The Story of—
Fort McArthur
Simon Kenton
John Hardin

Centennial History
of
Hardin County, Ohio

Including

Centennial Celebration
Program May 28, 29, 30
1933

by
Herbert T. O. Blue
Centennial Historian

1933
Introduction

It is the year 1782 in the month of June. The place is on the banks of the Scioto where the old Indian trail crossed the river. A white man—a doctor—is held captive by a lone Wyandot Indian. The gaol is being torn to his execution at the Shawnee village of Wapsakona. It is just at the break of day. The mosquitoes and gnats greatly disturb the Indian. The white man with difficulty persuades the Indian to unite him, so he can make a smoke about the camp fire, to drive off the pests. Suddenly a thought enters the white man’s mind. He vision a plan of escape. Like a flash he is in action—but what of the escape?

* * * * *

The year is 1933—the month of June is again at hand. A century and more has passed. James H. Allen, Jr., General Chairman of the Centennial Committee, wears with satisfaction, the completion of the work of his committee. He turns to his friends, and says, “Now, there’s a great story and it’s true—it’s history, I want to read that story—I want to learn the outcome of Doctor Knight’s plan of escape. And besides, I am anxious to know more about the events of a century in my native county.”

The story of Dr. Knight, and a host of others, relating the tale of the pioneers who carved out of the forest their log cabin homes, cleared the lands, cultivated the crops and laid the foundations for the present civilization of Hardin County will be found in the pages of this book.

I have long desired to tell the story of one hundred years of growth and progress of my native county, so that future generations may know something of our achievements up to this time.

One of you,

HERBERT T. O. BLOD

Kenton, Ohio, May 1st, 1933.
To My Parents,
ORREN P. BLUE and DELLA A. BLUE
whose loving guidance and encouragement through the years has been a great inspiration and deep satisfaction, and,
To My Wife,
ANNA WAGNER BLUE
whose grandfather, Samuel Wagner, assisted in the erection of the first log cabin
in Kenton,
This volume is affectionately dedicated,
HERBERT T. O. BLUE.
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**THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AND PROGRAM**...Colonial Insert
The Kenton Public Square in the Gay Nineties
Founding of Hardin County and City of Kenton

One hundred years ago the present County of Hardin and the site of the City of Kenton was one vast expanse of forest trees, but now a century has passed and time (with no power to effect changes) has transformed it. No longer do the couraegous Colonel John Hardin ride the wailing hoofs of the Scioo; no more does the intrepid General Simon Kenton march away with an army over the Shawnee Trail toward Lake Erie; no longer do the pioneers enter into the depths of the forest to survey a plot of ground for a homestead.

Progress has been the watchword of the years that have passed. Plum log cabins have given way to comfortable and substantial homes; great forest tree areas have been transformed into fertile fields and farms; buffalo paths and Indian trails have been changed into smooth paved highways; wheeled oxen have been supplanted by trucks and tractors; pioneer schooners and Conestoga wagons have been followed by modern automobiles; the present day's six-gun frontier, the world has moved on; and in this Centennial year the people of Hardin County are glancing backward over the pages of history that may more fully appreciate the achievements of a century.

It is difficult for the historian to state the identity of the first white man who first beheld the lands now embraced in the County of Hardin, but there is a well founded tradition that British and French fur traders passed over the Shawnee Trail which crossed the Scioto at the present site of Pfeffer Station as early as 1750, before the time of the French and Indian War.

When Christopher Gist visited the Indian villages near the present site of Piqua, Ohio, he states in his journal that white men, as fur traders, were in the towns and that some of them had come over the Indian trails from Lake Erie.

ALFRED HALE, FIRST PIONEER SETTLER

There is also a tradition that the first family to make their home in Hardin County was that of Alfred Hale, a "squatting," who located at Fort McArthur in the year 1817. His original home is unknown, but it is said that when he arrived at Fort McArthur, the family consisted of his wife, Mary, and a son and a daughter, and that two years later, 1819, his son, Jonas Hale, was born. Early historians are of the opinion that Jonas Hale was the first white child born within the present limits of Hardin County. It is evident that Alfred Hale never entered any land in the county, and that he took up his residence at Fort McArthur, because it had been officially abandoned by the government in 1816. Early writers think that Hale may have been attached in some way to a party of government surveyors, who were making surveys of the fourteen counties of northwestern Ohio, under terms of the Indian Treaty of 1817. Tradition also says that Mary Hale died at Fort McArthur a few years after Jonas, the fourth child, was born, and that she was buried near the fort in a shallow grave, made by a band of Indians, the first friends of Hale. This family died, soon after the death of his wife, probably moved westward. His later history is buried in the fading traditions of the past. He that as it may, his son Jonas is reputed to be the first white child born in Hardin County. Relative to the Hale family living at Fort McArthur, we quote the following anecdote from an address delivered by A. J. Johnson, on July 4th, 1868 at Kenton.
"Supervise in 1819, Moses R. Corwin and Jonathan C. Chaplin, both lawyers of Utica, visited Fort Frontenac, an Alfred court. While there, they defended a man who had been indicted for stealing a bull. They sat in the dock and took the usual oath for their honor. On their return home, they shot a wild turkey and reached Fort McArthur before nightfall, at which place they arrived, the same night. But nearly all the soldiers were sick with fever, and our friends got but little accommodation. They roasted the turkey for their supper, and their horses got a few bales of fresh grass. During the night, the very one of the men died, and Moses Corwin and Chaplin remained the next day and performed the last act of burial.

There is nothing certain as to who these families were, but doubtless one of them was that of Alfred Hale, whose wife died at the fort.

ROUNDHEAD—FIRST PERMANENT TOWN

The neighborhood of the present village of Roundhead was the first point in the County of Hamilton to receive the impress of a permanent settlement. Here, in the spring of 1818, two years before the boundary lines of Hamilton County had been entirely surveyed, Peter C. McArthur and Daniel Campbell built log cabins on the east bank of the Scioto River. They cleared a patch of ground, which they planted in corn. The pioneers in the vicinity of Bellefontaine were their nearest neighbors, and there is a tradition that, upon one occasion, having allowed their fire to go out, McArthur was compelled to walk in the Bellefontaine settlements to obtain a fresh supply, which he is supposed to have carried on a shovel. While making the return trip, he met an Indian squaw, who greatly amused at his ignorance, taught him how to light a fire with a flint and piece of paper.

After planting their corn McArthur and Campbell returned to Ross County, for the purpose of bringing their families to their new home, but a threatened Indian outbreak frustrated their plans and they did not return to Hamilton County until the spring of 1822.

Another prominent first settler in Hamilton County was Samuel Todd, a native of Pennsylvania, who settled in Roundhead Township in February, 1822, on Elder Creek.

The village of Roundhead was laid out in 1832 by Jonathan Carter, a prominent early pioneer, who was elected the first treasurer of Hamilton County. He had built the first cabin in the town in 1829, a round log house, where for many years the early circuit riders of the M. E. Church held occasional services. The first cabin erected after the town was laid out was that of Jacob Thompson, a man named Livingston erected a log tavern about 1830 and about the same time another tavern was built by John Moore. Alexander Templeton put up a fine log building and brought in a stock of goods in 1835, which was the first store in Roundhead.

The first saw mill was constructed by Jacob Kimberly on the Scioto, while the first horse-mill to grind grain was made by John Mahon in 1834. The first public school was taught in a cabin, with graved paper for windows, in 1837 by Peter McArthur. Upon the arrival of Jonathan Carter at Roundhead in 1829, issued Samuel Todd, the McConnals, John and Peter McArthur, and Daniel Campbell, the latter being elected the first Recorder of Hamilton County.

When Roundhead Township was organized in 1832, Daniel Campbell was elected the first Justice of the Peace and Matthew Mahon, the first Constable. There was only eleven votes cast. Other pioneers of Roundhead and vicinity, not herebefore mentioned were as follows: Richard Redledge, Joseph W. and Jesse Bowdle, William Moore, James Scott, James S. Moore, Henry Bowdle, Samuel and Andrew Ritchey, James Bodle, Henry Stamm and George Black, Alexander Grier, John T. Scott, Watson Spencer, Charles Todd, John Kimberly, John Collins, John F. Hinkle, Reuben Hinkle, Uriah Mc-
First Permanent Settlers

PETER C. McARTHUR

Among the very first early settlers of Hardin County in the years preceding 1825, was Peter C. McArthur, a cousin of General Duncan McArthur, who had constructed Fort McArthur during the War of 1812. Early in 1822 the entire McArthur family left their home in Ross County, Ohio, and came to the newly formed county of Hardin and settled on the land where Peter C. had built a cabin four years previously. Peter C. was the son of Donald and Catherine McArthur, General Duncan McArthur, who was Governor of Ohio from 1810 to 1812 was a nephew of Donald, the father of Peter C. McArthur. When the latter came to Hardin County in 1822 his father was in his eightieth year. He lived to the advanced age of ninety-two years, two months and two days. John McArthur, the oldest brother of Peter C., also came to Hardin County in 1822 and his son Allen J. was the first male child born in Hardin County after its erection in 1829, his birth occurring Sept. 30, 1824. Peter C. McArthur was married to Martha Griffin of Logan County, and they were the parents of eight children. He was well educated and it is said that he taught the first school in that part of Hardin County. The log cabin wherein that school was held stood near the old Pfeiffer spring about one mile north of the present village of Roundhead. He was elected the first County Assessor on April 4, 1833.

DANIEL CAMPBELL

Another of the first settlers in Hardin County was Daniel Campbell, who was born in Kentucky in 1790. He came to this county first in 1818 with his friend, Peter C. McArthur, and erected a cabin about two miles northeast of Roundhead. He planted a field of corn and returned to Ross County for his family. Owing to the unsettled state of the country he did not return until 1822. He brought with him his wife and three children, and settled at his cabin about four years before. During the first year in their new home two of the children died, which loss so grieved the parents that they returned to their former home in Ross County. In the spring of 1829 Campbell again returned to the home he had left in Hardin County. Their surviving daughter, Mary J., later became the wife of Alexander Given. Daniel Campbell was the first Justice of Peace elected in Hardin County and served in that capacity until he was chosen Hardin County's first Recorder, to which office he was elected April 4, 1833. He was re-elected in October, 1833 and again in 1836, serving in that office seven consecutive years. In September, 1849, he became one of the Associate Judges and was on the bench when the new constitution of Ohio was adopted, which abolished that office. Politically he was a Whig and after was a Republican. He accumulated 250 acres of land; was regarded as a good business man and public official. His handwriting may be seen in this volume of the first volume on file in the County Recorder's office. He died on August 9, 1869, aged seventy years.

SAMUEL TIDD

Still another of Hardin County's first settlers was Samuel Tidd, a native of Pennsylvania. He first emigrated to Logan County, but came to Hardin County in February, 1822, where he settled on the northern part of Section 21
in Roundhead Township about two and one-half miles north of the village of Roundhead. He was a blacksmith by trade and during the pioneer days was considered a fine workman. He followed his trade in connection with farming, and did a great amount of work for the Indians prior to their removal to the West. His wife's name was Barbara, whom he brought to Harlan County together with his children, Elizabeth, Mary, Sally, Hugh, Nancy and Martin (twins), and Charles S. About one year subsequent to their settlement, another child, Jane, was born. Her birth occurred on November 3, 1839. Jane Todd, therefore, was the first female child born in Harlan County. She became the wife of Lewis Rutledge in 1842, and was hence the maternal grandmother of Earl E. Rutledge of the Kotton News-Republican. Samuel Todd was a very industrious man, upright and straightforward in all his dealings, and was regarded as one of the most prominent of the early settlers of the county. His death occurred on March 8, 1851. Jane Todd Rutledge died on March 17, 1873, and was survived by her husband, Lewis, who died in June, 1875. They were the parents of six children, four dying in infancy. Two sons, George W. and Charles H. Rutledge, became prominent citizens of Harlan County. Earl E. is the son of George W. Rutledge.

JAMES E. HUESTON

The first settler of Harlan County north of Kenton was James E. Hueston, a native of Pennsylvania, where he was married to Margaret Parks. In May, 1824, he came to Harlan County, where he built a cabin on the Blanchard River in what is now Section 12, Jackson Township, not far from the point where the Pennsylvania Railroad crosses that stream. Here amid the dense forest he began the battle of life, undergoing many trials and hardships. In March, 1833 Mr. Hueston was appointed by the Governor as one of the Associate Judges of Harlan County, and in January, 1834 the Ohio General Assembly elected him to the same position for the full term of seven years, but fate had decreed that he should live only a brief period to enjoy the honor thus conferred. For many years the Hueston cabin was one of those pioneer taverns, frequented by travelers and land prospectors. After Hueston's death, his son, Thomas E., continued the tavern, "keeping a house of entertainment for man and beast." Thomas E. Hueston later served on the Board of County Commissioners, and his brother, William, became a prominent business man of Forest.

Margaret Hueston, wife of the pioneer, withstood the wilderness life only seven years after moving into the cabin home on the Blanchard. She died in 1831 and was buried among the forest trees on the east bank of the river. In the fall of 1834 James E. Hueston's death occurred. He was buried beside his wife. Thus passed the first couple who settled in Harlan County north of what is now the City of Kenton.

These hardy pioneers from southern Ohio counties who sought new adventures in acquiring lands and erecting cabins in the forests of a new land looked with favor upon the fertile lands of the Scioto. Many came upon tours of inspection and exploration and at once decided to return for their families and thus begin life anew. It was this spirit that animated our pioneer settlers in Harlan County; no hardship, no difficulty, no sacrifice was great enough to deter them from the resolutions they had formed. Their strength made them self-reliant and their poverty did not discourage them in the least. They were fitted by nature to build up a new country and were perfectly willing to endure the discomforts of the wilderness. The forest life gave them freedom from the conventional restraint of established communities.
JONATHAN CARTER

One of the most prominent and best known pioneers in the early history of Hardin County was Jonathan Carter of Roundhead Township. This intrepid pioneer was one of the leading characters in the early history of Hardin County, and his name will forever be connected with the village of Roundhead, the first town organized in Hardin County and laid out by Mr. Carter in the year 1832, one year before Kenton was organized.

Jonathan Carter was born near Rochester, N. Y., in 1806. In 1826, his father, with his family and some of his neighbors, emigrated to the Mad River Country, in Ohio, of which they had heard glowing accounts. They made their way through the wilderness to Buffalo, where the family took passage on a small vessel for Maumee Bay, while a quantity of stock was driven through the then unbroken wilderness, along the shore of the lake, to the same destination. After a long and perilous voyage, the vessel entered the Maumee Bay, and passed up the river to the rapids, where they took open boats and went up the river; thence up the Auglaize River as far as they could, thence by land, to the neighborhood of Bellefontaine. But finally, Mr. Carter concluded the Maumee country would suit him better, so he moved in that valley and settled on a farm on the west bank of the Maumee River, about four miles above the rapids where the family remained until the war of 1812 made it unsafe to stay any longer when Mr. Carter returned to the Mad River with his family, except two sons who enlisted during the war. Jonathan tried hard to enlist, but was rejected because of his youth. Mr. Carter, however, remained on his farm till after Hull's surrender, and the country was overrun by the British and Indians, who carried off all valuable property and burned all buildings in the neighborhood. At a last resort, they dug as many potatoes as each could carry, which, with a few chickens, were all the food the enemy spared them, and made their way south, by "Hull's Trail," to the settlements in Logan County, there being no settlement or houses nearer. Several families, including women and children, made their escape in this way. After the war was over, Mr. Carter returned to the Maumee, and again erected buildings and made another start in life. But the Indians would not allow him to live in peace. A son and son-in-law were waylaid by them, and the latter killed at the first fire; but not until the son had dispatched three of the Indians was he killed by bows from their tomahawks. The settlers now repaired to Fort Meigs for safety, where they remained for some time. But Mr. Carter and family, with some others, determined to leave the country, and the only safe course was to take an open boat, and drop down the river and lay under cover of darkness, and make their way to Cleveland and thence to Bellefontaine the best way they could. Soon after their arrival at the latter place, Mr. Carter was killed by a "weight pole" rolling off the roof of his cabin, thus suddenly ending his eventful life. After peace was fully restored, the settlers along the Maumee and Detroit Rivers returned to their former places of abode. A large trade in stock was carried on between Southern Ohio and that country.

Jonathan Carter went through with eighteen droves of stock when there was not a house between the neighborhood of Bellefontaine and the Maumee, and his thrilling stories of adventure are marvelous in the extreme. Mr. Carter settled in this country, at Roundhead, in 1829, where he built the first cabin, and in 1832, laid out that town. In 1833, after the organization of Hardin County, he served as the first Treasurer of Hardin County and filled various offices of trust in his county and township, in all of which he rendered a faithful stewardship. In the course of his life, he was a very strong, muscular man, and capable of enduring great physical exertion and hardships, and had many a wrestle with the Indians, among whom he found but very
few who could throw him. He passed a life of industry and activity, and in all his transactions sustained an unblemished character for integrity and uprightness. He was one of the organizers of the first Methodist Church at Roundhead in which he remained a faithful worker for half a century. He was twice married. First, to Nancy McArthur, a daughter of Donald McArthur, by whom he had eleven children, Mary J., David M., Margaret, Nancy, Elm, John F., Archibald, Wesley, Maria and two who died in infancy. Mrs. Carter died in 1864. In 1865 he married Mrs. Artemis Jane Shaffer, a native of Logan County, Ohio.

Jonathan Carter died on August 13, 1883 at his home in Roundhead at the age of 83 years, leaving his widow and the following relatives: David M. Carter, a son, who at that time lived in Anderson, Ind.; three daughters, Jane Wilbourn, Nancy Myers and Margaret McClure, also Jonathan and George Morrison, grandchildren and Belle Young and Mary Downey, granddaughters. Frank Giffin, a former Probate Judge of Hardin County, was the Administrator of his estate. At the public sale of his property, his favorite old hunting rifle was sold for 95 cents. The record of the settlement of his estate is on file in the office of the Probate Judge in the County Court House.

*Hardin County Organized*

For the next ten years the pioneer's cabin began to make its appearance in almost every part of the country. Small clearings soon dotted the forest and the sound of the woodman's ax broke the silence of the wilderness. The hostile aspect of the Indian produced by the War of 1812 was gradually dying out. While many Indians still lived along the trails and on the banks of the Scioto, their presence did not prevent the pioneer from carrying on his program of settlement. In fact, some of the Indians grew more or less friendly with the early settlers. By the year 1852 the settlers were beginning to think about the organization of a new county government. The county had been attached to Logan County since Feb. 12, 1820 for government purposes, during which period the early settlers had been compelled to go to Bellefontaine to attend to such legal and official business as the necessity of the times demanded. Finally on January 19, 1833, the General Assembly passed an act for the erection of Hardin County as a separate and distinct unit of government. Section 1 of that act is as follows: "That the County of Hardin be and the same is hereby organized into a separate county."

Section 2 provided that all acts and actions in the courts instituted prior to the taking effect of the act should be executed in the County of Logan. Section 3 provided for the first election of all county officers. Section 4 required the Auditor of Logan County to transfer to the new Auditor of Hardin County the lists of land to be taxed for public revenue. Section 5 of the act read: "That the Court of Common Pleas (or the County of Hardin) shall be held at the house of William McClauch (Fort McArthur) until a seat of justice be established for said County. This seat shall take effect and be in force from and after the 1st day of March, 1833."

The county once organized, the tide of settlement began to flow toward the Scioto valley all the way from Roundhead to the present site of Kenton and along the 'Old McArthur Road,' now known as Hall's Trail.

*THE FIRST COUNTY ELECTION*

The first election ever held in Hardin County was on the 1st day of April, 1833, the voting place being at the cabin of Jonathan Carter, in the village of Roundhead. At that time Roundhead was the only township organized and included most of the area of Hardin County south of the Scioto River. The legal voters had to travel to Carter's cabin to cast their ballots at this
election; hence it is quite reasonable to conclude that some did not make the trip, with the result that a full vote was not cast. The officials elected were six commissioners, sheriff, auditor, recorder, treasurer, surveyor, coroner and assessor, the entire county vote amounting to sixty-three ballots. As a matter of historical interest, the names of these first voters are given:


The judges of this first election were: Charles Todd, Lorenzo D. Lay and Wm. Coddington; the clerks were: James H. Bowdle and Alexander Templeton.

The following is the abstract of the vote cast:

For County Commissioners—John McArthur, 42 votes; Charles C. Scott, 48 votes; Henry Dille, 35 votes; Joseph Bates, 8 votes; John P. Terry, 6 votes.

For County Sheriff—Henry D. Tharp, 30; John Hankins, 16; John Ward, 8; Michael Pickle, 7.

Auditor—Chas. W. Stevenson, 43.

Recorder—Stephen Thompson, 27; and Daniel Campbell, 26.

Treasurer—Robert McCand, 19; Jonathan Carter, 19; Jesse L. Bowdle, 12; James Hayes, 8.

Surveyor—John P. Terry, 1, and Ethan Terry, 1.

Coroner—Henry Stayman, 43.

Assessor—Peter C. McArthur, 46, and Isaac Darwell, 10.

For the office of County Treasurer, Robert McCand and Jonathan Carter each received 19 votes, so that no choice was made.

McCand and Carter agreed to settle the tie vote by “drawing lots,” whereupon, McCand won the tie and was declared elected as the first County Treasurer. He served in that office until March, 1838, when he was succeeded by his old opponent, Robert McCand, who was selected at the next county election.

FIRST COUNTY COURT HOUSE

About one year after Kenton had been selected as the seat of justice of the County, the citizens found it necessary to construct a court house where the business of the county could be more conveniently carried on. During that year the court had held their sessions at Fort McArthur and the county officials used their log cabins for their offices.

In May, 1834, the erection of the first court house of Hardin County was begun on the centre of the east side of the public square on the site of the present Sorgun Furniture store and Kirkland Shoe store. The contractors were John W. Williams and John H. Hosmer, while Boston Shaver, of Belleville, was the builder. The court house was a plain brick structure, two stories high, 30 by 40 feet in size. The building was entirely completed and ready for occupancy by the month of October, 1835. A hallway ran through the center of the building from east to west, dividing it into two
rooms. The Auditor had his office in the south room, and the Clerk of the Court in the room on the north side. The court room was in the second story. The Recorder and the Treasurer had their offices in their houses or in places of business until the erection of the small frame building of two rooms, which stood adjoining the Court House on the south. The Sheriff “had his office in his hat,” according to an early historian, who noted Daniel Barton, a prominent pioneer and County Recorder for many years. Every thing about this first Court House was finished in the plainest style, while the office furnishers were in keeping with the pioneer times. It was all that was necessary a century ago when money was scarce and big cabins the only kind of dwellings that the settlers could afford.

For eighteen years justice was dispensed with as much dignity, and the law expounded as logically in this primitive building as it is today in the beautiful temples of justice that adorn nearly every county seat from the Ohio to the Lake. But an untimely fate brought disaster to this quaint old brick Court House. On Friday morning, March 4, 1854, the building was burned to the ground. The fire was first discovered in the Auditor’s office about four o’clock in the morning, and soon spread throughout the structure. Nearly all of the early records in the Auditor’s office were destroyed, as well as much damage done to those in the Clerk’s and Sheriff’s offices, the latter official having by that time a permanent office in the building. The Recorder and the Treasurer saved all of their books and records without any serious damage, though the small frame in which their offices were located was burned at the same time. The loss to the County by the burning of the “Commissioners’ Journal,” which contained all of their official actions throughout the earlier years of the county’s history can never be replaced.

During the interval between the time the Court House was burned and the completion of the second one, the county officials were compelled to seek temporary quarters. The Commissioners rented a room in the “Miller Building,” where the Kenton Savings Bank and Trust Co. is now located on the northeast corner of Detroit and Columbus Streets, which was occupied by the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, while the Auditor, Treasurer and Recorder were provided with offices in the “Copeland Building,” known for many years as Archie Davis’ Corner and now the site of the Alderfer Building at the southwest corner of Detroit and Franklin Streets. The Sheriff was without any regular office until the new Court House was finished; and the court sessions were held in the United Presbyterian Church on the southwest corner of Market and Carroll Streets; also in the First Presbyterian Church at the southwest corner of Market and Columbus Streets, until the new building was ready for occupancy.

**BUILDING THE FIRST COURT HOUSE.**

(From John W. Williams’ Day Book.)

Williams kept what might be called a day book in which he recorded all the transactions in connection with his contract to build the new court house. The remainder of this article will therefore contain interesting sidelights from this day book, relative to the construction of the first court house.

First of all it was noted that John H. Houser was the superintendent of the actual construction of the building. Other excerpts are as follows:

July 21, 1853, is this entry: “Boston Sawyer commenced to mold, set and burn 100,000 brick for the C.H. The same person is credited with laying up the walls. Benjamin Faughn was paid $675 for clearing the timber off the brick yard. Robert Smith made the molds. Michael Johnson housed the sleepers, posts and rafters. A. Douse added in burning the brick at 30 cents per day, night the same. Obed Taylor witnessed the payments of money.
by the county on the contract. Josiah Kubes "sharcd the shingles." The
following persons worked upon the brick yard or court house: Emanuel Wil-
moth, Daniel Barron, James Dwiggins, Joseph Shon, Hayes Bailey, William
Hemke, Joshua Smith, William Williams, John C. Ditto, William Proctor
and N. Lee. His brother, Ezra J. Williams, who later lived in Tus-
cataw County, Ohio, did the house carpenter work. The building was
finished in October, 1831. His daily transactions being minutely kept in the
day book, it is authority for the wages paid for labor, and price of boarding
and "tavern bills" in Kenton nearly a century ago. For chopping, clearing
rolling logs, chopping kiln wood, sawing shingle timber, digging and
fanning, "tunng mason," etc., was universally 50 cents per day; boarding,
$1.25 per week; until the fall of 1838, when a few entries are made $1.75 per
week; single meals in all, except regular travelers was 75 cents. Travelers
who "put up" at the taverns, including hand-hunters, were charged for a foot-
man, supper, bed and breakfast, 31 cents; single meals to travelers, 125
cents; bed 61.5 cents; man and horse, supper, bed and breakfast for each,
90 cents; man and two horses, 75 cents.

A number of settlers are charged with eight's lodging, single meals or
beds. Now and then an entry is made when they were expected to pay the
bill. One reads, "Jacob Berger, to two nights' lodgings and dinner, 75 cents,"
with this note, "lives on Tyne creek, will pay when he brings in his corn
skins next week." Another, "Thomas Atcher and a big Dutchman, two dinners,
25 cents; three flints, 16.5 cents; lives on other side of marsh; will send
the money by Mr. Stevenson."

**FIRST JURY TRIAL IN COUNTY**

The opening sessions of the Pioneer Courts in Hardin County furnish an
interesting chapter in the county's judicial history.

The first session of the Common Pleas Court was held at old Fort Mc-
Arthur, then used for a residence by William McCloud, on March 8th, 1833.
The second session of the Court was held at Fort McArthur, begin-
ning on September 10th, 1833. The first term of the Common Pleas Court
held in Kenton began on April 14th, 1834, and was held in the bar-room of
John W. Williams' Tavern, a very large and commodious building struc-
ture, which stood on the southwest corner of the public square, and later
known as the "David Goodin Corner." Goodin having purchased the Williams' Tav
ern in December, 1835.

The first jury trial in the county's history occurred at the fall term of
the Common Pleas Court began at the above mentioned John W. Williams' Tav-
ern-bar room on November 17th, 1834. All cases coming up at the first
three sessions we have described, were settled by the judges of the Court;
or were continued to the next session. The first jury case was a larceny
charge against Mathew Dobson and Eliza Breas.

The following is the story of the Court session and trial: "At a Court
of Common Pleas, began and held for the County of Hardin, at the Court
House in Kenton (the Court House was not yet completed), on the 17th day
of November in the year of our Lord 1834, and the State of Ohio, the thirty-
second, present Joseph R. Swan, Presiding Judge; William McCloud, Joseph
Boydell, and Joseph Davis, Associate Judges of said Court; William Fair-
ney, Deputy Sheriff; and Alexander Thompson, Clerk." It is interesting to note
that this is the first time that the name of Judge Swan appears in Hardin
County History. He was one of the most learned jurists of his time. The
Court record states that the session was held at the Court House, but as a
matter of fact, the Court House was then in process of construction, having
Halstead was placed in charge of Wm. McGovern, Deputy Sheriff. The weather was very cold, and the jail having no fire-place or stove, a huge iron kettle was improvised as a heating apparatus by being filled with blocks of wood and a fire started; the smoke escaping as best it could. Soon after his arrest, the prisoner complained of an intense thirst, and asked the Deputy to supply him with plenty of water. He also professed a religious turn of mind, and requested McGovern to furnish him with a supply of candles, so that he might read his Bible after nightfall. The Deputy-Sheriff readily granted all the prisoner's requests.

However, one morning when McGovern visited the jail, he was greatly astonished to discover that "the bird had flown." The prisoner had taken the blocks of burning wood from the kettle, and by boring a hole through the rat-hole near the wall of the jail, had tunneled under the wall, made his escape. It had required many nights of labor to do the work. The prisoner had used the water, which the unsuspecting deputy had left him for drinking purposes, to put out the fire, when daylight would compel him to forego his labors. During the day Halstead was careful to see that his bed was placed over the scene of his work. The prisoner even stole his bedding to protect him from the cold, and his escape was a standing joke on the deputy sheriff for many years afterward.

THE SECOND COUNTY JAIL

The second County Jail was erected in the summer of 1853 on the site of the present (third) county jail building at the corner of Carroll and Wayne Streets. It was two stories high, 36 feet long and 27 feet wide. A hallway divided the building into two parts, the east end containing five iron cells, while the Sheriff lived in the west end. This jail was erected at a cost of $8000 under the direction of the Commissioners, Thomas Rough, Samuel Wood and John P. Heckle. This building was in use for thirty-one years, when it was torn down to make way for the present County Jail.

THE THIRD-COUNTY JAIL

The present County Jail and Sheriff's residence was erected in 1886 at a cost of $30,000 under a contract let by W. M. Keville, C. W. Runser and Philip Schmeler, the Board of County Commissioners at that time. It was proposed that the building be a modern structure in every respect. The sheriff's residence is in the front part of the building and contains ample quarters for the sheriff and his family. There are sixteen cells located on the two floors of the rear of the building, and though this structure has been in continual use for a period of forty-seven years, yet it is still adequate to the needs of the county.

