

HISTORY
OF
LOWER SCIOTO VALLEY,
OHIO,

TOGETHER WITH SKETCHES OF ITS CITIES, VILLAGES AND TOWNSHIPS, EDUCATIONAL, RELIGIOUS,
CIVIL, MILITARY, AND POLITICAL HISTORY, PORTRAITS OF PROMINENT PERSONS,
AND BIOGRAPHIES OF REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS.

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which is owing to the nature of the ground. The hamlet sits on a rising plain, and has a handsome view to the distant hills. It is on the California turnpike, and is the business point of a good and healthy trade. Its population is about 200. While the town was not surveyed until 1859, it was a business point as early as 1823, when Peter Laforgy kept a store there.

The first Postmaster was Ephraim Roxwell.

BUSINESS, ETC.

Harrisonville is now a thriving little hamlet. It has two general stores, kept respectively by R. A. Coburn and J. M. Violet; Wm. Montfort has the blacksmith shop; Henry Lanty, cabinet-maker, and the owner of an apiary; Henry Zenne shoe shop, and Henry Brisker and Jos. Spradling have each a broom factory. The physicians are Dr. Jas. B. Ray & Son, and the Postmistress is Miss Caroline Sontag.

The chattel property of Harrisonville was assessed in 1882 at \$25,418.

OFFICIAL.

The township officers in 1832 were: Trustees, Daniel White, Thomas Hatch and Sylvanus Shumway; Clerk, Abijah Batterson; Treasurer, Abner B. Wood; Overseers of Poor, Henry Bower and Simeon Wood; Constables, George Scott and Royal T. Collis; Justices, T. R. Wood and Luther Wheeler.

In 1883: Trustees, James Sykes, David A. Slattery and John Q. Shumway; Clerk, N. B. Gillilan; Treasurer, Casius Edmunds; Justice of the Peace, Casius Edmunds, two vacancies; Constables, Edward Edmunds, two vacancies.

CHURCHES.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in May, 1858, by Rev. Jacob Nichols, and the services were held in the Glade Free Will Baptist Church. The original members were: Charles Hopkins, James

Samson, M. W. Brown and wife, Samuel McGee, John Smith and wife, Richard King and wife. The church now standing was built in the spring of 1872; the lot was given to the church by J. Q. Shumway, and the building committee was composed of C. H. Ketter, M. W. Brown, James Samson, and J. Q. Shumway; Wm. Purdy, contractor, and Wm. McKinney, carpenter and builder. The present minister is the Rev. Win. Hollinshed; the Trustees are James Samson, J. Q. Shumway, D. W. Strouse, R. B. Shumway, W. H. W. Jenkins, D. M. Hubbard and M. H. Shumway. Service is held every two weeks, and Sabbath-school every Sunday. The Superintendent of the latter is James Samson; the Secretary, D. W. Strouse. The number of pupils attending number about fifty; the membership of the church is seventy-three.

The Harrisonville Methodist Episcopal Church was erected in 1837. In 1856 the old church was sold and a new one built. Rev. Sheldon Parker was the pastor, and James R. Taylor, William Slattery, J. M. Violet, John Crull and Edward Richardson were the Trustees, with a membership of about 100. In 1873 they again sold their church and arranged for the building of a new one, which is the one now standing. The pastor in 1873 was the Rev. Hamilton, and the Trustees: J. M. Violet, John Crull, James R. Taylor, David Slattery and G. M. Hubbard. The present pastor is the Rev. G. W. Ray, and the Trustees are: James Sykes, Nathaniel Crull, J. R. Taylor, Lewis A. Crull and J. M. Violet. Services are conducted every Sunday, and there is a membership of about thirty. The Sabbath-school is held every Sunday, and the attendance will average forty. Mr. Lewis A. Crull is the Superintendent, and Miss Julia Crull, Secretary.

The Tickridge Catholic Church was erected in 1861, the priest being Father L. Shriver, and the Trustees, Benedict Seidel, Lawrence

Cordell and Joseph Spitznogl. The congregation numbered about forty. The present priest is the Rev. Father John Ritter, and the Trustees are George Emmett, Peter Rider and James Farley. Service is held every two weeks, and the instruction class in the afternoon of the same days. The membership is now about 150, and the instruction class twenty-five.

German Lutheran Church.—The organization of this church was in 1880, through the efforts of Rev. Theodore Yeager and a few earnest spirits, the former becoming the first pastor, whose faithful work has been crowned with success. The original members were: A. Ghamp, Allen Duvendeck, William Wayman, A. Marsh, Mr. Lorecamp, John Reese, Frederic Spring, W. Hockenheimer, John Regrish, Gotlieb Weble, George Beiner, George Daum, John Yanetzky, Wm. Clinganberry, William Seiling, Henry Brisker, Henry Knour, John Miller, John Ghamp and their wives. The Trustees elected at the time of the organization were: John Miller and William Wayman, and the present Trustees are: Wm. Seiling, John Regrish and George Beiner. Preaching is had every two weeks, the officiating clergyman being the Rev. Kuhn. The Sunday-school is under the superintendency of William Seiling. The church is 30 x 40 feet in size, and was erected at a cost of \$1,200.

