

GEAUGA COUNTY RECORD.

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CHARDON, GEAUGA COUNTY, OHIO, FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1905.

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IN MANY WAYS THE BEST. ALWAYS DIFFERENT FROM THE REST.

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.



BUSINESS BLOCKS, WEST SIDE NORTH CHESHIRE STREET, BURTON.

HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF GEAUGA TOWNSHIPS.

CHARDON.

Chardon was named for Peter Chardon Brooks, a prominent and wealthy citizen of Massachusetts, and father-in-law of Edward Everett and Charles Francis Adams. He donated the land for the village plat to the county for county-seat on condition that the village should receive his second name. At the time that Chardon hill was selected for the county-seat not a tree had been cut in the township. The first settler was a Painesville man by the name of Jordan, who built him a shelter near the spring in the orchard back of the School Building. The Public Square was cleared in 1811. In 1812 Norman Canfield, came over from Hamden and built a log house with a chamber where the Chardon House stands. He was the first permanent settler of the town and township, Capt. Edward Paine, Jr., the second, and Samuel King, a Massachusetts man, the third. The latter was the first adult person to die in Chardon. The fourth family to settle in Chardon, were Antony Carter and wife, colored people. In 1812 Chardon became a part of Hamden township. The Baptist Church was formed in 1817, and the Methodist Church in 1818. Lorenzo Dow preached in Chardon once in a while. The first school taught in Chardon was in 1815, by Miss Mehitabel Hall, of Claridon. In 1824 on the west side of the square were the old brick court house, burned in 1868, partly built, and a dwelling. The log court house stood near where the Chardon House stands was a tavern, and a wooden store building stood where Toop's market is. East of this was the Captain Paine house, still

were 42 inhabitants in Burton. On July 4 they held the first celebration of Independence Day ever held in the county. There were quite a number of Indians when the first settlers came. They are said to have been Tonawandas. Titus Street, one of the original owners of the township, had a son called Burton Street. The town was named for his son. Burton became a township in 1806. The first hotel was the "Umberfield Coffee House," by the Umberfield spring. The first physician was Dr. Joseph Clark, who came in 1804. Burton was early an educational center. In 1803 the Erie Literary Society was incorporated. In 1804 an academy was built. It was 25x50, with a 10-foot hall below, and a room for church above. It was sealed with pine, and had brick chimneys and fire-places. It was considered the most elegant building on the Reserve at the time. It was burned in 1810. In 1817 a new building similar to the first was begun, and finished and dedicated in 1819. Later the institution was removed to Hudson. Burton at one time enjoyed the double honor of being the home of the governor of the state and the chief justice of its supreme court.

HAMBLEN.

The first settler of Hamden was Dr. Solomon Bond, to whom 12,000 acres were transferred from Oliver Phelps. He came in 1801. Hamden was first called Bondstown, but later its name was changed to Hamden by vote. There were 36 adults in Hamden in 1808. In 1810 "The Bondstown Logging Society" was formed, with a constitution and by-laws. There was

for the Indians. Red Jacket is said to have visited the vicinity. Joseph Johnson came from Pennsylvania in 1801. The famous missionary, Rev. Joseph Badger, preached to settlers from time to time. The first religious organization was of the Episcopal denomination. Isaac Thompson was the first justice of the peace. Samuel Peffers was the pioneer merchant. Middlefield village has developed largely within the last generation, and is now incorporated. It contains about 500 inhabitants, and is growing.

PARKMAN.

Robert B. Parkman was the first settler of Parkman township, coming in 1804. The water power on Grand River determined the location of the settlement. A postoffice was established in 1805. The Western Phoenix Academy was organized in 1817. Parkman was at one time an important point, being a station on a main stage line. From 1833 to 1841 it sustained an academy of high grade. A native of Parkman, Henry D. Lyman, was second assistant postmaster general in President Arthur's administration. Parkman is the banner maple sugar town of the world. It celebrated its centennial a year ago.

CHESTER.

Chester was partially surveyed in 1796. Justus Minor was the first settler, coming in 1801. The town was early known by the name of Wooster. The old "Chillicothe road" passes through Chester and also Russell. The Geauga Seminary was established in 1842, under the superintendence of Asabel Nichols. It was established

Newbury, and Sally Russell were the first couple to be married. Dr. Brown was the first physician. There is a large quantity of sandstone in the township, and it is well supplied with water power.

MUNSON.

Munson was originally called McDonough. It was named for the hero of the battle of Lake Champlain. Samuel Hopson was the first settler. Munson was at one time the second township in population in the county. In 1850 the inhabitants numbered 1193. The first cheese factory in Ohio was established in Munson. Nathan Porter was the first resident preacher. The first store was established at Fowler's Mills by a man named Fitch. The State road passes through the east part

Church was organized in 1821. At one time Auburn had 1184 people. Auburn is not a very hilly township and perhaps was named for that "Auburn, loveliest village of the plain," that the poet speaks of. Prof. Wilber, the geologist, was an Auburn man. Hon. Martin Dodge, director of good roads in the Interior Department, was born in the town. Speaker Crafts, of the Illinois House of Representatives, is a member of the Auburn family of Crafts.