HARDIN COUNTY INFIRMARY

The present Hardin County Infirmary was erected sixty-three years ago and was opened for business on January 5, 1871, under the direction of A. W. Foster, a former Superintendent. It is the oldest county public building now in use, and in spite of the old-fashioned style of architecture, it still presents an imposing appearance, and has been in constant use for a period of forty-seven years, yet it is still adequate to the needs of the county.

The history of the county infirmary dates from April, 1858, when the first case was taken to build a home for the unfortunate poor people of the county. The proposition was defeated by a large majority. However, a few years later the county commissioners took steps toward purchasing a convenient location for a so-called "Poor Farm." The site first selected was 160 acres of land about two and a half miles northeast of Keaton, owned by John Packham. The farm was purchased, but nothing was done toward improving it, nor was it ever occupied for the purpose intended. In the fall of 1858,
H. E. Branson and David Sneedgrass, two of the county commissioners, concluded that the Parkinson farm was not a suitable place for an infirmary, and against the protest of Samuel Wood, the other member of the board, voted to change the location; and selected a site west of Kenton on the Lima road, purchasing the present County Home farm from W. H. Phillips for $5,000. In the county auditor's report for 1869, it is stated that the farm and buildings cost $46,000. The present building was begun in 1869 and was completed in 1870. The architect was Mathew Rumbaugh and the superintendent of construction was Benjamin H. Branson; H. D. Schreiber and Samuel Havel were the brick builders, and H. F. Stevenson and A. S. Hoan had charge of the wood work. The largest portion of the building is 102 by 36 feet, and it is so constructed as to secure the largest amount of sunlight and fresh air possible. It is three stories in height, and rests on a solid stone foundation.

For many years it was conducted under the direction of three infirmaries; but in more recent years it is supervised by the county commissioners, who employ a superintendent and matron to oversee the inmates; and operate the farm of 201 acres. The building now has all the modern improvements to provide a comfortable home for its inmates.

HARDIN COUNTY ARMORY

The well known Hardin County Armory on the corner of Main and Carroll Streets was erected in 1894-95, at a cost of $22,000. The cornerstone was laid with imposing ceremonies and a huge street parade on August 2, 1894. Governor William McKinley and his staff attended this gathering together with many other prominent public men. The ceremonies were in charge of the Masonic Lodge.

The Armory has been the scene of many notable public meetings. In the national campaign of 1912, capacity audiences listened to addresses by President Wm. H. Taft, and former President Theodore Roosevelt. Other distinguished men of the nation have spoken within its walls. For many years the auditorium section has been used for athletic events, chiefly basketball. Formerly all the political conventions were held in the armory. For many years the armory has been used by the various military organizations of the city of Kenton. During the erection of the present Court House, the interior was partitioned off into county offices and a court room, which prevented its use for public gatherings. For many years prior to the erection of the new Court House, the front rooms of the Armory were used for the offices of the Probate Judge and the County Surveyor.

The Armory was built under the direction of the County Commissioners, H. S. Latham, J. W. Lounsbury and T. J. Dickinson. It was formally dedicated on April 13, 1895, with a grand military ball. Governor and Mrs. Wm. McKinley were also present for the dedicatory exercises.

ORIGINAL SITE OF KENTON

It is not generally known that the present city of Kenton came very near being located on lands in Pleasant Township just west of the present Hardin County Infirmary on the Harding Highway. The site chosen included the present farms of C. A. Sarangie, the heirs of Judge R. B. Wentz, and the Frank R. Rarey farm. This land was sold by the State of Ohio, Joseph Vance, Governor, to Charles W. Stevenson, Director of the Town of Kenton, for the purpose of laying out a town for the new county of Hardin. The tract contained 26.25 acres of land and was selected because the high elevation seemed to be a suitable site for the erection of a town. Before a survey of the land could be completed the Hamner Brothers and Lemuel Wilcox offered to donate portions of their farms to the Director for the location of the
new county seat. For a time, it seemed that the commissioners to locate the seat of justice, would order the 216 acre tract surveyed, whereas, the Humes and Wilmuth withdrew their donations. At length, the 216 acre tract was set aside as the location for the town and the commissioners by court action compelled the Humes and Wilmuth to live up to their donation agreement, and the original plan of the present city of Kenton was surveyed. C. W. Stevenson, the Town Director, said the 216 acre tract as follows: 65 acres to David Harrold; 43 acres to Wm. and Robt. McCulley and 109 acres to Samuel Greer.

The State Deed showing the purchase of the 216 acre tract by Charles W. Stevenson is in the County Recorder's office, recorded in Vol. 47 at Page 3. The purchase price was $229.33 and the money was paid to David E. Owens, Receiver of the Ohio Land Office at Tiffin. The granting clause reads as follows: There is hereby granted by the State of Ohio unto the said Charles W. Stevenson, Director, the west half of Fraction 2 Section 11, Township 11 South, Range 16 East, containing 216.26 acres more or less.

Town of Kenton Established

The legislative act passed by the State Legislature on January 19, 1833, organizing Hardin County, designated Fort McArthur as the temporary seat of justice until a permanent location should be selected by the three commissioners appointed during the same session for that purpose. On April 16, 1833, the commissioners, by Page, Almer Scotty and Edward J. Morgan, made the necessary examination of the site proposed, as required by law, and after mature deliberation they unanimously determined to fix the seat of justice for the new County of Hardin on the north side of the Scioto River, on the Southwest quarter of Section 11 in Pleasant Township, and part of Fractional Section 4 of the same township. The former tract of land was to be donated by the brothers, John H. and George H. Humes, while the latter tract was to be donated by Lionel Wilmuth. The Humes Brothers thus gave thirty acres for the town site, while Wilmuth offered ten acres. The report of the commissioners also stated that if these donations proved insufficient for a town plat, the Director of the town was authorized to purchase any quantity of land adjoining the donations, not exceeding forty acres at eight dollars per acre. Wilmuth also agreed to lay off into town lots, and sell under the direction of the Town Director, ten acres of land in addition to the lot given to the county. This report was dated June 1, 1833 and signed by the three commissioners. On September 7, 1833 the complete report was formally presented in the Court of Common Pleas, then in session at Fort McArthur, and on the second day of the session, September 12, 1833, the Court appointed Charles W. Stevenson as the Town Director. He was ordered to enter into a bond of $1000 for the faithful discharge of his duties, with Charles C. Scott, Henry D. Tharp and Robert McCulley as sureties. Under date of September 12, 1833 the following entry is recorded on the journal of the court: "Ordered by the Court that Charles W. Stevenson, Director of the town of Kenton, the county seat of Hardin County, be and he is hereby instructed to accede to the propositions made by the proprietors of the land fixed on for the said seat of justice as per proposition filed and entered on the minutes of this court, and proceed to lay off the said land into lots, streets and alleys, designating the public square agreeably to the plan agreed upon by the court and on file in this office; and also proceed, with all possible dispatch, to advertise and sell at public auction the said lots, or as many of them as can be sold, on the 15th and 16th days of October next, requiring the purchasers one-sixth of the purchase money in hand, and the balance in three equal payments; and the said Director is instructed to dis-
count 6 per cent per annum on the deferred payments if they are paid in kind.”

There is nothing on the record of the court to show who named the county seat or why it was called “Kenton,” but tradition has handed down the following story of the event. After the Commissioners had agreed upon the location of the new county seat, there was considerable discussion as to the naming of the town. Before any decision was reached, the party, in company with Judge William McCloud, had reached Everet McArthur, where dinner was awaiting them, and the subject was dropped for the time being. As soon as the meal was over, the matter of naming the new town again came up, and being unable to come to any satisfactory conclusion, it was agreed to call upon Mrs. McCloud to decide the question. It so happened that the well-known frontiersman and noted scout, Simon Kenton, was a warm friend of Judge McCloud, and that Mrs. McCloud was an ardent admirer of the famous border scout. When the Commissioners left to hear the choice of names, she at once decided to pay a fitting tribute of respect to her husband’s friend and exclaimed, “Call the town Kenton.” Her selection was declared excellent, and the new county seat was thus given the name of one of the most illustrious men in the annals of Indian warfare.

**ORIGINAL TOWN PLAT**

The following description of the original plat of Kenton, surveyed under the authority of Charles W. Stevenson, Director, is taken from the official plat-book in the office of the County Recorder:

“The public square is seventeen poles square, enclosed by the streets which surround it, viz.: Detroit, Main, Columbus and Franklin streets, which are each eighty feet wide; the other streets are each sixty feet wide; and the alleys each sixteen and a half feet wide. The burying ground is twenty-one rods by sixteen and fifteen links and contains two acres and eightiethundredths. October 8, 1833. Surveyed by D. Hopkins, Deputy S. L. C.”

The plat was recorded on the 15th day of October, 1833, by Daniel Campbell, County Recorder. Mr. Hopkins who made the official survey was a Deputy Surveyor for Logan County. The burying ground referred to in the plat was located in the northeastern corner of the town on lands now occupied by the Antonio Hospital, and extending west as far as the first alley east of North Main Street. The burial ground extended from East North Street, as far north as the alley just south of the Church of Christ. Other details in the history of the original plat will be found in the article on William Furney, who drew the design of the first plat. There were 154 lots in the original plat, most of which were sold at the first public auction on October 15th and 16th, 1833. The second sale of town lots took place on June 3, 1834.

**WILLIAM FURNEY**

Kenton’s First Citizen and Business Man. Who Settled on the Original Plat.

William Furney, Grandfather of M. G. Furney, West Franklin Street, Druggist, was the first settler to erect a cabin house on what is now the original plat of the City of Kenton and whatever honor belongs to that event is justly due him. William Furney was born at Berryville, Clarke County, Virginia, on Oct. 2, 1794. He was the son of Louis and Rebecca Furney, the name being changed from Ferney to Furney in later years by William Furney, while a resident of Columbus County, Ohio, at the town of Unity,
William Furney’s father Louis was an artist in brass and copper or a coppersmith as we would say. When William Furney came to Kostom in 1831 he had with him several compasses and a sun dial, which were used by the surveyors in drawing and plotting the original plat of Kostom. These valuable instruments are now in the possession of Claude J. Furney, well known Kostom Druggist and great-grandson of Wm. Furney. Mr. Furney also has several other articles of equipment used in William Furney’s first log cabin such as hammers, candles, etc. Mr. Furney also has the original record of the birth of William Furney, Kostom’s first citizen in the handwriting of his mother, Rebecca, reading as follows, “October the 2 my boy was born—1795.” There is a tradition in the Furney family that their ancestors were Hessian and spoke the German language.

William Furney came with his parents to Petersburg, Mahoning Co., Ohio, then returned to Pittsburgh for two years. The family then moved back to Petersburg and a little later moved to Unity in Columbiana County. In March 1836, Wm. Furney was married to Christina Lapley, a native of Hagarstown, Penn., born Nov. 26, 1798. The wedding occurred at Petersburg, Mahoning Co., Ohio, near the Pennsylvania state line. To this union five children were born, three dying in infancy or when quite young. Two sons grew to manhood, Hiram Furney, born at Petersburg in 1820 and died in Kostom on March 22, 1860; Luther Furney, born Oct. 6, 1822 at Petersburg and died in Kostom on February 17, 1910 at the age of 88 years. The couple first moved from Unity, Columbiana County, to Weoster, Ohio and then to Bucyrus where the family remained for about six weeks, intending to journey farther west.

In the spring of 1833, Mr. Furney learned of the new county of Hardin from a Mr. Libby, the Register of the government land office at Bucyrus, and at once set out on foot to view the land on the banks of the Scioto. He had left his family at Bucyrus, and when he arrived on the site of what is now Kostom he was so well pleased that he decided to make the valley of the Scioto his future home. He returned to Bucyrus and with his wife and two sons Hiram and Luther made the journey through the forest to the chosen point in the new County of Hardin. The family arrived on the 20th of June, 1833.

Immediately Mr. Furney began the erection of a log-cabin on the lot which at the present is immediately in the rear of what is now the Hotel Weaver. He was assisted in the erection of this cabin by Samuel Wagner, the father of E. V. Wagner of Kostom. On the 4th of July, 1833, the cabin of Mr. Furney was completed and ready for occupancy, and in honor of the occasion, the family celebrated with a log dinner to which George H. Homer and William and Samuel Wilmoth and their families were invited. These early settlers had previously erected cabins on their farms on the south bank of the Scioto. The feast consisted of large quantities of roast venison and baked Johnny cake.
Soon after this event, Wm. Furney drew the design for the original plat of Kenton and furnished the same to Charles W. Stevenson, Director of the town of Kenton. It was then sent to Columbus for record. The plat as drawn by Mr. Furney included all the land to a point as far west of the public square as the first alley west of Market Street; as far east as the first alley east of Wayne Street; as far north as the alley that crosses Main Street at the Church of Christ and south to the old bed of the Scioto where the Epworth M. E. Church now stands.

In this original plat, Mr. Furney owned the following lots: Lot 29, where Henne McVay lives on N. Detroit; Lot 48, where W. A. Norton lives at the corner of Detroit and Carroll; Lot 89, where the Furney Building is located on West Franklin; Lot 79, where the Presbyterian Church now stands (he gave this lot for church purposes forever); Lot 90, where Rosenhall's Clothing Store is now; to the Bridge Hardware Store; Lot 100, where the Hotel Western is located, and Lots 114 and 115 at the N. E. corner of S. Market and West Ohio Streets. The work of surveying the plat was done by a Mr. Hopkins, Deputy Surveyor, Logan County, and the Furney cabin was the ground place for the surveyors. There is a tradition that Mrs. Wm. Furney took up the first root of grass with a mattock, that was taken from the site of where Kenton is now located. She was born on Nov. 30, 1799 and died in Kenton on April 20, 1894 at the age of 94 years and 5 months.

William Furney was a good mechanic and soon opened a gun and blacksmith shop near his cabin in which all kinds of repairing was done for the hunters, land buyers and pioneers who came into the locality of the new town of Kenton. There were many newcomers to the village, much coming and going of those interested in establishing new homes along the fertile banks of the Scioto, and our subject naturally conceived the idea of opening a tavern, as he found his cabin was too small for such a purpose; hence in 1834 he erected a frame building called the "Mansion House" on the site of Rosenhall's store extending north from the corner to the north line of the present Combs Drug Store. The building was a two-story frame structure.
in the shape of a letter "U," with wings on Franklin Street on the south, and one wing on the north about where Condo's Drug Store is now. The dining room and kitchen was in the north wing and the so-called "Pretzel Room" and bar was in the south wing where Roosenthal's store is now located. At the rear of the open court made by the two wings were the barns and stables where the travelers' horses were kept. The front on Detroit St. and upper rooms were used for sleeping chambers with certain rooms reserved for the family. Mr. Finney was the proprietor of this tavern until 1846 at which time he was succeeded by his son Luther. During the last few years of his life he was engaged in the grocery business on Franklin Street. He died on May 20, 1854, at the age of 60 years and is buried on the Finney burial lot in Grove Cemetery, together with his wife, his son and his mother. The lot was bought in 1855 and died in Kenston in 1858, aged 78 years.

A short-time after coming to Kenston, William Finney was appointed a Major in the 3rd Regiment, First Brigade, Twelfth Division of Ohio Militia and in 1837 was promoted to Colonel of the same regiment, which was called out in the trouble known as the Ohio-Michigan War resulting from a boundary dispute between the two states.

One of the priceless relics owned by Claude L. Finney is War. Finney's 300 page ledger account book, begun on Jan. 1, 1832. His first reference to Kenston is Jan. 1, 1838. All his writing is still legible.

His son, Luther Finney, was a soldier in the Civil War, serving as Lieut. Colonel of the 38th Regt. of the O. V. I.

Luther's son, Melvyn G. Finney, present West Frank St. druggist, was born in the Finney Mansion House, on the site of Roosenthal's store, Jan. 27, 1853, when the town of Kenston was only twenty years old. He has been engaged in the drug business in Kenston for 57 years. He was married in 1889 to Almoria DeVoe. Their seven children are all living. Claude L. Finney, a son, is now associated with his father in the drug store. He graduated from Ohio State University in 1900 and in 1924 was married to Miss Lillian Baker, a graduate of Miami University. They have two children, Melvyn George and Mary Lou. Thus, from Wes, Finney, who drew the Original Plat of Kenston a century ago, we have traced his descendants to the fifth generation.

OTHER EARLY KENTON SETTLERS

While William Finney was the first settler on the original plat of Kenston, there were other early pioneers who settled in the immediate vicinity of the new town. One of these very first settlers was John Johnson who came from Marion County in 1828. He drove through the forests with an ox team, cutting a road the entire distance from the old Shawnee trail to Fort Me-Arthur. He entered eighty acres of land about two miles north of the present County Infirmary in Pleasant Township, where he lived until his ninetieth year. He was long a member of the Liberty Chapel Methodist Church. He was the owner of Lot 81 in the Original Plat. This venerable pioneer lived to see the town of Kenston grow from a mere cluster of cabins to a prosperous city. W. A. Norton, well known throughout Hardin County, has a vivid recollection of John Johnson. He served in the War of 1812 and Mr. Norton distinctly recalls obtaining the government pension checks of Mr. Johnson, when they were presented to the bank for payment.

THE HOUSER BROTHERS

Three brothers, John H., Jacob H., and George H. House, natives of Virginia, emigrated to Fairfield County, Ohio, where they lived until they came to Hardin County in the fall of 1830, three years before the town of Kenston was established.
(1) John entered land on the north bank of the Scioto in Fractional Section 2, near the site of the present Spring Grove Golf Course, where he soon erected a saw and grist mill, one of the first ever built in Hardin County. After a few years he removed to Washington Township, where he lived for several years. He spent the later years of his life in Indiana. John Houser will be remembered as the Superintendnet of the erection of Hardin County's first Court House.

(2) Jacob settled about one mile east of Kenton where he erected a cabin near a spring, a few rods south of the bridge east of Grove Cemetery on the Harling Highway. He donated thirty acres of his property, where the original plat of Kenton was surveyed, and at the public sale of town lots he purchased lots numbers 77, 88, and 154. Mr. Houser was a prominent member of the first congregation of Methodists organized at the cabin of his brother George by the Rev. Thomas Thompson, a missionary stationed on the Wyandot Indian reservation at Upper Sandusky. Jacob Houser made his first addition of lots to Kenton on June 4, 1836 and a second addition on Nov. 21, 1840. He will always be remembered as the donor of the first tract of lands upon which the City of Kenton is now located. His daughter, Ellen, was the wife of Dr. U. P. Leighton, a well known early Kenton pioneer.

(3) George Houser came to Hardin County with his brothers John and Jacob, in the fall of 1835. He brought with him his wife and four children, and settled in a cabin on the north bank of the Scioto, a short distance west of the present Big Four Railway bridge over the river. Here two more children were born, William and Barbara. Without doubt they were the first children born within the present limits of Kenton before the town was established. George Houser was a true buck-wheatman, who thoroughly enjoyed roaming the forest with his dog and gun. He was elected a Justice of the Peace in 1835, and on October 10th of that year acknowledged the signature of Charles W. Stevenson, as Director of the town of Kenton, to the original plat. At the same time he platted the western addition to Kenton, which included the lands of the Big Four Railroad yards between West Franklin Street and the Scioto River.

Mr. Houser was an ardent Methodist and was the class leader of the first society organized at his cabin in 1833. Tradition relates that he exhorted, prayed and sang so loud that he could be heard for a great distance. A story is told that on the night of the meteoric display in November, 1833, he was so impressed by the wondrou natural phenomenon that he rushed near to the cabin of William Furmy, where William Cary had his small store, and shouted at the top of his voice, “Oh! Mr. Furmy! Oh! Mr. Cary! Come out! Come out! the world is coming to an end! the stars are falling from the heavens!” And still another story is told that as justice of the peace he was called upon to perform the marriage ceremony, using “Jim P. Hunt to Margaret Musser. Mr. Hunt was a blacksmith and by appointment with Miss Musser, who lived with the family of William Furmy, went from his shop in his everyday clothes to Houser’s cabin, where the marriage was to take place. The justice was afraid that the bride’s friends would be angry with him for tying the knot and in his excitement exclaimed, “I pronounce you man and wife, although my knees do tremble.” About the year 1839 he removed to Indiana, and some years later again removed to the State of Ohio where he and his wife spent their declining years.

THE WILMOTH BROTHERS

In 1830, three years before the town of Kenton was located, William Wilmoth, a native of Ross County, came to Hardin County, bringing his wife and five children. He selected a site for a cabin close to a spring near the site of the present old homestead of William King at the south end of South
Cherry St. Here another daughter, Martha was born, and here his first wife died. In after years he built a larger residence, near his first cabin home. He later married Mrs. Mary Proctor, and in 1847 removed with his family to Independence, Mo. While a resident of Canton he and his family were prominent members of the first Methodist Church organized at the cabin of George W. Hocker.

Lemuel Wilmuth, a brother of William, came to Hardin County in the spring of 1831. He was born in Ross County, Ohio, in 1805 where he lived until his brother sent him glowing accounts of the fertile valley of the Scioto. Upon his arrival in Hardin County he entered forty acres of land in Fractional Section 4, which included much of what is now the southeast section of Canton, ten acres of which he donated to the town; when the county seat was established. He erected a cabin south of his brother's, which was often frequented by friendly Wyandot Indians as they marauded the forests. He assisted in clearing the great trees on what is now the public square of Canton, and took a prominent part in the development of the town. Mr. Wilmuth was twice married, first to a Miss Tiebout. They became the parents of seven children, three sons and four daughters. His second wife was Miss Mary M. Davis, and they were also the parents of three sons and four daughters. Many of Mr. Wilmuth's descendants still live in Hardin County.

Shortly after his second marriage in 1846, Mr. Wilmuth moved from his cabin home in Canton to a farm of eighty acres one mile north of Canton, where he resided for twenty-seven years. This was known for years as the "Wilmuth Homestead." It was located one mile south of Greenleaf School and one mile east of the Canton and Forest Highway. In 1867 he sold the "Homestead" and moved about four miles north of Canton on the Summit Road, where he died on February 3, 1879. He had seen the site of Canton a solid citizen, and lived to see the place grow to be a prosperous town.

JOHN W. WILLIAMS

One of the very first settlers in the town of Canton was John W. Williams, a native of Woodboro, Md., born April 20, 1800, emigrated from Tuscarawas County, Ohio, arriving at the town of Canton only ten days before the first sale of lots, Oct. 13 and 16, 1833. The town site had just been surveyed, but the lots were not yet sold. The town site of Canton was a dense forest, and scarcely a tree cut on the site of the present Court House and Public Square. Upon the arrival of Williams and his family, they camped in the woods at about the spot where the Court House now stands. They slept in their wagons, and cooked their meals by the side of a large fallen tree. Here they remained until a lot could be bought and a cabin erected. The roads to the different settlements, on Eagle Creek in Hardin County,
the Bog Creek Marsh, Roundhead and Upper Sableiski were but little more than blind Indian trails.

Game, however, they found in abundance; deer, turkey and an occasional bear could be seen. Williams and others of his party killed deer within a few hundred yards of the present public square. One morning a herd of deer was discovered almost within shooting range. Williams creep a short distance from his camp, on the side of the present Court House, and shot a large fat doe. The others ran back into the forest, leaving a half-grown fawn, which stood near its dead mother, until he reloaded his gun and fired, when the fawn wheelled and followed the herd, which he discovered had only run about 200 yards into the thick underbrush, but now fled again.

A few days later Williams and some of his friends were attracted to a spot in the forest less than half a mile distant by the howling and snarling of wolves. Upon investigation Williams discovered the fawn partly eaten by the ravenous wolves. It had been fatally wounded and ran that far.

When cooking about a camp fire in the late evening of the fall of the year, the scent of roasting venison would often attract large packs of hungry and snarling wolves, and they could be heard almost every night. Two bears, one day, being closely pursued by hunters from the north, were reported to be passing along the north bank of the Scioto. All the men in the primitive settlement of Kenton at once joined in the chase. One of the bears was killed about a mile west of what is now the public square, having been previously wounded in one of its hind feet. The other escaped in the direction of the Scioto Marsh, but had almost killed one of the dogs that had caught up and attacked it.

At the sale of public lots, Williams purchased several choice lots facing the public square, and among them the corner lot at the southwest corner of what is now Franklin and Detroit Streets, afterwards known as the David Godlin corner. Upon this lot, after clearing off the heavy timber, he erected a large hewed-log house, the first of the kind built in Kenton. After the logs had all been hewed, the day for the log-raising came. A sufficient number of men for this task could not be obtained, hence Williams was compelled to ride around for several days to some of the settlements, and invite the settlers to the raising. The stumps for the roof of Williams' hewed-log house were all made from a large oak tree that stood in the street in front of where Hains' Mill House is now located. The house was "clinked" and "stained," and most of it was laid with a "punched" floor.

As soon as the family could move in, Williams began to "keep tavern." In connection with his tavern, he sold a few goods, his trade being mostly powder, lead and flints, gun caps not being in general use. Money being scarce, the articles he dealt in were frequently exchanged for peltry. In the winter of 1834-35 Williams and traveling traders took in at his tavern hundreds of deer skins, raccoon, muskrat and now and then a beaver skin. Deer were so plentiful that their hides brought more than the meat.

Some of the early sessions of the Courts were held at the Williams Tavern. Up to the spring of 1836 there was but one house between the Williams Tavern on the public square in Kenton and the location of the present hamlet of Williamstown, fourteen miles north. It being reported that the Mail River and Lake Erie Railroad would locate its line six miles east of Kenton, at "Wheelers," and that the county seat would be moved to that place, Williams sold all of his property in Kenton, and laid out the town of Williamstown, north of the present village of Danirk. To this new town Williams moved in 1836. Here he lived until his death in September, 1874.
DIRECTOR OF TOWN OF KENTON—CHARLES W. STEVENSON

Charles W. Stevenson, one of the earliest pioneers in Kenton and Director of the town from 1833 to 1834, was born in Kentucky, November 20, 1796, and came with his parents to Greene County, Ohio, in the year 1800, where he grew to manhood. In January, 1819, he was married to Cynthia Scott, also a native of Kentucky, born August 19, 1795, who also came to Greene County with her parents about the same time as the Stevenson family.

In the spring of 1827, when Mr. Stevenson was thirty years of age, he and his brother, Samuel, settled on a tract of land near the headwaters of Silver Creek in what is now Taylor Creek Township. In the fall of that year, Mr. Stevenson, in company with his brother Samuel, returned to Greene County and brought his wife and three children to the log cabin which the brothers had erected during the summer.

After living on the land until about 1833 and making many improvements, a difficulty arose between the Stevensons and the owner, Gen. James Taylor of Newport, Kentucky, by which they lost the land as well as their years' hard labor in clearing the land for purposes of cultivation. Several years afterward, however, Taylor relented and paid them each the sum of one hundred dollars.

About this time the brothers erected a saw mill and a corn-cracker or kind of grist mill on Six Mile Creek, which was a great benefit to the early pioneers in that locality.

To Charles W. and Cynthia Stevenson the following children were born: Margaret J., who married Lewis A. Miller; Clarissa, who married Samuel Stewart; William, who removed to Vandalia, Illinois, in an early day; these children were born in Greene County. The following were born in Hardin County: David P., born in 1828; Robert, who died in Kenton in 1855; Euphemia A., who married John Morrison; Charles W., who moved to the West; Asahel P., who lived in Kenton; and two daughters who died in infancy.

On the first of April, 1833, Mr. Stevenson was elected Auditor of the newly organized County of Hardin; and soon after the location of the County seat at Kenton he removed to the town. He built a log-cabin on what is now the north side of West Columbus Street on the first lot west of the present Big Four Railroad tracks. Here he made his home for many years.

He was appointed the Director of the Town of Kenton in 1835 and had complete charge of the sale of all lots and lands on the original plat in the new town. He held this position until the year of his death. He also held the office of County Auditor for eleven consecutive years from 1833 to 1844 inclusive. Few of the early pioneers were better known or more widely respected than Mr. Stevenson.

After the expiration of his last term as County Auditor, he engaged in farming and teaming; and finally erected a sawmill on Taylor Creek in what is now Buck Township, only about a mile south of Kenton. His death occurred on May 17, 1864. His widow survived him many years and lived until September, 1877. In politics Mr. Stevenson was a Whig and was ever active in that party.

He was one of the foremost of all Hardin County pioneers and the confidence bestowed upon him by the public was well recognized in the several offices he held for many terms, and in which he rendered unsurpassed service.

EARLY KENTON PIONEERS

Ezra J. Williams, who did the "house-carpenter" work on the first Court House, came to Kenton in the early thirties, with his brothers, Joseph and Vachel. Ezra later moved to Westchester, Ohio; Joseph moved to Columbus, Iowa; Vachel went to Cincinnati. Vachel Williams' brother-in-law, Wright
Ferguson, also assisted in clearing the timber from Kenton's Public Square and adjoining lots, and then removed to Kentucky in 1815.

John and William Dimmick, who, with their mother and two sisters, came from Union County in the fall of 1832, and built a cabin near the south end of the old Pioneer Cemetery on East Franklin Street. About a year later, they removed to a farm north of Kenton.

William Cary, a native of New Jersey, came to Kenton in the fall of 1833, from Marcellus, Wyandot County, bringing with him a small stock of goods, which he offered for sale first, in the cabin of George Housey; then he secured a room in the Wm. Fursey building and later erected a small frame store room on the west side of the public square, where he conducted his store for three or four years. He returned to Marcellus for a few years, but returned to Kenton in 1847 and again engaged in merchandising. He engaged in banking from 1853 to 1875. In June, 1884, he was appointed Director of Kenton, to succeed Charles W. Steckman. He died on March 12, 1877.

Eli Strong and wife came to Kenton from Union County in the fall of 1833, and soon after their arrival, a son was born. They named him Kenyon, and early historians state that he was the first child born in Kenton, after it was established as the county seat. Eli Strong was well educated and was one of the earliest of the pioneer school teachers of the town. He served as a Justice of the Peace, and as a deputy postmaster, the office being located in his store on Ohio Street, near South Main Street.

