this sketch.

The presumptive evidence is, that John Seely came from old England to New England, and settled in Boston. And here his family of nine children probably were born. Only three are mentioned John, Thomas and James. He James settled in Albany, N. Y. John Seely was married to a Mrs. Crawford, whose maiden name was Hannah Windsor. She had one child by Mr. Crawford, and nine by Mr. Seely, making her the mother of ten children. Mr. Seely held an office in the custom house in Boston, under the Crown, and at the commencement of the War of the Revolution, he removed from Boston to Halifax in Nova Scotia. This was because he would not fight for either, "King or Country". Mr. Seely died in Halifax, the date of his death is not known. After his death his widow Hannah Seely, left Halifax and returned to Boston and afterwards went to Becket, Berkshire County Mass. Where she died Sept. 19th, 1814, aged 87 years 8 months and 19 days. By this particular date we find that Mrs. Hannah W. Seely was born on the 11th of Jan. 1727. John Seely Jr. (the father of Mrs. Wright) was born in Boston, June 20th, 1758. He had but little chance for an education in the common schools of that day. For at the age of twelve years, we find him acting as cabin boy, a position he filled in several voyages. He was once wrecked on the coast of Labrador. At another time he was a volunteer with others, with a rescue party from one of their whaling posts; and they were instrumental preserving the lives of Capt. Cook, and his party who were surveying the coast of New Foundland; and being overtaken in a winter storm, were driven out to sea in a helpless condition and many of them were frozen. He was a man of small stature but remarkably active. And soon after he was sixteen, he was permitted to enlist into the Continental Army and continued to serve his country faithfully for seven

years and six months, a large portion of the time in the Division commanded by Gen Washington in person. He was at the Battle of Trenton, Dec 25th 1776. He was also with the Continental Army in winter quarters where the troops suffered so much for the want of food and clothing in the severe winter of 1777 and 1778 at Valley Forge. And his eyes would glisten with tears as he recounted the words of comfort and the acts of kindness of "His Excellency", (alluding to Gen Washington) At Saratoga with a small party of comrades he made a descent on a pasture where some cavalry horses were feeding, and although they were discovered by the British the very moment they emerged from the adjoining woods; yet all of the party secured a prize but two and reached the Continental camp in safety. I think we can reasonably infer by the course pursued in the Revolutionary Contest by Mr. Seely, that he did not sympathize with his father in the course he pursued.

After the contest closed, the Continental Army was disbanded and the soldiers returned to their homes, and the quiet pursuits of active home life. Mr Seely, settled in the town of Truro, Barnstable County Mass in 1786. He was married to Miss Mercy Harding Nov 21st, 1786. Mrs. Wrights maternal ancestors were from England, but what time they came to Massachusetts is not known. The Great Grand Father of Mrs Wright was Nathaniel Harding, and he married Miss Mercy Purrinton (in England as is supposed), Ephraim Harding was the eldest of six children of Nathaniel and Mercy P Harding five sons and one daughter. Ephraim Harding married Sarah Collins, she being the daughter of Richard and Sarah (Lumber) Collins. Ephraim Harding was Deacon of the church in Truro. He was also a successful school teacher in his day. They were the parents of thirteen children, seven sons and six daughters, and Mercy the fifth child was the mother of Mrs. Wright. She was born in Truro August 3rd, 1759. The grandparents of Mrs Wright Deacon Eph Harding and Sarah his wife lived to an advanced age; he died at the age of 90 and Sarah his wife aged 90, probably about the year 1822. Their married life occupying the long and very unusual period of nearly 72 years, as Mr Harding was 20 and his wife 18 when they were married. The inquiry might arise why Mr Seely should select Truro with its barren blowing sand to the more fertile portions of the state, that gave him a birthplace, for a residence. But we are to take into consideration that his was a seafaring life and a sailor on the ocean. When the Continental Army was disbanded, those veteran soldiers instead of leading a loose vagabond life; returned to their homes and the peaceful pursuits of life. And they manifested the determination to maintain the government, which they had been so instrumental in establishing by leading well ordered lives, and by industry, prudence and strict economy make up their own fortunes. They had endured great hardships and privations in the service of their country and had returned to their homes with promises to pay from the United states government, who as a nation was just commencing its career. But with pride we can say: our Revolutionary sires were men of foresight and as true as the magnetic needle to the

pole, in the grand principles that sustain a Republican Government. I think we can readily infer that Mr Seely did not feel the sympathy towards the British Crown that actuated his father. The geographical position of Truro is such that her sons would take to the ocean almost as readily as young ducks would take to water. Truro, is almost at the extreme point of Cape Cod. The east side of the township is lashed by the waves of the wide Atlantic. And the west side of the town is washed by the waters of Cape Cod Bay.

A writer says: "The inhabitants generally derive their subsistence from the fishing and coasting business, and it may be said of the majority of the men who are born on the cape, that in one sense "their home is on the ocean", and when with their families they are only on a visit, and to a great extent are dependent on Boston and other places for a large portion of their meats and bread stuffs". From the early settlement of New England, the fisheries attracted the attention of the hardy settlers. From that day to this they have employed a large number of vessels and have been maned by the hardy fathers and sons have been engaged in the whale, cod, and mackerell fisheries particularly around Cape Cod Bay.

Previous to the War of the Revolution, and after, they could sail in small vessels from the coast of New England to the coast of British North America and on the banks of New Foundland and also have the privelege of drying their cod fish on the land of British America; and also they had the privilege of trying the blubber of the whales caught off the coast of Labrador, and other British possessions.

But the Treaty Ghent of 1815, cut off the privelege of citizens of the United States drying the fish caught, and also prohibited United States fishing vessels from catching fish within fifty miles of the shores of British America. This treaty changed the whole mode of coast fishing by vessels of the United States. But fishing is still pursued and a large capital is invested in the coast fisheries. And it is supposed that Mr Seely was engaged in fishing and also in the coasting trade while he lived in Truro. It appears that in 1790 he left Truro, and settled in the town of Beckett, County of Berkshire Mass. Here he lived when he with thirteen other men bought Town 4 Range 6 in the Connecticut Western Reserve; which is now known as Windham in the county of Portage; and on the 19th of Oct 1815 he arrived with his family in Windham, where he resided untill his death which occurred on the 30th of July 1838, aged 80 years. Mrs Mercy H Seely died in Windham Sept 17th, 1847, aged 88 years.

Mr Seely had a good memory and had great advantages for observation which enabled him to collect a large fund of interesting facts, much valuable information, and the pleasant good humor which he possessed rendered him a very agreeable companion for old or young. He died in the full enjoyment of the Christians hope.

Through the kindness of Mrs. Rhoda H Treat of Tallmadge and E. T. Jagger of Windham, grand children of J and M Seely, A copy of their family record which I will insert.