SCHOOLS.

The present school system was organized in 1853, and adopted, and eight sub-school districts were organized in the township.

THE SCHOOLS OF 1883.

Since then the schools of Harrison Township have grown both in the number of its pupils and in the efficiency of their scholastic training. They also go, in a measure, by names as well as number of districts and at

this time (1883) the names and numbers are as follows:

Bennett School-house, sub-district No. 1.—Directors, Casius Edwards, Wm. Ketter and James Sampson. Pupils enrolled, 41.

Glade School, No. 2.—Directors, Charles Frowine, Nathaniel Rogers and John Devers. Pupils enrolled, 41.

Mead School, No. 3.—Directors, Alfred Boyer, William Marsh and Noah Dickson. Pupils enrolled, 40.

Bonser Run School, No. 4.—Directors, James Goodrich, O. Chapman and Thomas Brock. Pupils enrolled, 42.

Harrison Mills School, No. 5.—Directors, Hiram Sykes, Levi Wheeler and George Emlet. Pupils enrolled, 42.

Tickridge School, No. 6.—Directors, James Sykes, Ananias Weeks and Andrew Brooker. Pupils enrolled, 38.

Harrison Furnace School, No. 7.—Directors, Wm. Yeagle, Nicholas Will and Salathiel Elliott. Pupils enrolled, 38.

Warner School, No. 8.—Directors, William Coriell, George Gray and Stephen Purdy. Pupils enrolled, 38.

In 1878 a special school district was made of Harrisonville, and the Directors elected, viz.: W. J. Crull, C. M. Coburn and J. C. Clark and the first school was taught by W. H. Bradford. The Directors for the year 1883 are: J. B. Ray, W. J. Minford and R. H. Coburn; Mr. Wm. Ray, teacher.

The first school-house was erected in Harrison Township in 1806. It was of logs, greased-paper windows and puncheon seats. It was on Robert Bennett's farm, and the first teacher was Robert Finley.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

Robert H. Coburn, merchant, Harrisonville, Ohio, was born in Madison Township, Scioto County, June 28, 1850, the son of Arthur A. and Martha M. (Colwell) Coburn, the former born April 27, 1810, in Columbiana County,

Ohio, and the latter born April 22, 1809, in Mercer County, Pa. They were married in Pittsburg, Pa., April 29, 1834, and were the parents of ten children, of whom six are living—James Harvey, Oscar M., Theodore A., Martha J., wife of George Cook; Mary, wife of Lewis Bracy, and Robert H., our subject. The latter remained on his father's farm in Madison Township until he was married, March 26, 1876, to Isabella, daughter of Peleg and Susan Colegrove, of Madison Township. Their children are—William E., Clarence A., Robert D. and Mabel. In 1881 Mr. Coburn came to Harrisonville, and engaged in the dry-goods and grocery business. He carries a complete line of general merchandise and is one of the solid business men of the place. His father was a hatter by trade, which occupation he followed till 1842, when he engaged in farming. He purchased a farm in Madison Township, Scioto County, in 1847, where he followed agricultural pursuits till his death, which occurred Jan. 19, 1877. His wife survived him till July 8, 1880.

John L. Daniels, deceased, was born Nov. 26, 1800, in Westchester County, N. Y., a son of Phillip and Mary (Connell) Daniels. He lived at home till he grew to manhood, and when eighteen years old came to Marietta, Ohio, with his father, and was there engaged as principal of the Marietta College. He was married April 1, 1838, to Camilla Stull, who was born Oct. 12, 1813, in McKean County, Pa., a daughter of Joseph and Delinda (Bruer) Stull. They were married in Madison Township, Scioto County, by James Samson, and were the parents of six children—James S., who died in Corinth, Aug. 1, 1862; Le Quincy, Artemesia, Mary, Camilla and Alma D. Mr. Daniels died Aug. 30, 1868. He held certificates in New York, Connecticut, Ohio, Indiana, Virginia and Kentucky, having taught in each of these States. He was one of the most highly educated men in the country, and followed the