Alexander Thompson, a native of Scotland, settled in Harrison County about 1812. Upon the organization of the county, he was appointed Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, holding that office until 1839. He located in Kenyon in the winter of 1834, and became Kenyon's first postmaster. He removed to Crawford County, Ohio, for a time, but later returned to Kenton, and was elected an Associate Judge in 1847. Judge Thompson died in 1849 in the prime of life. Some of his descendants still reside in Harrison County.

Joseph Nichols and family came to Kenton in the winter of 1834, and erected a cabin near the present Carroll Street Railroad bridge. He was one of the pioneer merchants, and was known for his ability as an usher in the Methodist Church, though he could neither read nor write. About 1841, he removed to Wisconsin where he lived many years.

John Whitley came to Kenton early in 1834 from Bellefontaine, opening a general store in a cabin which stood on the site of the present office of the Kenton Daily Democrat. After a few years he returned to Bellefontaine, later entering the ministry of the Methodist Church.

Obed Taylor and family came to Kenton in March, 1834. He was a native of Franklin County, Penna., and removed with his parents to Franklin County, Ohio, thence to Delaware County, from which place he came to Kenton. He opened a store in a log cabin, which stood on the west side of the square, on the site of the present Bridge Hardware store. Later in life he settled in Back Township, where he died in 1879. He served as Sheriff and Treasurer of Harrison County in the pioneer days.

Daniel Barton, one of the most prominent of the pioneers of Kenton, was born in Somerset County, Penna., June 26, 1804. He removed to Holmes County, Ohio, in 1830, and arrived in Kenton on March 25, 1834. For a time he operated a tannery on the northeast corner of Detroit and Ohio streets; and then became a clerk in the store of Obed Taylor. For twelve years he was County Recorder and served our term as County Treasurer; and was also a Justice of the Peace for nine years, Mr. Barton lived to a ripe old age.

John H. Warn, a native of Highland County, Ohio, opened a store in a room of William Fursey's building, on the site of the present Kessell's Clothing Store, in April, 1834, and after selling goods at this location for about ten years returned to his early home.
Elm P. Hard, a blacksmith, came from Marengo, Ohio, in 1834, and started a shop on the southwest corner of Detroit and Carroll Streets, where the William Gillmore house stood for many years. He carried on his trade as a blacksmith at this point until his death, January 19, 1840.

Robert Smith, a carpenter, came from Richland County, Ohio, in 1834. He assisted in the erection of the first Court House, which was begun in May of that year. In a few years he moved to a farm north of Kenton, where he lived until his death.

Andrew Barnes came to Kenton in 1834 and started the first tailor-shop in a cabin which stood on the southwest corner of Main and Carroll Streets. He remained in the town only a few years.

Laibet Damon, a native of New Hampshire, came from Massachusetts in May, 1838, and opened a cabinet shop on North Main Street, on the site of his son Warren's residence. He carried on this business until his death in 1859, being succeeded by his son, Warren, who became a prominent manufacturer of furniture. The late Frank L. Damon, a son of Warren, continued in the furniture business until his death a few years ago. To this day, one will observe the name of W. F. Damon on the Damon Block on the north side of the public square.

Robert H. Tecumseh, a native of Waterhouse, N. Y., came from Knox County, Ohio, in 1838 and opened a boot and shoe shop on West Franklin St., on the site of the former Clark Hayden bakery. In later years he moved to Lima, Ohio, and represented Licking County in the Ohio Legislature.

Jacob Pine built the first brick kiln in Kenton just east of the present Big Four freight station, in 1835. He built his cabin near by and it is said that having no machinery, members of his family assisted in ramming the clay and preparing it for the molds.

Samuel Mentor came to Kenton early in 1835, opening a general store in the Partney building on Detroit Street and later built the National Hotel on the site of the old Bank Block. He traded for a farm in Back Township, where he lived until his death in 1882. He was the third Auditor of Hardin County, 1847-1849.

David Goodin, a native of Somerset County, Penna., came to Kenton in December, 1835, and bought the tavern then owned and occupied by John W. Williams, on the south-west corner of Detroit and Franklin Streets, which he conducted for fifteen years. Later Mr. Goodin moved the tavern into business rooms. This structure was destroyed by fire in 1836, after which he erected the Goodin Block. In 1846 Mr. Goodin was elected Associate Judge, which office he held for seven years. He also served on the Town Council and was one of the founders of the Kenton Savings Bank. The old Goodin homestead, an old colonial house, still stands on the hill on West Lima St.

William Fergus built a tannery in Kenton near the southeast corner of Main and Columbus Streets, upon his arrival in Kenton from Harrison County, Ohio, early in 1837. The exact site of Fergus's tannery is not located by early historians, but it was near Dr. R. G. Schutte's office.

Hugh Letson, a native of Warren County, N. J., came to Kenton in July 1837, and started a tailor shop on the east side of the public square, immediately south of the first Court House on the site of the present Gossen Drug Store. After several years Mr. Letson entered the dry-goods and ready-made clothing business. He served twelve years as a Justice of the Peace and one term as Probate Judge. His death occurred on Feb. 1, 1878.

John Kaiser came from Cincinnati to Kenton in April, 1837, and engaged in the haying business for fourteen years. He had emigrated from Germany to Cincinnati in 1834, where he lived three years before settling in Kenton. In 1839 Mr. Kaiser located on his farm on what is now West Lima Street, opposite the old Goodin homestead, where he spent the remainder of his life.
The old homestead still stands. His son, John Kaiser, Jr., was for many years a boot and shoe merchant in Kenton, on the northwest corner of the square, in the room now occupied by Ziegler's Shoe Store.

**EARLY PIONEERS OF PLEASANT TOWNSHIP.**

Among the earliest settlers of Pleasant Township who came to Hardin County was Samuel Wagner, a son of John Wagner, a Lieutenant in the Revolutionary Army. Samuel Wagner was born in Berks County, Penna., on November 5, 1800, removed to Hagerstown, Md., in 1829, where he engaged in the milling business, until his arrival in Hardin County in the spring of 1833 before the town of Kenton was laid out. He assisted William Purney in building the first cabin erected in the new town. He erected his own cabin on the southwest quarter of Section 35, at the intersection of the Hapburn Road with the Harding Highway one and one-half miles east of Kenton. This farm was his home for fifty-eight years, until his death on November 17, 1881, aged 91 years and twelve days. He purchased Lot No. 40 of the Original Plat in Kenton, where the Hardin County Jail is now located; also Lot No. 76, now the home of Frank Johnson, on East Columbus St. Samuel Wagner was united in marriage with Mary Ann Hostman on Dec. 23, 1834. They were the parents of eleven children: Susan, Levi, Catherine, Daniel H., Mary, Margaret, Samuel T., Rachel, Emma, Isabella and Photos V. At the present writing three of the children survive: Mrs. Rachel McCormick, Mrs. Isadora Bingham and P. V. Wagner. When Samuel Wagner came to Hardin County, he entered large tracts of land and at his death fifty-eight years later, he was still the owner of eleven hundred acres. At the time of his death at the age of 91 years, he was one of the oldest pioneers of the County. He had seen the site of Kenton a forest and lived to see it a flourishing town.

John Ryan came to Hardin County from Fayette County, Ohio, and settled on the northwest quarter of Section 28 about 1833, on a farm one mile north of Kenton, near the Dunkirk Highway. He served as the third Sheriff of Hardin County from 1836 to 1839, and later removed to Illinois.

James Hayes in 1835 settled on the southwest quarter of Section 18 on the old Draper farm, northwest of Kenton. For a time he operated the Houser Mill east of Kenton, and after a few years removed to the west.

John C. Dilie of Richland County settled on Section 29 in the fall of 1835 on land known for many years as the Baylor farm one mile northeast of Kenton. After a few years he sold his land and returned to Richland Township.

Abel H. Allen, a native of Hardy County, Va., came to Hardin County in 1835 and settled on the north bank of the Scioto about two miles east of Kenton, now the Keasler farm. On this site he lived for forty years until his death, Dec. 24, 1873. He was married in 1835 to Rebecca Mackey and they became the parents of three sons; John, Emo and Leighton, and three daughters; Mrs. Nicholas Ramay, Mrs. John Morrison and Mrs. Joseph Russell. Several of Mr. Allen's grandchildren are still living in Kenton and Pleasant Township.

Levi Hostman, a native of Virginia, came to Hardin County in the fall of 1833 and settled on the southwest quarter of Section 23, now the Frank Daniels farm. His wife was Mary Wilson, a native of New York City. They were the parents of four sons and two daughters. In later years they removed to Waterloo, Iowa, where they spent their last years. Their oldest daughter, Mary Ann, was the wife of Samuel Wagner.

Benjamin Fugert, a native of Virginia, became a resident of Greene County, Ohio, and in the fall of 1833 came to Hardin County, settling on
lands where the County Infirmary is now located. He remained a resident of Pleasant Township until his death.

Residing Hineline came to Hardin County from Guernsey County early in 1834, and settled on lands east of Canton. He and his family in later years all removed from the township except two daughters, Mrs. John Gay and Mrs. Paul Castor.

John Gardner, a native of Maryland, came to Hardin County in the fall of 1833 from his home in Richland County and settled on the northeastern quarter of Section 22, on what is now the Bloom farm on the Forest Highway. Here he resided until his death.

William Williams, a native of Virginia, emigrated to Ohio early in life, residing in Richland and Ashland Counties until March 13, 1834, when, after an eight days' journey through the forests, a distance of seventy-five miles, the family settled on the northeast quarter of Section 26, on land now owned by Henry A. Laws. Here a cabin was erected in the forest, and the work of clearing the land began. After less than two years of pioneer work he died, leaving his wife and four children. His oldest son, Nathaniel Williams, was long a prominent resident of Pleasant Township. Many of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren still reside in Hardin County.

John Castor, a native of Virginia, born in 1788, came to Hardin County in the spring of 1834, settling on the northeast quarter of Section 21, now the Henry Garisch farm. Here he resided for nearly a half century. His death occurred in December, 1888, at the age of 90 years and seven months. His son, Paul Castor, was a resident of Pleasant Township for many years, and many of his descendants now reside in Hardin County.

Joseph Peavey, a native of Virginia, first settled in Fairfield County, Ohio, came to Hardin County in 1834 and settled on the northwest quarter of Section 24, now a part of the G. P. Johnson farm. On this farm he resided until his death.

Bernard Matthews, another prominent early settler of Pleasant and Ceasna Townships, was born in Dublin, Ireland, April 11, 1801, emigrated to America in 1834 with his wife and two children. They arrived in Canton on August 1, 1834 and settled on land northeast of the town, where the family resided two years. Mr. Matthews then removed across the line into Ceasna Township and settled on what is now the Daniels farm on the Harding Highway. Mr. and Mrs. Matthews were the parents of seven sons and three daughters. Three sons are still living: Joseph C. Matthews of Kenton, Alfred Matthews, long associated with the Kenton Daily Democrat, and Jerome Matthews of Denver. John, Cornelius, James and Reed all died in Colorado, where they were engaged in the cattle industry. The daughters were Mary Matthews Cowey, who died in Tacoma, Wash., Lucy M., a Sister of Cheeny, who died at the Good Samaritan Hospital, Cincinnati, with which institution she was associated for many years, and Charlotte Mathews Plagare, the mother of Oleen E. Plagare, publisher of the Kenton Daily Democrat. After residing on the Ceasna Township estate for nearly a half century, Mr. and Mrs. Matthews moved to Kenton, where they spent their last years.

David Kellogg, a native of Massachusetts, settled on the southwest quarter of Section 22 on May 22, 1835, where he resided for many years. This land is now known as the Vert Reber farm. David Kellogg and his son Daniel cut the first road through the forest from the location of the present Greenacres School along the Forest Highway to Kenton.

Jonathan Ceasna, a native of Fairfield County, Pennsylvania, came to Hardin County from Cuyahoga County, Ohio, in 1833 and located 714 acres of land in Pleasant Township on the north side of what is now the Harding Highway and along the Ceasna Township line, where he resided until his death in
October, 1828. In 1834 he was appointed Associate Judge, to fill an unexpired term. In 1842 he was re-elected by the General Assembly for a seven years term. He was a man highly esteemed and widely known. He and his wife, Catherine (Bower) Cessna were the parents of ten children: Jonathan, Helen, Benjamin F., Lucinda, Oliver P., Virginia, Caroline, William T., Harvey E., and John. Two of the sons, R. F. and W. T., were both prominent in the public life of the county for many years. William T. Cessna served as a colonel in the Civil War; was Mayor of Kenton and a member of the Ohio Legislature.

Morgan Gardner, a native of Maryland, came from Richland County, Ohio, to Pleasant Township in March, 1833, and settled on land known for many years as the A. Trager farm. He spent his last years in Washington Township, where his death occurred in 1873. He and his wife, Catherine (Harvey) Gardner were the parents of eleven children. Mr. Gardner was prominent in the public life of Pleasant, Washington and Blanchard Townships.

William, James, Herkish, Brice and John Harvey, five brothers, natives of Jefferson County, Ohio, came to Pleasant Township in 1833 and settled on Section 7 near the land of Morgan Gardner. In later years all the brothers except Brice moved to other northwestern Ohio counties.

EARLY PIONEERS OF BUCK TOWNSHIP

William McCloud was one of the very first settlers in what is now Buck Township. About 1832, McCloud, a native of Ireland, came to Hardin County from his home at Bellefontaine, with his wife and six children. At that time the black houses and stockade at old Fort McArthur were still standing and knowing that the fort had long been abandoned by the government, McCloud decided to make this place his home. Here the family resided for about thirteen years; here the first County Courts were held; here the town of Kenton was named and here the first post office in the county was established.

Upon the organization of the county in 1833, William McCloud was elected by the State Legislature as one of the Associate Judges of the new County of Hardin and served in that office for seven years. The early court records in Volume 1 of the Journal of the Court contain many interesting decisions made by Judge McCloud. This record is still on file in the office of the Clerk of Courts in the Court House. This writing in this day is still legible after a century of time. The Court records were not destroyed, in the Court House fire of 1853. Soon after his term as Court Judge expired, McCloud and his wife returned to Bellefontaine to reside with their daughters, where in later years their deaths occurred. Judge McCloud was a great leader and many interesting tales of his skill as a marksmen were related by early pioneers who knew him well. He was a man of fair education, and was generally respected and beloved by his pioneer associates. Mr. and Mrs. McCloud were the parents of the following children: Robert William, Jr., Lectie, who married Dr. A. H. Lord of Bellefontaine, Salie, who married Jacob Powell, also of Bellefontaine, Maria and another daughter, whose name is not stated by early writers. Their son, Robert McCloud, was the first Postmaster in the county with his office at Fort McArthur. He also served as County Treasurer from March 8, 1838 to March, 1836, and as County Commissioner from 1844 to 1845. About 1846 he and his brother, William McCloud, Jr., moved to the rest. At this time there are a number of Judge McCloud's descendants residing in Logan and other counties of this part of the state.

Joel Thomas, another early Buck Township pioneer, came to Hardin County in 1828 and erected a cabin on what is now the Taylor Creek Pike.
on land known for many years as the Stevenson farm. This site he made his home for ten years, then moved away.

William Paxton came to Buck Township from Logan County about 1828. He erected a cabin on Wolf Creek on the old Zimmerman farm. After a few years he moved to Hale Township, where he resided for many years, before his removal to Michigan.

Conrad Collins settled in Buck Township about 1830, not far from Wolf Creek. After a ten years' residence he sold his land to Harvey Buckminster, and removed to northern Indiana, where he spent the remainder of his life.

Isaac Draper, a native of Pennsylvania, came to Hardin County with his family in 1832, settling in Buck Township. Later he removed to a farm northwest of Kenton in Pleasant Township where he lived until his death. For many years he and his son Robert were prominent farmers of Pleasant Township.

William H. Cole, a native of the State of New York, in 1835 settled on land formerly owned by Samuel Meantree on what is now the Mt. Victory Highway. Here he operated an ashery for many years before his removal from the county.

George M. Hake, a native of Virginia, first settled in Logan County; moved to Buck Township about 1838 and settled on land of Harvey Buckminster, where he resided for many years until his death.

James Beavers, of Virginia, first settled in Hale Township about 1838, and about 1845 became a resident of Buck Township, where he lived until his death in 1881, at which time he was a large land owner.

James Scott was an early settler in Buck Township, where he was engaged as a carpenter for many years prior to his death.

Leonard Rounds, a native of Pike County, Ohio, settled in Buck Township in 1845. Later he lived in Taylor Creek Township and then removed to Kenton. He was a local preacher in the Methodist Church.

Thomas and John Dedda, brothers, natives of Erie County, Penna., were early settlers in Buck Township, located land between what is now the Ridgeway and Mt. Victory Highways. They were prominent settlers and some of their descendants still reside in Hardin County.

Henry G. Johnson and his brother, Hoss, were early settlers of Buck Township locating on lands in the vicinity of Wolf Creek, where they resided many years, and became the founders of the large Johnson family in Hardin County. Henry G. was born in Fleming Co., Kentucky in 1833 and Hoss was born in Mecklin Township, Logan County, in 1837. Their father was Jacob Johnson, born in 1779 in Mmounth Co., New Jersey, and their mother was Rachel Green, born in Bourbon Co., Ky., in 1784. Henry G. Johnson and wife, Martha Smith, were the parents of ten children; while Hoss Johnson and his wife, Nancy Rosebush, were also the parents of ten children. John C. Johnson, a veteran of the Civil War, and former County Commissioner, was a son of Hossie Johnson. On Jan. 1, 1900, Hossie Johnson and his wife celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, and nine days later, Mrs. Johnson died. Mr. Johnson lived until January 20, 1910, aged 92 years, 1 month and 9 days.

Kenton Municipal History

Kenton remained an unincorporated town from the time it was established in 1833 until the summer of 1845, a period of twelve years. The act incorporating the town was passed at the legislative session of 1844-1845, and on the 14th of July, 1845, the first election for town officials was held, and resulted as follows: Mayor, William Jackson; Recorder, Samuel Smith; Councilmen, David Goodin, John G. Fox, John Kaiser, Sr., John H. Yarke
and Luther Damron. At the first meeting of the town council held on July 16, 1845, William McGovern was elected Mayor and John R. Garou, Treasurer. September 1, 1845, Jacob Schoonover was appointed a councilman, since John D. Fox resigned, and at the same time fifty cents per meeting was adopted as the pay for each councilman. James Fought succeeded to the office of Marshal on Nov. 3, 1845 and thus the list of officials remained during the first year of the incorporation of the town.

The first meeting of the council held on July 14, 1845 was held on July 23, 1845, with Mayor William Jackson presiding and all members present. The first ordinance passed by the council may be seen in the old Ordinance Book No. 1, Page 10, now on file in the City Hall. It reads as follows: “An Ordinance to establish the regular meetings of the board. Be it ordained by the town council of the town of Kenton, that the period of the regular meetings of this board shall be on the first Monday of each month, and a special meeting may be called by the Mayor, if necessary, upon his giving three days notice to the other members of the board either orally or in writing. This ordinance to take effect from and after the passage and publication thereof. Passed July 23, 1845. S. Smith, Recorder. Wm. Jackson, Mayor.”

At the same meeting an annual ordinance was passed to prevent the unessential discharge of firearms in the corporation. It is quoted as follows: “Be it ordained that any person or persons who shall fire any musket, rifle, shot-gun, pistol or any other description of firearms, whatever, within the limits of the said town plat, except on public days and days of general muster, may be fined in any sum, not exceeding five dollars nor less than twenty-five cents.”

Still another ordinance passed at this first meeting will be of interest. It reads as follows: “An Ordinance to suppress disturbances and to prevent tumultuous behavior. Be it ordained that if two or more persons shall assemble together, and unlawfully disturb the citizens of the town, by helling, beating on boxes, buckets or pan, by blowing horns before the door of any citizen of the town, or in any part of the town, or if any two or more persons shall assemble together and disturb the citizens by any unnecessary and discordant noise, whatever, the persons so offending shall be fined in any sum not exceeding five dollars nor less than one dollar. Attest. S. Smith, Recorder. Wm. Jackson, Mayor.”

**FIRST FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The earliest record of any attempt to provide fire protection in Kenton was the purchase of some “fire hooks” July 6, 1850. In March, 1853, shortly after the first county Court House was destroyed by fire, Chief Taylor was ordered to buy haldres, hanks, pikes, axes and ropes to aid in extinguishing fires within the town, and about that time a “book and ladder company” was organized. On July 12, 1858, the Town Council appropriated $500 to purchase a fire engine, hose reel and 300 feet of hose. W. F. Damron, J. M. Bluman, and A. M. Davis were appointed a committee to make the purchase. They went to Cincinnati and bought the “Reindeer Fire Engine,” at second hand, it being one of those primitive concerns operated by hand power. The Reindeer Fire Company, No. 2, was organized in January, 1859, and a temporary engine house was provided. For several years the “Reindeer” served the town, though the old records state it frequently needed repairs.
THE OLD CITY HALL

In May, 1870, a tax was levied for the purpose of erecting a building for the fire department, constructing two cisterns, and to purchase a new fire engine. Plans for the building were drafted by E. T. Bogardus, and consisted of an engine house, town hall, and jail all in one structure. The contracts were let in August, 1870, to erect the building on North Main St. O. P. Stevenson, son of the first Director of Kenosha, was awarded the carpenter work, at $2,209; Ambrose Bushart, the masonry, at $3,000; Dennis Kelly, the painting, at $156. Charles V. Lamer was given the contract to build the two cisterns for $900, and Earhart Bloem the iron work for the prison cells for $477. After the building was completed, the Council concluded that the fire equipment was not sufficient for the needs of the town, and in May, 1871, appointed Asley Leisen, Charles Brunner, and F. T. Schaefer, a committee to purchase a steam fire engine. The engine, hose and hose carriages were purchased from the Biddle Mfg. Co., Sergus Falls, N. Y., for $7,850, and on June 22, 1871, John W. then was appointed as Engineer of "Simon Kenton, No. 1," the name given to the new engine. Louis Wooster, succeeded Mr. Born and James Young was appointed Chief Engineer. In July, 1873, a new horse-hose reel was purchased and added to the department. For half a century all the fire equipment consisted of horse-drawn vehicles, until the department was motorized on November 15, 1920. The present fire department building was erected in 1927 and was occupied for the first time on January 1, 1928. At the present time William B. Cantrell is the Chief of the Fire Department and Frank Astor, Irvin Russell, Frank Shaw, Harry Robinson, Ralph Jones and Harry Humes are the members of the department on duty at the fire department building.

The building is located on the site of the old Russ property on West Columbus St., and is a modern and up-to-date structure in every respect. Ample and comfortable quarters are provided for all the city firemen.

OLD CITY HALL SOLD

The old City Hall and Fire Department building on North Main Street was in use for thirty-seven years, from 1870 until 1907. Until 1882, the town council had no regular meeting place, but in that year a council chamber was
provided on the second floor under the direction of Dr. A. W. Munson, the Mayor of Kankin at that time. At the same time an office for the Mayor was provided in the building, though no office was provided for the Clerk of the Council. Many outstanding public meetings were held in the old Council chamber, and here the legislative fathers of the city traced the laws of the town for a period of twenty-five years.

In 1907 it became necessary to construct a new fire department building and provide offices for the various municipal departments. Accordingly, it was voted to sell the city hall and use the proceeds for the purchase of a new building. The sale was carried out under the direction of Public Service, at that time composed of Frank T. Benson, Lewis Price and William A. Norton. On the day of the sale a large crowd gathered in front of the hall to witness the event. The auctioneer was O. F. Blue, at that time the Clerk of the Board of Public Service; and soon the shabby old building was sold to John Callan, the highest bidder. For some time it was used as an automobile garage by Arthur Rosencrans; later it was converted into a moving picture theater and at the present time it is occupied by the Huber Furniture Store.

THE PRESENT CITY BUILDING

Negotiations were soon entered into with the owners of the old James White homestead, a large two-story brick house on the northeast corner of Columbus and Market Streets, with the result that the city purchased the building for the use of the various city departments and offices. The interior of the building was remodeled to some extent, and in the spring of 1907 it was occupied for the first time by the several city officials, as follows: Mayor, Clarence M. Gesen; Clerk, George P. Blue; Auditor, John V. Thompson; Treasurer, Charles B. Moore; Solicitor, Jas. Ray Stilings; Supt. Water Works, W. D. Dowling; Supt. Streets, W. E. Gossert; Civil Engineer, Paul K. Strong; Chief of Police, Wesley Hammond; Chief of Fire Dept., W. J. Gehman; Councilmen: President, A. E. Barry; Clerk, C. P. Blue; First Ward, John D. McAdow; Second Ward, John E. Huston; Third Ward, Jacob Beeler; Fourth Ward, Samuel Harnish; At Large, John A. Berry,
KENTON BECOMES A CITY

The records in the City Building show that on May 18, 1886, Kenton ceased to be an incorporated village and town that date all ordinances contain the following preamble: "Be it ordained by the Council of the City of Kenton, Ohio, etc., the last village officers were: Mayor, A. H. Johnson; Clerk, H. N. Dubbs; Solicitor, F. M. Childs; Marshall, George H. Smith; Treasurer, John J. Shimer; Street Commissioner, W. H. Miller; Council, J. P. Cook, George P. France, Luther Fymer, N. S. Weisger, Peter Hueser, William Oster, and John C. Born.

The first officers elected after the town was incorporated as a city were as follows: Mayor, W. H. Ward; Clerk, Geo. S. Binkley; Solicitor, T. B. Black; Treasurer, A. R. Charles; Marshal, Michael Flanagan; Street Commissioner, W. H. Miller; Councilmen, W. P. Steffen, J. C. Schwartz, Luther Furtney, M. H. Cunningham, John W. Born, William Oster, Sr., and G. J. Caster.

For forty-seven years Kenton has been incorporated as a city, during which time many of its citizens have served in the various municipal offices. The present officers during the centennial year are as follows: Mayor, George H. Lingrel; Auditor, Willis Bopp; Treasurer, Herbert Rudleiff; Solicitor, Fred Martin; Service-Safety Director, Frank Ellis; City Engineer, Paul K. Stroop; Street Commissioner, Sherman Johnson; Supt. of Water Works, Frank McGinnis; Clerk of the Water Works, Floyd Lyman; Chief of Police, Oliver D. Shaddix; Patrolman, Joseph Dempster, Douglas Clark, David Sloan, Clarence Sheldon; and J. H. Jenkins, Merchant Patrolman, Engineers at Water Works, Clarence Porter, Hugh Bates and Jesse Richardson. The present City Council is composed of the following members: President, Merle Fleming; Clerk, Lawrence France; W. P. Booth, Trinity Bridge, Arthur Hummel, Fritz Fugle, William Lick, Karl Risik and Karl Kietzer.

KENTON WATER WORKS

Before Kenton had a water works system the citizens of the town had their own wells, and for fire protection large cisterns stored full of raw water were located at various parts of the town. On June 22, 1883, Lewis Merriman, James M. White, W. E. Bannum, Thomas Eaply and Wm. H. Young formed a stock company known as The Kenton Water Works Company, with a capital stock of $60,000. A reservoir was dug just east of the Big Four Railroad, south of the Scioto River and a pumping station established nearby. At first about four miles of water mains were laid throughout the city and forty fire plugs placed at convenient places. This company operated the water works until April 1, 1887, when the City of Kenton purchased the system for $67,000, and has continued to own and operate the water works until the present time. Though the years many improvements in the efficiency of the system have been made. The water mains have been extended to every portion of the city, new wells have been put down from time to time and the entire system modernized in every respect.

KENTON POST OFFICE

The first application for a post office in Hardin County was made in 1835, to be called McArthur, since it was established at Fort McArthur. The following is the record made upon the books of the Post Office Dept., at
Washington, "Citizens ask for an office at this place, the temporary seat of justice of the county, and appointment of Robert McCloud as Postmaster. On route 1617, once a week on horseback. Greatful," The papers establishing the new post office were sent in care of Bellefontaine, that being the nearest office. McArthur Post Office was established on July 18, 1833 and Robert McCloud appointed Postmaster.

The next record reads as follows: "March 6, 1834, Robert McCloud, Postmaster, resigns, and with citizens recommends the change of name and site of this office to Kenton, now the county seat, three miles distant, and appointment of Alexander Thompson as Postmaster. Him, Mr. Vance consults." The first post office in Kenton was in a log cabin on Ohio Street, near the corner of Main. At one time the mail was carried overland from Bellefontaine to Findlay, while east and west mail came to Kenton from Lima by the way of Huntersville and Marseilles and return. After the Big Four Railroad was completed, regular mail service was established. The location of the Kenton Post Office has been changed many times. Before the Civil War it was located on the north side of the square and later was moved to a room on the east side of North Detroit St. For many years it was located on West Franklin St., in the first room west of the first alley west of the square, on the north side of the street. From that point it was moved to the Farmy Block on West Franklin St. in 1905, where the office was continued until the completion of the fine new Post Office Building on the site of the old J. C. Miller home on the southwest corner of Market and Franklin Streets.

The Kenton office was fourth class until 1865, when it became third class. After some years the office was raised to second class and since July 1, 1925 the office has been first class. City delivery was established January 1, 1891 with three carriers. Rural delivery was established with one carrier in September, 1899.

The present post office building was formally opened to the public on Feb. 22, 1926 and was dedicated a few days later. The cornerstone was laid in the summer of 1925, the address on that occasion being delivered by United States Senator, Frank B. Wills, who was very largely instrumental in securing the final appropriation for the erection of the building. The ceremonies surrounding the laying of the cornerstone were under the auspices of the Masonic Fraternity of Kenton.

The first bill introduced in Congress providing for an appropriation for a post office building in Kenton was that of Congressman Frank B. Wills, in 1912. In 1913, Postmaster Carl W. Smith induced Congressman John A. Key to introduce another bill. Thus came the World War and the building project was postponed for several years. Finally the old J. C. Miller home site was purchased. The home was razed and work began on the erection of the present building.