THE FAMILY RECORD OF JOHN AND MERCY H. SEELY

Ist - John Jr. - born in Truro Mass	Oct. 18th, 1787
IIInd - Mercy - born	" " June 4th, 1789
III - Ephraim Harding - born in Becket Mass	Aug. 5th 1791
IV - Sally, born	" " July 12th, 1793
V - James, born	" " June 8th, 1795
VI - Elizabeth Gould,	" " June 7th, 1797
VII - Hannah	" " Sept. 4th, 1800
VIII - Jesse Nehemiah	" " Feb. 21st, 1803

MARRIAGES

Mercy to Aaron P. Jagger	March 30th, 1806
Ephraim Harding to Alba Birchard	May 2nd, 1816
Elizabeth Gould to Phoneas H. Bush	Nov 18th, 1819
James to Nancy Childs	Dec. 10th, 1817
Hannah to Stillman Scott	Aug 13th, 1818
Sally 1st to Anson Owen	Sept. 24th 1817
2nd to Dr. Philo Wright	June 20th, 1828

DEATHS

John Seely Jr., died near Albany (probably at Greenbush in the U. S. Army of dysentary Dec. 12th, 1812, 25

Jessee Nehemiah, died in Becket Sept. 7th, 1807 aged 4

Ephraim Harding died Aug. 25th, 1823, aged 32

Mercy died April 24th, 1869, aged 80

James died in the spring of 1869, aged 74

Elizabeth Gould died Dec. 1st, 1852, aged 55

Hannah died Feb. 26th 1876, aged 75

Sally died June 26th, 1877 aged 84

By this we find that Mrs. Wright was the last survivor of her fathers family. Mrs. Wrights childhood and youth were spent on the hills of Berkshire Mass, attending the district schools of Mass. She was deeply imbued with those principles which were taught by the Puritans of New England of which she was a de-cendant. The teachings from the pulpit, the fireside instruction and the teaching of the assemblies shorter catechism in the common schools and in the family circle, in the days of her childhood, had its effect on her mind to adopt at an early day, the fundamental doctrines as taught and received as Calvinism. And of course she was one that was well grounded in the faith once delivered to the saints. And after all, she was ready to extend the right hand of fellowship unto all the followers of Him who went about doing good and spake never as man spake. Her life and daily walk and conversation has shown conclusively in whom she put her trust and in whom she believed. She early in life made a profession of religion which has been her comfort and solace in the afflictions she has been called to pass through. When she was 22 years of age, her father being one of the

company that purchased township No. 4 in the 6th Range, now called Windham, of the original proprietors. Her father removed with his family from Mass arriving in Windham Oct. 19th, 1815. This was to be their future home; and the life of a pioneer was truly a reality, for the town in which they settled was almost an unbroken forest. But Mrs. Wright proved herself equal to the task before her, and quietly and submissively met the privations of a newly settled country. The winter of 1816 and 1817, she spent in Tallmadge attending the Academy, which was taught by Elizur Wright Esq. She boarded during the term in the family of Mr. George Kilbourn. At the close of the term she returned to her home in Windham, and in the spring of 1817, through the influence of Rev. John Seward, she was employed to teach a school at the center of Aurora. She formed an acquaintance with Dr. Anson Owen, a young physician from New Lebanon, N. Y. He had established himself in Aurora and was its first physician. She was married in Windham to Dr. Amos Owen Sept. 24th, 1817, by Rev. John Seward of Aurora. She removed to Aurora, and commenced housekeeping like others of her day. And they had two children, Anson born Jan 25th, 1819 and Eliza S born May 1st, 1821. Dr. Owen died in 1824, in Aurora. Her second marriage was with Dr. Philo Wright of Tallmadge. In examining files of the Western Courier, a paper printed in Revenna at that day, I copied the following several years since.

On the 20th of June 1828, married in Aurora by Rev. Wm. Hanford of Hudson, Dr. Philo Wright of Tallmadge to Mrs. Sally Owen of Aurora.

This union formed in mutual trust
Cemented by their love
May it remain untill they must
From hence be called above.

She soon removed to Tallmadge with her children by her first husband; and very soon became identified with its interests. She united with the Cong. Church in Tallmadge by letter July 5th, 1829; and was active in the church in all its benevolent operations, in her day; and in fact never ceased to do good, and be in sympathy with the poor and opprest as long as she lived. And she also lived to a ripe old age, in the full enjoyment of life, and apparently of her mental faculties and enjoying the society of her children, and other relatives, and a very large circle of friends. She lived to see a large portion of those who set out lifes journey with her, go the way of all the earth. Thus leaving her one of the few relics of a generation that has passed away. And she also lived to bury two husbands, and three of her six children. All these afflictions in an eminent degree, had their influence in ripening her for her Heavenly Home. Her home for sometime previous to her death was with daughter, Mrs. Rhoda H. Treat, where all was done by Mr and Mrs Treat and their children to smooth the path down lifes declivity for this aged Pilgrim. She was at meeting the Sabbath before her death in her usual health, and in her accustomed seat in the Bible Class, and took her part as usual. On Teusday morning early she was

taken sick and in one hour and a half she breathed her last, but we can say that if death did come sudden it found her ready. And at last she came down to her grave like a shock of corn fully ripe. She died suddenly June 26th, 1877, aged 84 years.

Her children by her first husband came and resided with her in Tallmadge obtaining their education. Anson Owen in Ottawa Canada. He married Margaret M. Rumsey in Batavia, N. Y. Aug. 1842. And she died in Aug 1843. He married his second wife in Canada in 1856. He has eight children, one is not living. Eliza S. Owen married Charles H. Cary of Buffalo, N. Y. Sept. 24th, 1840, six children were born to them; all of which four are living. Mr. Cary is connected with the marine of the upper lakes, and is known as Capt. Cary, and he resides in Detroit; where Mrs. Cary died July 30th, 1874, aged 52 years. The elderly residents of Tallmadge will remember this son and daughter of Mrs. Wright by her first husband, as sprightly active children well educated and regular attendants of meetings and the Sabbath School, and became useful members of society.

Her first born by Dr. Wright was Philo Elizur, born March 27th, 1828 and bore the name of his father and grandfather Wright. He remained in his fathers family and obtained a common school and Academic education. In the spring of 1850 he with many others in Tallmadge went the overland journey to Calafornia, and in 1852 he returned home by the Istmus of Panama, and arrived safe at his fathers house. In 1855 he went to Detroit and engaged in marine pursuits with his brother-in-law capt Cary. He was very successful in the business he had chosen. This desire to pursue a maritime life, perhaps was hereditary, for his grand father Seely followed a sea faring life many years. He was married to Miss Fanny Pettibone of Tallmadge Jan 1st 1862. They have four children. In July 1876, he was attacked with hemmorage of the lungs, this was followed by great prostration untill his death in his home in Alfred Street Detroit, Nov. 8th, 1876.

OBITUARY

Wright - Capt. Philo E. Wright, son of Dr. Philo Wright was born in Tallmadge, March 27th, 1828. His boyhood was spent there, and at an early age he exhibited many of those traits which characterized his whole after life. In 1850 in company with others from Tallmadge, he crossed the plains to Calafornia, where he remained two years. In 1855 he went to Detroit and engaged in maratime pursuits with his brother in law, Capt. Cary. He was unusually successful in business and also leaves the better legacy of an unsullied reputation.

He was married January 1st, 1862 to Fannie, daughter of Sherman Pettibone of Tallmadge. In their affliction his wife and four interesting children will have the heartfelt sympathy of all who knew them. Hemmorage of the lungs in July was followed by great physical prostration untill his death at his home on Alfred Street,

Detroit Nov. 8th, 1877. In token sorrow, and in honor of his memory, the flags of the shipping were placed at half mast, and the papers of the city contain many commendatory notices, from some of which I quote: "Capt. Wright was one of the finest men connected with our lake marine - and not only in marine circles, but throughout city, he was known as a man of unsullied honor, and purity of character. Non knew him but to admire and honor him for his many virtues." In business circles he was known as a man possessed of the very soul of honor. In society his acquaintance and presence was always sought by reason of his many enviable social qualities, and his purity of manner and life. "We sincerely deplore the loss of one whose whole bearing through life has been honorable and upright, whose courteous demeanor and hearty sympathy with his associates, endeared him to all of us".