profession of teaching for fifty-four years. He was an active Democrat during his life and was prominently identified with the politics of the township and county. His son, James S., was the first volunteer in Harrison Township, and participated in the battles of Vienna, Bull Run, Fort Donelson, Shiloh and Corinth, where he lost his life. Alma D., the youngest daughter, now resides with her widowed mother. She was born in Madison Township, Scioto County, where she received a good education. She was appointed Postmistress at Scioto in 1878, and held the position till 1881, when she resigned. She is one of the most accomplished ladies in Harrisonville, and has a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Noah Dixon, son of Silas and Mary (Vandeford) Dixon, was born Jan. 11, 1840, at Eagle, Vinton Co., Ohio, and in 1850 came to Harrison Township and assisted his father on the farm and in the mill till he grew to manhood. April 21, 1861, he enlisted in Company D, Twenty-second Ohio Infantry, in which regiment he served till he was discharged at Athens, Ohio, Aug. 19, 1861. He remained home nearly two weeks, when he again enlisted in Company B, Twenty-second Ohio Infantry, and was discharged at Camp Dennison, Ohio, in the fall of 1864. The most important battles in which he participated were Fort Donelson, Shiloh, the two battles of Corinth and Little Rock. He was married Oct. 22, 1865, to Eunice, daughter of Harris and Abigail (Mead) Dodge. They have had six children, four now living—George W., James S., Bertha May, and Tracy N. Mary was accidentally drowned in the Little Scioto River, Jan. 18, 1878, at the age of eleven years, and Gracie E. died Sept. 18, 1882. About 1866 Mr. Dixon, in partnership with his brother George, engaged in milling, and in 1880 he purchased his brother's interest, and has since been operating the mill in connection with his farming pursuits.

ship so far as the land is susceptible of cultivation. There is yet a large amount of timber in the township, and railroad ties and tan-bark form no inconsiderable portion of the yearly productive wealth.

OLD SETTLERS.

The settlement at Jefferson Township was at a pretty early day, but at that time Valley Township was then Jefferson, and the earliest settlers were located in the valley of the Scioto River. The present Jefferson Township was settled about 1808, though up to 1815 very few pioneers had found permanent homes within its limits. Among those who came in the early days of its history were Jesse Rice, Daniel McLaughlin, Daniel Conklin, Jared Spriggs, Thomas Carlisle, Abner Field, William Mitchell, Aaron Gee, Richard Grimshaw, Joshua Tritt, Rodney Marshall, Samuel Farmer, Jacob Crouse and J. H. Munn. There were a few others whose names were not remembered, but were members of the pioneer band.

TOWNSHIP OFFICERS, 1851.

The township officers in 1851 were: Trustees, James O. Johnson, Hugh Rose and Adamyah Crane; Treasurer, James D. Thomas; Clerk, Leonard Groninger; Justices of the Peace, Mark Snyder and Isaac N. Johnson; Constables, Thomas Carlisle, John Stewart and O. B. Murphy. The present officers, 1883, are: Trustees, Ira H. Munn, Jacob H. Carley and John H. Tritt; Treasurer, David Crull; Clerk, John H. Shuman; Justices of the Peace, Robert Chapman and Jared Spriggs; Constables, Thomas Hager and Adam Swavel.

CHURCHES.

The Blue Run Methodist Church was organized and the church building erected in 1859. Rev. Harris Willis was its first pastor; Trustees, James Varner, Milton Deselm and

John Morgan. The original members were: Samuel Miller and wife, Jared Spriggs and wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Varner, James Varner and wife, John Morgan and wife, Mrs. Nancy Marshall, Abner Field and wife. The present pastor is the Rev. George W. Ray; Trustees, Abner Field, William Coburn, Joshua Tritt and Richard Grimshaw. Church services are held once a month and Sunday-school every Sabbath. Louis Hancock is Superintendent and Benjamin Grimshaw, Secretary. The average attendance is about ninety.

The Fallen Timber Christian Church, organized in the year 1865, at the close of the late civil war, has steadily prospered and its influence has become wide-spread for good wherever that influence has extended. Rev. Asa Eblin was the first pastor of the church, and the Trustees elected at the time were William H. Ward, Daniel Conkling, Sr., and Harvey Eblin. The original members of the church were: Mrs. Asa Eblin, David Kemper and wife, Henderson Eblin and wife, Rachel Kent, Nathaniel Kent and wife and Phoebe Conklin. The church has grown strong in number. The present pastor, 1883, is Rev. William Jenkins. the Trustees are those first elected and still holding their offices. Services are held once a month, and Sunday-school every Sunday. The attendance is about 100. Superintendent, James McWilliams; Secretary, Edward Gillen.

The Flat Wood Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1876 with a few earnest members who wished to form a church in their own immediate neighborhood. Rev. Perry Orr was called to the pastorate and Jared Spriggs, Hamilton Meyers and Nicholas Funk were elected Trustees. The original members were Abigail Crull, David Crull and wife, William Porter and wife, Henry Bricker and wife, Rachel Ralphsnider and Catharine Farmer. It has gradually grown and prospered, and it is now, 1883, under the pastoral care of Rev. William Hollinshed, and the

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