R. Kissling, Samuel S. Crawford, Edward J. Yanger recently retired and George W. Felty is the temporary caretaker. The substitute rural carriers are Russell Blue and Carl Richards. Special delivery carriers are Wm. Brown.

**KENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

As early as 1851 the Kenton Library Association was formed to establish a public library and to bring noted lecturers to the town. The first lecture was given Feb. 21, 1855 by the celebrated Hoeces Myers, the great educator, Feb. 11, 1856, Samuel Cox lectured in Kenton. Later lectures were given by Schuyler Colfax, Dr. Parks Goodwin and others of national reputation. The Civil War caused interest to wane, and not until 1886 did some of the leading citizens meet to discuss plans for opening a library. E. P. Dean was made Chairman and W. M. Bechman, Secretary.

In August, 1886, a large room was opened on the second floor of the old Lyman Block, over the present McCoy Drug Store, at the northeast corner of the square, with a fair supply of fiction, biography and historical works. A charter was secured for the Kenton Library Association from James S. Robinson, then Secretary of State. The incorporators were: G. J. Carter, F. D. Bass, H. C. Kuller, E. P. Dean, F. O. Humson and Robert S. Jones. For a time funds and books were solicited from citizens, and public entertainments given to support the library, until the state law gave cities a real library law.

When Andrew Carnegie made liberal gifts for public libraries, Kenton obtained a donation of $20,000 and work on the present building was soon begun. The location, formerly the old Wm. M. Chestnut store, was the gift of Lewis Marriner. Late in 1908, the books were moved from the old location; and on February 17, 1909, the formal dedication was held with fitting ceremonies. Dr. G. J. Carter, president of Board of Trustees, gave an interesting address, and Atty. F. C. Dougherty formally received the library in behalf of Kenton. Miss Fanny Pearce was Librarian from 1886 to 1892; and Miss Margaret Rogers from that time until February, 1906, when she was succeeded by Miss Keziah Moore, the present Librarian.
A Century of Progress

Kenton in 1847

When Henry Howe, the well-known Ohio historian, visited Kenton in 1847, he drew a picture of the business section of the town. The view shows about twelve stores, and a few other smaller buildings. The Presbyterian Church is the largest building shown; and with its bold column caps and four windows on either side presents an interesting study in the light of the modern appearance of the town. The view was drawn from a point a short distance south of the present Big Four Freight Station and shows a train of four small coaches passing by. The passenger depot stood west of the track at about the location of the present freight station. Henry Howe says "In the center of the town is a neat public square. From the facilities furnished by the railroad, Kenton promises to be of considerable business and population. It now contains 8 dry goods and 4 grocery stores, 1 newspaper printing office, 1 livery, 1 grist and 1 saw mill, 1 Presbyterian and 1 Methodist Church and had in 1846, 300 inhabitants, since which it is estimated to have more than doubled its population. There is a house in this town, the rain flowing from its north ridge finds its way to Lake Erie, and that from the south ridge to the Gulf of Mexico." (Mr. Howe refers to the old home of General Lucius Robinson.) That description indicates that Mr. Howe thought well of Kenton and its future.

It is of interest to quote another paragraph from Mr. Howe's explanation of the geography of Hardin County.

"About half of the county is level, the remainder undulating; the soil is part gravelly, loam and part clayey, and based on limestone. The principal productions are wheat, corn and tobacco. Following are the townships in 1840 with their population: Blanchard, 241; Cassia, 259; Dudley, 349; Goders, 349; Hatl, 267; Jackson, 260; Liberty, 176; Marion, 177; McDonald, 288; Pleasant, 369; Ramsdell, 368; Taylor Creek, 400; and Washington, 202. The population of Hardin County in 1840 was 3,583 or 9 inhabitants to the square mile." The reader will observe that Buck and Lynn Townships had not yet been organized. When we consider that the County was not open to settlement until about 1825, the growth was very great in fifteen years. The completion of the new Mad River railroad in 1846 greatly increased the marketing facilities for Hardin County people, and Kenton enjoyed a rapid growth from that time on.

Kenton's Public Square Before the Civil War

In preparing this Centennial History, it was our good fortune to interview Attorney James Ray Stillings, who very kindly placed in our hands a series of letters from his cousin, Vinton Stillings, who a few years ago prepared a sketch of the history of the Public Square of Kenton, as it appeared in the late fifties. The letters are of great historic interest in this Centennial year.

Mr. Stillings was born in Kenton, on Dec. 14, 1852, the son of Edward Stillings, a brother of John Stillings, the father of Atty. J. Ray Stillings. Edward and John Stillings were prominent lawyers in Kenton, the former moving to Kansas during the Civil War. His death occurred in January, 1893. Vinton Stillings is still living in Leavenworth, Kansas, a capitalist and large land owner. He is now in his eighty-first year, and has a vivid recollection of his youth days in Kenton. His letters to Atty. Ray Stillings are quoted in part.
Dear Ray:

To answer the questions in your letter I shall have to go back to the time of my father's partnership with E. G. Spellman when their law office was north of the old Court House. At that time, father also had an office in the brick building next to the Court House, which he occupied as a law office. Into this office your father (John Stillings) first came to study law. My father (Edw. Stillings) maintained two office rooms because he practiced law in the Spellman office and attended to his horse trading and real estate selling in the Auman building. There I used to see Jonathan Cosman, grandfather of Frank Daugherty, Auber Letson, then a young man, old Mr. Backminister, Pugh, whose lively sad face father afterwards took over, and Allen G. Thurman, afterwards candidate on the Democratic ticket for Vice President. Thurman got mad at the old Egan House (now the Weiser Hotel), because his chiseler work was not satisfactorily done and stopped at the Furney House at the time of the great fire. He was afraid the Furney House would catch fire and burn up all his papers, so he brought them to father's real estate office. In the Auman Building also was Cary and Thomson's Bank, the only bank in town, the Hardin County Republican, the only newspaper, and Auman's Dry Goods Store. The fire occurred in the day time and I distinctly remember the excitement, for there was no fire department in Kenton. Immediately after the fire, the brick building was started. At that time the only brick buildings on the square were the Auman building and the brick building where you had once office. A Mr. Harmon occupied the first named building as a hat store and also the first ready-made clothing. The Goodin building where your office is now was occupied on the ground floor by Dow & Brunson Dry Goods Store, swellest store in town. People used to brag that there was no such swell store in Bellefontaine or Portland. Next on the west was Rogers Drug Store. Next was Letson's Hat Store, old Mr. Letson and Schwester Letson, next came the Kincair building built at the same time as the Goodin and the first room next the alleyway was occupied by Mr. Gilmore, boot and shoe store, the next room was Frye's Tailor Shop, the next room occupied by Alvord as a beer saloon. The rest of the Kincair building was occupied by Frank Mengel, with the largest grocery in town. The rest of the public square was built up entirely with frame houses.

Leavenworth, Kans., July 6, 1926.

Dear Ray: The names of the occupants of the other houses around the public square at the time you mention were as follows: Commencing at the Furney House, going north, the next was Demarest's tin shop; next, Fisk's Dry Goods Store; then a narrow alley running west. In this alley hung a swing with iron rings, on which many of the men were accustomed to swing; next came Auman's Hardware Store; next came Auman's Dry Goods Store; then came the stairway leading up to my father's office and the "Hardin County Republican"; next in the same building came Cary and Thomson's Bank; next in a frame building came Dougherty's Tailor Shop and goods' furnishing goods; next came Chapman's Jewelry Store; next Henry's Boot and Shoe Store; and next, on the corner came H. K. Ford's Merchants Tailor Shop. Across the street north came Inman's boarding house, afterwards called the Inman House or Hotel (now Xouries' Dry Goods Store). Across
the street east on the corner a two story frame building occupied in front by Wm. Drakeford as a confectionery and bakery (now the site of the Kenton Savings and Trust Co.). Here we ate our first ice cream; in the rear this building was occupied by Phil Alexander's butcher shop; next going east on the north side of the square, came O'Brien's Dry Goods Store. Next came Oshen's tin shop and shoe store. Next, Zuckworth's Toy Store and post office; next Stivers' West room and next Stivers' Grocery; next came a dwelling occupied by Mr. Stevens; and next on the corner came Clark's General Store. Across the street on the corner was Cook's wagon and livery shop (now the site of Black & Moore's Grocery). Across the street, south, on the corner (now the site of McVey's Drug Store), came Mr. Hannon's Hat and Cap Store; next south came Leets's dwelling where Acher, Maggie, Ann and Selester Leets were born and reared. Next came old Sammy Campbell's Tailor Shop. Old Sammy, a cripple and an eccentric character, used to walk all over town at daylight, singing "we'll all meet together on the morning of the Lord" and other hymns, making everybody up and making everybody mad. Next came Crowley's Grocery and Whiskey Store; next came Garlock's harness shop; next came Dean's Harness Shop; and next on the corner came T. G. Williams Dry Goods Store (now Back's Meat Mkt.). Across the street south on the corner (site of the First National Bank), came the ice pit alley and saloon, owned by John Heil, the butcher. Across the street west on the corner (site of the Grand Opera House), Dr. Jones and Dr. Camp had an office, then a valet list, then the house where Peter Guly lived; then came the house and office occupied by Dr. Jones; after, he and Dr. Camp had dissolved partnership; then came the large two story frame building on the corner occupied by Archie Davis' Grocery and Confectionery Store; and on the corner his saloon. It was in this confectionery store that the first pop con beans ever seen in Kenton were first disdained as a great curiosity. Across the street west on the corner came Dow & Brunson's swell Dry Goods Store in the same building and directly under your present office, and this completes the list as it was before the war.

Leavenworth, Kans., July 8, 1926.

Dear Ray: I want to make a correction. On the north side of the public square, between Zuckworth's post office and Stiver's store, was a saloon. Andy Show had an oyster saloon. In this oyster saloon, the first oyster saloon by most people in Kenton were served. Andy Show was quite a character, a sort of wit and could more l'es ess and was known as the greatest coward in town, but very popular.

P. S. The name should be spelled Andy Shaw, and was so pronounced. Whatever became of that large cake of iron with a hole bored into it, used for many years as a cannon on the public square, on the fourth of July and other festivse occasions? The origin of that cannon has an interesting history.

Leavenworth, Kans., Dec. 21, 1926.

Dear Ray: One week ago today, Dec. 14th, I was 74 years old. I remember distinctly the birthday parties given me by my mother on my 5th birthday, but the first recollection I have was sitting on the front porch of our home (now the site of the Episcopal Church), and yelling "Hurrah for Fremont," when the political procession passed. During the same campaign or possibly the Lincoln-Douglas Campaign, a wagon load of pretty girls, 1 think from Marseilles, passed in a Democratic procession singing campaign songs and with banners on which were painted, "Save Us From Negro Husband.

NOTES ON LETTERS OF VINTON STILLINGS

By Amy J. R. Stillings.

Jonathan Cessna referred to was the grandfather of Attorneys Frank C., Daugherty, J. W. Daugherty, both deceased, Howard Daugherty and Miss
May Dougherty of Kenton. Their mother was Helen Conner, oldest daughter of Jonathan Conner.

The E. G. Spellman mentioned was a pioneer lawyer, coming to Kenton from Marion, Ohio, in 1842. From 1847 to 1854 he was Clerk of the Courts of Hardin County and later served in the Ohio State Legislature. He was the father of Mrs. Alice Holmes, now of Kenton; and the grandfather of Samuel B. Holmes, a well known lawyer of Chicago, and of Miss Grace Holmes, a High School teacher in Chicago.

Hugh Letson, a prominent pioneer business man of Kenton, and Probate Judge of Hardin County from 1855 to 1857, was the father of Abner Letson, Sylvester Letson, Mrs. Maggie Hedges and Mrs. Anna Bankhead. Abner Letson, mentioned as a boy at that time, is still remembered as one of Kenton's banking figures. He was the founder of the Kenton National Bank and was largely interested in the development of Riverside and all of the industries it contained. His death occurred in 1900. Mrs. D. M. Gage and Mrs. Wm. Wendt are granddaughters of Judge Hugh Letson.

The Frank Mangie referred to was a very well known citizen of Kenton in the old days. He was the father of Charles H. Mangie, who married Mary Moore, a sister of Grant Moore of the Kenton Daily Democrat.

The Echlin House mentioned in one of the letters was a two-story and a half brick hotel which stood where the present Weaver Hotel is now located. It was built in 1857 by Benjamin Echlin and was operated by him until 1900.

The Cary and Thomson Bank referred to was the second bank organized in Kenton, about the year 1859, and was founded by William Cary and David Thomson. William Cary was the father of Willis Cary, who still resides in Kenton, and is the only surviving member of a family of ten children. The wife of William Cary was Sarah Dudley, daughter of Moses Dudley, in whose honor Dudley Township was named.

David Thomson was a distinguished soldier, serving as Colonel of the 82nd Regiment O. V. I., assuming command at the Battle of Gettysburg. Later he was brevetted a Brigadier General for gallant and meritorious service. He was the father of Metellus Thomson, formerly a well known dry goods merchant in Kenton. General Thomson died at his home in Kenton on Feb. 2, 1883.

It will be of interest to Kenton citizens to know that Mrs. Mary Stillings, the mother of Vinton Stillings, set out the great Scotch elm tree now standing on the lawn of the Episcopal Church on the S. E. corner of North, Detroit and West North Streets, about the year 1851. The old Stillings home still stands in the rear of the church, and was used as the Episcopal Parsonage for many years.

RECOLLECTIONS OF KENTON'S PUBLIC SQUARE DURING THE CIVIL WAR PERIOD

William A. Norton, former President of the Kenton Savings Bank and Trust Company, possesses a most vivid memory—a veritable store house of local history. His knowledge of the early business men of Kenton is remarkable. He was born at Marietta, Ohio, December 17, 1832, a son of Amos and Rachel (Houkter) Norton. He was a lad of eleven when the family moved to Kenton in 1843, and thus from an early age he has been identified with its interests. He was the first boy to graduate from the Kenton Public Schools (1875), and until July 15, 1888, was with his father in the dry goods business. He then entered the Kenton Savings Bank as Assistant Cashier, became Cashier in 1896 and President in 1905.

In a recent conversation with Mr. Norton, he recalled many interesting reminiscences of the Civil War epoch.
Turning back the pages of time, he recalled William H. Drakeford, who had quite a large bakery, located on the exact site of the present Kenton Savings Bank and Trust Co., and that L. M. Barr's Book Store was located in a building now occupied by the east portion of the bank. Dr. J. E. McCoy and Dr. A. W. Mannon had a drug store on the present site of the Linde Drug Store. Their professional card read as follows: "Dealers in Drugs, Medicines, Paints, Oils, Foreign and Domestic Liquors, Chemicals, Patent Medicines, Perfumery, etc." Frederick John had a grocery where the Millie and Jones Shoe Store is now located. Myers & Swartz had a grocery in the room known for many years as the former A. Lack Meat Market, recently remodeled and owned by George Fantano. On the site of the room formerly occupied by the Boston Store, immediately west of their present store, stood the residence of George K. Meade, prominent hardware merchant. On the site of the Ohio Power Office was Henry Brumton's Furniture store and ware room. One of his ads read: "He warrants all furniture as represented, and to be made of the very best and handsomely-reasoned timber--oak, of all sizes and varieties kept on-hand and furnished to order, on short notice. Samples will be attended, with license when required." L. J. Demarest and John Fink conducted a Shoe Store in 1865 where Narrow's Dry Goods Store is now located. They sold "Patent and Roy Stocks, Tin and Copper Ware, Enamelled and Brass Kettles, Coal Oil Lamps, etc. I take old copper, scrap iron and greenbacks in exchange for merchandise." George Ingram built the brick block on the northeast corner of the square occupied at present by the McCoy Drug Store. For years this block was known as the "Ingram Corner." George Ingram had a dry goods store on this site. He was followed by A. B. Ingersoll, who conducted a grocery store here early in 1865. By 1867 this grocery was owned by John Ketole, who advertised "to examine his stock before purchasing elsewhere." In the rear of the Ingram corner was the old home of James H. May, who moved to Roundhead in 1867. He was the father of John W. May, prominent business man of Roundhead, who was born on this site in 1852. In the room now occupied by McLaughley & Lingrel, Louis A. Miller conducted a dry goods store; Aston Newton had a shoe shop where the Pfeiffer Meat Market is now and A. Herron, a cigar maker, occupied the location of the present Quality Bakery. It was near the present site of Shop's Floor Shop that Judge Hugh Leteron lived for many years. At or near the site of the present Atlantic & Pacific Tea Store was the Kenton Machle weekly, operated by Henry Price, the father of Carl Price, now in the same business on South Lighthouse St., and John Hose, the father of James C. Hose. The present Brenston Block where Rosenbach's Clothing store and Woolworth's store are now located, was erected by Benjamin R. Brumston in 1868. Benjamin R. Brumston was born at Sing Song, New York, in 1805. His twin brother, Isaac, was the father of Benjamin E. Brumston, long an express agent and grocery merchant of Kenton. Benjamin R. Brumston came to Kenton in 1843, after a varied career as a merchant in Columbus, Ohio; Galena, Ill., and Reynoldsburg, Ohio. For a time he was a partner with J. M. McClain as a merchant in Kenton. In 1846 he became the agent for the Mad River Railroad and served in that capacity until 1856. He then built the large Brumston Block, a monument to his enterprising spirit. During the Civil War he was Chairman of the Military Committee of the County, assisting in raising money and men for the army. From 1869 to 1871 he was County Commissioner and "father" of the good roads movement, which gave Hardin County some of the best turnpikes of any county in Ohio. He was also the prime mover in straightening the channel of the Scioto River through Kenton. The present channel was dubbed "Brumston's Dutch Gap Canal." He was also the moving spirit in the construction of the Hardin County Infirmary, and per-
finally supervised its erection. He graded West Franklin St., from the Square to Leighton St., at his own expense. Mr. Brunson left Hardin County in 1853, moving to La Fayette, Ind., and later to Indianapolis.

About 1864, Lewis Merriman and Anson Norton, father of W. A. Norton, opened their dry goods store on the site of the present Woolworth Store. Two years later they moved to the present site of Bradley’s Jewelry Store, and in 1868 they moved to the present building occupied by Novacek’s Dry Goods Store, which Lewis Merriman erected in 1868. B. F. and C. Swartz at 1866-67 conducted a dry goods store in the room now occupied by Westworth’s, under the title, “The Famous Cash Store.” The present site of Combe’s Drug Store was occupied by Dr. J. A. Rogers and Dr. W. M. Cheesney as a Drug Store. Dr. Cheesney retired and Dr. Rogers continued the store. Dr. Rogers opened the first drug store in Kenton in the spring of 1845 in a small frame building on the east side of the public square on the site of the old George D. Heil grocery. He later moved to the site of the old McCoy Drug on West Franklin St. One of his professional cards published in 1865 read: “J. A. Rogers, dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Paints, Oils, Foreign and Domestic Liquors, Chemicals, Patent Medicines, Perfumery, etc.” Some years later Dr. Rogers moved his drug store to the present site of Combe’s Drug Store, where he continued in business with his son, Eugene, until his death in 1909, in his 90th year, the son continuing the business.

Early in 1863 George K. Moore & Son opened their “Mammoth Hardware Store” on the present site of the Bridge Hardware Store, their announcement reading: “G. K. Moore & Son have departed from their old place of doing business, and put on the armor in the new magnificent block 2 doors south of old room, where they are prepared to meet the demands of an overwhelming multitude.”

Benedict Fink, a native of Switzerland, came to America in 1837 with his parents, when seven years old. They spent the first year in Pittsburgh. In the spring of 1838 they set forth with team and wagon for Hardin County. It required three weeks to make the trip in their homestead in Pleasant Township, about two miles north of Kenton. In 1839 at the age of twenty, Benedict Fink was employed as a clerk in Bromberger & Jones store on the site of the present Fink Dry Goods Store. The store room was purchased by Robert Russell, who in turn sold it to Benedict Fink and John A. Sheehan, as partners. After a few years Mr. Fink conducted the store alone. In 1877 he erected the present building and continued in the dry goods business until 1886 when he included his son, Charles B. Fink, in the business. This partnership continued until the death of Benedict Fink in 1929. At the present time the business is conducted by Frederick N. Fink, the son of Charles B. Thus, this well known mercantile business was owned and conducted by three generations of the same family for 83 years, and is without doubt the oldest retail establishment in Kenton. Through the 83 years the store has remained in the same location, an unusual record.

Harvey Chapman for many years conducted a jewelry store on the site of the present Surprenant Clothing Store. His first jewelry store, however, was located on the north side of the square.

Another jewelry store in Kenton at the same time, was that of H. Kirkpatrick, who was located in the Keasey Block, on West Franklin St. The Union Clothing Store of Morganoth and Brother was located first on the north side and later on the west side. Mrs. J. W. Baird had a large millinery and variety store in Kenton as early as 1865, located one door east of the Union House, now the Weaver Hotel.
KENTON IN 1888

When Henry Howe, the noted Ohio Historian, visited Kenton in 1888, he prepared a most unusual sketch of the County and City, which will give some idea of Kenton 45 years ago. We quote:

"Kenton, County-seat of Hardin, is on the L. B. and W. (Big Four) and C. & A. ( Erie) R. R. County Officers, 1888: Auditor, George W. Dentridge; Clerk, James C. Howe; Commissioners, William P. Pierce, Andrew Dods, John L. Clark; Coroner, John Wattier; Treasurer, John Wilson, Samuel M. Andrews, Samuel Utz; Protestant Judge, James J. Wood; Prosecuting Attorney, Charles M. Mulhorn; Recorder, Dennis W. Kenny; Sheriff, John A. Scott; Surveyor, Sidney F. Mort; Treasurer, Edward Sorren; City Officers: Mayor, W. H. Ward; Clerk, George W. Binkle; Treasurer, A. B. Charles; Marshal, Michael Flanagan; Solicitor, Frank C. Daugherty; Street Commissioners, W. H. Miller.

Newspapers: The W. O. chenbitter, German, Louis Schlockbach, editor; Democrat, Democratic, Daniel Flanagan & Co., editors and publishers; News, Prohibition, Henry Price, editor and publisher; Republican, Republican, E. L. Miller, editor and publisher; Herald, Republican, L. J. Devereux, editor and publisher.

Churches: German Lutheran, Episcopal, Presbyterian, African Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal, Baptist, Catholic.


Manufacturers and Employers: Champion Iron Fence Company, iron fencing, etc., 125 hands; John Callam & Co., doors, sash, etc., 12; John Callam & Co., building materials, 6; C. H. Palmer & Co., chair stock, etc., 52; Scott's Straw Board Co., straw boards, 31; Pool Bros., carriage, etc., 6; Smith & Smith, wood and iron work, 10; Old and Lammers, chair stock, etc., 24; J. C. Schrebeck, handles, etc., 9; Kenton Milling Co., flour, etc., 15; Young & Ror, lumber, 39; William Campbell, stoves and furnishings, 33.

Population in 1880, 1,900; school census 1888, 1,403; P. P. Dean, School Superintendent. Capital invested in industrial establishments, $653,130. Value of annual product, $500,000.

Kenton being in a fine agricultural region, commands a large trade in grain, cattle and pork, as well as lumber, stoves, etc.

All the principal streets are graded and gravelled. Indeed, but few counties in this part of Ohio have such a complete network of gravel and pike as Hardin.

They were begun in 1869, now cover about 230 miles, costing about $2,500 per mile, at a total of over half a million dollars. They radiate in every direction from Kenton, and the work of building still goes on.

THE SECOND COUNTY COURT HOUSE

On April 4, 1853, the Commissioners of Hardin County, Thomas Huston, Thomas Rough and John D. Henkle, submitted to the voters as to whether the new Court House should be erected on the public square, which was decided in the affirmative by 1058 to 72. On May 18, 1853, the contract was awarded to Jenkins & Kennedy, for $12,430. The Court House was to be inclosed by October 1, 1853, and completed within one year. Jenkins & Kennedy turned the contract over to Keys & Ayres, which was approved by the commissioners June 8, 1853. Under the same specifications. Though the building was to be inclosed by October 1, we read in the Republican, October 28, 1853, the following "This building, should the weather continue favorable, a few weeks, will be under roof." Early in August, 1854, the building
was so far finished that the Commissioner's accepted it for immediate use. Upon completing, because of some changes made by the builders from the specifications, a reduction of $20,887 was made, thereby reducing the cost of the court house to $17,590.13.

EAST VIEW OF THE OLD COURT HOUSE.

In the spring of 1857, the Senate Council agreed with the commissioners to grade the square and gravel the walks, the commissioners to erect a fence around the same. The grading, etc., was done under the direction of Elias Colliers, with David Thompson as general superintendent. Soon the natural elevation, upon which the court house stood, presented a beautiful slope toward the street surrounding it. A board fence was built by Horace Church, the lumber being supplied by John Egby; the cost of lumber, building and painting was about $500. The square was planted with trees, and in a few years had the appearance of a small park.

The general appearance of the public square in 1860 was imposing. The architecture of the court house belonged to the Grecian temple order, though modified to meet the times. It was a two-story brick building, with stone trimmings, 73 x 31 feet, with an open vestibule at each end ten feet wide over which the roof extended, supported by four massive stone pillars. On the east end was a frame cupola or helikey, three stories in height, surmounted by a large brass globe and weather vane; while a flag staff graced the west end. A wide hall extended through the center from end to end, dividing the first story. On the north side were the offices of the treasurer and probate judge, each containing an iron, fire-proof vault, put in during the summer of 1870. The clerk's office was later moved to the room occupied by the probate judge.

Across the hall, were the offices of the auditor, county commissioners, recorder and sheriff, in each of which there was a small brick vault, but they were not fire proof. The court room was in the second story with the clerk's office adjoining it on the east, and two small rooms on the west end for jury and witness rooms. There was no vault in the clerk's office, and in case of fire, it was doubtful if any of the records in this office could have been saved.

The public square was enclosed by a strong iron fence built in July, 1880.
by the Champion Iron Fence Company of Kenton, at a cost of $2,000. There was a gate at each corner and one facing each front of the court house; thus walks led from six entrances to the building. Forest and ornamental trees made an inviting shade, creating a pleasing landscape.

This court house served Hardin County for 60 years until the erection of the present court house in 1914.

During the summer days in 1913 when this stately old edifice was being razed, echoes of citizens stood about watching the work of destruction, their feelings touched, as the great pillars and walls came tumbling down. On many street corners in Kenton and along Hutt’s Trail, may be seen the circular stones, which constituted the stately high columns of the porches of the old Court House. They will ever remain a reminder of that quiet old building.

To The Old Court House—By Ethel W. Durbin

The day is done; the work is done,
Beneath the lowering sun,
Outstepping there in time’s swift run,
His feet in another home.

But not into oblivion’s deep,
Shall be thy memory cast;
The cords that to our heart’s core creep,
Have caught and hold thee fast.

Among the most distinguished members of the bar from other parts of the state who took part in trials held in the old Court House were: Vice President Charles W. Fairbanks; Governor George H. Hoadley; Senator George H. Pendleton; and Senator Allen G. Thurman.

Of the noted public men who delivered political addresses in the old court room these names will always stand out: Governor Wm. Allen; Clement L. Vallandigham; General W. S. Rosecrans; Senator Benjamin F. Wade; James G. Blaine; James A. Garfield; Thos. F. Bayard; Thomas E. Hendricks; Wm. J. Bryan and William H. Gibson.

When the old Court House was razed, the old bell was thoughtlessly allowed to be sold as junk. Van buried in debris as it was in echoes stored in the hearts of the women of Kenton, and by their strong appeal to the general public, sufficient money was raised to buy it back at a cost of $140. It will so stand be carefully preserved for years to come.

Civil War History

CIVIL WAR MEETINGS IN KENTON

On April 16, 1861, the citizens of Kenton convened at the Court House, responding to the call of President Lincoln for volunteers. Col. James Castwell was elected Chairman and David Thompson, Secretary. On motion of J. S. Robinson, the following committee was appointed to prepare business for the meeting: A. S. Ramsey, James Rain, J. N. Abate, Edward Stilnig, L. T. Hunt, David Thompson and Col. James Castwell, H. R. Brunsen and R. L. Chase were respectively elected Chairman and Secretary, pro tem. During the absence of the committee, H. G. Harris, David Snodgrass, Stella Powell, Edward Stilnig, A. S. Ramsey and others made brief but patriotic speeches. News from Fort Sumter obliterated party fecling, and the general tone of the addresses was the sentiment uttered by Stephen Decatur: “My country, may she always be right; but right or wrong, My Country.”

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That a meeting of the citizens of Hardin County be called at the Court House, in Kenton, on April 18th, at 1 P. M., to consider the peculiar
condition of the country; and, to enlist volunteers to defend the Government; and, Resolved, That we will stand by our Government, our country, and our country's flag—now and forever.

A committee of five, consisting of Col. James Cantwell, J. S. Robinson, J. N. Abaza, L. T. Hunt and Almoss Bemudie, was appointed to make necessary preparations for receiving volunteers.

Pursuant to this call, the citizens came together on the day designated. A committee was appointed to solicit funds for the expenses of volunteers until they should leave Kenton; also to see that their families were provided for during their absence. Benjamin Eglin, Edward Stillings, Hugh Leeson, J. S. Robinson and William Cary constituted this committee. David Sandgrass, O. B. Happensett and Silvia Powell were appointed to procure quarters for volunteers, and reported Kenton's hall as the place of rendezvous. Patriotic speeches were made which aroused the audience to the highest enthusiasm.

On April 18, people from every section of the county filled the Court House to overflowing, commending every loyal heart that the people were for the preservation of the Union.

On the previous day, the stars and stripes had been unfurled on the Court House, amid shouts and the firing of cannon. The national banner floated over many of the business houses, residences and public buildings. Hartin County was thoroughly aroused; its citizens vied with each other in patriotic zeal, and volunteers were rapidly enrolling to uphold the Government.

This county furnished for the war up to September 24, 1861, the following: Capt. Cantwell, 124 men; Capt. Weiker, 194; Capt. Faine, 60; Capt. Henderson, 23; Capt. Gardner, 80; Mr. Asbury, 32

SKETCH OF CIVIL WAR COMPANIES

Under the first call of President Lincoln, Hartin County responded with two full companies, assigned to the 4th Ohio Volunteer Infantry; Capt. George Weiker, veteran of the Mexican war, was Captain of Company D; G. A. Stewart, and Daniel Timmons, Lieutenants. James S. Robinson was Captain of Company G; Peter Grubb and William Simmons, Lieutenants. James Cantwell, who was first elected Captain, was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment.