These are not idle words to those who knew him, and the memory of Capt. Philo Wright will live long in the hearts of a wide circle of loving friends.

Mrs. Wrights second child was born Nov 19th 1829 and died Feb. 7th 1830, being nearly three months old. Its name was Joseph Henry. Their third child was a daughter, born Jan 28th 1831. At the time it was remarked that when the first visit Esq. Wright made to see his little grand child, and he requested the privilege of naming the child, they readily acceded to his wishes and he in a solemn and feeling manner pronounced the name Rhoda Hanmer, this was the name of Esq. Wrights first wife and the mother of his five oldest children. And the name stands on the Baptismal Record of the Cong. Church. She married Dennis Treat Dec. 24th, 1857, and resides in Tallmadge.

The 4th child of Dr and Mrs Wright was named Amelia Hanford, she was born Jan 28th, 1833. She was married to Benj. F. Masten Feb. 11th, 1857 now resides in Brazil Indiana (1878)

OBITUARY

Wright - In Tallmadge June 26th, 1877, after a brief illness, Mrs. Sally Wright aged 84 years.

Mrs. Sally Wright, daughter of John Seely, Jr. was born in Becket, Mass, July 12th, 1793. In 1815 she removed with her parents to Windham, Ohio her father being one of the owners of that Township. In the winter of 1816 she attended the Academy in Tallmadge, and taught school the next summer in Aurora. In 1817 she was married to Dr. Anson Owen, and removed to Aurora, where she resided untill the death of her husband, which occurred in 1824. In June 1828, she was married to Dr. Philo Wright of Tallmadge and that place was ever afterward her home. Dr. Wright died in Jan 1870. Mrs. Wright had six children - Anson Owen now of Ottawa Canada, Eliza S., wife of Capt Cary (deceased in 1871)

Capt. Philo E. Wright (died in Detroit in 1876) Mrs. Rhoda H. Treat of Tallmadge, Mrs. Amelia H. Masten of Brazil, Indiana and a son who died in infancy. On account of the early death of Dr. Owen and the life long illness of Dr. Wright, heavy responsibilities devolved upon the wife and mother and that she met and bore them cheerfully and well, all who knew her will testify. She possessed energy, courage and fortitude, in an eminent degree, and these qualities were often put to the test during her long life. She made a profession of her faith in Christ in childhood, and her consistent Christian life abundantly testified that her faith was well founded. She died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Dennis Treat on Teusday, June 26th, after an illness of only one and a half hours. Although death came to her suddenly, it came not unexpectedly. She had long waited for the summons, and often spoke of her departure from this world. She has seemed to be ripening for the heavenly home. When her son died, the great grief which overwhelmed others she met with calmness and with implicit faith said: "It does not make as much difference with me as it does with the rest of you, for I shall soon be with Philo". Mrs. Wright was a dutiful wife, a kind, affectionate mother, a good neighbor and friend, a lover of Christ and always interested in the advancement of His kingdom. She has rounded up the measure of a well spent life.

"Lifes labor done, as sinks the clay,
Light from its load the spirit flies,
While heaven and earth combine to say,
How blest the righteous when he dies"

Read before the T.H.S. by C.C. Bronson Jan 22nd, 1879

MRS. MURCIA (MOSES) HINMAN

Mrs. Hinman was the daughter of Morris and Mrs. Lydia (Hale) Moses, and was born in East Granville, Hampden County, Mass. Nov. 16th, 1803. She was baptized in her infancy by Rev. Timothy Mather Cooley, D.D. About 1810 her father removed his family from East Granville, Mass to the township of Canton, Hartford County, Conn. In these two places, Mrs. Hinman spent her life previous to her marriage. Her means of education were the common district schools of Mass and Conn.

She with others of her day and generation were early initiated into the labor of spinning, and the manufacture of cloth for various household purposes, which was considered very essential and also the mysteries of housekeeping of that day. The change in half a century has been great in many respects, the young people were early instructed of the necessity of strict habits of industry, of close economy in all things, and these things were indispensable at all times to insure success.

She was married to Mr. Warren W. Hinman who was a native of Canton on the 29th of Nov 1826. They were young and ambitious, and thinking there was a more fertile soil than the rocky hills of Conn; they made up their minds to leave and try another locality. They moved to Windham in Portage County O in 1830. Here they settled on a farm and by their active industry and strict economy,

they secured a competence. In 1855 the farm in Windham was disposed of and they moved to Revenna, where they lived until 1864 when on the first of April they removed to Tallmadge.

They were the subjects of a revival of religion in the Cong. Church in Windham, and they united with that church in 1831. She transferred her church relations to Revenna, and then to Tallmadge, July 3rd, 1864. She was a woman that adorned her Christian profession, was active and ready to help those in needy circumstances, and in sickness was kind and sympathetic to all. Mrs. Hinman was always in her seat in the sanctuary, when her health would admit and was an attentive listener to the preaching of the Gospel. And she was very warmly attached to the ministers that labored in Tallmadge. And she also looked upon the Sabbath School as one of the great privileges of the present day. She advocated example as well as precept, by her attendance on the sessions of the sabbath school. When she first removed to Tallmadge, Mrs. Hinman connected herself with what some denominate a spectacle class. This was a class of ladies her age, which had organized a class, previous to her coming to Tallmadge; this class occupied the seats west of the pulpit. On the Sabbath before her death she was in her seat, an attentive listener to the sermon delivered by Rev. Mr. Marsh, and also her accustomed seat in the bible class, taking part in the exercises with other members of the class. On her return home from the meeting, she was taken unwell and had a chill, and never went out of the house again. On Thursday morning, she went to join that innumerable throng who have passed over the river before her. She died on the 2nd day of March 1877, aged 74 years.

Read before the T.H.S. Jan 15th, 1884 C. C. Bronson

TRUMAN L. PIERCE

He was the 4th child and 3rd son of Cyrus and Jane M. Pierce, and was born in Tallmadge, Nov. 7th, 1837. Before he was four years of age his father died. His mother kept the family together, giving them a good education, and they were trained to be useful and act their part in active life, and they have thus far fulfilled their mission, as well as most families. He served an apprenticeship at cabinet making, with Mr. D. G. Sanford of Akron. Some two or three months before he was 21, he bought his time of Mr. Sanford and made a trip to the west visiting various points in Indiana, Mich, Wisconsin, and Illinois. He returned to Ohio and probably thinking that some other trade would be more congenial to his feelings and taste, he entered the office of a dentist in Ligonier Indiana, to learn the trade. He opened his first office in Fremont, O where he practiced dentistry for a time, and then he removed and opened an office in Millersburg, the county seat of Holmes County, and from there to Akron. When he became satisfied that dentistry was the business for him and from the day he began to learn it to the day he was compelled by failing health to relinquish all

business, he pursued it with that untiring energy and perseverance that he was crowned with abundant success, and stood high in the profession. Mr. Pierce was very retiring in his habits, and one that kept his own counsel, he was intelligent but quiet and unobtrusive, even among his most intimate friends. When in Akron serving his apprenticeship his attention was called to the great subject during a revival in the Cong. Church in Tallmadge then under the pastorate of Rev. Carlos Smith. He was surrounded by those who would scoff and sneer at religion, and religious people; among such companions, he finally met with that saving change and was clear and decided in his course, and not withstanding the mockings of his companions he took a decided stand for Christ. He united with the Cong. Church in his native town Jan 3rd, 1858, and was dismissed April 18th, 1861, to the Presbyterian Church in Fremont O. And Rev Dr. Bushnell in a letter of condolence to his mother and sister after his death; speaks of him as an active Christian, and his deportment was such that his influence was very salutary on all his associates in Fremont.

