

GEAUGA COUNTY RECORD.

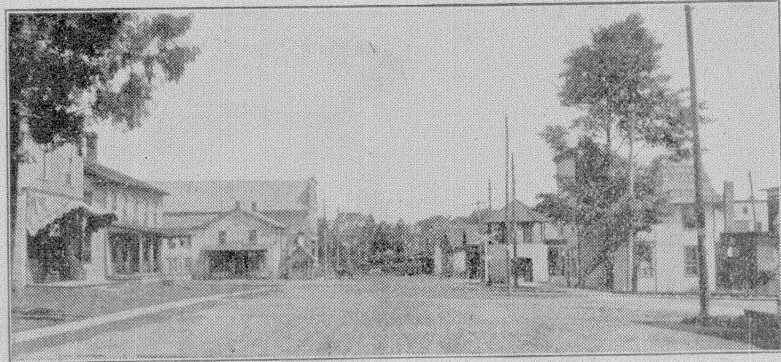
ESTABLISHED 1886.

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

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

VOL. XIX.

CHARDON, GEAUGA COUNTY, OHIO, FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1905. PART THREE. NO. 31.



MIDDLEFIELD VILLAGE LOOKING NORTH FROM MAIN STREET.

CENTENNIAL FACTS ABOUT GEAUGA.

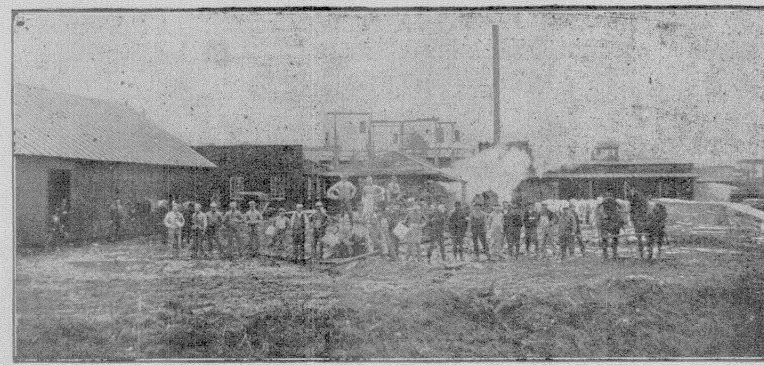
Geauga County was created by the following legislative words: "That all that part of the county of Trumbull lying north and east of a line, beginning on the east line of said county, on the line between townships number eight and nine, as known by the survey of said county, and running west on the same to the west line of range number five, thence south on said west line of range five to the northwest corner of township number five, to the middle of Cuyahoga River, where the course of the same is northerly, thence up the middle of said river to the intersection of the north line of said township number four; thence west on the said north line of township number four to the west line of range fourteen, where the same shall run when the county west of the Cuyahoga River shall be surveyed into townships or tracts of five miles square each, and hence north to Lake Erie, shall be and the same is hereby set off and erected into a new county by the name of Geauga." It will be seen by the foregoing that Geauga County was once bounded on the north and west by water.

The Cuyahoga River which rises in Celtic, Burton, Middlefield, Hambden, Thompson, Parkman, Newbury, Huntsburg, Munson and Bainbridge English, and Troy a classical name. It has been claimed, however, that the word "Burton" is of Celtic extraction. Geauga County has 393 square miles. Its soil, mixed clay and sand, is fitted for growing almost everything that will grow in a temperate latitude. Tobacco can be raised in Geauga County. The conglomerate rock is the leading geological feature of the county, with coal measures above it in some places. It underlies the whole of Auburn, Troy, Burton, Newbury and Claridon townships and a large part of others. "Little Mountain" is a ridge of the conglomerate. The Berea Grit and the Cuyahoga, Bedford, Cleveland, and Erie shales are in parts of the county, the Erie being the lowest rock found. The distinctive industry of Geauga—that is, the one most peculiar to it—is the making of maple syrup and sugar, and its chief tree is the maple whose dark green and luxuriant foliage is almost everywhere to be seen in riding along country roads. More maple sweet is manufactured in this county