NEWBURY.

Samuel Punderson was the first settler of Newbury, arriving in 1808, but Judge Stone, who lived in Burton, claimed land there at an earlier date. There are four ponds in the township, Lake Punderson, the well-known sum-

town. Its first settlers came from Ashtabula County. They were Roswell Stevens, his son Reuel and daughter Hepzibah. Montville was detached from Hamden, and erected into a township in 1822. There were wolves in the woods of Montville as late as 1850. The first article manufactured in Montville was black soles. A Methodist Church was organized in 1819 by Rev. "Billy" Brown, an eccentric but devoted preacher, and Baldwin Morris. John V. Whitney & Sons built up an extensive nursery business in Montville, shipping trees and shrubs throughout the country, and importing choice specimens from Europe.

HUNTSBURG.

Huntsburg was first settled in 1808, by Stephen and Lucretia Pomeroy and



BUSINESS BLOCKS, EAST SIDE NORTH CHESHIRE STREET, BURTON.

of this township. Bass Lake, the well-known summer resort, is situated in the northeastern portion of the township.

BAINBRIDGE.

Bainbridge was once called Kentsville. The first settler was David McDonough, who arrived in 1811. At one time the township contained over 1,000 people. Geauga Lake is in Bainbridge. It was formerly called Giles Pond. It is the source of Tinker's Creek, which flows into the Cuyahoga River. There is much white ash timber in Bainbridge. The Erie Railroad passes through one corner of the town. Dr. David Shipperd was the first resident physician. Bainbridge is the birthplace and home of Capt. C. E. Henry, formerly U. S. marshal of the District of Columbia.

CLARIDON.

Claridon was at one time called Burlington and also Canton. Asa Cowles was the first settler. Lake Aquilla, so named by Judge Lester Taylor, the pioneer historian and centenarian, was originally called Goose Pond, because it was the resort of wild fowl. Samuel Douglass was the first child born in the town. The Welles, Spencers and Halls were early pioneers. The first marriage was that of Matthew Fleming, of Burton, and Chloe Douglass. The first death was that of Mrs. Eaton, daughter of Simon Gager. There was at one time an academy at the center. The township had an annual fair for a number of years. Col. A. T. Brinsmade, of Cleveland, and Duntro Taylor, the humorous lecturer, were natives of this town.

AUBURN.

Bildad Bradley was the first settler of Auburn, and 1815 was the year. Zedek Reuwee, Daniel Wheelock, and John Jackson came next, and then William Crafts. Charles Hodgins was the first school teacher. A Methodist

mer resort, being the largest. Newbury was made a township by itself in 1817. It was once the home of Hon. A. G. Riddle, the famous lawyer and author, in early life, as it was of Hon. Wm. L. Utley, adjutant general of Wisconsin. It is in Newbury, at Lake Punderson, that the annual pioneer meetings have been held for many years. Newbury was the home of the late president of the Association—Daniel Johnson.

TROY.

Troy was first settled by Jacob Welsh, of Boston, in 1811, and was called Welshfield for some time, as the postoffice is now. He was accompanied by his daughter, Betsey. "Little Phin Pond," of Mantua, put up his log cabin, Peter B. Beals, and his nephew, Ebenezer Ford, came next. Rev. Luther Humphrey preached the first sermon. The "old town house," a unique structure, was built in 1818. In 1820, occurred the great visitation of pigeons. Oaks were crushed beneath their weight, and the noise of their flight could be heard for miles. The soil of Troy and Auburn is considered to be the best in the county.

THOMPSON.

Dr. Isaac Palmer settled in Thompson in 1800. He came by boat from Buffalo to Fairport, and up Grand River. Thompson at one time had about 1,200 population. Thompson Ledge is a rugged and romantic spot, and is frequented in the summer time. Thompson is the only town in the county which ever had a Catholic Church. There was an annual fair for years in the township. It only touches Geauga County on the south. If it could change places with Kirtland, the county would be square.

MONTVILLE.

Montville was surveyed in 1797. It is one of the most level in the county, though its name means "mountain-