when he removed his business from Fremont to Millersburg, the county seat of Holmes County, Ohio he transferred his church relations to the Pres Church in Millersburg. Here he pursued the same course of activity was appointed one of the ruling elders of the Church, and also officiated as treasurer for several years. His course of life was such that he won the entire confidence of all. From the time of his conversion until his declining health forbade, was an active and efficient member of the church, gave liberally for the support of the Gospel. And was always present at public worship on the Sabbath, and the weekly prayer meetings, in which he took an active part. From Millersburg he came to Akron and opened an office, but disease had fastened upon him, and although he struggled hard against it, and his sufferings great, he at last was compelled to give up business. He came home to his mother and sister, and the scenes of childhood, hoping the change would be beneficial upon his health and spirits. But alas, the insidious disease baffled all human skill. The kind attentions of a mother and sisters, physician and sympathizing friends all had their effect to alleviate his sufferings which at times were intense. But patiently and quietly submissive to the will of God, in whom he had so long put his trust, he at last passed away from all things earthly; on the 24th day of Aug 1877, aged 40 years.

OBITUARY

Pierce - Dr. Truman L. Pierce, son of Cyrus Pierce was born in Tallmadge November 7, 1837, resided in this place through boyhood, then left home and acquired the dental profession, which he followed principally in Fremont and Millersburg, Ohio till three years since when he took an office in Akron in order to make his home with his sister Mrs. F. P. Wolcott, in Tallmadge.

To this home of his adoption he has contributed a large share of its life and joy. Always self sacrificing, always studying to promote the convenience, happiness and comfort of those about him, possessed of rare sympathy and kindness of heart, his death leaves a blank and sorrow that no other life can fill. He possessed unusual skill and mechanical genius and these were made to pay tribute to the enjoyment of his friends. Extensive and varied information on scientific subjects made his society a constant improvement, while on all interesting questions of the day he was well informed and ready and willing to communicate. Dr. Pierce became a Christian in boyhood uniting with the Congregational church under Dr. Carlos Smith. Since then he has always been an active and efficient church worker wherever he has resided. His pastor in Fremont writes of him thus: "Dr. Pierce was a member of my church from Nov. 1863 to Jan 1867, and I was very sorry to have him remove. We found him a constant Christian, and his prayers and remarks in prayer meetings where he frequently took part, were very instructive to us. He was usually quite reticent and yet he used to speak freely to me. I esteemed him a very intelligent, sincere, firm and steady Christian. Of course he died in peace. I have never known such a man to die who was not ready." During the last three years a gradual and painful decline causing for six months past excruciating suffering has forbidden close attention to business, prevented public worship. During all the time great patience and fortitude have marked his suffering and though anxious to live, he did not fear to die, and repeatedly expressed his readiness and confidence in that faith that had prepared him for the issues of the future life. An afflicted mother, sisters and brother with little ones who had learned to love him as a father, unite in sorrow over his early death.

ALLEN IVES CLARK

It becomes a duty in accordance with our custom to make mention of another former resident of Tallmadge. Allen I. Clark was the eldest child of Ephraim Jr., and Alla Amelia (Sperry) Clark, who were pioneers of the Reserve, and is thought that Mr. Clark was the third settler in Tallmadge, coming in Feb 1808. Allen was born in Tallmadge June 9th, 1809. And he was the 6th baptism in the Cong. Church in Tallmadge, Nov 26th 1809. He was the eldest of a family of seven children, four sons and three daughters, two sons and a daughter are dead. Two brothers are living in Revenna, and two sisters are living in Burlington Iowa. He lived in Tallmadge, attending school and working on the farm. Four months after he was 21 years of age, he was married to Miss Caroline daughter of Capt Asher Gurley of Rootstown, Dec 14th 1831 by L. V. Bierce, Esq. J.P. of Revenna. They had four children three still living. He moved from Tallmadge to a farm in the north east part of Revenna. After remaining here a number of years he removed to Rootstown, where he purchased a farm on which he lived until after the death of his wife, (Oct 7th 1863) when he sold his farm and for a number of years he has made it his daughter at Earlville. Some three years ago, he was married to Mrs. Fish, who survives him. It can be said of Mr Clark that

he was a kind husband, an affectionate father and an honest worthy citizen. He died at Earlville of diabetes, Dec 13th 1877 aged 69 and was carried to Rootstown, where was buiried by the side of his wife.

The early born of Tallmadge are passing away and I am much indebted to an obituary in the Democratic Press of Revenna for the above notice dated Dec 20th 1877. Copied by C. C. Bronson

ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE THE KENT PIONEER ASSOCIATION
SEPT 4th 1877, BY C. C. BRONSON OF TALLMADGE

On the 4th of July 1796, the surveyors of the Connecticut Land Company, at the mouth of the Coneaught Creek, celebrated the 20th birth day of our nation and 80 years have passed away, and what a contrast. At this time there does not appear to have been a single white settler on what is now known as the Conn Western Reserve; unless we except the attempt of Gen Samuel Holden. Parsons, of Conn to make salt at the springs in the present township of Wethersfield, in Trumbull County, which at this time were abandoned. The Rivers, and Creeks were pursuing their courses without hinderance or obstruction by the art of man. These grand old woods sung their own requiem, assisted by the falls and various rapids, of the numerous streams. The noble elk, the nimble deer, the howling wolfe and the growling bear, with the screams of the panther, would awaken echo and reechos through the vast solitudes of these primeval forests But there is another subject that attracts our attention. If I have been correctly informed, we this day are assembled on or near the great Indian Trail; this ancient highway of the savage nations came from the North, West, around the south end of Lake Michigan; then across the country partly in Michigan and partly in Indiana to the Maumee Rapids, thence to the Sandusky River, at what is now Fremont. And from there to the Cuyahoga Portage in the present township of Northampton. This point is one of historic interest, and is historic ground; for here commenced the great carrying place, known as the Portage Path; which Gen L. V. Bierce calls "Classic Ground". By the treaty of Fort McIntosh, Jan 21st 1785, this treaty line began at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River, and up to the portage then the Portage Path between that and the Tuscarawas branch of the Muskingum River, thence down that branch to the crossing place above Fort Laurens (Bolivar) then a westerly course to the mouth of Lora-mies Creek where it enters the Big Miami (now Shelby County, O.) then down the Big Miami to the Ohio River. This Treaty was not satisfactory to the Indian nations. But the Campaign of Gen Wayne and the Battle of Fallen Timber Aug 20th, 1794, followed by the Treaty of Greenville, conducted by Gen Wayne Aug 3rd 1795. This Treaty confirmed the former one at Fort McIntosh. So we find that we are assembled this day within seven miles of the Treaty Line of demarkation between the civilized and Indian Territorys, And the Indian Title to the Western Reserve west of the Cuyahoga and Portage Path, was not extinguished until June 1805. It is a disputed point where this Treaty was held, the appointed place for the meeting was Cleveland. Col.

Whittlesey says; "For some cause the Indians living to the west, and interested in the subject matter of the treaty, refused to meet the commissioners in Council at Cleveland. And if we except the deputation from New York, few or no Indians appeared at that place. After staying a few days at Cleveland, and being well assured that the Indians would not meet them in treaty there, the commissioners proceeded westward; and after some delay, and show of reluctance on the part of the Indians, they finally succeeded in meeting them in council. The Treaty was held at Ogontz place near Sandusky City" (Other authorities have it on the Maumee, where Toledo now stands) This Treaty extinguished the Indian title to the land of the Western Reserve, west of the Cuyahoga and the Portage Path. The Treaty of Fort Mc Intosh was considered so binding that the Conn Land Company gave positive instructions to their surveying parties, not to cut a bush or mark a tree west of the treaty line; and these instructions were strictly adhered to. We will return to the Cuyahoga Portage, here the Indians would take their canoes and carry them across the portage to the Tuscarawas, then embarking again go down to the muskingum, and to the Ohio River.