In August, 1861, Capt. C. H. Catch, assisted by Lieutenant, W. W. Nixon and David McConnel, recruited a full company, assigned as Company K, to the 3rd Ohio Regiment. The regiment joined the Army of the Cumberland and participated in its campaigns and finally accompanied Sherman in his march to the sea.

In July and August, 1861, Capt. Luther Furney, assisted by Lieutenant, Alex Carter, recruited Company D for the 34th O. V. I. The regiment was assigned to duty with Gen. J. D. Cox, on the Gauley river in West Virginia. It formed a part of Gen. Hayes's brigade. The regiment saw hard service in West Virginia and in the Shenandoah Valley. Capt. Furney was subsequently promoted to the Lieutenant Colonelcy of the regiment.

Capt. Daniel Ammerman, Lieut. Nelson G. Franklin and Capt. Comford H. Stanley and Lieut. A. S. Reasy, assisted by Lieuten. Col. A. S. Ramsey, recruited two full companies for the 54th O. V. I. in August, 1862. The regiment was assigned to duty in Kentucky, and in August, 1863, joined Gen. Burnside's command. It was in the famous campaign against Knoxville, Tenn. In May, 1863, it was transferred to the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 4th Army Corps. It concluded its services in the battles of Franklin and Nashville.
In the winter of 1862, a company was recruited by Lucins, David Smoglass and P. W. Summ, which was assigned to Company H to the 7th O. V. I. Lieut. Smoglass became Captain of the Company. The regiment was ordered to Nashville, Tenn., assigned to the 7th Corps. It was in the campaign against Atlanta, and accompanied Sherman in the campaign to Richmond and Washington, via Savannah.

The 82nd O. V. I. was recruited in November and December, 1862, and commanded at Camp Simon Kenton, Kenton, Ohio. It was organized by Col. James Cantwell, Lieut. Col. R. R. Dunie and Maj. James S. Robinson, all officers of the 4th O. V. I., with Col. J. W. Johnson as Assistant Surgeon. Four full companies were recruited from Hardin County, and a portion of Company E. Capt. Max's Company, was recruited from Bonneville, Taylor Creek and McDonald Townships.

Capt. David Thompson and Lieuts. S. L. Hugo and James R. McConnell recruited the first company for the regiment, assigned as Company A. Capt. Thompson was appointed Major April 9, 1862, and Lieut. Colonel, August 20, 1862. After Col. Robinson was wounded at Gettysburg, the command of the regiment devolved upon Lieut. Col. Thompson. He continued in command until he was disabled by a wound at Everybody, N. C., March 6, 1865. He was brevetted a Brigadier General for gallant and meritorious service, to rank from the 13th of March, 1865.

L. S. Powell was appointed Captain of Company B, which company was recruited by Lieuts. David J. Mixter and W. J. Dickson. The latter officer was killed at Reamsa May 14, 1864, while acting as Major of the regiment.

Company C was recruited principally in the vicinity of Patterson and Forest by Capt. P. C. Baskin and Lieuts. John Campbell and Morgan Simmons. It was assigned as the color company of the regiment, and nobly did it defend its standard.

Company G was commanded by Capt. James Ewing, Lieuts. William Portfield and Preston Orteagh. The company was principally recruited in the vicinity of Kenton, Blanchard and Liberty Townships.

HARDIN COUNTY GUARDS—KENTON RANGERS

During the Civil War, the 4th O. V. I. came to be known as one of the best regiments in the Army of the Potomac. Its first Colonel was Levi Andrews, President of Kenyon College. During the war his regiment marched 975 miles and traveled by rail at least 2279 miles. It participated in all the Virginia campaigns, from Harpers Ferry to Yorktown. It was composed of two companies each from Kenton, Marion, Mt. Vernon and Delaware, one each from Canton and Wooster. The story of the two companies from Kenton will be of interest.

The "Hardin County Guards," subsequently Company D, 4th O. V. I., was soon filled up. George W. Stover was elected Captain; James A. Steward, and Daniel Tummo, Lieutenants. Then followed the "Kenton Rangers" with James Cantwell as Captain; J. S. Robinson and Peter Graham, Lieutenants. This company, on the organization of the 4th Regiment, O. V. I., became Company G. On Sunday, April 21, divine services were held in front of the Union House (now the Weaver Hotel) and at the Big Four railroad depot. A beautiful flag was presented to Capt. Weaver's company by the ladies of Kenton; while the ladies of the county presented a banner to Capt. Cantwell's company besides furnishing each man with a Bible, blanket and other necessary articles. On Monday, April 22, immense crowds through the streets of Kenton; the "ordinance department" reported freely and frequently; a new flag was raised on the Court House; volunteers drilled to
martial music. About 10 men left Patterson on April 22, under command of Capt. Weaver, and were subsequently joined at Crealine by the balance of his company under Lieut. Stewart, and thence proceeded to Camp Jackson, near Columbus. Capt. Cantwell's company left Kenton for Columbus on April 24—195 men from Hardin County, in one week. In all, the women of Hardin County bore a conspicuous part, both with heart, hand and voice.

After the volunteers had left, the women were indefatigable seeking provisions, delicacies and clothing to the boys. Many a sick and suffering soldier's heart was strengthened by these attentions from their loved ones.

Both these companies were officially mustered into service at Camp Jackson, Columbus, April 25, 1861. The regiment remained at Camp Jackson until May 2, when it moved to Camp Dennison, also near Columbus, and on May 4th the regiment was mustered into the three months' service by Capt. Gordon Granger. A few days later President Lincoln's call for three years' men was made, whereupon the majority of the regiment, including the two Kenton companies entered the service for that period, and were mustered in for three years, dating from June 2, 1861.

On June 20th, the regiment left Camp Dennison for Grafton, and played a vital part in the Virginia campaigns, suffering great losses and being many times reorganized. In latter years of the war the veterans of this regiment were reorganized into the 4th Ohio Battalion and was placed on duty at Washington, D.C., continuing there until the close of the war.

Public School History

FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN KENTON

The first public schools in Kenton were not unlike other pioneer log cabin schools, and among the desks the pioneer "master" required. The pupils were few and the subjects studied were confined to reading, writing and ciphering. The school terms continued only a few weeks, the teacher generally boarding around among the patrons.

Early historians agree that the first public school teacher in Kenton was a Mr. Clark and his wife and Eli Strong. They were soon followed by Stewart Conner, James Drum, John Lawrence and Harper Ross.

When Kenton was a little over a year old, public spirited citizens banded together to erect a public school for the education of their children. In the fall of 1834, a small log school-house was built on the south half of lot 161 of the original plat, facing on the west side of what is now Wayne St., about four houses south of Ohio St. Here Dr. Clark and his wife and Eli Strong taught until 1837.

Stewart Conner taught a private school where the Grand Opera House formerly stood on the southeast corner of the Square. James Drum and John Lawrence taught a private school in a cabin near the corner of Main and Carroll Streets. Later on the thirteen, Harper Ross taught at the old log-cabin public school on Wayne St. This first log-cabin school was used until the fall of 1842, when the school directors; Samuel Watt, David Goslin and David Ross purchased the lot where the log-school building stood, and erected a frame building to take its place. This building was in use for twelve years until 1854 when it was purchased by William Campbell, who removed the building across the street to the northwest corner of Warren and Ohio Streets. For many years this building was used as a residence.

OLD CENTRAL SCHOOL

On April 8, 1842, the town school directors purchased the lot where the Grammar School is now located at Carroll and Market Sts., and erected on the east half of the lot another frame school building. This part of the village
was known as No. 7 or the “Northern District,” while the school on Wayne St. was known as No. 1 or the “Southern District.” The frame school building on Carroll St. was used from 1842 until 1857 when it was removed to a lot immediately west of the First Presbyterian Church parsonage on West Columbus St., and was for many years used as a residence. As soon as the frame building was removed from the Carroll Street site, the erection of the old Central School building was begun in the summer of 1857 and was completed at a cost of $17,000. It was in use for 32 years until it burned on January 9, 1890. At first it was known as the “Union School,” as much as the Northern and Southern Districts were united into one district. The old Central Building was reconstructed through the efforts of R. R. Brumage, Kenton’s apostle of progress.

Some of the more prominent teachers in the forties were Channing Brumage, James Holmes, Anthony Bannum, St. John Prower, and Mr. Mitchell. The latter teacher did not get along well with his students. Finally, the students of the Northern District became much provoked at their “master,” and one day in 1843, the bad feeling culminated in a free-for-all fight with some of the “big boys,” and Mitchell, getting pretty badly whipped, gave up the school in disgust and left town.

In the early fifties before the completion of the Old Central Building, the frame buildings on Wayne and Carroll Streets were not sufficient to accommodate all the pupils, with the result that the School Board rented the third floor of the old Kinney Block for school purposes. This situation was solved with the erection of the Central or Union School in 1857. At the time the old Central Building burned, the teachers were: E. S. Neeley, Principal; Elias Durbin, Ella Magee, Gussie Oswald, Rose Patterson and Florence Tipps. Arrangements were made at once to transfer the pupils to the High School building where temporary quarters were provided, until the new Grammar School was completed.

Work was immediately begun on a substantial two story brick building on the same site, known as the Grammar School, which was completed in the spring of 1901 at a cost of $22,000. The writer was one of the pupils who was permitted to march into the brand new building on that spring day in 1901, on the day of its formal dedication.

OTHER KENTON SCHOOLS

The East-School building on East Columbus St. was the first of the so-called ward buildings. This building including the lot cost about $12,000, and was opened in the fall of 1877. It has been in continuous use for fifty-six years.
The old South School building on the corner of South Main and Espe Sts., was erected in the summer of 1880 at a cost of $10,500 including the site. It served the pupils of South Kenton until the erection in recent years of the Espe School near by.

The North and West School buildings were both erected in 1887, each costing $10,000. The North building is on the corner of Eliza and Cherry Sts., and the West building on North Glendale St. These buildings are both similar in architecture to the East and South buildings.

The Kenton High School building was erected in 1893-96 at a cost of $45,000 including the location, a large lot between East Columbus and East Carroll Sts. It is of pressed brick, imposing and substantial. In the center of the building is the auditorium with a seating capacity of 550, while the class rooms are located around the auditorium. In recent years the enrollment required the construction of additional buildings on the north side. The class of 1897 was the first to graduate from the present High School.


Early Industrial History

EARLY GRIST MILLS OF HARDIN COUNTY

The first grist mill in the immediate vicinity of Kenton was the "Ross Grist Mill," about 1833. Col. John Ross settled near the northern boundary of the original plat of Kenton. Here he built a two-story frame grist mill, about 400 feet from the home of Frank L. Darnell. The mill was in use until about 1848, when the machinery was moved and the building used for a residence.

Mahan's Mill

John Mahan, a native of Kentucky, settled in Xoundhead Township in 1828, where he resided until his death, April 30, 1845, aged 68 years. Seeing the great inconvenience of going twenty miles to a Logan County Mill, he erected a horse-power mill on his farm. The hubs were made from "sugar-head" stones; the drive wheels, triangular blocks of wood, the base being oval and placed at the circumference with the apex to the center. This wheel was connected with the horse-power by a belt of hickory bark, and the horse driven around in a circle, attached to the sweep-pole, set the machinery in motion. When the grain in the hopper passed between the hubs and was thus ground into meal. This mill supplied the early settlers for several years.

Stevenson's Mill

One of the first water-power mills in the county was known as "Stevenson's Mill" in Taylor-Creek Township. It was built on the banks of Silver Creek in 1831, and used for ten years. It stood about a half mile south of the present town of Silver Creek. A dam was constructed at that point, providing ample water-power. Soon after its erection, Mr. Stevenson also built a sawmill. Charles W. Stevenson, owner of these mills, later became Director of Kenton and was the first Auditor of Hardin County.

McBrade's Mill

The first settlers in Blanchard Township had to travel through dense forests to Logan County to obtain meal or flour, which difficulty led John
McIlvride to visit the Wyandot Indians at Upper Sandusky, where there was a trading post. Here he purchased a grindmill, about twenty inches in diameter, with two small burrs, which ground very well by being turned by a lever or sweep, and was hailed with delight by the settlers. Although it would only grind about two bushels of grain a day, the pioneers regarded the little mill as a valuable acquisition. Later a horse-powered grist mill was purchased by William Ford of Allen County, which did the milling for the neighborhood for about twelve years. In 1836 a so-called draft-mill was built on Hog Creek by Benjamin Erath of Washington Township, known as "Edwin's Great Mill."

Other Mills

The first water-power grist mill in Liberty Township was built by George Harker on Hog Creek in 1840. He was permitted to use his mill for only a very short time, because his neighbors complained that water from his milldam was backing up on their farm land. In 1840 John Trussel built a watermill on Hog Creek north of Ada. For 15 years this grist mill did a thriving business, but the drainage project of Hog Creek caused Mr. Trussel the loss of his mill. He then erected a large lime-kiln on the site of his grist mill, which he operated for many years. The first grist mill in Hale Township was built by Moses Kennedy on Putt Creek just above Wick Run about 1842.

In 1852 Eara Lilly erected a grist mill in Mt. Victory along the Big Four Railroad in conjunction with his warehouse.

In 1856, Jared Sopp settled in Liberty Township on what is now the south part of Ada, known as "Dobbin's Place." He brought with him a small pair of burrs, and with an axe, dressing-knife and ax-grind, erected a small horse mill which cracked the first corn in that vicinity.

Thus these hardy pioneers overcame the trials of early settlement and were ever ready to meet any need. The grist mill industry was the first evidence of their ingenuity and skill in developing the water-power available.

FIRST AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

In 1851 the first Agricultural Society was organized in Hardin County. A large number of citizens of Hardin County met at the old Court House in Kenton on February 14, 1851, to organize an agricultural society. David Kincaid called the meeting to order, whereupon Shepard Green was elected Chairman, and Charles Ashton, Secretary. On motion of David Kincaid the chair appointed Thomas Rough, William Kincaid and Walter King as the constitution committee. David Thompson and Edward Stillings then addressed the meeting, showing the necessity of and advantages to be derived from an agricultural organization. The committee then reported a constitution and by-laws, which after a few amendments, were adopted.

The society elected the following officers for the first year: John F. Hendle, president; Thomas Rough, vice president; Joel E. Goode, secretary; Walter King, Treasurer; Shepard Green, Obad Taylor, Moses Kilhe, Daniel S. Sing and Abraham Dille, Board of Managers.

First County Fair

The first fair was held by the Society at Kenton, October 22, 1854, and great efforts were put forth to make it a success. Temporary granaries were built up in a rude way on a vacant lot west of the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad and a large attendance greeted the opening. The exhibit was good; nearly every portion of the county was represented, while the fair as a whole proved a gratifying success. Thus was laid the foundation of the first Hardin County Agricultural Society. On January 1, 1852, the Society held its second regular meeting at the Court House. The president being absent, Thomas
Rough, vice president, president. The Society then proceeded to the election of officers, which resulted as follows: Thomas Rough, president; David Klince, vice president; Joel E. Gesslin, secretary; Walter King, treasurer. At the same election the Society chose for their Board of Managers: Obed Taylor, of Pleasant; Abner Scoody, of Hale; Samuel Wilmoth, of Pleasant; John F. Harde, of Roundhead, and Shepard Green, of Back.

At this meeting it was decided to take immediate steps to increase the membership of the society, whereupon a committee of three in each township of the county was appointed to solicit names for membership.

THE MAD RIVER RAILROAD

Hardin County citizens will always take pride in the fact that the first Act of the State Legislature to incorporate a railroad company, included the present County of Hardin in its right-of-way privileges.

On January 5, 1832, the Ohio Legislature passed an Act incorporating the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad Company. The Act was promptly signed and approved by Gen. Duncan McArthur, then Governor of the State.

The new company was "vested with the right to construct a railway from Dayton via Springfield, Urbana, Bellfontaine, to or near Upper Sandusky, Tiffin and Lower Sandusky (now called Fremont) to Sandusky City." On March 25, 1837, the State enacted a law debasing the credit of the State to the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad Company to the extent of $270,000. With this amount as a basis the incorporators began the construction of the railroad from Dayton to Sandusky City.

On March 16, 1839, another Act was passed authorizing the Committee of Hardin County to subscribe the sum of $30,000 to the capital stock of the Railroad Company. The Board of County Commissioners was composed of Peter Johnson, John McArthur and Joshua Cope. In due time the amount was subscribed, even though there were many citizens opposed to the railroads.

The new railroad was many years in building. It was finally completed from Sandusky City to Kenton on the 4th of July, 1840.

The First Train Arrives

The first train bearing the railroad company’s officials and promoters was to arrive in Kenton from Sandusky City on the 4th of July, 1840. This day came on Saturday and a grand 4th of July celebration it was. The taverns and public places were crowded with people. Many had come for miles and miles by foot and on horse back. At last the sound of the engine and the cars was heard and at the train came to a stop a mighty shout went up from the multitude.

On July 30, 1848, the road was completed from Kenton to Urbana, and on September 2nd, the first train reached Springfield. On January 25, 1851, the last rail was laid from Sandusky to Dayton, which marked the final completion of the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad.

In 1858 the name of the railroad was changed to the Sandusky, Dayton and Cincinnati; and in 1860 it was reorganized under the name of the Sandusky and Cincinnati. In March, 1881, the road was leased to a new company and the name again changed to the Indiana, Bloomington and Western, by which it was known until it became the property of the Big Four; it is now a part of the New York Central System.

Other Railroads

The other branch of the Big Four Railroad extends across Dudley and Hale Townships, and was completed in 1852, the second road in the county. The citizens of Hale Township contributed $15,000 toward its building which made possible the development of the villages of Mt. Victory and Ridgeway.
The next road to be built in Hardin County was the Ohio and Indiana Railroad, incorporated March 20, 1850. It extended across the northern townships of Jackson, Blanchard, Washington and Liberty, and was completed in 1854. At first it was just another small railroad, but later became the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago, and in more recent years it has become a part of the most famous railway system in America, the Pennsylvania Company, while the section through Hardin County is the main line between Chicago and New York. Ada, Forest and Didia are the Hardin County towns on this line.

The Civil War epoch prevented the building of any more railroads in Hardin County. However, in the early seventies eastern capitalists presented a through line from New York to Chicago and in the summer of 1873 the work of grading was completed from Marion to Kenton, near the Scioto River. The scheme failed and for a number of years nothing was done. Parts of this old embankment may be seen to this day east of Kenton. At length a new route was surveyed south of the old line, and in May, 1883, Kenton was connected with Maurice and Lima. For a time the road was known as the Chicago and Atlantic, the Salisbury and Chicago, the Chicago and Erie. Now it is a part of the Erie System. This railroad connected the great union marshes with the eastern and western markets and made possible the development of the villages of Fortner, McGehee and Alger.

In the late eighteen, plans were made by railroad promoters to connect the growing city of Toledo with the capital city of Columbus by building a line between the two cities, with Kenton as the half-way point. The road from Toledo was built as far as Kenton and opened in February, 1890; and was completed three years later as the Toledo and Ohio Central to the capital city. While this was the last railroad built in Hardin County, yet it has been operating for sixty years.

Taverns and Hotels

THE WHEELER TAVERN

One of the best known landmarks in Hardin County is the old Wheeler Tavern, on the old Sandusky Road or Indian Trail, at the present village of Pfiffer Station. The tavern is now 90 years old, perhaps the oldest brick structure in Hardin County. It was erected in 1836 by Portius Wheeler, who was born in Vermont in 1796. He came to Marion County, Ohio, when a
young men; but removed to Hardin County in 1833, locating in Dudley Township at the old Shumene ford over the Scioto, where he erected a log cabin opposite the present Wheeler Tavern. It was in this log cabin that Portrait Wheeler first kept tavern, before the erection of the present brick building. He was granted a license at the second session of the Court of Common Pleas held at Fort McArthur on Sept. 10, 1833, the record reading as follows: "On application of Portrait Wheeler for license to keep a tavern, without retailing ardent spirits, at his present residence in this county, and it appearing to the court that a tavern is needed at that place, and that said Wheeler is a suitable person to keep said tavern, and is provided with suitable accommodations; therefore, it is ordered by the court that the Clerk issue a license to said Wheeler, to keep a tavern at his present residence, in this county, without retailing ardent spirits, for one year, upon his paying into the court treasury the sum of $4."

The present tavern is still a fine type of the old colonial mansion. From Mrs. Minnie Schler Kohler's admirable History of Hardin County, we quote the following: "This historic old house has sheltered many notable guests. The big old fireplace in the kitchen is still preserved, and many were the delicious things prepared in it for the guests lumbering across the country in the clumsy old stage coaches. The old built-in sideboard, or cupboard, for liquid refreshments still remains in the old office of the tavern. Several of the rooms are large enough for five or six bedheads, and the whole house is built along generous lines. Tradition has it that Charles Dickens stopped here. It is known without doubt that Henry Clay, General Harrison, and many other leading men were entertained here. John Van Fleet, a son of the pioneer, Miles Van Fleet of Dudley Township, remembers as a boy the visit of Stephen A. Douglas to his father."

The Buckminster Tavern

One of the early taverns built in Hardin County was a log cabin located on the old Sandusky Trail a short distance north of the present Grassy Point School. It was erected by Harvey Buckminster about 1839. His wife conducted the tavern while he was engaged in his work as a stage-driver. About 1842, Mr. Buckminster erected another tavern on the same trail on the old farm now owned by A. E. Mallory. Mr. and Mrs. Buckminster conducted this tavern for sixteen years, until 1858, when he returned to Kenton. Many interesting stories are told about these "backwoods" taverns and their hospitable host and hostess. One in particular is told regarding the tavern at Grassy Point. During the exciting Harrison campaign, in 1880, Mr. Buckminster went to Bellefontaine to hear a Democratic speech by William Allen, afterward Governor of Ohio, and was stark astounded by the abuse heaped upon the Republican party and Gen. Harrison by Mr. Allen. Buckminster learned that Allen and a party probably would stop at his tavern for dinner, so he hurried home and with his wife profusely decorated the tavern with corn skins and buckeyes. About noon, Richard M. Johnson, candidate for Vice President on the Democratic ticket, William Allen, and William Shannon, the Governor of Ohio, appeared and asked for dinner. Seeing the decorations, Mr. Johnson remarked, "This must be a big house," and inspired who put up the decorations. Mr. Buckminster
gave all the credit to his wife, who asked the men if they did not think they were very pretty. William Allen said, "Well done! Well done!" and they all went into the tavern for dinner. Mr. Buckingham charged Mr. Allen fifty cents, because he had been so abusive in his speech the day before, but would take nothing from Governor Shannon or the Vice Presidential candidate.

KENTON HOTELS

David Goodin operated the old William’s tavern on the site of the present Goodin Block until 1854, when he remodeled the building into business rooms, which were destroyed by fire on August 30, 1856. Lachue Furney conducted the "Mansion House" until 1859, at which time the building was removed to South Detroit St. For a time about 1842, a Mr. Jackson conducted the "American House" on Columbus St., opposite the square. He was succeeded by Archibald Campbell and his by Wm. Cadwallader. Henry Garrett for a short time had a hotel on East Franklin St., about 1830, and in later years James Mumford conducted this hotel. The "Emerson House" was conducted by Mr. Emerson for a time on the site of the present Norton's Store and it was in this building that the Common Pleas Court held its first meetings after the first Court House was destroyed by fire in 1853. On the site of the present Savings Bank, Samuel Menzies built the National Hotel about 1834, which he conducted for a few years, before his removal to Buck Township.

The Rouse House

About 1847, Benjamin Eggin erected a two story and a half brick hotel on the site of the present Weaver Hotel, which he called the "Kenton Hotel." He conducted this business until the spring of 1860, when Col. James Cantwell bought the property and operated the hotel. When the Civil War began, they changed the name to the "Union Hotel." Col. Cantwell entered the army and at the Second Battle of Bull Run was killed at the head of his regiment. In the spring of 1863, Henry Rorer, a native of Germany, who came with his patrons to Kenton in 1834 at the age of eight years, purchased the Union Hotel and again its name was changed to the "Rorer House," which title it bore until about thirty years ago when it was again changed to the Weaver Hotel, by the presentee, J. C. Weaver. In 1867 the eastell was built, and in 1880 the west ell, and the interior of the building was remodeled by Mr. Weaver. The hotel is now conducted by Mrs. E. S. Hansen. It is interesting to note that as the hotel now serves as a bus terminal, so it was a stage-coach stop in the early days. Henry Price, the grandfather of Attorneys Wm. R. and Charles R. Price of Kenton, drove a stage from Marion to Lima from 1847 to 1855, the Eggin House or Kenton Hotel as it was called being the main stop in Kenton.

The Dugan Hotel

The builder of the Dugan House was Patrick Dugan, a native of Ireland, who came to Kenton in April, 1867, where he conducted a boarding house for five years. In 1872 he erected the three story brick hotel opposite the Big Four depot on West Franklin Street at a cost of $25,000 including the furnishings. It contained forty rooms and was always a popular stopping place for commercial travelers. After the death of Mr. Dugan, it was conducted for some years by his son, James H. Dugan. In recent years the building has been remodeled and is used by the Kenton Grocery Company.
The Franklin House was built by Dr. L. P. Leighton for a residence, but about 1867, it was purchased by William Born, who opened a hotel called the "Franklin House," which he conducted until it was destroyed by fire on May 27, 1894. It was a frame building and stood on the site of the present St. Nicholas Hotel on West Franklin Street.

The Ritchie Hotel was opened by Adam Ritchie in May, 1881, in a two-story frame building on West Franklin Street and contained twenty-five rooms. It was owned and operated by the Ritchie family for many years, but it was sold a few years ago to the Kroton Amusement Company and was torn down to make way for the erection of the present Theater Block, where the Warner Bros. Kenton Theater is now located.

The St. Nicholas Hotel was erected in the summer of 1882 by Robert W. Southard, of Kenton. At the time of its construction it contained thirty-five rooms, all elegantly furnished, the total cost amounting to $10,000. It was formally opened on November 27, 1882, under the name of the "Southard House." A few years later the name was changed to the "St. Nicholas Hotel" by which title it has been known for nearly a half century.

Later War History

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

The declaration of war against Spain stirred the patriotism of the citizens of Hardin County. On April 25, 1898, the entire Second Regiment of the Ohio National Guard was mustered at the Hardin County Armory in Kenton, and for a week nothing else was thought of. All available public buildings were used to lodge the soldiers. The war spirit kindled to a high pitch, as special trains brought company after company to the city. During the mobilization 11 companies were drilled on the principal streets of the city. Such a sight had never been witnessed in the city before. The commanding officer of the regiment was Colonel J. A. Kuert, long a prominent business man of Kenton. Company A came from Findlay; B, Upper Sandusky; C, Lima; D, Von Wert; E, Tiffin; F, Bellefontaine; G, Kenton; H, Bloomdale; I, Kenton; K, North Baltimore; L, Wapakoneta; M, Paulding. Most of the Hardin County soldiers were enrolled in either Company G or Company I. The regiment was at once assigned to the 1st Brigade, commanded by Brig. Gen. War. V. McMaken. On April 29th, the regiment left for Camp Bushnell, Columbus. Almost the entire population of the town and much of the surrounding country came to the T & O C Station to see the soldiers off. The regiment was mustered into the 2nd O. V. I. on May 10th, and on the 18th moved to Camp Thomas, Chickamauga Park, Georgia. There the 1st Pennsylvania, the 14th Minnesota and the 1st Indiana, O. V. I., were combined as the Third Brigade, 2nd Division, 1st Army Corps, with Col. Charles A. Van Deusen of the 14th Minnesota in command. Later Col. J. A. Kuert of Kenton was placed in command, then Brig. General Rosser took charge of the brigade. On August 10, the regiment was sent to Knoxville, Tennes., to Camp Polkland, and remained there until November 25, 1898, when they were ordered to Camp Furnace at Murf., Georgia. Here they remained until mustered out on February 10, 1899, and returned home. The regiment was disbanded April 14, 1899.
It was a comfort to the home people that the Hardin County men were never sent to Cuba, but a matter of keen regret to the soldiers. While the 2nd Regiment was not engaged in active battle, several local men fell victims to disease and many others were sent home with impaired health as a result of camp life. There was no formal demonstration when the Hardin County troops returned but all were glad when the war days were over.


THE WORLD WAR

That the citizens of Hardin County played an important part in that great drama goes without saying. War was declared on April 6, 1917. Soon after, the patriotism of the citizens found expression in public meetings to underscore interest in recruiting men for the military and naval forces. A public mass meeting was held in the Court House Auditorium on Monday evening, May 29, 1917, with Arts. Paul T. Mahon, president. Addresses were made by Arts. Donald F. Mehlhorn of Keaton; A. J. Miller of Ballefontaine; and Lieut. Colonel A. E. Gail of Lewis. Company I, Captain Edward H. Collins, drilled on the public square, before the meeting. Under the aggressive leadership of Captain Collins, Company I was soon recruited to war strength, 150 men. On Wednesday evening, July 25, 1917, a great mass meeting was held, when a flag was presented to Company I by the ladies of the Women's Relief Corps. Fisk's band furnished the music; Postmaster Carl W. Smith
gave the opening address; Rev. Ira C. Richards, G. A. R. commander, presented the flag; and R. B. Conklin, Mayor of Mt. Victory, delivered a patriotic address. Such meetings aroused the military spirit of the citizens of Hardin County to a tension not seen since the days when the Second Ohio Regiment mobilized at the outbreak of the Spanish-American War.

Typical of this spirit is the July 16, 1917, issue of The News-Republican, telling of the mobilization of Co. F on the 15th.

"Occupational and home ties have been severed; fathers, sons and brothers have left their families and their offices, shops and factories; the city’s soldiers is under arms.

"The sound of the bugle Saturday evening and early this morning, the presence of the men in khaki and the sound of tramping feet keeping-time and marching in rhythmic cadence to the officers’ commands brought the thought of war closest to the hearts of our residents as the members of Company F, Second Ohio Infantry, were mobilized Sunday at the armory.

