

THE "BEE HIVE" CONSTRUCTED AFTER THE FIRE IN 1868.

Thirty-seven years ago, early Tuesday morning, Main Street was visited by a destructive conflagration, which consumed the business portion of the town and the Court House. A temporary wooden block for the accommodation

of the merchants was immediately erected on the south side of the Park, and facing south. The accompanying cut is a good representation of it. It stood until Randall and Union Blocks were ready for occupancy.

Brigham Young's First Bride from Geauga.

A fact not generally known on the Western Reserve is that Brigham Young's first marriage, to Mary Ann Angell, was solemnized by Sidney Rigdon at Rigdon's residence in the Mormon village of Kirtland, says the Cleveland Press.

The bride was 15 years old. The year previous her parents had refused consent to her union with Young, but, becoming converted to the Mormon faith, finally consented to the marriage. Sidney Rigdon was originally a Campbellite minister. He came to Kirtland in 1826, and the membership of the little church was pleased with him. He gradually brought over nearly the entire church to Mormonism.

A large number of ignorant and profligate people, together with others more intelligent, at once assembled there. Within a short time the "family" numbered 100.

While this fanaticism was ripening at Kirtland a still deeper plot was being brought to consummation at Palmyra, N. Y. An "Angel from Heaven" had appeared to Jos. Smith, a young man of that place, and revealed the locality of a certain chest, the contents of which were made known to him in a supernatural manner. The chest was finally "captured" and it contained, as per revelation, the so-called "Mormon plates," from which, it is claimed, the book of Mormon was translated.

During his engagement at Mentor Rigdon was frequently absent and on one occasion remained away several months. In the early part of November, 1830, four strange men of far stranger mission appeared in Mentor. They were Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, Zabad Peterson and Parley P. Pratt. The same day 17 members were baptized. Meetings were held in a week's time Mormonism had

gained a firm foothold on the Western Reserve.

Men, women and children came on from New York state the spring following, until the "City of the Saints" numbered nearly 5000 souls.

Jos. Smith, Jr., and Brigham Young came to Kirtland in 1832.

Sidney Rigdon is said to have written the Mormon bible, and originated the



A GROUP OF GEAGA PIONEERS.

Eight Troy octogenarians are represented in the accompanying cut. First on the right in the back row is Dr. Laban Patch, and next to him, respectively, Harrison Hoard, C. G. Corliss and Levi P. Poole. Beginning at the left in front row are Friend Dayton, B. H. Pratt, Thomas Kimpton and Henry L. Hosmer.

There will be hundreds of old pioneers of Geauga County who will attend the two-day Centennial Celebration in Chardon on August 9 and 10.

entire scheme of founding a city. Certain it is, that soon after his return to Mentor from Palmyra, this book was announced.

Gradually desertions sprang up, jealousies ensued, and at last a separation took place. One faction withdrew, and denominated themselves the Church of Christ. The other party held the temple, and retained the name of Latter Day Saints. At this time, with demoralization imminent, Grandison Newell, of Mentor, who had been a thorn in the flesh of the fanatics, appeared on the scene and obtained a judgment against the church. In default of payment, the temple was put up at auction and sold to Newell for \$150. The temple cost \$40,000.

Their printing office was burned, and leaders were warned from the township. Eventually the Mormons journeyed overland to Missouri.

The Geauga county court records show that Brigham Young was "indicted for assault with intent to kill one Grandison Newell," but was acquitted by a jury. Over 200 Mormons were present to testify to Brigham's innocence of the charge.

Norman Canfield conducted the first hotel, or tavern, in Chardon, which was built of logs, and stood on what is now the site of the Chardon House. Mr. Canfield was induced to come to Chardon from Hamden, from the fact that there was no accommodation for the officials here at times of holding court.

At the June meeting of the Geauga County Commissioners in 1812, it was "Resolved, That the rate of bounty to be paid out of the county treasury for the scalps of wolves over six months old, killed in this county, shall be two dollars, and for those under six months, one dollar, for the ensuing year."

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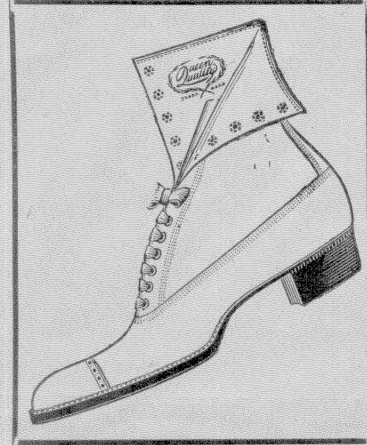


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