This celebrated portage path gave name to the old county of Portage, and also to the township of Portage in the county of Summit. The Portage Path is at this day a well defined highway across the township of Portage, it crosses the Medina Road nearly on the top of the hill west of Akron. It crosses the road to Copley, near the stone house occupied by Mr. Simon Perkins. It then continued a southerly into the township of Coventry the western side of Summit Lake, on or near the road leading from Akron to Manchester to where the road crosses the Tuscarawas, near this point was the Indian portage, what is known at this day as New Portage, was the head of navigation for flat boats. And Old Portage was the same on the Cuyahoga. The surveying party did push their boats up into the vicinity of where the road crosses leading North from Akron to Northampton. This by the surveyors was called Upper Head Quarters. This was about a mile above where the stream comes in from the south (the Little Cuyahoga) At the Cuyahoga Portage, the Indian Trails divided; a trail went up the west side of the river, crossing the Little Cuyahoga a little above its mouth. Thence south easterly upon to the plains (or as they were called sixty years ago the Oak Openings) crossing in the vicinity of Judge S. H. Pitkins, residence (1877) continuing a south easterly course, crossing the rail road and Penn and Ohio Canal Bed, near the site of the Cambria Furnace in Tallmadge, then across Garry T. Prestons farm, crossing the south road near the residence of M. Hagenbaugh, crossing the east and west road near the house of John McNeal (1877) then crossing the little Cuyahoga in Springfield, near King J. Ellets, thence to the Ohio River at Steubenville, or as some think at Wellsville. There was another Trail that went up the south side of the river, through Cuyahoga Falls, across Seymour Demmings farm, the Sperry and Bronson farms, across the north west corner of H. A. Sacketts farm into Stow township, crossing the township line into Franklin, between Snyders and the

brick house of Mr. Sanford. Thence near the river through the village of Kent, to the main trail near the Standing Stone. This trail was used only when the water was high and considered dangerous to ford the River at the Portage or at the Standing Stone. It was a very well defined trail and easily traced before the land was cleared, and on my own farm when snow was on the ground, it was easily traced, when the snow settled. The main trail, or this highway of the savage nations, from the north west to the French Fort Du Quesne, then Fort Pitt, and now the city of Pittsburg. Crossed the Cuyahoga River at the Portage, and it is said to have passed up the same ravine which the travelled road occupies at this day, across a portion of Northampton, to the Big Spring in Cuyahoga Falls. Thence on an easterly course through the township of Stow, on or near the present travelled road from Cuyahoga Falls to the Village of Kent. At the outlet of Stow Pond, (or Silver Lake) here the Indians used to encamp and have their drunken frolics at the south end of this beautiful sheet of water, even after the settlement of the townships around. After crossing Fish Creek, into the township of Franklin, it passed around the south end of the swamp east of the residence of Mr. John Perkins (1877) and then a north east course to the Standing Stone, or the Indian fording place. From there the trail followed up the valley of the Breakneck Creek, crossing the summit south of Revenna Village to Campbellsport, thence near the north line of Edinburg, Palmyra, to the crossing of the Mahoning, at what has since been known as Prices Mills. This was another noted place for the Indians to encamp. From here to the Salt Spring in what is now Wethersfield. Here was another noted Indian Camping place. And here was where McMahan and Story killed Capt George and Spotted John in Aug 1800. This sad affair awakened an alarm among the few settlements of the Reserve. Col Hillman of Youngstown, and one Randall, went on the exceeding hazardous service of trying to quiet the Indians in this unhappy affair. They followed the trail to the crossing of the Mahoning, found the Indian Camp and succeeded in keeping them quiet until they should have a trial. From the Salt Spring the trail run to the forks of Beaver, then down the Big Beaver to its mouth and thence to Fort Pitt. Following the trail westerly from the Standing Stone, from the crossing at Fish Creek, there was a trail that run in a north west direction across the township of Stow, and Northampton, crossing the Cuyahoga River at a place known as Pontys Camp in the present town of Boston. This trail was also taken at Palmyra, or Edinburg by Mohawk, Nicksaw and Big Son and their party when they fled from Deerfield at the time that Daniel Diver was shot Jan 1806. The Indians followed the trail crossing at the Standing Stone. Mr. Henry Wetmore of Cuyahoga Falls says: Mohawk and his party followed the trail nearly to the point now known as Stow Corners, when they came to his fathers log house. His father then lived on the north west corner of Lot 37, being the south east corner center lot. They had some provisions from his father and camped in the woods near them in the morning they were gone. They were followed and overtaken west of the Cuyahoga River, where Jonathan Williams, shot Nicksaw, when Mohawk, the one who shot Diver made his escape and Big Son was taken prisoner. All this took place

in the present township of Richfield. But there is another point of interesting history, it is on or near this ground, on which we are assembled, that Capt. Samuel Brady ran over when fleeing from the Indians, when he made his celebrated leap, within one hundred rods of where we are assembled this day. Let us then consider that Brady's Leap, the Standing Stone, the Indian Trail and Bradys Lake, and all these points of interest are in the town of Franklin, and are they not objects of historic interest, and worthy the attention of this Association. Capt. John Brady appears to have been a settler in the west branch valley, of the Susquehanna, at an early day. He was foreman of the first Grand Jury, impaneled in Northumberland County in Pennsylvania, in Aug 1775. A treaty was held with the Seneca, and Muncy tribes of Indians, they being too poor to anything of value, but they left apparently satisfied, went up the river in their canoes. Brady thought of Derrs Trading House up the river and rode with all speed up there, he saw the squaws hiding rifles, tomahawks and knives. He jumped into a canoe and crossed to Derrs Trading House, found the Indians drunk. He saw a barrel of rum standing on end before Derrs, door the head out. Brady turned the rum onto the ground. "My God, Frederick, what have you done?" Derr replied: "Dey tells me you gif un no dreet town on de fort, so dinks as I gif um one here, al he go home in bease!" One Indian who saw the rum spilled, but could not prevent it told Brady he would one day rue the spilling of that barrel of rum. Being well acquainted with the Indian character, he knew death was the penalty of his offence and was constantly on his guard. In the year 1776 he was Captain of the 12th Regt. and was badly wounded at the battle of Brandywine. Capt. John Brady was killed and scalped by the Indians April 11th, 1779, his son James was killed in Aug 1778 aged 16 in the valley of the West Branch. Samuel Brady joined the Continental Army. In 1776 he was appointed first Lieutenant in Capt. Doyles Company from Lancaster County, Pa. He was with the army in all the principal engagements untill after the Battle of Monmouth June 28th 1778, when he was promoted to Capt and ordered to the West under Gen Broadhead. Capt Samuel Brady was at Pittsburg when the sad intelligence reached him of the death of his father. He also mourned the death of his brother James, but this news served to fill his cup of sorrow, and in the first phrensy of grief, he is said to have raised his hand on high and swore "Aided by him who formed yonder sun and heaven, I will revenge the murder of my father; nor while I live will I ever be at peace with the Indians of any tribe". This fearful vow was uttered in the first moments of anguished feeling, but it was never effaced from his memory. He became a devoted man killer, reckless of all sympathy, and destitute of all humanity towards the Indian race. The vow was fearfully fulfilled and many a drunk warrior bit the dust. His daring adventures on the Alleghany would fill a volume. They may be found at length in the numbers by Kiskeminetas, in the ninth and tenth volumes of Hazards Register. Gen Hugh Brady who died at Detroit in 1851 says, "I was born on the 29th day of July, 1768 at the Standing Stone in Huntingdon County, Pa and