"On Saturday evening many of the numbers reported in uniform to parade the streets in an attempt to stir up greater patriotism. Rain interfered. Captain Collins stated this morning that previous to the showers nine men were recruited and many were seeking information.

"Following the drill the ‘rookies’ were left in charge of the recruiting tent while the ‘booster vets’ were searching for recruits. Each man was aiming to secure at least one new member. Everything was pointed toward at least 30 additions where the rain caused.

"Word has been received that a band of Mt. Victory people will come to this city on Tuesday, July 24, to give their home town boy a send-off, at the Athletic park. Captain Collins is making arrangements to have a short program. The W. R. C. will probably present a flag to the company.

"The order of the day is as follows: Mass, 6:30 A. M.; First call for drill, 7:05 A. M.; Assembly, 7:30 A. M.; Recall, 7:45 A. M.; Mass, 12:00; First call, 1:30 P. M.; Assembly, 2:05 P. M.; Recall, 3:15 P. M.

"The ‘rookies’ were given their first real test of army life today when taken out for stiff drill by Sergeant Coats. The ‘regulars’ were drilled by Second Lant, McLoughlin."

THE SELECTIVE SERVICE DRAFT

This story will be read with greater interest years hence than now. Because of its historic value the entire account is quoted from the May 20, 1917, issue of the Kenton papers:

"Officials to Conduct Registration on June Fifth Are Announced; Hardin County Board of Elections Meets Friday Afternoon, Selects Registrars and Assistants in Each Voting Precinct to Register Men for Selective Draft Army.

"Everyone between the ages of 21 and 31 must register on June 5th, 1917.

"Persons, who, on account of sickness, are unable to present themselves for registration on that day, will cause some competent person to apply to County Clerk Steenman for a copy of the card and for authority to fill it out. It satisfied that the case is bona-fide the county clerk will deputize the person applying for the card to make out the card and the registrar’s report. The card will be mailed by the sick person or delivered by his agent to the registrar of the sick person’s voting precinct. The sick person will enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for registration certificate. Such registration must be made a sufficient length of time before June 5, so that these cards can be in the hands of the registrars of the sick person’s home precinct.

"Men who are temporarily residing here, but have their home in other cities will apply to the County Clerk’s office and secure blanks. After being
The following are the names of those who will have charge of the work, the first name being the registrar and the second his assistant. Those selected are:


THE LIBERTY LOANS

Harden County was organized on Thursday evening, May 31st, 1947, to aid the government in its gigantic task of securing subscriptions for the two billion dollar bond issue of Liberty Bonds. The meeting was held in the Court House Auditorium with W. A. Norton, Chairman of the Hardin County Central Liberty Loan Committee, presiding. Norman L. Hanse of Perryville, Ohio, delivered the principal address. The members of this First Liberty Loan Committee were chosen as follows:


FIRST KENTON SOLDIERS LEAVE FOR FRANCE

Top row (reading from left to right): Jacob Kinscher, Patterson; Forrest Watson, Kenton; Arthur Freeman, Kenton; Edward Wett, Kenton; Elmer Jones, Kenton; Scott Smith, Possum; James Morrise, Kenton.

Middle row (reading from left to right): Wallace Coulter, Kenton; Dewey Gray, Kenton; Clyde Murany, Kenton; 10th Shenandoah; Grant; Ernest Murphy, Belle Center.

Bottom row (reading from left to right): Roy Craig, Ridgeley; Elmer Patton, Belle Center; C. S. Grady, Kenton; Bertie Richerson, Kenton.

These 16 men of Company I left on Wednesday, August 13, 1917, for Camp Perry, near Port Clinton. They were the first members of the local company to go to France, and were highly honored as they were transferred to the Fourth regiment, included in the "Rainbow Division."

Although many of these men were "rookies," they worked hard and received promotions even soon of the other men of the regiment who had already had many months of military work. After a few weeks' training at Camp Perry the men were sent to Homestead Plains, Long Island, and soon afterwards to Camp Mills where they received their final "brushing up" before embarking for France.

In the August 15, 1917, issue of The Kenton Daily Democrat an account is given on "How Men of Company I Were Chosen," as follows:

"The fact was developed this afternoon that Major Perry in selecting the 16 who left today evidently selected every fourth man among the 1st Class privates and every ninth man among the privates.

"Four of the sixteen men chosen were 1st class privates and the remaining twelve, privates."
FORREST WATSON, FIRST KENTON SOLDIER
TO LOSE LIFE IN FRANCE

The story of the death of the first Kenton man to lose his life in France is taken from the March 7, 1918, issue of The News-Republican:

"Sgt. Forrest Raymond Watson, 21 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Watson, 519 South Leighton Street, was accidentally killed in France on Sunday, March 3. He is the first Hardin County soldier to meet death on French soil.

"This shocking news came by cablegram last evening to the soldier's parents. No details of the Kenton man's death were announced by the war department at Washington. The laconic message telling of the death follows:"

"Mrs. Gertrude Watson, Kenton, Ohio: Deeply regret to inform you that Sergt. Forrest Watson, infantry, is officially reported as accidentally killed March 3. McCANN, The Adjutant Gen.".

THE RED CROSS

On Saturday, June 30, 1917, an intensive drive was launched throughout Hardin County to secure new members in the Red Cross. Mrs. Mary B. Mathews, Secretary of the County Organization, directed the work. There was a booth at each corner of the Public Square and one in front of the Weaver Hotel where subscriptions were taken. Miss Eliza Durbin was stationed at the First National Bank corner; Mrs. Burke L. Johnson at the Commercial Bank; Miss Mary H. Scott at the Kenton National Bank; Mrs. W. H. Spittle at the Kenton Savings Bank, and Mrs. E. Lamburt at the Weaver Hotel.

The Hardin County quota in the National Red Cross campaign was placed at 3400 members. The members of the committees were arranged in relays, the first committee working from nine until eleven o'clock, A. M.; the second from one until four; the third from four to seven; and the last from seven to nine.

The Hardin County Chapter of the Red Cross rendered a remarkable service throughout the period of the war, and has since been most efficient in its work. Mrs. Alfred Mathews is still secretary of the county organization.

THE ARMISTICE CELEBRATION

How the City of Kenton celebrated Armistice Day is told in the following sketch from the Kenton papers published Tuesday, November 12, 1918:

"Kaiser Was Captured, Hanged and Cremated by Joyful Crowd; Kenton's Enthusiastic Patrons Celebrate Armistice Day, Orang-See All Day, Stores, Shops, Schools Closed; and All Joined the Throng on the Streets, Cheers Greeted Floats and Caricatures of Cabbage-Headed Kaiser."

"Yesterday's celebration of the great event, the signing of the armistice, was a gigantic affair. Thousands of people from the four corners of the county came to join in this event and the streets were thronged all day and evening. Early in the day the mayor requested all places of business and the factories and workshops to close. The parade, headed by Fink's band and the Grand Army, was made up of school children, factory men, civic organizations, and citizens, together with floats of various designs. The cheers and exclamations of joy were limited only by the strength of the throat and lung power of the marchers. The defunct kaiser was impersonated in different ways, always however, in the most humiliating make-up, from hanging by the neck to lying in a rathole box. The T. and O. C. shops were early on the square and captured every man they could find, plucking him upon some elevated stone or box and extorted from him a speech and gratefully applauded each effort. For the perfection of the dis.
plays much credit is due to the mayor and his chosen helpers. In the afternoon the Kaiser was hung by the neck on the branch tree at the corner of the square and as the object slowly ascended it was filled with blank cartridges from shotguns and revolvers. Finally, after the evening meal—which was probably the only meal partaken of during the day by many present—the crowd again assembled, took up the march headed by the band and wound up at the southwest corner of the square where a great bonfire was made, the rough box purporting to contain the imitation Kaiser was placed upon the pile of tinder and the crowd joyously witnessed the process of an attempt at purification of the despised contents by fire. In the years to come when your children gather about your knee asking for a story you will have a text from yesterday's happenings that can be woven into a tale of intense interest to the expanding mind of that little sequestered."

A TYPICAL WAR-STORY
Local Boys Engage in Heavy Battle. (From News-Republican, Nov. 8, 1918)

"Kenton boys belonging to the 124th H. F. A. got into severe fighting at Molleville Farm and helped to overcome the Huns at Belien.

"Battery E of the 124th H. F. A. has the following Hardin County boys with it: Win. Loeffler, Lloyd Norman, Bob Shepherd, John Schumaker, Russell Norman, Earl Woodmansee, Edgar Morrison, gunner, and Budd Cummings. Francis Morrison also is a member of the 324th, belonging to Battery K. A short account of the action in which these boys were engaged is given below:

"Artillery units of the 83rd Division, the original Camp Sherman division, have been in action. In taking Molleville Farm and in their successful operations against Huns de Belien, the units, which were trained at Camp Sherman, acquitted themselves with glory.

"News dispatches telling of the bravery of these units, which include practically all of the selectives from Franklin County which fell in the first calls, have just been received.

"Molleville Farm is an important strategic position and it fell to the lot of Ohio troops to wrest it from the Hun. There was nothing spectacular about the proposition, the news dispatch states, but plain, soul-wrenching labor for nearly three days."

HARDIN COUNTY SOLDIERS WHO DIED IN THE WORLD WAR
Showing Name, Rank, Residence and Date of Death.

OFFICERS: Foreign Deaths, Killed in Action or died from wounds at Base Hospital: Flanagan, Thurman G., 1st Lt., Inf., Kenton, October 5, 1918; Myers, Russell J., 1st Lt., Int., Adv., September 30, 1918.

REGULAR ARMY: Foreign Deaths, Killed in Action: McDonald, Lloyd A., Rapunzel, October 25, 1918.

NATIONAL GUARD, Foreign Deaths, Killed in Action: Cleveland, Richard, Kenton, October 1, 1918; Peck, Stanley O., Adv., September 14, 1918; Jett, Floyd, Kenton, September 27, 1918; Mommey, Clyde, Kenton, July 13, 1918; Nance, Bryan F., Alger, September 29, 1918; Rossiter, Frank, Ridgeway, September 30, 1918; Swann, William, Kenton, September 30, 1918.

DIED OF WOUNDS: Received in Action: Gardner, Ralph, Kenton, November 2, 1918; Mitchease, Harry R., Findlay, October 6, 1918.


NATIONAL ARMY, Foreign Deaths, Killed in Action: Krook, Edward, McGuffey, October 14, 1918; *Martin, Ray H., Forest, September 30, 1918;
Price, Glen; Roanhead; October 7, 1928; Shafter, Ray, Belle Center, September 30, 1928; Stewart, Harold, Ridgeview, October 9, 1928.

*Smoking of Tobacco.

DIED of Disease, Accident or Other Causes: Engle, Willard A., McGuffey, October 21, 1918; Gehman, Cletus J., Kenton, October 9, 1918; Hastings, Emmett, Kenton, October 17, 1918; Langhi, Harry, Kenton, October 4, 1918; Meentzer, Pearl J., Kenton, October 19, 1918; Smith, Reuben R., McGuffey, September 24, 1918.

DOMESTIC Deaths: Bloom, Clarence W., Kenton, October 14, 1918; Dugan, Oliver, Kenton, January 11, 1919; Gilbert, Howard W., Kenton, October 4, 1918; Jordan, George K., Kenton, October 4, 1918; McLane, Leo J., Dunkirk, October 7, 1918; McVey, Otto C., Dunkirk, October 1, 1918; Sherwood, Edgar L., Mt. Victory, October 10, 1918.

KENTON POST, No. 198, AMERICAN LEGION OF OHIO

Kenton Post 198 of the American Legion was formed in the fall of 1928 with the following charter members: Leo Hite, Lester Seymour, Wm. H. Snyder, Ivan Johnson, Gordon Rosenthal, Ellis McFarland, Lloyd Kelley, LeRoy Bell, Ralph Jones, C. J. Crafts, Wm. Loeffert, Natt Kriel, E. S. Proxmire, Grover Chamberlain, Allan O. Ochs, Raymond G. Schutte, Kenneth E. Young.

Leo Hite was the first Post Commander, Ivan Johnson, Adjutant, and LeRoy Bell, Treasurer.

The first meeting was held in the Auditorium of the Hardin County Court House with approximately 30 or 40 members present. During the year the membership reached the number of 210. Legion headquarters was established in the News-Republican building on South Main Street. These were maintained until 1925 when the headquarters were moved to the Sherman Block on West Franklin Street. In 1926 the headquarters were changed to the Venema Hall in the Hardin County Court House.

Other Commanders of the Kenton Post 198 were: Lester Seymour, 1928; Wm. H. Snyder, 1922; Allan O. Ochs, 1921; Ellis McFarland, 1924; Carl Smith, 1925; Ralph Jones, 1926; Wm. Loeffert, 1927; Kenneth Young, 1928; Ralph Pugh, 1929; L. B. Brown, 1930; James McCullough, 1931; Grover Chamberlain, 1932; Wm. Mauck, 1933.

Kenton Post has been active in civic affairs since its inception and the membership has been very active in their efforts to promote the industrial growth of Kenton and the well being of the community.

The Post itself has a building fund of approximately $6,000.00 which was raised in 1921 for the purpose of establishing a Legion home. This fund is controlled by the Legion Home Building Fund Trustee of Kenton Post 198. The trustees of this fund are Allan O. Ochs, Chairman; L. B. Brown, Secretary; Gordon Rosenthal, Treasurer, Wm. H. Snyder, Burke L. Johnson, William Loeffert and Ralph Jones. The trustees were elected as a permanent body to control the Home Building Fund. The annual interest that accumulates from the principal is used to further Post activities, Boy Scout Troops and other civic endeavors.

The yearly membership of the Post averages approximately 210 Legionnaires.
Medical and Legal History

EARLY PHYSICIANS

Soon after the site of Kenton was selected as the county seat, two physicians, Samuel Clark and Blodgett, located in the town, the former coming in 1833, and the latter in 1834. Dr. Clark was also one of the pioneer school teachers. Dr. Blodgett, a native of Massachusetts, opened his office in a small frame house on North Main Street which he erected in 1834. Prior to 1840 only three other physicians located in Kenton, Drs. U. P. Leighton, Samuel Watt and a Dr. Koons. The latter left Kenton in 1842 having practiced four years. In 1839, Dr. Samuel Watt, a native of Harrison County, Ohio, opened his office in Kenton. He was the first president of the Hardin County Medical Society, and was always a prominent member of the medical fraternity until his death in 1876. He was the father of the late James Watt of Kenton, a well-known attorney. Samuel Watt, Jr., was a resident of Ada and was postmaster for a number of years.

About 1840, Dr. W. W. Durbin, father of our well-known townsman, W. W. Durbin, came to Kenton and engaged in the practice of medicine. He was a native of Maryland, where he was born Feb. 11, 1819. For some years previous to that time he lived at Marseilles, having been appointed to the Indian Service on the Indian Reservation at that place. While associated with the Indians he had learned to speak the Wyandot language. When the Indians departed for the West, Dr. Durbin came to Kenton and made it his home for the rest of his life. He first resided in a small house located on the present site of the Grammar School building. Later, he moved to a new home on the present site of the Elk’s Club building on East Franklin Street. Here his son, William W., was born September 25, 1866. Dr. Durbin carried on an extensive practice until his death in the early 70’s. He was a member of Rev. John Price Durbin, who was the Chaplain of the United States Senate, in the administration of President Jackson, and was a distinguished Democrat. Dr. Durbin’s practice in Kenton continued for over thirty years. In later years his office was located in the middle room of the Opera House Block on the second floor, and many years later when his son, W. W. Durbin, opened his law practice in Kenton it turned out that he occupied the last office of his father.

Dr. Caleb Parsons Leighton, one of the earliest pioneers and practitioners of Kenton, was born in Elliott, Me., on March 16, 1830. He was of English descent. Capt. William Leighton, his grandfather, was a shipmaster, coming from Tiverton, England, about 1750. He erected Leighton’s Fort, in York County, Me., and was a distinguished officer of the Revolution. His son, Gen. Samuel Leighton, the father of our subject, was born at Kingston, York County, Me., on May 25, 1771, and was married to Frances U. Parsons in December of 1798. They moved in 1820, to Alford, Me., where Samuel Leighton died in October of 1848. The latter was one of the Representatives to the General Assembly at Boston in 1809; served as Justice of the Peace for thirty years, Justice of the Court in York County and was commissioned Ensign in the militia in 1792, Lieutenant-Colonel in 1800, and Brigadier General in 1811. A few years prior to his death, he was elected Sheriff of York County. He died from a wound received during action in the war. He was the father of five sons and five daughters, of whose nine children grew to maturity. The subject of this sketch came to Ohio in 1831; stopped at McCutchenville, where he read medicine with Dr. Sampson, and, in 1833 and 1834, attended lectures at Bowdoin College, in Brunswick, Me., and, in the
spring of 1833, received a diploma from Brown University, Providence, R. I. In March of 1836, he located in Kenton, commencing the practice of medicine. Hardin County was then a comparatively dense forest, without roads, churches or schoolhouses, but he applied himself closely to his profession and became successful, soon winning his way to the hearts and confidence of all the early settlers. His acquaintance was universal, and he was familiar in every household. He was elected three times County Treasurer, discharging his duties with ability and honor. On January 14, 1840, he was married to Miss Ellen, daughter of Jacob H. Houser, then one of the prominent citizens of the county. For more than thirty-eight years they shared together the toils and trials incident to human life, living to see Kenton (1871)—a little village among the trees and streams of the forest—and grow to be a large and busy town.

He was a nephew of Dr. Usher Parsons, of Providence, R. I., for whom he was named. Dr. Parsons distinguished himself as a surgeon while with Commodore Perry, in the Battle on Lake Erie, and his wife was a sister of Oliver Wendell Holmes. Dr. Leighton was instrumental in founding the First Presbyterian Church, in Kenton, Ohio. He founded the Pioneer Association of Hardin County, July 4, 1871, and was its president while he lived. He was always ready to contribute to any worthy benevolent cause and had at heart the welfare of the community. He was an active member of the Odd Fellows.

The following interesting incident is quoted from Mrs. Minnie Hochel's History of Hardin County, as an example of the hardships of the pioneer physician: "One can hardly know or appreciate the hardships that this old pioneer experienced. One little incident related to me was that he was called one day to see the sick child of a 'squatter,' who once lived on the farm that the writer now owns, and farm in four miles south of Kenton, but at that time the Doctor said it was seven miles by the way he had to go through the woods. On his return darkness came on so that he could not see the blaze on the trees, and for fear of getting lost, he stopped, tied his horse (known as 'Old Rock') in a sapling, took off his saddle and blanket, and lay down at the foot of a tree to wait until morning. During the night the wild rrots kept up such a snuffling and noise that he became afraid, got up, put his saddle on his horse, sat there until morning, and then proceeded home."

Few men were so well known as Dr. Leighton; his field of practice during the pioneer days extending throughout this and adjoining counties. He was a good financier, and accumulated a large estate to which he principally devoted the latter years of his life, though still clinging to his profession, and taking a deep interest in the progress and development of medical science.

Five children were born to Dr. Leighton and his wife, two of whom died.
in infancy. His son, George, and daughters, Anna and Martha, Elies, were born and reared in Kenton. Anna became the wife of George Gregg, and Martha Elies was the wife of W. F. Branson.

Dr. Longman died suddenly at his home on August 20, 1879; Mrs. Longman survived him until October 28, 1899.

Dr. J. A. Rogers was born in Greene County, Ohio, in the year 1820, and was the son of John and Margaret (Herbert) Rogers. His father was a native of the Shenandoah Valley, Frederick County, Va., and his mother came from the Old Virginia stock of Loudoun County. The former, a farmer by occupation, came to Greene County, Ohio, thence moved to Champaign County, locating lands near Mechanicsburg, where he passed the remainder of his life, dying in 1848. The subject of this sketch obtained a primary education from the schools of Champaign County, and in 1842, entered the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati, taking one course of lectures. In May of 1843 he came to Kenton, where he began the practice of his profession. The Doctor arrived in the town on horseback, with saddlebags, etc., and for seven miles south of the Scioto River there was not a single dwelling to be seen. In the spring of 1845, having entered into partnership with Dr. J. B. Atkinson, in the practice of medicine, they purchased a stock of drugs, the first that was ever introduced in the village of Kenton, and opened a store in a small frame building erected for the purpose on the east side of the public square. The drugs, having been bought in New York, were shipped by river, canal and lake to Sandusky, thence by rail to Republie, Seneca County, where they were loaded into wagons and hauled to Kenton. This was the ordinary route for merchandise from New York at that time. The practice of medicine and drug trade was continued by this firm for nearly four years, when the partnership was dissolved, the drug stock being sold to George Atkinson and by him to Edwin and Charles Ashman. In 1856, Edwin Ashman having retired, Dr. Rogers bought a part interest in the business, and a short time thereafter became sole proprietor of the establishment, gradually relinquishing his practice. He devoted his time to his business and was among the staunch and reliable business men of Kenton. In the fall of 1843, he was united in marriage to Miss Clarisa Knight, a native of Miami County, Ohio. She died, leaving two children, Eugene, long associated with his father in the drug store, and Kate, wife of Thomas J. Cantrell. The Doctor's second wife was Ann Elizabeth King. Three daughters were born of this union: Maty, Margaret and Clara. Dr. Rogers was a Mason for many years, and occupied the chairs of all the offices connected with that order, and served a number of years as a member of the Board of Education. Dr. Rogers was probably one of the best known business men who ever lived in Kenton and was always found at his store even during his declining years. He passed away in 1900, in the seventieth year of his age.

Dr. Augustus Wilnot Munsen, long known as one of Kenton's most public spirited citizens, was born in the town of Oxford, Champaign County, New York, November 2, 1829. The family, of English ancestry, moved from New England to New York in early times. His grandfather, Wilnot Munsen, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. His father, Wilnot Munsen, served in the War of 1812. His mother, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Salisbury, a native of Vermont, died in Kenton in April, 1834. In 1829, his father, with a family of four children, three boys and one girl, started in a two-horse wagon to Ohio, and after a tedious journey arrived in Richland County, July 4 of that year. Mr. Munsen received a liberal English education in the public schools of his native and adopted states. He closed his common school course in the spring of 1838, at Walnut, Delaware County, receiving a certificate of proficiency, which, under the laws of Ohio, authorized him to teach a com-
man school. He taught his first school at Westfield, Delaware County, in the summer of the latter year, at $5 per month. In the autumn of that year, the family moved to the northern part of Harrison County, then a wilderness, where they suffered all the privations and hardships incident to pioneer life. Here he remained at home during the following winter and spring, assisting in clear and plant corn a few acres of land. In May following, he left home without means and journeyed on foot to Westfield, Delaware Co., where an uncle furnished him with a scythe with which to commence business for himself. With this implement he set out on foot to hunt employment, and engaged as a harvest hand to a farmer in Marion County, and labored in the field for 75 cents a day until fall, when he engaged to teach school for a term of four months, at $42 per month. In April, 1840, he was married to Maria McMillen, the daughter of a widow, a native(495,333),(632,360) of Banglin County, Pa. In the spring of 1842, he moved his family to Marseilles, Marion County, and opened the office of Dr. Orrin Ferris, a student of medicine. Here he continued, occasionally teaching school and otherwise laboring for many to support his family while pursuing his studies, until the summer of 1844, when he entered the office of Dr. U. P. Leighton, of Kenton, who generously proposed to board him for the assistance he could render in his practice. In November of the latter year he moved to the village of Wyandot, Wyandot County, where he taught school the following winter, and in the spring opened an office and commenced the practice of medicine. Here he continued in practice with remarkable success until, in the winter of 1849-50, he attended lectures at Cleveland, Ohio, Medical College. In the spring of 1850, he moved to Kenton, and practiced in partnership with Dr. Leighton until, in the winter of 1853-54, he again attended lectures at Cleveland and graduated. In the following fall he opened an office in Kenton on his own account. He was one of the founders of the "Hardin County Medical Society," which was organized in July, 1850.

In December, 1861, he was appointed Assistant Surgeon to the Eighty-second Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and went with that regiment into active service, during which he proved himself competent and efficient in the discharge of every duty, until 1863, when he was compelled to resign on account of bad health, and return home. He next entered the State military service, and discharged the duties of Surgeon of Camp of Instruction. In March, 1863, he was commissioned Surgeon of the 184th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and again went to the field with that regiment and remained on duty until the close of the war, when he was mustered out with the regiment at Nashville, Tenn., in September, 1865. He was also one of the founders of the "Pioneer Association of Hardin County," which was organized in 1868, was chosen its first Secretary and occupied the position for many years. He held several local offices of trust, and in 1873 was elected to the Ohio Legislature and served one full term (1873 to 1875). He was Mayor of Kenton from
1682 to 1864. Dr. Munson was a man who had the faculty of utilizing his knowledge and concentrating it upon any subject within the wall of his profession. Energetic in temperament, he was efficient in practice, and was, therefore, one of the successful physicians of the country. The business qualifications which so many physicians lacked were not in his case, wanting. Early in life, as the foregoing sketch abundantly proves, he labored under many disadvantages, but by his native energy these were surmounted. Doctor Munson died March 7, 1904, in his 85th year.

Since the days of the early pioneer physicians, there has been a long line of practitioners who were prominent in the medical fraternity of Kenton, among whom were the following doctors: J. M. Chassey and his brother, William M.; W. H. Philips and his son, D. P. Philips; J. W. Bickley, Silas Proctor, father of Dr. E. S. Proctor; E. B. Hassard and his son, H. E. Hassard; L. G. Gein, R. F. Cessna, Solomon Kramer, Jesse Soulegrass and his son, William C.; Frank D. Bain, J. C. Campbell, W. H. Meier, A. J. Crane, R. K. Jones, William A. Belt, W. C. Emerson, Jacob A. Grove, Austin S. McKirrick, Cleon McCoy, Harry D. Belt, R. L. Johnson, O. H. Tuttle, R. G. Schurte, D. C. Fox, D. H. Bowman, R. C. McNeil, Fred Munson, E. S. Proctor, F. F. Stultz, and others.

KENTON BAR FIFTY YEARS AGO

The first attorney who located here was John Lawrence, a brother of William Lawrence, who came about 1834, and continued in practice until the time of his death in 1841. He served as Prosecuting Attorney from 1837 to 1839. The next was Andrew Dodds, who came here in 1835, and was elected Prosecuting Attorney in 1838; held the office by re-election till 1847. He was afterward Treasurer of the county, and about 1855 removed to Texas.

Edwin Fisher next appears upon the rolls, and continued in practice until a year or two before the war, when he retired to his farm in Dudley Township, and seldom appeared in court afterward. He was a member of the Legislature in 1839-40. About this time he kept a good pack of hounds and enjoyed the sport of the chase, wild game being still plenty. He died about 1865.

The next attorney who settled here was E. G. Spalding, who came from Marion, Ohio, in the spring of 1842, and practiced until March, 1847, when he took office as Clerk of the Court, which he held until 1854; afterward, served one term in the Legislature. He was highly esteemed among the people, and upright in business. He died here, May 1, 1857.

In the spring of 1844, Benjamin M. Penn, from Hacketts, Ohio, located here and continued in active practice until 1848, when he removed to California, and shortly afterward died at Sacramento.

Bradley Camp located here as an attorney, from Zanesville, Ohio, in 1844 or 1845, and continued in practice until his death in 1860.

In the beginning of 1847, William L. Walker located here, having been admitted to the bar in the summer of 1846, after reading law with Columbus Deane, of Mount Vernon, Ohio. In 1847 he was elected Prosecuting Attorney, and served two terms. In 1846, he was the elector to cast the vote of this Congressional District for Abraham Lincoln. He also served as Mayor of Kenton from 1871 to 1873.

Edward Stillings also located here at the same time as Walker. He was an active, able and energetic practitioner, and continued in practice until May, 1863, when he removed to Leavenworth, Kansas, where he continued in a lucrative practice. He was full of energy and perseverance and a successful practitioner.

In 1847, R. J. Allison was here for a short time, but enlisted in the Mexican War and never returned to this county.
In 1848, James Bain, from Greene County, Ohio, commenced the practice of law here and continued in practice until his death in 1879. He served also as Probate Judge, Prosecuting Attorney, and Auditor during his professional career. He always maintained a very high standing in the profession for his integrity and honesty of purpose, always faithful to his clients, making the case as his own.

In 1849, David Thomson, from Marion, Ohio, commenced practice here. He continued to practice as the firm of Bain & Thomson, subsequently as C. H. Gatch & Thomson, and at the outbreak of the war entered the service as Captain in the 82nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was in active service during the war, participating in the battles of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and several others; was severely wounded in the Atlanta campaign; and was brevetted General at the close of the war. He was highly esteemed by his comrades as an officer. In 1868, he cast the electoral vote of this district for U. S. Grant. He continued in banking awhile after the war, and again resumed the practice in 1870, and later became associated in one of the departments in Washington, D. C.

In 1849, Justus C. and Hiram Stevens located here and continued in partnership for a short time, when Hiram removed to Kansas. He was District Judge in Kansas for three terms and practiced in Kansas City. Justus practiced a few years, then engaged in stock-raising and the banking business.

C. H. Gatch, after studying law with his brother in Xenia, Ohio, located here in 1849. In 1853, he was elected Prosecuting Attorney, and State Senator in 1858 from this district. He continued in practice until 1862, when he entered the service as a Captain in the 13th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and in 1865 resigned and again resumed practice in the firm of Gatch & Walker, and afterward, in 1866, entered the service as Lieutenant Colonel of the 135th Ohio National Guard, and served at Harper’s Ferry until September, 1864, the expiration of the term of service. In 1866, he removed to Des Moines, Iowa, where he continued in practice.

In 1854, Alexander S. Ramsey, who had been a practitioner in Carroll County, Ohio, located in Kenton. He soon won and retained a large practice, and served as Mayor of Kenton for five terms. During the early part of the war, he was Lieutenant Colonel of the 45th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was an ardent supporter of the Government throughout the war. As a lawyer, he had few equals and no superior in this portion of the State, and was engaged in almost every trial in this and adjoining counties up to the time of his death. That he was a man of rare and eminent ability in his profession was a fact conceded by every lawyer at the bar.