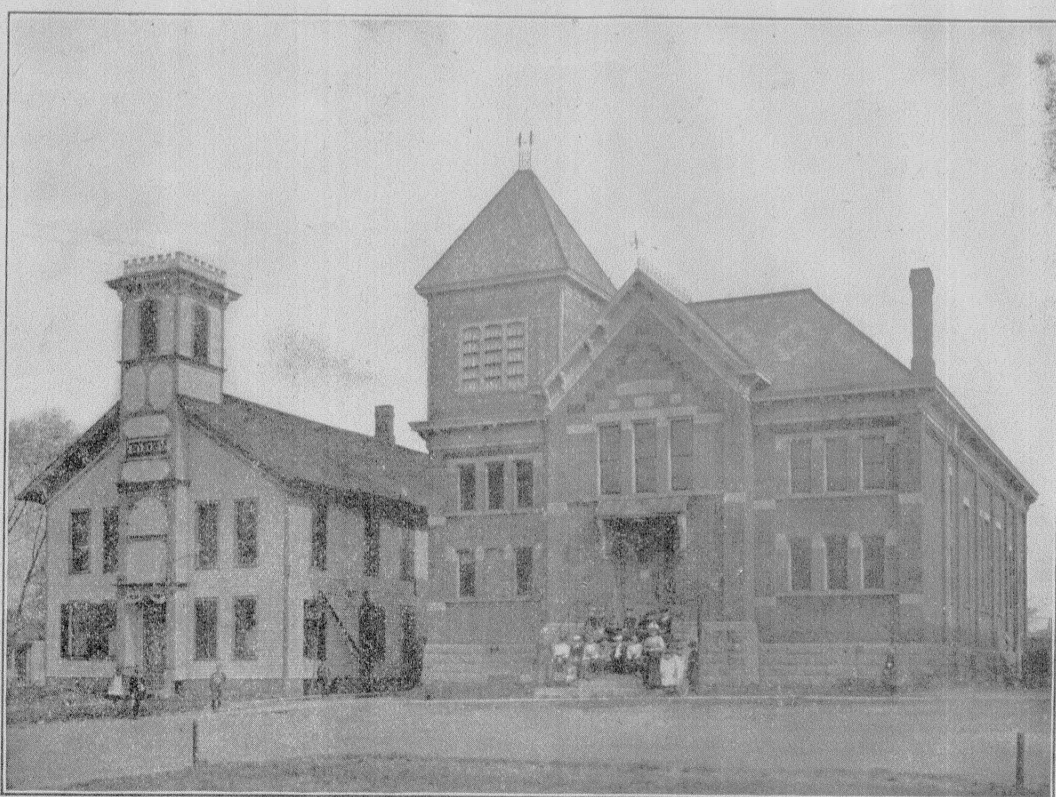
their six children. They reached their destination on August 9. Paul Clapp and Elnathan Wilcox came next. The town was named for Lewis Hunt, an accomplished Massachusetts capitalist, who was a proprietor of the soil. He introduced improved fruit into the county. The first church was organized in 1818 by Revs. Loomis and Humphrey. A member of the Loomis family, of Huntsburg, became a Michigan Congressman. Hon. Charles Loomis, a native of the town, was prominent in Mississippi politics. Hon. Samuel Leland, the lecturer, was also a native.

Centennial Facts.

The first jail built in Chardon was an 8x10, low-roof, unpretending structure of logs, and was attached to the west end of Norman Canfield's tavern. Its first and only occupant was one Hugh McDougall, for non-fulfillment of promise to pay.

County Recorder F. E. Ford has on file at his office the first deed of land ever made in Chardon township, which was transferred by Samuel W. Phelps, as director of the Chardon town plat, to Edward Paine, on Sept. 16, 1811. The transfer comprised four separate lots, the present site of A. D. Hovey's residence, the land occupied by the C. & E. block, Toop's market and Avery's store, and the old Teed house on Water Street.

Prior to the War of 1812, and until the early '40s, the organization known as State Militia occupy a permanent place in the history of the Western Reserve, and drill days were recognized holidays. That Geauga County furnished its full quota is shown by the fact that Chardon had a regiment comprising one militia company and one light infantry. Burton had the same, and Chester, Munson, Claridon, Hamden, Huntsburg, Montville, Parkman, Troy, Middlefield, Newbury, Auburn each had one company.



BURTON I. O. O. F. HALL.

BURTON TOWN HALL.

standing. On the east side of the square were two buildings, one used as a store, and one dwelling on the north-east corner of the square, still standing. On the north-west corner of the square were the store house burned in 1871, and a dwelling. One or two houses on Water Street and the same number on South Hamden Street constituted the Chardon of that day. Chardon in 1860 had something over 500 people. At the present time it has 1500 people, having nearly tripled in 45 years, despite disastrous fires.

BURTON.

Burton was the first township to be settled. The year was 1796. The first settlers were Amariah Beard and Thomas Umberfield. In 1800 there

an encampment of Indians in the south part of the town in 1810. The guns of Perry's victory were heard in Hamden, as in other towns. Rev. Robbins, a Presbyterian minister, from Connecticut, preached the first sermon in Hamden in 1804. Anna Pomeroy taught the first school in 1809. The death of Mrs. Betsy Cooley in 1806 was the first to occur in Hamden. Eleven Revolutionary soldiers lived and died in Hamden.

MIDDLEFIELD.

Middlefield was first settled in 1799 by Isaac and James Thompson. A white hunter had visited the region many years before. The township was called Batavia in early times. The Cuyahoga River was a favorite resort,

chiefly through the influence of the Free Will Baptists. President Garfield attended the Seminary in 1851. Hon. O. J. Hodge, speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, and also prominent in Connecticut politics went to school there. The postoffice at Mulberry Corners was established in 1852.

RUSSELL.

Russell was the latest township of the county to be settled, because of the high price which the proprietors of the township set upon the land. The first settler did not come until 1818. His name was Ebenezer Russell, and the township was named for him. Clark Robinson built the first frame buildings. Abel Brockway was the first man to die. John Bachelder, of



BURTON HIGH SCHOOL.