was the fifth son of John and Mary Brady. They had six sons and four daughters. In 1783 our mother was taken from us. I went to the western country with my brother Capt. Samuel Brady. He had been recently discharged the troops being disbanded, and he had married a Miss Swearingen, in Washington County, Pa. He took me to his house at that place, and I made it my home untill 1792, when I was appointed an ensign in Gen Waynes Army. Previous to this my brother had moved into Ohio Co Virginia, and settled a short distance above Charlestown. At that day the Indians were continually committing their depredations along the frontier. I joined several parties in pursuit of Indians, but only met them once in action. Gen Brady thus speaks of his brother Capt samuel Brady, the great warrior and Indian killer. "Never was a man more devoted to his country, and few - very few - have rendered more important services, if we consider the nature of the service, and the part performed by him personally.

He was 5 feet 11 inches high with a perfect form. He was rather light - his weight exceeding at no time one hundred and sixty eight pounds". Capt. Sam Brady was a remarkable man, and in many a bloody skirmish. He was in the Surprise at Paoli, and made a narrow escape. As he jumped a fence, the skirt of his great coat was pinioned to the rail by a bayonet in the hands of a British soldier who made a thrust at him. He was appointed to a captaincy, and given the command of a company called the Rangers. He was under Gen Wayne and rendered sufficient service in protecting the frontier. He continued to command them to the time of his death, which occurred on Christmas Day 1795, in the 39th year of age.

By this it appears that Capt Samuel Brady was born in 1756. He left a widow and two sons, William P. Brady and John Brady. The Hon John Faris, who resides near West Liberty West Va, where repose the remains of Capt. Samuel Brady whose famous "leap" across the Cuyahoga is a familiar tradition. Mr. Faris had a long and familiar and an intimate acquaintance with John Brady, the youngest son of the Capt and has often heard him speak of the many adventures of his father, including that of "jumping the Cuyahoga". Mr. Faris says: "The Brady family have become extinct in West Virginia. Capy Brady, and his son John lie side by side in the West Liberty Cemetary; and Wm P Brady the only son of John, grandson of Capt Samuel has emigrated to St. Joseph Missouri, and is connected with the Rail Road there. The above account of Capt Brady was taken from a History of the West Branch Valley of the Susquehanna. And also from other sources, not necessary to mention.

This Association is designed to cover the following towns, Viz: Streetsborough, Franklin and Brimfield, in the old county of Portage; and Hudson, Stow and Tallmadge in the County of Summit. There are interesting points of history connected with all these townships; Hudson, being the first settled of them all. The Committee on Partition Seth Pease, Amos Spafford, Moses Warren and Daniel Holbrook, having reported from Canadagua, the Directors called the stock holders together at Hartford to receive their lands. The drawing took place Jan 29th, 1798, con-

sisting of 93 parcels embracing a township or more. Hudson, was the 59th draft, and was drawn by Samuel Fowler, Daniel Goodwin, Timothy Allen, Ephraim Starr, Joseph Lyman, Julian Hubbard, Enoch W. Thayer, David Hudson, Elihu Lewis, Birdseye Norton, Stephen W. Jones, Roger Newbury, Justin Ely, Elijah White, Jonathan Brace and Enoch Perkins, to which is annexed Lot No. 3 in Town 8 Range 7 (now known as Chester) which lot contained 6007 acres. Birdseye Norton, David Hudson, Theodore Parmelee and Benjamin Oviatt, bought out the other original proprietors of what is known as Hudson, and the land annexed in Chester. Stow township was the 40th draft, and was drawn by Judson Canfield, David Waterman, James Johnson, Nathaniel Church, Frederick Wolcott, Elijah Wadsworth, and Samuel Canfield. To which is annexed Lot No. 3 in town 9 Range 9 of 5,850 acres (now Kirtland). Tallmadge was the 24th draft and it was drawn by Jonathan Brace, Roger Newberry, Justin Ely, Elijah White, Enoch Perkins, Azariah Rockwell, Roswell Root, Abner Root, Oliver P. Dickinson, and Stephen W. Jones. To which is annexed Lot No. 13 in Town 1 Range 11, 1918 acres (now Coventry) Streetsborough was the 93rd or last draft, and this was drawn by Titus Street of New Haven Conn. To which was annexed Lot 3 in Town 8 Range 8 acres, (now Munson, Geauga Co.,) Franklin was the 57 draft; and was drawn by Samuel Flagg, Aaron Olmstead, and Stanley Griswold, to which was annexed 6,624 acres Lot in Town 10 Range 9 (now Mentor). Brimfield was the 90th draft; and was drawn by Ephraim Root, Israel Thorndike, John Wyles and William Prescott, to which was annexed Lot in Town 7 Range 8 (now Newbury) 7038 acres.

As the avails of these lands were appropriated for the benefit of Common Schools, in Connecticut; and is known as the Connecticut School Fund. And as only the annual interest was wanted, the land was sold on a credit, the security being a mortgage on the land to the State of Conn. Speculation ran very high, and it does not appear that any part of the consideration was paid. (Thomas D. Webb) Much change among the original proprietors took place, Joshua Stow of Middletown Conn bought Town 3 Range 10 of the other proprietors and named it Stow. Stephen W. Jones sold his interest in Town 2 Range 10 (Tallmadge) to Ephraim Starr of Goshen Conn. Rockwell the Roots and Oliver P. Dickinson sold their interest in Town 2 Range 10 to Benjamin Tallmadge of Litchfield Conn.

Titus Street of New Haven appears to have retained his interest in Town 4 Range 9 (now Streetsborough) He did not offer his land for sale until about 1819 or 1820, and it being surrounded by settled townships it settled fast when the land was surveyed and put in market. Aaron Olmstead appears to have by purchase become the owner of a large portion of the township of Franklin, by purchasing the interest of Flagg, and Griswold, and a settlement began at an early day. Aaron Olmstead was a native of East Hartford Conn, and owned 30,000 acres of land on the Western Reserve. When he died in 18__, by his last Will and Testament, he gave to his three sons, Horace Bieglow, Aaron Franklin, and Charles Hyde Olmstead, and "to the heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten forever". This entailment made the land wholly

unsalable and in pursuance of their petition, we find an Act was passed Jan 7th, 1813, for their relief. By this Act, Mary L. Olmstead, Levi Goodwin and Caleb Goodwin were appointed trustees with to sell and invest for the benefit of the devisees. Olmstead and Benj. Tappan then living in Revenna, contended for the location of the County Seat of Portage County in 1808. If I have been correctly informed, the above causes had its effect to greatly retard the settlement of the township of Franklin, from the time of his death untill the passage of the Act of Relief. Town 2 Range 9, Root and Prescott, disposed of their interest to Thorndike, having that on the north side of the line. The first settlement of the township was on the Wyles Tract and it was first called Wylestown, then it took the name of Thorndike and then its name was changed to Brimfield, which it still retains.