Lyman C. Hurd commenced practicing here about 1850, and was elected Prosecuting Attorney in 1853, serving one term. He removed to Lima, Ohio, a few years after, where he engaged in banking; afterward, he removed to Champaign County, Illinois, where he died shortly afterward.

Sewell Coulson entered upon the practice about 1850, and was for several years in the firm of Walker & Coulson. He was elected Prosecuting Attorney in 1853, and about 1857 removed to Sullivan, Indiana, where he continued active practice.

In 1857, John Stillings (father of Arty, J. Ray Stillings), who had studied with his brother, Edward, was admitted to the bar and commenced practice with him. In 1857, he was elected Prosecuting Attorney, and afterward was a member of the firm of Ramsey & Stillings for several years, and later was in active practice as the firm of Stillings & Allen, one of the prominent law firms of Kenton. He was a profound and diligent student of the law, and a man of eminent ability.

John N. Alten was elected Prosecuting Attorney in 1858, and continued
here until about 1867, when he removed to Marion, Ohio, where he continued his practice.

Lester T. Hunt was admitted to the bar in April, 1857, came to Kenton the same year, and in 1861 was elected Prosecuting Attorney, and re-elected in 1865. He was Mayor of Kenton for one term, and continued in the practice of his profession for many years.

S. L. Hoge was admitted at Cincinnati in 1858, locating first in Logan County. In 1860 he came to Kenton, and was a member of the firm of Ramsey & Hoge until November, 1861, when he enlisted in the army. He settled in South Carolina after the war, where he served two years on the Supreme Bench of that State and also represented his district in the Lower House of Congress. In 1870, he returned to Kenton and continued in the practice of his profession till 1881, in which year he engaged in banking and abandoned active practice.

William T.CSS was admitted to practice in 1865, served as Representative from this county in 1870 to 1872, and also filled the offices of Mayor of Kenton.

In 1865, John D. King, from Columbiana County, Ohio, located here and became an active member of the bar until his death in 1880.

Aurelius B. Johnson was admitted to the bar in 1868. In 1867, was elected Prosecuting Attorney, serving two terms, and was subsequently Mayor of Kenton. He was a member of the firm of Ramsey and Johnson for several years, afterward Johnson & Seely, and was a leading attorney of the bar. He also served with distinction as Common Pleas Judge.

In 1867, L. M. Strong of Seneca County, Ohio, was admitted to practice, located here, and in 1880 was elected State Senator from this district, and later, by appointment, Common Pleas Judge of the district. He was also a distinguished member of Congress.

The same year, James Watt, a graduate of the Albany Law School, located here and became one of the firm of Walker & Watt, afterward King & Watt, and Watt & Thompson. He was elected Prosecuting Attorney in 1871, serving two terms, and later engaged in the banking business. Later on he again resumed his law practice.

Frank T. Dougherty, a native of Kenton, was admitted to the bar in 1873. In 1875, he was elected Prosecuting Attorney, serving one term. In 1880, he was the Democratic nominee for Attorney General. He continued in practice here and was regarded as one of the most brilliant lawyers Kenton ever produced.

Henry W. Seely, a native of Tiffin, Ohio, was admitted in 1873, and engaged in the practice of the law in Kenton, where he was an outstanding member of the bar.

Seetos E. Young was admitted about 1873, and was elected Prosecuting Attorney in 1877, serving one term. He was later elected a member of the Ohio Legislature, and in 1882 emigrated to Dakota, where he became engaged in the practice of his profession.

About 1876, Geo. Moses B. Walker, formerly of the Boston bar, located here and for several years was one of the firm of King & Walker, subsequently Walker & Everett, and continued the practice of his profession for many years. He was also a distinguished general in the Civil War.

Wesley A. Strong was admitted in 1878 and became a partner with his brother, L. M. Strong, continuing in practice here except about two years in Paulkting County, Ohio. He later was engaged in banking.

John H. Smith was admitted in 1876 and was elected Prosecuting Attorney in 1879. A sketch of Anty Smith, who is still living, appears in another part of this work.

Industrial and Financial History

EARLY INDUSTRIES

Snow Cloud Mills—In 1884, John Epsy erected a frame distillery on the site of the “Snow Cloud Mills,” which stands on South Main Street, near the north bank of the Scioto River. He operated this distillery over a year before he erected the flour mill, having his grinding done at the old Ross Mill on Wixon Street. In 1886, the “Snow Cloud Mills” were built by Mr. Epsy and operated by him in connection with the distillery, until 1884, when he sold out to James Davis. The engines and boilers of this mill were hauled from Mount Vernon, Ohio, and is said to have been the first steam flour-mill of Harlin County.

Kenton Mills—In 1880, John Epsy and William Ochs began the erection of a frame-storied frame flouring-mill on the northwest corner of Main and Walnut Streets. Epsy and Ochs operated this mill till 1886, when Mr. Epsy sold his interest, and soon afterward his son Thomas assumed his place in the firm. Thomas Epsy and William Ochs ran the mill until the incorporation of the “Kenton Milling Company,” February 5, 1888. For many years this building was known as the White Mills, and was operated by Wm. J. Ochs.

Espy Mills—In the fall of 1878, John Epsy bought a site for a new mill on the southwest corner of Detroit and Walnut Streets, a portion of which...
was occupied by the wooden mill. He arranged his plans for the erection of the structure, but before they were carried into effect, his death occurred. In the spring of 1829, Thomas Eapy took up his father’s unfinished work and erected a fine brick building known as the “Eapy Mills.” The people of Kenton will remember this as the “Old Brick Mill,” which was destroyed by fire.

The only flouring mill, besides those already mentioned, that has ever been operated in Kenton was erected in 1848-49 on the southeast corner of Franklin and Mill Streets, by Christopher Kautz, Peter Grassley and Michael Wolf. It was subsequently purchased by Nelson Miller, who sold it in 1852 to John Pfeiffer. A distillery was also operated in connection with this mill, and, after running both until 1865, Mr. Pfeiffer sold out to James M. White, who about a year afterward disposed of the property to the Schindewolf Brothers. They operated both mill and distillery until 1868, when they ceased business and sold the machinery. John Pfeiffer again became owner of the building and lot, which, in 1869, were bought by William Campbell and converted into a stove factory. The old structure was burned down in 1873.

Kenton Foundry and Machine Works—In 1844, Earhart Bloom established a small foundry on the southeast corner of Main and North Streets (now the site of the First Methodist Church) and there, on the 3rd of May, 1845, he made the castings of the first plow ever manufactured in Hardin County. In 1850, Mr. Bloom erected a two-story brick machine shop in front of the old frame foundry. Soon after, he built a brick foundry and blacksmith shop on the site of the old foundry and carried on the business until 1857, when he sold out to Lewis Bloom, John W. Born and David Newcomb. They manufactured brick presses, field rollers and sawing machines. The present Methodist Church has occupied this site since 1890.

Saw Mills—John G. Ott and Peter Grassley erected a steam saw-mill in 1841-42 on East Columbus Street, nearly opposite the first school building, which they ran several years, then removed it across the Scioto River, and immediately east of Solomon Kerner’s residence on the river bank. In 1854, it was removed to North Washington, now Lola, and there continued in operation for many years. This was, doubtless, the first saw-mill operated in Kenton, and must have supplied a long felt want in this vicinity.

In 1845-46, Dr. U. P. Leightow built two water power saw-mills on the south bank of the Scioto River. These mills were abandoned after six years and were later torn down. In 1847, James Faught built a steam saw-mill on the south bank of the old channel of the Scioto, and immediately east of where Detroit intersects Eapy Street. It passed into the hands of John P. Halliday, who sold it to John Eapy in 1854. Mr. Eapy ran it about twelve years, when he disposed of it to William Shepherd. He continued to operate the mill for a couple of years, when it ceased business and was subsequently torn down.

Kenton Woolen Mills—About 1846-47, Gilbert Seaman erected a woolen mill on the south side of North Street, between Main and Detroit. He afterward added a planer to the mill, which was the first operated in Kenton. After remaining here about ten years, he built the “Kenton Woolen Mills” on South Detroit Street. In 1878, these mills were purchased by John Eapy for the purpose of getting a site for the Eapy flouring mill. The woolen mills were in operation until 1882.

Cooper Shop—In 1851, George Kane purchased the old Methodist Episcopal Church, which stood on the southeast corner of Ohio and Wayne Streets, and began the manufacture of barrels, buckets and all classes of cooper work. He ran it about a year, then sold out to William Campbell,
The old frame structure was burned down in the fall of 1879, and the following year, Mr. Campbell erected a brick shop on the old site.

**Steel Factory.**—In 1869, William Campbell purchased the building on the southeast corner of Franklin and Mills Streets previously used as a flouring mill and distillery. He fitted it up for a steel factory and occupied it in the manufacture of stoves until the fire of 1872-73 destroyed the building and machinery. He soon after built a new factory, which he operated for many years.

**Carriage and Wagon Factories.**—In 1845, Harris Foul started a small shop on the corner of Franklin and Cherry Streets, which he ran until 1849, at which time he went to California, and his brother, William, succeeded him in the business, another brother, John, subsequently becoming a partner. In 1858, they erected a new building on the southwest corner of Franklin and Wayne Streets, which they operated under the name of Foul Brothers for many years.

About 1848 or 1849, Day Pugh started a blacksmith shop on the north side of Columbus Street, between Detroit and Market, and soon afterward, Francis Meyers erected a two-storied frame building adjoining for a wagon shop. In a short time Pugh bought the factory of Meyers, and for about four years continued the manufacture of carriages and wagons, then abandoned the business, and C. C. Drake carried on for a short time in this shop.

**Henry Kaiser,** one of the earliest carriage manufacturers in Kenton, began business in 1864 on North Main Street, but in 1873, moved his business to the northeast corner of Columbus and Wayne Streets, where he engaged in the manufacture of buggies and light carriages, until the advent of the automobile. He was a native of Hesse, Germany, where he was born in 1846. He located in Kenton in 1859. His carriage shop was one of the best known Kenton industries; and the business is still carried on by his sons under the firm name of Kaiser Motor Company.

**Peter Knaer** began the manufacture of buggies and all classes of wagons in a large frame structure on South Main Street, in 1877. He continued the business until his death in more recent years. The establishment is still conducted by his son, Cyril.

**Kenton Marble Works.**—These works were established in 1839, by J. D. White, on East Franklin Street, and was the first marble shop opened in Kenton. He carried it on alone for some years, when John Howe became a partner, under the firm name of White & Howe. Subsequently, J. W. Woodard was connected with the business, followed by Henry Price, who soon became associated with John Howe. After Price & Howe, came John Howe & Company. Finally, Dory White and J. W. Brown, in 1874, purchased the works, the firm name being White & Brown, and after four or five years they sold out to Holmes Wilson. In 1879, Dory and Harry White bought out Wilson, and in April, 1880, removed to a location on South Main Street, opposite the News-Republican. In 1889, Carl Price, son of Henry Price, purchased a half interest of Dory White. On January 1, 1903, Mr. Price became the sole owner, and on February 4, 1903, the institution was incorporated under the name of The Kenton Marble and Granite Company. In August, 1904, the plant was moved to its present location on South Lexington Street, where a splendid building has been erected and equipped with the latest improved machinery for manufacturing marble and granite in all its forms. This is one of the few plants of its kind in the entire State and as the others are located in the State's largest cities, Kenton has the distinction of having the largest and best equipped plant of its kind in any town of its size in Ohio; and this has been brought about almost solely through the splendid efforts of Carl Price. Frank D. Price is now the secretary of the company.
Michigan Lumber Yard—In 1867, Luther Furney erected a frame planing mill on the northeast corner of Ohio and Market Streets, which he operated until May, 1873, when he sold out to John Callam. In connection with the mill, Mr. Furney managed a lumber yard for Edward Perry, of Saginaw, Michigan, which was bought by Mr. Callam in 1874. John Callam & Company did a flourishing business for many years. After Mr. Callam’s death, his son, George, continued the business, assisted by Edmund Bostrom. The plant continued under their direction until it was sold to the Wood King Lumber Company, the present owners.

Young Bros’ Lumber Yard—In 1869, William H. and James Young, under the firm name of Young Brothers, purchased an old saw-mill, erected and operated by William Sheppard, which stood on the north bank of the Scioto River, west of the Big Four Railroad. They ran this mill for a short time, then tore it down and erected a new mill, which they operated many years.

N. H. Walker’s Saw. Planing and Scroll Mills were established in the fall of 1873, by C. A. Walker, on the south bank of the Scioto River, between Detroit and Main Streets. He ran the business until his death, and was succeeded by N. H. Walker.

Scroll Factory—In 1873, Jacob and Peter Forlong erected a frame building on Mill Street, south of Franklin, and established a “scroll factory,” which was destroyed by fire in 1870. The following year, Jacob Forlong erected a structure on Leightner Street, also south of Franklin. This factory was the first of the kind established in Keaton.

Tanneries—Edward Smith came from Marion, Ohio, to Keaton in the fall of 1840, and, the following spring, opened a tannery on the northwest corner of Main and North Streets. His shop was a small frame structure, and he operated twenty vats in the tannery. Mr. Smith carried on business until the fall of 1866, when he ceased operations and retired from the trade in Keaton, subsequently removing to the West.

In 1867, Dr. W. M. Chesney built a two-story frame tannery on Market Street, near the Scioto River. Chesney, Ballimore & Co. began business thereon, and carried it on for two years. They were then succeeded by Chesney & McIntyre, who ran it about one year, but Dr. Chesney being the capitalist, and finding that he had already lost money in the enterprise, disposed of the tannery to Charles Brumm, in the spring of 1870. Mr. Brumm did a successful business for more than three years, and then sold the building for a foundry and machine shop.

In 1877, Frederik Markmann erected his tannery on the bank of the Scioto River on South Main Street, where he manufactured a high grade of leather for many years.

LATER INDUSTRIAL HISTORY

The Champion Iron Company of Keaton, was organized in December, 1875, as The Champion Iron Fence Company, and was founded by H. G. Devoe, Henry Price, William Walker, James Young and W. H. Young. Its purpose was the manufacturing of a patent iron fence, and the first quarter, containing 7,500 square feet of saw space it occupied in a frame structure in the west part of Keaton, across the Big Four Railroad. On February 14, 1876, the company was incorporated under the same The Champion Iron Fence Company, with a capital stock of $100,000. The following men were interested in the enterprise at that time: Edward Crawford, W. H. Young, James Young, Henry Price and Benjamin G. Devoe. The following officers were elected: Edward Crawford, president; W. H. Young, vice president; James Young, treasurer; Henry Price, secretary, and B. G. Devoe, superintendent. On May 1, 1879, owing to the desire of the company to manufacture,
OLD CHAMPION IRON CO. OFFICE—W. COLUMBUS ST.

Other lines of work besides iron, the name of the company was changed to The Champion Iron Company, and under that name it was known for years. The old plant, which had grown until it covered all the space between Franklin and Columbus Streets west of the Big Four to Leighton Street, was destroyed by fire April 21, 1902. This was the largest and most destructive fire the city has ever experienced, and help was asked from Bellefontaine, as a high wind was blowing and for a time it seemed as if the flames could not be confined to the company's buildings. The loss in the firm was $180,000.

NEW CHAMPION IRON CO. PLANT

Work was begun on the new plant located south of the Erie Railroad, on April 21, 1902, just one year after the old plant was destroyed. The com-
part, under the direction of G. L. Carter, president, erected the present large
and commodious buildings. The business was now greatly changed so that
the manufacture of iron fence was supplanted by the making of structural
work, such as light houses, prisons, jail work, and ornamental iron work of
various kinds. After the death of Mr. Carter, the company was reorganized
for the manufacture of cranes and allied products. For many years the
Champion Iron Company was the leading industry of Kenton and gave
employment to hundreds of her citizens.

The T. & O. C. Car Shops.—On March 31, 1890, the citizens of Kenton
held a special election to vote on the proposition to bond the city for the
purpose of getting the car shops of the new T. & O. C. railroad, and the
proposition carried unanimously. A location in the southeastern part of town
near the railroad was secured, and the shops erected in the same year. The
amount of the bond was $50,000, but this was only a small portion of the cost
of the plant. At first twenty-five men were employed, but the business of the
company increased to such an extent that from time to time new men were
taken on until, in 1936, the number of employees was 165. C. J. Cooper was
master mechanic from the opening of the shops until January 1, 1903. He
was succeeded for a short time by J. C. Homer, and on April 10th of the
same year, H. E. Passmore became master mechanic. This was another of
Kenton's leading industries until a few years ago, when the shops were closed
by the New York Central Railroad.

THE SCIOTO SIGN COMPANY PLANT

The Scioto Sign Company was established by W. L. Finley and H. H.
Williams, in 1906, in the room now occupied by H. A. Bixby as a candy fac-
tory. It was originally the intention to manufacture metal signs only, but
later Messrs. Finley and Williams decided to enlarge their field, and they
added cardboard, paper and muslin signs, and the business grew so rapidly
that in 1908 it was incorporated, and in 1909, moved to its present location,
where a three story brick building was erected, which provided the required
floor space. In 1906, the plant was again enlarged, and since that time nu-
merous additions have been built in order to care for the ever increasing busi-
ess. The Scioto Sign Company now sends its products to every state in
the Union, Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Cuba, South America, and many
other countries. For many years the officers of the company were as follows:
THE RUNKLE COMPANY PLANT

The Raker-Runkle Company, manufacturers of cake and candy specialties, was organized by H. L. Raker and C. M. Raker, in 1879. From the first, the business was successful. It soon became apparent that the demand throughout the United States and Canada for the Raker-Runkle pure food specialties was exceeding the output of the plant. The company then moved from their location on South Detroit Street to their large and commodious buildings on South Wayne Street, where they have developed one of the largest plants of its kind in the country. The company is now under the management of Burr Finuril and Walter T. Johnson.

The Kenton Telephone Company was organized in the year 1908; the first board of directors consisting of W. A. Norton, J. A. Amble, P. M. Crow, J. B. Seymour, J. S. Bradley, E. L. Barber and Horton Park. Captain Horton Park was the first manager, and his son, J. D. Park, is the present manager. The company began service with 200 subscribers, the office being located on the second floor at the northeast corner of Market and Franklin Streets. The list grew steadily, and in 1900 the first lines were constructed for farm service. In 1902, on the death of Horton Park, C. E. Nicholas of Columbus, Ohio, became the manager. He was succeeded, in 1904, by F. S. Chapman. In 1906, the company carried out an extensive program of rebuilding, tearing down the old overhead lines, and laying all the cables in the business district underground. The company also purchased and remodeled the old Joseph Paulucci residence at the corner of Market and Columbus Streets, and installed the automatic system complete, thus offering to their patrons a most modern and up-to-date service. The recent officers of the company are: W. A. Norton, President; Charles H. Shandorf, Vice President; R. G. Morrissan, Secretary; H. J. Miller, Treasurer; and J. D. Park, Manager.

The Ohio Machine Tool Company was established in September, 1890, under the title of The Smith and Silk Tool Company. The first directors were P. P. Silk, W. D. Smith, H. W. Grantham, H. A. Wise and John Callam.
A large building was erected on South Leighton Street along the Erie Railroad. A few years later another large building was erected; both were used until destroyed by fire in September, 1902. In 1895, the name was changed to The Ohio Machine Tool Company. For many years the company manufactured heavy metal machines, such as planers and shapers, which were sold in all parts of the United States and in foreign countries. New buildings were erected in the spring of 1903, and the employment was increased as the business developed. For many years the company has maintained its place in the industrial life of Kenton. The business was built up largely by the efforts of William D. Smith and F. A. Wise, while for many years, C. C. Scott was the Superintendent.

The Kenton Gas and Electric Company was the outgrowth of the old Kenton Gas Company. It was incorporated May 4, 1889, by Peter Meri, J. M. White, and others. The company planned to manufacture gas for lighting purposes, and a franchise was granted then by the City of Kenton for that purpose. On March 3, 1886, the Scioto Natural Gas and Oil Company was incorporated. The first board of directors chosen April 20, 1886, consisted of Thomas Epay, George Leighton, J. M. White, J. N. McCoy, J. A. Rogers, H. C. Koller, and Henry Prier. The first officers were Thomas Epay, President; George Leighton, Vice President; W. S. Robinson, Secretary; and Hutton Park, Treasurer. The Kenton Gas and Electric Company was incorporated on March 4, 1889, and furnished electric light for the City of Kenton from that time on, until the company sold out to the Hardin-Wyandot Lighting Company. Electric light and power is now furnished by the Ohio Power Company, while the West Ohio Gas Company supplies gas for fuel.

The Crystal Ice and Cold Storage Company was established in 1908 for the purpose of manufacturing pure ice and also as a cold storage plant. The present commodious and well-equipped building was erected on South Leighton Street. For nearly thirty years the company has been successful and has supplied the city and surrounding territory with the finest quality of pure ice. Those instrumental in the founding of this company were John S. Rice, A. G. Aichele, J. E. Andrews, E. S. Neely, and W. P. Bowman. J. S. Wetherill was the first secretary and manager. R. E. Yager is the present manager.

THE KENTON HARDWARE CO.

The Kenton Hardware Company began business about 1891 under the name of The Kenton Lock Factory, in a large plant located in Riverside. James C. Home was the first manager. For over sixty years, this institution
has been one of Kenton's leading industries, and has carried on a flourishing business under the direction of L. S. Bixler, as president and general manager. His son, Willard R. Bixler, is now active in the development of the business.

**Kenton Water Works Company**—This was the original name of the present Kenton Water Works. On the 22nd of June, 1881, Lewis Mentman, James M. White, William H. Young, Thomas Espy, and W. P. Damon incorporated the company. Later, Asher Letson was chosen President; James Young, Vice-President and Treasurer, and Thomas Espy, Secretary. The buildings were located south of the Sciotoville between Detroit Street and the Big Four Railroad. This was the beginning of the present Kenton Water Works described in the Municipal History of this book.

Late in 1848, the Western Union Telegraph Company opened an office in Kenton, and for nearly twenty years was the only line running through the town; but some time prior to 1870, the Atlantic & Pacific Telegraph Company erected a new line, and, soon after, the Western Union quit this field and abandoned its office at Kenton. In August, 1875, the Western Union again opened an office at this point, and both companies continued doing business until 1880, when they were consolidated, the Western Union abandoning the Atlantic & Pacific. Three of the earliest operators in Kenton were J. M. Brunson, Warren Brunson and H. C. Brunson, who succeeded each other in the order named, and managed the business from shortly after the office was established until 1884.

On the 1st of June, 1882, the first telephone office was opened at Kenton, the public station being located on West Franklin Street, close to Detroit. George H. Harris was the first manager, and was succeeded by John Swartz in March, 1883. The United States Express Company began business at Kenton in 1859, Archie M. Davis being its first agent. For many years there were three express offices in Kenton, the United States, the American, and the Wells-Fargo companies.

In the past thirty years the development of the automobile industry in Hardin County has kept pace with the general development of this metropolis industry throughout the country, but lack of space prevents the record of that narrative in this book. The same is true as regards the development of electrical power devices in the home, such as the radio, electric stoves and refrigerators, etc. As for the story of the development of aircraft, we feel free to leave that narrative to the author of the next Centennial History.

**Kenton Banks**

The first bank started in Hardin County was opened by Garlil Copeland, about 1850, in a rear room on the second story of the frame building erected by him on the southeast corner of Detroit and Franklin Streets, and then occupied by Archie Davis as a grocery store. In a short time, he removed to a room on Franklin Street, east of his former place of business, and opened up under the name of "The Hardin County Bank." He was succeeded by his brother, Howard Copeland, who managed the bank until 1855-56, when he closed his business and removed from the town.

The next bank to begin operations in Kenton was organized by William Cary, David Thomson and Joseph Kinnee, late in 1853 or early in the following year. Mr. Kinnee soon retired from the firm, and Cary & Thomson continued to carry on the bank, until 1866, when Mr. Thomson became interested in another banking institution. Mr. Cary still carried on the business, but began to pay such high interest for the purpose of obtaining deposits, that he gradually lost money, became involved and failed in 1875.

**Bank of Exchange and Deposit.**—In 1866, Joseph Kinnee, R. F. Kinnee, John P. Handie and David Thomson organized this bank, and began business
on the next side of the square, subsequently erecting the building now occupied by the Kenton Savings Bank, which was known as the "Bank Block." R. F. Kinneir sold his interest after the bank had been running about a year, and a few years afterward Joseph Kinneir followed his example, his place in the firm being taken by Potter and H. N. Wheeler. On the death of Mr. Henkle, Mr. Thompson and the Wheelers became sole owners and the bank continued until 1875, when it failed.

**Williams' Bank.**—In 1867, Isaac G. and Granville S. Williams, under the style of J. G. Williams & Son, opened a bank on the southeast corner of Detroit and Franklin Streets, which they operated until the death of the father, in September, 1868. The following month, Granville S. formed a partnership with Thomas Epy and Joseph Paulucci, but the bank continued under the old name. They soon removed to a room on the west side of the square, and, after another year, occupied the brick building erected by them on the southeast corner of Main and Franklin Streets. In three or four years, Williams & Epy became sole owners of the bank; but, in 1874, Henry M. Shingle obtained a partnership, and thus the firm remained until May, 1875, when they sold out to the Hardin Savings Bank.

**Citizens' Bank.**—In May, 1874, Lewis Merriman, J. S. Robinson, Thomas Epy, James M. White, Ascher Letson and Edmund Carey purchased the Bank of Exchange and Deposit, and organized the Citizens' Bank, with Lewis Merriman, President; J. S. Robinson, Vice President; Augustus Truax, Cashier. In 1875, Mr. Merriman became sole owner, and, in January, 1876, disposed of the concern to the Kenton Savings Bank, of which he was one of the incorporators and principal stockholders.

**Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank.**—This bank was established February 12, 1875, by J. C. Stevens, President; R. L. Miller, Cashier. It began business on the southeast corner of Main and Columbus Streets, but, in April, 1882, removed to a location on the south side of West Franklin Street. In February, 1890, C. J. Stevens succeeded Mr. Miller as Cashier.

**The Hardin Savings Bank** was incorporated March 5, 1873, with a capital stock of $50,000, and purchased the Williams' Bank building, wherein they began business. The incorporators were George Pfieffer, Thomas Epy, James Young, William H. Young, John Pfieffer, Conrad Kohler, Joseph Paulucci, J. P. Humphreys and John P. Graham. The first officers were Joseph Paulucci, President; John Pfieffer, Vice President; Thomas Epy, Treasurer and Cashier. These officers served two years and were succeeded by William H. Young, President; H. W. Granville, Vice President; Henry M. Shingle, Treasurer and Cashier; and these officers served until the bank was sold to the First National Bank in January, 1881.

**The Kenton Savings Bank.**—On the 3rd of September, 1875, the following gentlemen incorporated this bank, viz.: Lewis Merriman, W. M. Chesney, John Saylor, J. S. Robinson, William MUSIC, Ascher Letson, Edmund Carey, Clemens Lapher and Samuel Hayes. The bank was organized and began business on the west side of the square with the following officers: Lewis Merriman, President; J. S. Robinson, Vice President; Solomon Kramer, Cashier; W. S. Robinson, Assistant Cashier. Mr. Merriman soon resigned the Presidency, and W. M. Chesney was elected, serving until January, 1882, when Mr. Merriman again became President of the bank. In January, 1876, the bank was removed to its present location on the northeast corner of Detroit and Columbus Streets, known as the "Bank Block." W. A. Norton succeeded W. S. Robinson as Assistant Cashier in July, 1878, and on the 16th of March, 1882, Mr. Kramer was succeeded as Cashier by James.
Watt. For many years the officers were: W. A. Norton, President; J. W. Dougherty, Vice President; C. L. Merriman, Cashier, and A. A. Stahl, Asst. Cashier. After the reorganization of the bank a few years ago the officers were: A. C. Johnston, President; W. R. Bixler, Vice President; H. H. Shanks, Cashier, and F. C. Hambrecht, Asst. Cashier.

The First National Bank of Kenton was organized January 14, 1881, with a paid-up capital stock of $50,000, and the company purchased the bank building, etc., of “The Hardin Savings Bank,” wherein they began and have since continued the banking business. The first Board of Directors were: S. L. Hoge, Thomas Eddy, Nathan Ablefield, James and William H. Young, A. B. Jenson, H. W. Gramlich, Joseph Paulucci and John S. Rice. The first officers of the bank were as follows: Joseph Paulucci, President; S. L. Hoge, Vice President; J. W. Gramlich, Cashier; soon after, James Young was chosen President, vice Paulucci, resigned. In October, 1881, Mr. Young was succeeded by S. L. Hoge, John S. Rice succeeding Mr. Hoge as Vice President, while Mr. Gramlich became Cashier. S. L. Hoge served as President of the bank until his death in 1909, when he was succeeded by his son, Hamilton E. Hoge. The other officers were: F. L. Rohrbaugh, Vice President; H. W. Gramlich, Vice President and Cashier; and Henry Born, Jr., Asst. Cashier. H. W. Gramlich is now President of the bank, and Margaret J. Focker, Cashier.

The Kenton National Bank was organized in 1886. Asher Letson was elected President; James M. White, Vice President; Curtis Wilkins, Cashier, and James H. Allen, Asst. Cashier. The first board of directors was: Asher Letson, James M. White, Nathan Ablefield, James Young, William H. Young, and George H. Harris. They began business in the room formerly occupied by Clark Hayden’s saloon, and remained there until the removal on February 22, 1904, to the present quarters in the Ablefield block. Upon the death of Asher Letson, which occurred in 1900, Daniel W. Sullivan was chosen President, and again his death, in 1906, Hugh L. Rankle became President. W. H. Fleming succeeded Curtis Wilkins as Cashier on January 1, 1887, and on April 1, 1888, Mr. Rankle succeeded Mr. Fleming as Cashier. James H. Allen, Sr., was made Cashier in 1902. For many years Mr. Rankle was President, George E. Crone, Vice President; James H. Allen, Cashier; and A. F. MacHeatea, Asst. Cashier, while the board of directors was composed of the following: H. L. Rankle, J. H. Allen, George E. Crone, T. C. Mahon, O. E. Rhoads, F. D. Rain, Fred MacHeatea and Burke L. Johnson. Recent officers are: Burke L. Johnson, President; W. T. Johnson, Vice President; J. H. Allen, Cashier; William Weis, Assistant Cashier.