While nearly every other, if not every, county in the State, has made great gains in population since early times, this county has not so many people as it had in 1840, and perhaps in 1835, though there has been a gradual increase since about 1870. The indications are that the next census will show a much larger growth than has been had in any decade since that year. The tide of immigration seems to be gradually setting in. The towns are growing. Middlefield has especially increased in size, having largely developed within the last generation. New houses are being erected in Burton yearly. A dozen or more are erected in Chardon every year. Chardon has put on some of the ways of a large town. With electric lights and a paved Main street, with a carefully kept park and county grounds, and with comparatively new public buildings and business blocks, it is no longer the hamlet of some time ago. There is reason to believe that manufacturing establishments of various kinds will locate here in the days to come, and that the town will enjoy a more rapid growth.

What is to be the future of the county in the hundred years to come? Of course, this cannot be known. It is not likely that oil, or coal, or ore will

be found here in unlimited quantities; therefore, it is not likely that this will be a great manufacturing center. So the likelihood is that it will continue to be as ever it has been, an agricultural county. The farmer will as of yore till the soil and sell the products of his labor. The continued growth of Cleveland and the facilities for rapid transit, combined with the natural attractions of this region, will doubtless bring many men of means, who will find summer homes here for themselves and families, and spend some of their money here. The towns will continue to grow and ripen in beauty. More or less new blood from abroad will be infused into the purely farming element and there will be a waxing of the energy and enterprise which has measurably waned since the Civil War. Advanced ideas in road building will be realized and far better thoroughfares will put the townships in more facile touch and put extra dollars in the farmer's pocket by making it easier for him to get to the markets. The outlook is so for hope. Taking all into consideration, the horizon is somewhat rosy. No one should doubt that "Old Geauga" will grow in wealth and morality, devotion to republican institutions and general happiness in the century to come.



FACTORY OF OHIO PAIL COMPANY, MIDDLEFIELD.

MILITARY HISTORY OF GEAUGA CO.

The military history of Geauga County begins with the war of 1812. Col. Jedediah Beard, of Burton, was the leading military man of the county at the beginning of that struggle. The county sent a goodly number of soldiers to the defense of the State and Cleveland from the probable invasion of British and Indians, but their service was brief and bloodless. Following that war, there were what was known as "general trainings," the men in the various townships, subject to military duty, meeting at certain times and places, where, organized in companies, regiments and brigades, they camped and underwent drill. These "general trainings" ceased to be a feature of the county between 1845 and 1850.

Throughout the Civil War Geauga County nobly responded to every demand for men. Probably at least 1,200 enlisted from the 16 townships. These were distributed in many different commands, but the commands which contained the largest representations

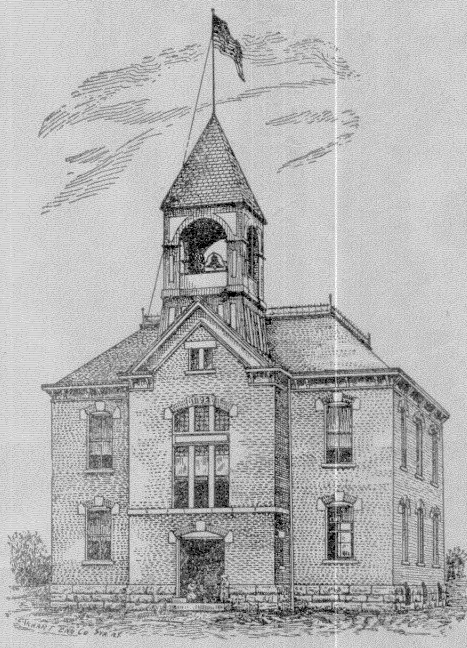
native of Chardon, and a graduate of West Point, was in the fighting at Santiago, and in the Philippine uprising. He is at present in the Islands.

A Revolutionary captain, Seth Phelps, is buried in Parkman. He was at the battle of Monmouth. He was a friend of Washington. A number of Revolutionary soldiers and soldiers of the War of 1812 are buried in the county.