There are many things of historical interest in every town, and this Association covers a field rich in historical interest, and the pioneers are fast passing away, as your reports abundantly show. Now let me give you the limits of the first township covering the territory on which we are assembled this day. The county of Trumbull was organized July 10th, 1800. The first Court of Quarter Sessions Aug Term 1800. The Court appointed Amos Spafford, David Hudson, Simon Perkins, John Minor, Aaron Wheeler, Edward Payne and Benjamin Davidson, a committee to divide Trumbull County into towns; Viz: Youngstown, Warren, Hudson, Vernon, Middlefield, Richfield, Paynesville and Cleveland. All that tract of county included within a line beginning at the south east corner of Township No. 1 Range 7 (Atwater) thence running north to the north east corner of township No. 5 Range 7 (Hiram) then running west to the Cuyahoga River on the north line of Northfield; thence south up said river to the Portage, thence south on the Portage Path to the Tuscarawas branch of the Muskingum River, thence down the Muskingum Creek to the south line of the county (or the 41st parrallel of North Lattitude) thence east on the south line of the county to the place of beginning and be called and known by the name of Hudson. And David Hudson was appointed by the same Court of Quarter Sessions, a Justice of the Peace for the then township of Hudson. Within the limits of this town of Hudson, there were inhabitants in the present towns of Hudson, Aurora, Mantua, and Revenna. Feb term 1801; Court of Quarter Sessions. The court appointed the following persons to execute the several offices annexed to their names in the town of Hudson, the ensuing year. Joel Gaylord, Abraham Honey, Poor Masters, Samuel b ishop and Rufus Edwards, Supervisors of Highways. David Hudson Esq. Amzi Atwater and Ebenezer Sheldon, Freeholders to settle accounts with Supervisors; Joseph Darrow, Elias Harmon and Allen Gaylord, Appraisers of Houses and Taxable Property. The residence of Messrs. Hudson, Bishop, Gaylord, Darrow and Allen Gaylord was Hudson. Harmon, Honey, Atwater, Edwards, and McIntosh lived in Mantua. Ebenezer Sheldon lived in Aurora, moving his family from Suffield Conn in 1800 and lived there untill 1803 before another settler came into Aurora. Hence Mrs Sheldon, who laid no claim to personal beauty said: She was the handsomest woman the best housekeeper and the best cook in Aurora. The first

marriage in the County of Summit was George Darrow, and Olive Gaylord Oct 11th 1801. The 2nd was Stephen Perkins and Ruth Bishop Nov 5th, 1801, both married by David Hudson Esq, all of Hudson. The first marriage in Portage County was John Campbell and Sally Ely, Nov 7th, 1800.

TALLMADGE DEAF AND DUMB SCHOOL

The condition of several unfortunate children in this township who are deaf and dumb and who are providentially so circumstanced as to render it very difficult, if not impossible for them to gain access to those means of instruction now in operation, which are suitable to their condition - having long excited the sympathies of many of the inhabitants - and it having been ascertained that Mr. C. Smith, late of the Asylum at Hartford, Connecticut, and who had for some time been employed as an assistant in that institution, was in this region and would be willing to undertake the instruction of a class.

A meeting was called on the 19 ins, to consult on the subject. The meeting was informed that there were others on the Reserve in similar circumstances with those above mentioned. That probably a respectable number be obtained to form a class. Whereupon it was unanimously resolved that we improve the present opening of providence and make an attempt to establish a school or assylum for the Deaf and Dumb, and Rev. John Keys, Elizur Wright Esq. Dr. Philo Wright, and Messrs. Garry Treat, and Alfred Fenn Esq. be a committee to carry the above resolution into effect.

This committee would now give public notice that they have engaged Mr. Smith and made arrangements to open the School at the house of Mr. Alpha Wright on the first day of May next and that they have fixed the price of tuition at six dollars per quarter. That board in good families may be had on reasonable terms. And, they pledge themselves to watch over the morals, studies and interests of all those pupils who may be committed to their care, and to seek their comfort, welfare and happiness by every means in their power. The school will be opened for six months, but if public sentiment and benevolence shall justify it, it is intended to become a permanent institution. The committee deem it but justice to themselves and to the inhabitants of the township, to state that this thing was under consideration, and Mr. Smith was written to long before any knowledge was had of the late benevolent measures adopted by the legislature. They rejoice that the subject has occupied their attention and should circumstances justify it they propose also to make application to that body for aid. In the meantime, the patronage of the friends of humanity are solicited, in aid of this benevolent object.

By the order of the Committee
John Keys, Chairman of Committee
Tallmadge March 24th, 1827

Printers in the neighboring counties are respectfully requested

to give the above one or two insertions in their respective papers and thus the cause of benevolence and humanity.

John Keys

Having written the above thus far, I discovered I had previously transcribed into V01 of these collections.

LUCIUS LEANDER STRONG

Read before the THS Jan 15th 1884 C. C. Bronson

This man was the 4th child of Edmond and Anna (Gillett) Strong and was born in Tallmadge, Dec. 14th, 1814.

His childhood was spent in Tallmadge attending the district school, and perhaps one or two terms of the Tallmadge Academy. Having made up his mind to work at the Carpenters and Joiners trade; he went to serve an apprenticeship to Mr Wyllys Fenn, who at that time was a builder. After closing his apprenticeship he worked at his trade but little. His father having come into the possession of land belonging to his father John Strong by inheritance and by purchase, in the township of Mayfield, Cuyahoga County, he left Tallmadge with his fathers family, and settled in Mayfield in April 1836. He labored hard in clearing their land and also in erecting their buildings. On the 15th of June 1837, he was married to Miss Martha Platt, daughter of Mr. Richard Fenn of Tallmadge, by Rev J. C. Parmelee. He removed his wife to Mayfield and commenced housekeeping with the determination to secure a competence by honest industry and strict economy and they were successful in their honest efforts. Having disposed of his farm in Mayfield, he bought the farm kn own as Lot 6 in Tract 9 in Tallmadge, arriving with his family April 18th, 1850, here he lived untill the spring of 1857, when he sold the farm in Tallmadge to Henry Sparhawk. He went to Richfield, in the county of Summit O, where he purchased a farm and removed his family April 18th, 1857 and took up his residence in Richfield.

While living here he had the misfortune to fall from an apple tree while picking apples, he received a shock, to his physical and nervous system from which he never recovered and passed through a large amount of suffering. In the year 1866 an opportunity presented itself for an advantageous chance to sell his farm in Richfield, he availed himself and sold it. From here he went to Austinburg in Ashtabula County, here in connection with his only living son, he purchased the old Snow Farm, and removed his family from Richfield to Austinburg, arriving April 18th, 1866. A somewhat singular circumstance that all three of his arrivals should be in the same month and the same day of the month.

Mr. Strong made a profession of religion by joining the Cong. Church in Tallmadge Nov 6th, 1831. He was the subject of a revival of religion which the church enjoyed in a four days meeting which the church held in July 1831. He ever after adorned

his profession by an active earnest Christian life. He withdrew his connection with the church in Tallmadge April 11th, 1839. In 1839 or 1840, Presbyterian Church was formed in Mayfield, in which he was probably one of the original members, and he was one of the first Deacons of the church and he was earnest and active, always striving to do what he could to advance the Redeemers cause. A Sabbath School was organized and Mr. Strong was appointed Superintendant and was also leader of the singing and nearly always present at the prayer meetings; previous to the formation of the Presbyterian Church, he attended the Methodist Church and he always took a part in their meetings. The church he assisted to organize and labored to build up did not flourish and finally became extinct.