Commodore Seth L. Phelps, a naval officer of the Mexican and Civil Wars, was born in Chardon, in 1824. He was in later years U. S. minister to Peru. Joel F. Asper, a former Chardon editor, and later a Missouri Congressman, was lieutenant colonel of the Seventh Regiment and colonel of the 171st.

Alfred Phelps, Sr., was a lieutenant in the war of 1812, being in the regular service, and was wounded and captured by the British at the battle of Queenstown.

Capt. M. H. Hamblin, deceased, was in the Mexican War. Dr. P. M. Cowles, of Chardon, was

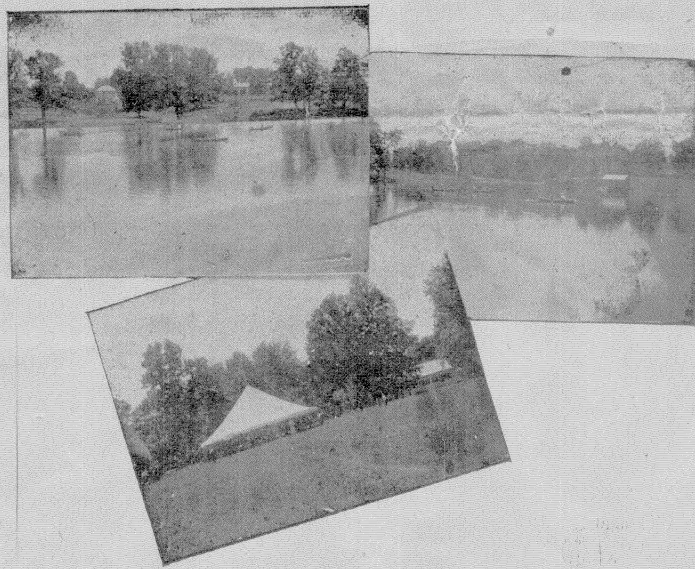


MIDDLEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL.

WHO WERE THE PIONEERS

Who were the pioneers? Who were the first settlers of Geauga County? They were not wild people. Far from it. They were highly civilized men and women. They came from communities in the Eastern States which for hundreds of years had enjoyed the protection of the common law of England and from families which were directed by Christian principle. They were in a certain sense the choice and pick of the communities whence they came; for those who leave good homes to make new, who leave comparative ease for hardship, who leave cultivated fields for a wilderness, are ever the most resolute in spirit and enduring in body. Had the men and women of a century

the rattlesnake. They made the road and the farmstead, built the schoolhouse and the church, and as the years came and went and they disappeared one by one, communities as prosperous as those in which they lived their youth were spread upon this region—the enduring trophies of their heroic struggle. Men are influenced by their environment. They who tame Nature must of necessity assimilate some of its roughness. The grace of the parlor cannot be attained by cutting the clearing. But, if we their children of the third or fourth generation suppose we are their superiors, we had better think the matter over again. If we are their superiors in anything, it is in non-es-



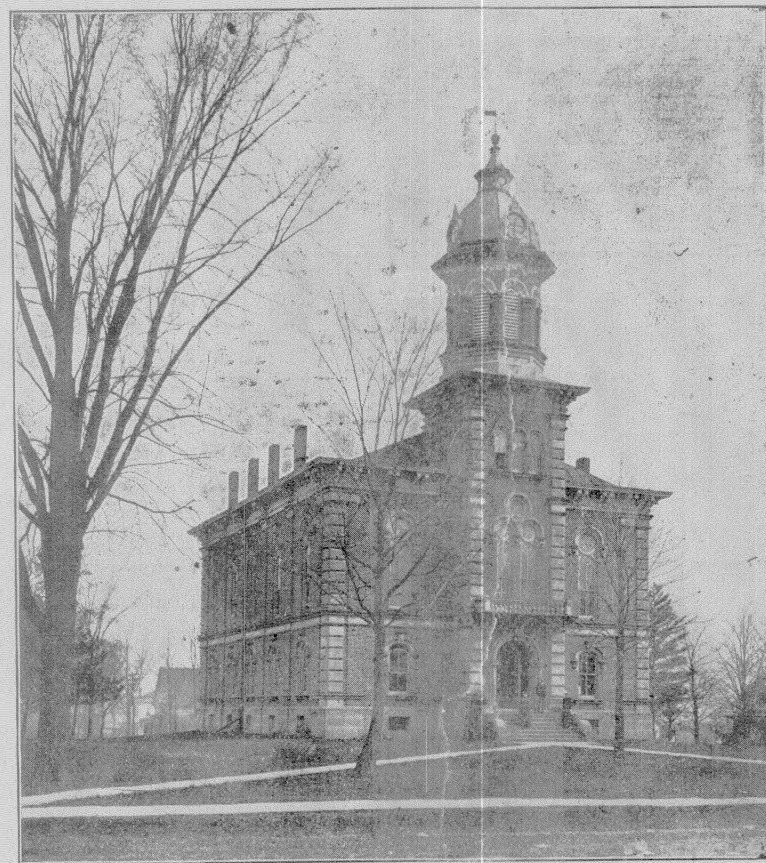
MINERAL LAKE, MIDDLEFIELD.