On coming back to Tallmadge, his native place, the church was strong, and there was not the call for active exertion that there is in a feeble church, still Mr. Strong, through in his influence and labored to promote and extend all those things that build up society, and strengthen and build up the church. He was an active member of the church, a teacher in the Sabbath School, and one of the singers while living in Tallmadge. He reunited with the church in Tallmadge, July 7th, 1850 and was dismissed to the church in Richfield May 24th, 1857, together with his wife, his own mother and his oldest daughter Sarah I, (now Mrs Nathaniel Austin of Austinburg). On arriving in Richfield, he soon found that here was a field that would bring out all his activity.

He feeling disposed to labor in the church, and be active, hoping to do good, he was appointed a Deacon, and was also the Superintendant of the Sabbath School, and also he was the leader of the choir. Although he like others did not live to see the results of his activity and labor in Richfield, yet his labors were abundant, and his memory was held in grateful remembrance by both pastor and people.

And I think with propriety the people of Richfield could apply to Mr. Strong, as well as the members of the other churches where he has lived and labored, that passage which says, "The memory of the just is blessed". Mr. Strong went to Austinburg, as has been mentioned before in April 1866. His health being poor he made up his mind that he would stand back in Austinburg. But in the course of a year or so he was chosen Deacon, he found he could not stand back, it was not his natural disposition, he was so anxious to be doing what he could for the benefit of his fellow men, and also to build up the kingdom of Christ. He sung in the choir, as long as his health permitted. Soon after he came he was appointed a trustee in the Grand River Institute, located in Austinburg. And he acted in that position as far as his health would admit untill his death. In the various positions he held in the church, in the institute or in the township, or other places, he was truly a man that was characterized by a naturally clear and discriminating mind and judgement, and he possessed a uniform interest in any object that tended in any way to benefit mankind, or build up the cause of Christ. But he is gone, and let his memory be cherished.

CHILDREN OF L. L. AND M. P. STRONG

Ist - Sarah Isidore, born in Mayfield Oct. 15th, 1838
II - Nathan Gillett " Sept. 17th, 1839
III - Benjamin Fenn " May 16th, 1841
IV - Clement Charles " April 7th, 1848
V - Clara Octavia born in Tallmadge Aug 3rd, 1851
VI - Ann a Mabel " " Aug 27th, 1856

MARRIAGES

Sarah I. Strong to Nathl. Austin, Oct. 9th, 1866 Austinburg
Nathan G. " Hellen Frances Pierce, Oct. 11th, 1866
Clara O " Charles Walter Alger, Aug 18, 1875
Anna M " Austin

DEATHS

Clement C. Died in Richfield March 17th, 1859, aged 11
Benj. F. " " Dec. 19th, 1864 aged 23
Sarah I. Austin, died in Austinburg Oct. 19th, 1883, aged 45

PIONEER INCIDENTS ON THE FIRE LANDS - FIRE LANDS PIONEER 1867

Lucy Abbot takes a tub ride. "She paddles her own Canoe"
In the youthful days of the Wards and Abbots every family along the shore of Huron River had a canoe. They were made by digging out the trunk of a large walnut or sycamore tree, untill the cavity became of the right shape and capacity. David Abbot, had a canoe in the middle of which twelve men could stand in a row. Mr. Ward had one 50 feet long. The setting poles used to propel them, 12 or 14 feet long. Both girls and boys early learned to manage them, and to cross and recross and to row up and down the river was a favorite pastime, as well as, at times a necessary labor. The river side was a place of resort for pleasure and also for performing a variety of services which required an unusual quantity of water. Mrs. Ward had a large number of cows and made a great deal of butter and cheese, and the tubs, pans, pails, etc used in their production were often washed on the river side by her children. One day Isaac and Rhoda Ward were thus employed and the Abbot children were with them, amusing each other and assisting as good will prompted. Lucy Abbot who took pride in daring to do what others dared not attempt, declared that she could row herself across the river with her hands in one of Mrs. Wards tubs. The others declared that she could not, but she would try they would accompany her in a canoe. She placed the tub upon the water, adjusted her position in it and sure enough, paddled away with her hands untill she reached the opposite shore. The water was 14 feet deep. How she got back tradition saith not. Very likely both tub and rider took a ride back in the canoe of her less daring companions.

CHAUNCY HART

Was the youngest son of Reuben and Elizabeth Kilbourn Hart. He was born in Oneida County, N. Y. on the 10th of Sept 1797. In Jan 1816 his brother Alpheus left New Hartford N. Y. for Ohio with sleighs for Tallmadge Ohio. In the company was their father Reuben Hart, Alpheus Hart and his wife, Chauncy and their sister Eliza Hart. And in the same company was Edmond Newell who married their sister Pluma and Harvey Spafford and his wife all arriving safe in Feb 1816. He lived in Tallmadge and was married to Miss Rozella, daughter of Abraham and Rebecca (Flagg) Hard, Nov. 21st, 1819, by J. W. Brown J. P. She was born in Vt., April 24th, 1798.

He and his wife continued to reside in Tallmadge until the winter of 1821 and 1822 when he removed to Wadsworth in Medina County, purchased a farm and they were able to obtain a competence for their declining years. In 1853 he disposed of his farm in Wadsworth and came to Akron and bought him a place of 4 or 5 acres on Spicer Hill. Here he resided until 1869, when he exchanged for a part of the Merriman Farm north west of the City of Akron, where he lived until his death which occurred March 20th, 1877, aged 80 "To fill up the meager outline here sketched, though a loving task, would be impossible in such a notice as this.

It suggests a career of rugged toil, in frontier communities and the privations and pleasures belonging to such a life. It is also suggestive of wonderful results achieved by the labors of himself and cotemporaries - unbroken forests transformed into fruitful fields, and towns and cities built where only wild beasts inhabited, or savage men pursued them. Such a career must be an eventful one. It is the pioneer of progress. Out of crude materials it shapes the foundations of those institutions which are necessary to human development in the line of personal, social civil and moral well being. In the nature of things it will be full of incident. Its acts are the deeds of stalwart men. Its achievements are triumphs hearty. Grand indeed were the lives of our pioneer fathers, and nobly and well did the subject of this notice perform his part among them. More than half a century ago he assumed the obligations of a Christian life and united with the M. E. Church. From that time on he never wavered in his course, but attested the genuineness of his profession by the blamelessness of his walk. Under its influence he developed in more than ordinary degree, those homely virtues which render life pleasant and profitable - honest industry, integrity, charity which "thinketh no evil" and a genuine hospitality which made the home of himself and excellent companion such a welcome resort for a wide circle of friends. These dispositions were mellowed by sadder experiences, for there were shadows thrown across his life, as who are exempt? Could he ever forget the scene, when their first born in the grace and promise of early womanhood and tenderly beloved, asked to be lifted from her bed of suffering that she might look for the last time upon the setting sun and the beautiful world that she loved, and then lie down and die, with the words of farewell

still echoing in the room? Or when afterward, their only son, bright and promising and who was to be, when the time should come, the stay of their declining years, forgot his childish prattle and play to follow his sister. But all is past. For the last seven or eight years, made an invalid by constant affliction he waited with cheerful patience for his final change and was therefore ready when it came. Will there not be glad reunions when the whole company companion, children, friends, those who have crossed the flood, and those who remain, shall in Gods good time, meet on the other shore? One word more. It is fitting that his remains should rest in your beautiful City of the dead, so near to the bustle and enterprise of your large and growing town, and surrounded by a populous and wealthy country, every step of whose progress he saw and helped from their beginning in the wilderness, to their present prosperous condition. H."

The above obituary was copied from the Summit Beacon of the date of April 4th 1877, by C. C. Bronson of Tallmadge.