this county was a famous river from early times. It was known to both the French and English and the Government before Ohio was settled. It is rightly named "crooked." It is perhaps 150 miles long and empties perhaps 40 miles from its source. There used to be a French station on the river in Cuyahoga County. The "Grand" and "Chasrin" Rivers, which also rise in this county, seem to have received their names from the French. There is some romantic scenery as their courses sweep to the lake. Near the little branch of the Grand River, east of Chardon Village, there used to be a small lake called by the Indians "Medchick". Evidently there was considerably more water in this region at one time than now. The county has many springs of the purest water.

"Geauga" is an aboriginal name, meaning "raccoon." Of its townships, Chardon and Montville have French names, Auburn and Chester Latin names, Claridon and Russell probably

than in any other place of equal area in the entire country. Another leading industry is the making of the products of milk. Counting these two industries as a part of farm industry, this is almost purely an agricultural county. There have been some manufacturing establishments, but only a few as compared with the number established in other and adjoining counties.

The county in the character of its population has ever been almost purely American. Originally settled by Eastern families—pioneers from Connecticut, Massachusetts and other New England States—their descendants still people the county, though a few persons of foreign extraction are scattered here and there. Numerous Amish have established themselves as farmers in the south part of the county, coming from counties farther south, but their unlikeness to the native inhabitants is largely due to their religious beliefs and practices, as they have been in the United States long enough to be Amer-



GEAUGA COUNTY'S PRESENT COURT HOUSE.

ago not possessed the rarest courage, how overwhelmingly discouraging must have been the outlook. Everywhere the aboriginal forest and tangled thickets shutting out the sun; Indians and wild beasts to fear and to contend with, and before them many a long year of lonely and wearying toil, unrelieved by vacation or sojourn. All that they had enjoyed, all that, by birth and breeding, they knew how to enjoy, must be wrested from adverse circumstance, by them, or enjoyed by their children. But they possessed the rarest courage in the rarest measure. They went to work. They drove out the Indian. They killed the bear and the wolf and

sentials, it is in the paint and the lattice-work rather than in the framework and the underpinning. Their fibre was not softened by luxuries, nor their mental energies scattered and frittered by multitudinous interests. They were simple, direct, honest, confiding, reverent, helpful to one another. They had no artificial and foolish notions. They were as genuine as the Nature with whose wildness they struggled and in whose embrace they sleep. In one way, at least, they were uncontestedly our superiors. They not only created something, but they created it for others. Perhaps we might create something, but we haven't. Figure it as we will, we are living on the old folks,



RESIDENCE OF MAYOR J. J. ROSE, MIDDLEFIELD.

of Geauga County men were the 41st, 105th, 7th, 29th and 171st Regiments, O. V. I. Three captains were killed or died of their wounds: Capt. Chas. Hansard and Capt. J. B. Percy, of Munson, and Capt. Wallace W. Munn, of Newbury.

Among Geauga County men who figured conspicuously in the Civil War were Major General Mortimer D. Leggett, who lived in Montville in early life, and who commanded a corps in Sherman's Army, for a time; Brigadier General Halbert E. Paine, one of Wisconsin's most brilliant soldiers, who was born in Chardon, and Col. Wm. L. Utley, another brave Wisconsin officer, who once lived in Newbury.

For some years following 1884 the county had a company in the Fifth Regiment, O. N. G. It was commanded by Capt. H. W. Crittenden, of Burton, who afterwards became major of the regiment.

A number of Geauga County men were in the Spanish and Philippine Wars. Capt. L. L. Durfee, U. S. A., a

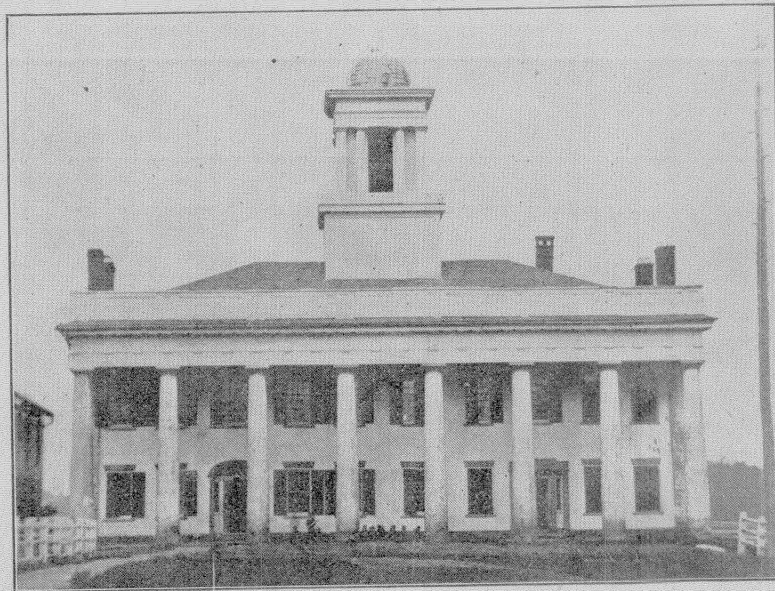
color-bearer of the 42d Regiment.

The Chardon Academy.

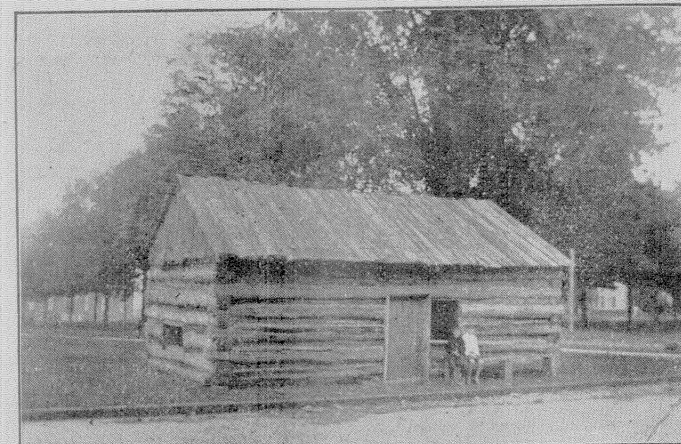
There was a brick academy built in Chardon in 1826, but in time it was supplanted by the public schools. It was burned in the fire of 1868. It stood about where A. Cook & Son's store does. It contained a stone bearing the inscription, "Academy." Here a number of able teachers instructed the young. Hon. Thomas W. Harvey, author of "Harvey's Grammar," taught in Chardon. Prof. Holbrook, an early teacher, is still living in Lebanon, O.

The Chardon family of Canfields have given two common pleas judges to the district—Milton C. Canfield, who died in 1875, and Delos W. Canfield, who died in 1900. The latter was a member of the legislature.

To get an idea of the shape of Geauga County think of the arrangement of the townships as, 1, 3, 4, 4, 4.



GEAUGA COUNTY'S COURT HOUSE BURNED JULY 25, 1868.



FIRST GEAUGA COUNTY COURT HOUSE BUILT IN 1808.