The Commercial Bank of Kenton began business November 1, 1904, in the Ablefield block on the southeast corner of Main and Columbus Streets. The first board of directors were: John S. Rice, Samuel Pfeiffer, F. M. Crox, L. A. Amley, James E. Moore, Lewis N. Pfeiffer, John H. Pfeiffer, A. G. Ablefield and W. J. Osbe. John S. Rice was made President; Samuel Pfeiffer, Vice President; W. J. Osbe, Cashier, and John E. Rahn, Assistant Cashier. John Callihan was chosen director in place of John H. Pfeiffer, deceased. In later years, Lewis N. Pfeiffer was the president of the bank. In more recent years, the Commercial Bank was merged with the First National Bank, and it is now known as The First Commercial National Bank. The last officers of the Commercial Bank were: L. N. Pfeiffer, President; George A. Callihan, Vice President; and W. J. Osbe, Cashier.

The Home Savings & Loan Company of Kenton, was organized on February 6th, 1888. The first directors were: Lewis Merriman, Charles Cantan, D. S. Fisher, J. H. Pfeiffer, F. L. Miller, S. H. Slater and Paul Watts. The officers were: President, Lewis Merriman; Secretary, A. M. Rice;
Treasurer, W. A. Norton; Attorney, J. W. Squires. Their first quarters were in a room just north of the Kenton Savings Bank. Early in 1906, the company occupied their present excellent quarters. Lewis Merriman served as president until his death in November, 1905, when Paul Watts was chosen as his successor. A. M. Rice served as secretary until April, 1888, when George W. Rule and succeeded him. Mr. Rule held this office until March 25, 1905, when Mrs. Mary J. Walker became secretary. She has been identified with the company since September, 1907. J. B. Stillings succeeded Mr. Squires as attorney in April, 1894. The Home Savings & Loan Company is one of the substantial financial institutions of the county. For many years the directors were: Paul Watts, A. M. Rice, W. J. Ochs, C. B. Fink, A. G. Merriman, E. F. Rule and James E. Moore, and the officers were President, Paul Watts; Vice President, A. M. Rice; Second Vice President, W. J. Ochs; Secretary, Mary E. Walker; Treasurer, W. A. Norton. The present officers are Paul Watts, President; W. J. Ochs, Vice President; Mary E. Walker, Secretary. The Home Savings & Loan Company has established itself as a credit to the community.

CHURCHES OF KENTON

The First Methodist Church, the first religious organization in Kenton, began its existence in 1832 in the little cabin built by George H. Hemson, somewhere near the present site of the Crystal Ice Plant on the north bank of the Scioto River. The little church had eight members and from this small class, as it was then called, it grew into a flourishing congregation. The first revival was held in 1835 by Rev. Fleming, the first M. E. preacher of Kenton. The cabin gave way successively to better and better church buildings, until now the members worship in a fine brown stone structure on the corner of Main and North Streets.

"OLD METHODIST MEETING HOUSE, BUILT 1830"

Preaching in cabins by circuit riders continued until 1836, when the first log schoolhouse in Kenton was used for services. In 1839 the frame church, which was the first regular meeting house, was built on the same lot with the log schoolhouse, and was used until 1852, when a brick building situated on the site of the Daniel Sullivan residence on North Main Street was opened, and dedicated to the worship of God. However, the little frame building which was at first 35 by 40 feet had to be enlarged and when finished was twice its former length. This caused it to be known as the "oceanboat church." A new era dawned for the congregation when the first brick church was opened in 1852. Prior to this time Kenton was not a station, but was on a circuit with a minister in charge of this and several other churches.

In 1852, Rev. John S. Kallie was made the resident minister and ever
since Kemoto has been a separate charge. The building was a two-story structure and cost about $20,000. In 1866, the building was remodeled at a cost of $7,000 and two years later other repairs were made. In 1886, the old seats were replaced by new ones, new carpets were put in, and extensive repairs made in various parts of the building. In 1887, the pipe organ was purchased for $2,500. Fire destroyed this church on January 19, 1890, and a month later the members decided not to rebuild on the old site. The present location was purchased and the cornerstone of the new building laid May 25, 1890, by Rev. L. A. Bell, assisted by other ministers. The congregation has occupied the present structure for the past forty-three years. The present Methodist parsonage at 430 North Main Street was constructed in 1874.

There has been a long line of able and efficient ministers of this church, the present pastor is Edward S. Weaver.

First Presbyterian Church.—Three years after the organization of Hardin County, in 1836, the First Presbyterian Church of Hardin County, Ohio, was organized, with Elri Strong and Reuben Hineline as its elders. Two years later, by the action of the Presbytery of Ohio, in session at Lima, Ohio, its name was changed to the First Presbyterian Church of Kemoto. In 1838, Rev. J. B. Clark took charge of the church as its first stated supply, remaining until June 32, 1842. During this time Isaac Mathews, Solomon Adams and Hugh Pugh were elected additional elders. The meetings in these early years were divided between the old churchhouse, the frame schoolhouse which stood on the corner of Carroll and Market Streets, and private dwellings. In the autumn of 1842, Rev. John Ushie began his labors, which continued until April, 1849. Early in 1843, steps were taken toward the erection of a church building, and by summer of that year a brick building had been erected on the southwest corner of Columbus and Market Streets. This building was in use for twenty-two years, and at the time of its erection, was the finest public building in Kemoto. This building was in use from 1843 until the winter of 1866, when the first movement was made toward the erection of a still larger edifice. The new building was completed and ready for occupancy in the spring of 1867. The old building was sold to the German Reformed Church, and removed to the second lot west of its old site. Both of these churches were destroyed by the great fire of May 27, 1881. After the burning of the church, the congregation worshipped, for a time, in the building owned by the Baptist Church at the corner of Carroll and Wayne Streets, until the erection of the present building in the summer of 1882. The entire structure was not completed, however, until 1888. Up to the present time, this building remains unchanged except in two particulars, an extension of the gallery, and the addition of a pastor's study at the rear of the sanctuary. The property at the corner of Market and Columbus Streets, opposite the church, was then purchased for a parsonage and was long used as such. The present parsonage is Stanley L. Warm.

St. John's Evangelical Church.—As near as can be determined, the St. John's Evangelical Church of Kemoto was organized about 1838, by Rev. Fulbrunoff of Springfield, and in 1840 they had a regular pastor, Rev. Tanner. In 1844, a small church was erected at the corner of Carroll and Wayne Streets, costing $1,000. This served the people as a church home until 1877, when the building was enlarged, repaired and remodeled at a cost of $5,000. It was re-dedicated January 13, 1877, by Rev. J. Weber, and with other improvements lasted until 1909, when the present edifice was built. The first parsonage was a small frame building just east of the church, but some years later the present substantial brick house was erected for the pastor, which, with some improvements, is still used. The present beautiful church was dedicated on August 16, 1903, and is one of the finest in the city. Rev. Henry
Kutterjohn was the pastor of this church for many years. The present pastor is H. E. Piester.

The United Presbyterian Church.—The United Presbyterian Church of North America was formed in 1818 by the union of two bodies of the great Presbyterian family of churches. These were the Associate Presbyterian Church and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Both these churches were represented in the early days of Kenton. One stood on the site of the present U. P. Church; the other on North Main Street, almost directly across from the Church of Christ. Of these, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church was organized in Kenton in 1836. No stated pastor is recorded until J. S. McCracken, 1840 to 1851, he being followed by J. P. Hutchinson, 1851 to 1853. The other branch, Associate Presbyterian, meanwhile had been organized in 1841, and under the pastorates of James Wallace, 1841 to 1847, and J. T. Ruell, 1848 to 1858, came up to the time of the union. When the union of the two denominations was consummated at Pittsburgh in 1858, the two local congregations also united, hence the name, United Presbyterian. Benjamin Waddle was the minister from 1859 to 1879; John A. Henderson, 1880 to 1886; J. C. Rou, 1887 to 1901; J. W. Kerr, 1901 to 1909; J. W. Beckert, 1906 to 1912; H. D. Garret, 1913 to 1916; E. H. Thompson, 1916 to 1921; A. B. Henderson, 1921 to 1927; Earnest O. Robinson, 1928 to the present time. The present church building was erected in 1890.

The First Baptist Church.—This church was organized June 22, 1850, with seven members. The first pastor was Rev. A. L. Hay who had been a missionary to the Creek Indians. The first church, a frame building, was erected on the present site in 1852, and was dedicated by Rev. David Scott, who donated to the church the lot where the building was erected, at a cost of about $300. This building was in use for thirty-eight years. During the pastorate of Rev. Thomas J. Sheppard the brick building, that collapsed a few years ago, was erected. It was dedicated in November, 1900. During the pastorate of Rev. O. L. Martin, the parsonage was built next to the church and connected with it. This was in 1900. After much delay, the present church edifice was completed only a few years ago. The church is now in a flourishing condition under the able pastorate of A. Henry Guadino.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church.—This building was erected in 1898, at which time a pledge of $3,500 having been secured by T. J. Cantwell and Col. M. S. Jones, who, with Gen. James S. Robinson, constituting the building committee, completed the construction at a cost of $3,000. The building was dedicated by Bishop Leonard. The Rectors who had charge of the parish were J. P. Turke, J. B. Blanchet, Richard A. G. Osborne, J. W. H. Cole, and G. E. Magee. For many years past there have been no regular services at this church.

Church of Christ.—In February, 1854, Elder Calvin Smith came to Kenton, under the auspices of the Ohio Christian Missionary Society, and took steps to organize a congregation in Kenton and erect a church building, which building was completed that year and dedicated by Elder Smith, at a cost of $1,000, which included the cost of the lot. This church building was located on the east side of North Main Street, between North and Summit Streets, and stood on the same lot which the present church building now occupies.

From this time until the year 1863, the congregation here was ministered unto by Elder Calvin Smith, Zeplan Green, Jesse Robert and J. C. Winter, but from the latter year up until 1871, there was no regular pastor and the church finally disorganized some time during the year 1885 or 1886. However, there were a number of families which remained members of the *Disciple Church of Main Street* and continued to hold the property, hoping for better
Times. Among these families may be mentioned the Williamses, Smiths, Roberts, Bridges, Deemus, Waggener and others, whose hopes were at last realized. In January, 1871, Elders Jesse Roberts and William Dowling held a revival meeting, resulting in the reorganization of the church, and the calling of Elder Dowling to the pastorate on January 10th, 1871. Thomas W. Bridge and Bartholomew Williamson were chosen as Associate Elders and Nathaniel Williamson, H. N. Smith, and Henry Price, Deacons. Rev. Dowling was the pastor until the close of 1879. In January, 1880, Elder W. H. Martin became pastor; and he was followed by John A. Roberts. The next pastor was W. J. Lahman, and it was during his ministry that the present church building was erected. Shortly after the dedication of the new church, Rev. Lahman removed to Minneapolis, and Rev. Wm. Dowling was recalled to the charge. The next group of pastors was as follows: J. E. Mann, Lincoln Davis, and J. J. Cahill. On May 1, 1896, Rev. T. W. Pinkerton, long the pastor of this congregation, began his work. The following served as pastors after Rev. Pinkerton closed his ministry: S. T. Martin, C. C. Rollison, L. H. Conch, G. W. Moore, H. E. Stafford, and G. L. Burghard, while the present pastor is A. A. Ayles.

First Reformed Church.—This church was organized by Rev. M. Kreiffer, of Tiffin, Ohio, June 6, 1860. On the 13th of the same month a congregation was organized in Gosher Township by Rev. J. G. Kuhl, of Marion, Ohio. These congregations formed the Kenton charge, and were first served by Rev. William Kenter. On August 10, 1868, the congregation in Crescent Township, called "Ezra," and the St. Peter's congregation in Forest, were organized by Rev. Charles Schutt. After the frame church was destroyed by the fire of 1883, the present brick church was erected in 1885. During the pastorate of Rev. Philip Kuhl, which began December 1, 1887, the present parsonage was erected next to the church building. Rev. Kuhl was succeeded by Rev. E. H. C. Myer; later pastors were Rev. W. H. Jerritt and Rev. Morgan A. Peters. The present pastor of the church is E. E. Naragon.

Egworth M. E. Church.—This church was organized in 1884, from a nucleus of 21 members, former members of the First Methodist Church. The first pastor was Rev. W. T. Stockstill, who also ministered to three other churches—Silver Creek, St. Paul and Lyson Valley. The congregation first met in the old South Kenton Union Sunday School building. In 1889, President Bushford of the O. W. U. at Delaware, dedicated the present building at Detroit and Easy Streets. W. A. Denton is the present pastor of the church.

Immaculate Conception Church.—In the pioneer times of Hardin County, visiting priests, missionary from the older communities, held services in the homes of the Catholic families, as it was impossible to establish a regular place of worship at that time. In 1862, the church at Minster, Auglaize County, sent priests here at stated intervals, conducting regular services. This continued until 1866, when a regular minister, Rev. N. R. Young, arrived to be the first resident priest of Kenton. Various private dwellings and halls were used as places of worship, until the year 1884, when the erection of the present brick church was begun, and the cornerstone was laid with impressive ceremonies by Archbishop Purcell, Rev. Patrick Hennepin, a former visiting pastor, whose earnest work started the movement that resulted in the church, and the loyal members willingly gave of their means to build it. It was dedicated December 9, 1886, by Archbishop Purcell. On December 28, 1871, Rev. Anthony S. Siebenfurthcr took charge of the work, and most of the history of the Catholic Church in Kenton was made during his long and successful pastorate. Father Siebenfurthcr was a man of deep piety and high intellectual attainments, and he was ever ready to do his Master's work wherever he found it. During his term as priest in Kenton the cemetery was
laid out, the school building built, the hospital founded and the property greatly enlarged and improved. When he arrived the church was built and the present parsonage, but all the other property and buildings have been acquired since. The parsonage was built about 1848, and the cemetery purchased in 1872. Through the efforts of Rev. Siebenhoercher, the present Sisters' Home opposite the church was erected in 1880. Through his efforts, also, the present Autumn Hospital was constructed. It had a very modest beginning, for, when opened in 1897, it had but nine rooms. In 1905, the present substantial brick hospital was begun, but it was not completed until July 11, 1907, on which date it was dedicated by Rev. Henry Muller, Archbishop of Cincinnati.

St. Anthony's Institute.—In 1872, shortly after Rev. A. S. Siebenhoercher took charge of the Catholic Church in Kenton, a small frame school building was erected on North Cherry Street immediately back of the church. Before this building was finished the priest gathered together the children of Catholic families, and opened a little school in the church gallery with Mr. John R. Dick as teacher. In 1874 Sister Irene, Sister Leocadia and Sister Mary Cecilia took charge of the school, and it has been in the hands of the Sisters of Charity ever since. In 1875, an addition was built to the school, and this building was used until 1886, when the present building was completed. Father Siebenhoercher purchased the site of the present school out of his private funds. The building was dedicated by Archbishop Elder. In August, 1905, Rev. Siebenhoercher gave up active work after a long and useful career. He was succeeded by Rev. Fortman of Newport, Ohio. Rev. Fr. H. J. Schmenker is the present pastor.

The African M. E. Church, at 480 North Market Street, was organized in 1873 by Rev. John Wesley Stewart, then the pastor of the Believers' Church. The first services were held in the basement of the First M. E. Church. In time, a small church was erected on North Market Street, and in recent years, the present building was constructed. E. S. Atkins is the pastor.

The Colored Baptist Church of Kenton was organized in 1879 by Rev. George Collins at Robinson's Schoolhouse in Buck Township. There were sixteen charter members. They met in various places, when the small frame church was purchased from the congregation of the Church of Christ, and moved to the lot on East Summit Street, where it is now located. The first pastor was Rev. William Day, and the present minister is J. C. Verley.

Other church organizations in Kenton are as follows: The Wesleyan Methodist Church, at the corner of Leighton and North Streets, Rev. LeRoy Wilcox, pastor; the Church of the Nazarene, on West East Street, near South Main; and the Christian and Missionary Alliance on South Leighton Street at Park Avenue.

Newspaper History

THE HARDIN INTELLIGENCER

The present newspaper of this county was the Hardin Intelligencer, established by John Shrein and first issued on Saturday, October 7, 1843. It was a weekly, 20-column sheet, price $1.00 for six months, if paid within three months from the receipt of the first number, otherwise $1.25 will be charged. In the issue of June 8, 1844, the editorial column contained the following notice: "Wanted, bacon, potatoes and sugar in payment of subscriptions due this office." Its news was entirely political, foreign and advertisements. The Intelligencer was published in the interest of the Whig party, which had developed considerable strength since their victory of 1840 when Gen. Harrison was elected President. The leading Whigs of Kenton were anxious to have a party organ in the town and entered into negotiations
with Shrenk, the owner of a Wing press at Circleville. He agreed to move his press to Kenton. Accordingly, the press, type, etc., were hauled here by wagon and set up in a log building on West Franklin Street, now the site of the cigar store, just east of Colonel Ellis' store. This log cabin was owned by Alexander Thompson and here the two brothers, John and Martin Shrenk, printed the first newspaper ever published in Hardin County. John was the editor. The paper ran along until the fall of 1844, when the Shrenk brothers removed their press and equipment to Upper Sandusky, thus leaving Kenton without a newspaper.

THE NEWS-REPUBLICAN

Shortly after the removal of Shrenk, Dr. U. P. Leightoun, Richard Holmes, Alexander Ballentine, Samuel Watt and John Lawrence, leading Whigs of Hardin County, raised sufficient funds to purchase a press, for the purpose of starting a Whig newspaper at Kenton to assist in electing Henry Clay to the Presidency. The printing press was hauled from Cincinnati by Harri Fursey, pioneer minister. F. W. Murray was installed as editor and publisher, and the paper came out under the title of the Weekly News and Hardin County Republican, the latter term being only a sub-head, in small type, to the principal title. Mr. Riley was also connected with Murray for a time, in the publication of the News, which ran until the beginning of 1847, when the owners, becoming dissatisfied with the manner in which the paper was conducted, wrote for J. S. Robinson, who was then engaged in a printing office at Tiffin, Ohio. He immediately came to Kenton, and was put in charge of the office.

Kenton Republican.—This paper was founded by J. S. Robinson, and first issued on Wednesday, January 29, 1847. It was the legal successor of the Weekly News; advocated the principles of the Whig party; and claimed to be "a journal of news, politics, science, education, morals, literature, agriculture and markets." At the end of six months, it adopted the motto, "Be Just, and Fear Not." The price was $1.50 per annum in advance, $1.75 if paid within the year, and $2 at the end of twelve months. It was a twenty-four-column sheet, published and edited by Mr. Robinson. On the 25th of March, 1847, "Watt & Leightoun" appear at the head of the paper as proprietors, and "J. S. Robinson" as editor. The Republican was not issued regularly on Wednesdays, but was in keeping with those summer hours of uncertainty, often coming out on Thursday, or as late as Saturday. On the 30th of July, 1847, the following motto was adopted: "Aim to do your duty, and mankind will give you credit where you fail." Dr. U. P. Leightoun became sole proprietor December 1, 1847, but at the close of Vol. 1, Mr. Robinson's name appears as editor and proprietor. He immediately enlarged the paper to a twenty-four column sheet, dropped all mottoes, and issued it regularly every Thursday. The was attached to the title, making it read, The Kenton Republican, while its whole appearance was much improved, and its worth as a newspaper considerably enhanced. Thus it remained until February 23, 1852, when the old motto, "Be Just, and Fear Not," was again adopted, and, on August 27, the day of issue was changed to Friday.

On the 25th of May, 1853, Mr. Robinson sold the paper to R. Coulter, who had been associate editor for about ten months prior to the date of purchase. The new owner changed the name of the paper to The Hardin County Republican, which lost no motto. Its size remained the same, but an entire new set of type was purchased, and the Republican appeared in an improved form. Mr. Coulter ran the paper until January 23, 1854, when Mr. Robinson, who was still connected with it as editor, assumed entire control and ownership, and on the birth of the Republican party it cast its fortunes with that political organization.
The office of the Hardin County Republican was destroyed by fire August 30, 1886, almost everything being swept away in a few hours, and its next issue was a half-sheet printed at the office of the Kenton Democrat and Courier. In the meantime, new material, such as press, type, etc., was purchased, and September 12, the Republican came forth from the ashes much enlarged and improved, and containing twenty-eight columns of matter. The Republican was, at this period, recognized as an aggressive, well-conducted county newspaper. The paper continued to increase in worth under the management of Mr. Robinson until the breaking-out of the rebellion, in April, 1861, when its editor responded to the first call for volunteers, and A. R. Scott assumed editorial charge, which position he filled till the close of 1864, when he, too, went into the army.

Lester T. Hunt next took control of the Republican, and, September 16, 1864, Hunt & Myers became owners of the paper, having previously bought it from Mr. Robinson. Mr. Hunt continued as editor, with C. S. Myers as associate. The name of the paper again underwent a change, July 12, 1866, when it appeared as the Kenton Republican, thus going back to its old title. It came out in an entire new dress, printed from new type, and presented a decided improvement over its former issues and general make-up. The partnership of Hunt & Myers was dissolved by mutual consent, October 24, 1886, Mr. Hunt becoming sole proprietor. In January, 1888, the Republican was enlarged to a thirty-two column sheet, and a Campbell power press added to the establishment, which was the first of the kind in this portion of the State.

A half-interest in the Republican was sold to A. W. Miller, of the Toifton Tribune, in January, 1890, and soon after, Mr. Miller purchased the remaining half, and enlarged it to a thirty-six column paper. Until April 6, 1893, "Hunt & Miller, editors," stood at the head of the paper, but the succeeding issue bore "A. W. Miller, editor and proprietor; L. T. Hunt, associate editor." In April, 1893, a four-horse-power engine was put in to run the presses, this being the first used at any printing office in Kenton. The Republican was issued and published by Mr. Miller until his death on the 15th of February, 1899.

For about two months after this event, Mr. Hunt had editorial control of the paper, but, in April, 1899, it was purchased by G. W. Rutledge, from the administrator, T. H. Rugby, and first issued under his name on the 6th of May following. Mr. Rutledge conducted the Republican as editor and proprietor till May 25, 1892, when he sold a half interest to E. L. Millar, a native of Hardin County, and formerly connected with the Ada Record. In October, 1892 the office of the Republican was removed to the Dougherty Block, on North Detroit Street, where it occupied two stories. The motive power was furnished by the water works, and the office contained everything necessary in a first class printing establishment. The Republican was anxious and full of enterprise. Politically, it was an aggressive supporter of the Republican party; had a circulation of about 2000 copies, and was issued every Thursday at 52 per annum in advance.

Before Mr. Rutledge moved his plant to the Dougherty Block, the paper was printed for a time on West Columbus Street, in the room long occupied by Field's Store and Town Store. In 1885, E. L. Millar became the sole owner of the paper, his name appearing as editor and proprietor. In October, 1887, he moved the plant to the Munson building on the west side of North Detroit Street, first door south of the present Kenton Public Library. Under Mr. Millar's management, the paper became a daily entitled "The Daily Republican," making its first appearance in May, 1892. The weekly edition continued to be known as The Hardin County Republican. After conducting
the papers to sole owner for about ten years, Mr. Miller in July, 1895, sold them to Gen. James C. House; and Mr. Miller removed to Dubuque, Iowa, where he established the Dubuque Trade News. After conducting the papers for about a year, Gen. House sold them to William M. Beckman, in February, 1896, who combined his paper, "The Kenton Daily News," which he had published since February 17, 1880, in the Panhandle building on West Columbus Street, opposite what is now the Fire Department building, with the Daily Republican, under the by-p hernal title of the News-Republican, the present name of the paper published by Earl E. Rutledge.

Soon after the merger of the two papers, Mr. Beckman sold one-fourth interest to Att'y, Gen. E. Crane, forming a partnership under the name of "The Republican Company," which continued for seven years. In 1903, Mr. Crane sold his interest to Frank B. Wilson. The business was incorporated with Mr. Beckman as President and Mr. Wilson, Secretary and Treasurer. The business prospered and it outgrew its rented quarters. In 1903, the company erected a large brick block at the corner of Main and Ohio Streets. The equipment was being moved into the new building in November, 1903, when it caught fire and burned to the ground. It was immediately rebuilt and has been occupied by the Republican Company since 1904. The company had also experienced another destructive fire a few years before at their plant on West Columbus Street, making three fires through which the Republican paper had passed.

On October 31, 1907, Charles D. Kelly and Forrest F. Tipton purchased the stock of Mr. Beckman, the latter retiring from business, A few years later when Earl E. Rutledge became the President and General Manager of the paper, E. L. Miller returned to Kenton and for a time served as Editor, with Jean E. Johnson as City Editor.

Since 1927, Edwin S. Rutledge, son of Earl E. Rutledge, has been editor, which position he now holds. Earl E. Rutledge is still President of the company. A sketch of the Rutledge family appears in this work.

THE KENTON DAILY DEMOCRAT

In the summer of 1844, a small group of the Democrats of Hardin County got up a subscription paper, with the object of raising a fund to buy a printing press, and establish a newspaper at Kenton in the interest of James K. Polk, the Democratic Presidential nominee. The subscription list was taken by Samuel Medary, the veteran Democratic editor, of Columbus, Ohio, who was asked to accept said paper as security in payment of an old press and art of type in his office. Medary first objected to the arrangement, asking, "Where am I to get my pay?" He, however, finally concluded for the sake of the party, to let the committee have the press, etc., and exclaimed, "Take it along, and give them hell!" The press was hauled from Columbus to Kenton, put in charge of Mathias H. Nichols, and first issued as the Kenton Democrat. This paper existed for several years, when Nichols removed to Lima, and subsequently represented that district in Congress, from 1853 to 1859.

The Kenton Herald.—After the removal of Nichols, the publication of the paper ceased, but about 1849-59, the office was again opened up, and the Kenton Herald came forth as the organ of the Democracy of Hardin County. How long it ran, or who its editor was, is not of record, but in the.
Republican of August 28, 1850, appears the following announcement: "Kenton Herald to be revived." The paper that bore this name is about to be re-established. The former editor is brought to the resurrection, and with the same old press and type, will give life, freshness and improved vigor to the handling in a short time. Its friends may assuredly look for its appearance on or about Saturday a week. Persons wishing to advertise will please forward their favors at the earliest convenience. Place of publication, probably in Mr. Copeland's new building."

Democratic Expositor.—This was the title of the new Democratic paper, and was first issued Friday, August 23, 1851, as the legal successor of the Herald. It was published by Charles Warner and J. R. Atkinson. The Expositor was a twenty-four page sheet, and claimed to be "a Family newpaper, devoted to politics, literature, art, science, agriculture, morals, education, amusement, foreign and domestic news, markets, etc." Its price was $1.50 per year, in advance, and it was published about a year and a half.

The Nor'-wester.—The Expositor was succeeded by the Nor'-wester, which was first issued Saturday, April 9, 1855, by Wm. Toodman, formerly of the Georgetown Standard. It was the same size sheet as its predecessor, and presented a commendable appearance. On the 24th of August, 1854, Ezra Williams became owner and publisher; and, September 2, the name of A. S. Ramsey, appeared as the head of its columns as editor, and thus remained until February 24, 1855, when he retired, and Mr. Williams edited the paper alone. The name of the paper was changed, April 7, 1855, to the Western Courier, with "E. phalanx amm." as its motto. In 1856, another change took place, the paper appearing as the Kenton Democrat and Courier. Mr. Ramsey again assumed the editorial charge, and it ran until early in 1857, when it, too, ceased to exist. All of these papers were Democratic.

The Hardin County Democrat.—No. 1, Vol. 1, of this paper appeared Saturday, February 21, 1857. It was published by J. F. Mann, and edited by James C. Stevens; was thoroughly Democratic in politics, and a good, well-conducted newspaper. It was a twenty-four page sheet. On the 28th of August, 1857, J. C. Stevens became owner of the Democrat, and he, with L. T. Hunt, were its editors. From October 17 to December 26 of that year, the paper was not issued, but, on the latter date, it appeared under the ownership of C. S. and William Myers, with Stevens and Hunt, editors. The Democrat was enlarged to twenty-eight columns, May 8, 1858, and otherwise much improved. E. M. Childs had previously purchased the interest of William Myers, and the firm was Myers & Childs. Soon afterward, Stevens & Hunt became owners of the paper, and remained as such from June 12 until August 28, 1858, at which time A. S. Ramsey purchased it. He continued to publish the Democrat until the issue of Friday, February 8, 1861, when G. B. Happersett's name appears as editor and proprietor. Mr. Happersett had been the editor of the Urbana Free Press, and bought the Democrat from Mr. Ramsey, whose well-trained mind and ability as a writer had greatly enhanced the value and influence of the paper.

G. B. and J. C. Happersett published the Democrat, under the name of Happersett Bros., with the former as editor. Soon after the war broke out, paper, labor, etc., became more expensive, and, February 14, 1862, the sheet was reduced to twenty-four columns. With the issue of August 8, 1862, the senior partner, G. B. Happersett, retired from the firm, selling his interest to William H. Mannell, and the firm appeared as Mannell & Happersett, editors and proprietors. In September, 1862, the Democrat was enlarged to its former size of twenty-eight columns, while its old price was also restored. J. C. Happersett severed his connection with the paper December 8, 1862, selling out to Mr. Mannell, who thus became sole owner. On the 16th of January,
In 1862, the following motto appeared at the head of the editorial column:  

"With or without offense to friends or foes,  
I sketch the world exactly as it goes.  

The stars and stripes were placed under the motto, August 28, of that year.

Mr. Minuell operated the paper as editor and proprietor till September 4, 1863, when he sold out to Col. Pike of the Hillsboro Gazette, O. C. Wheeler, assuming charge as editor and publisher. This was during the Gubernatorial campaign between Strung and Vallandigham, which was, perhaps, the most exciting period in the history of the State. The Democrat adopted as its editorial motto, "The Constitution as it is; the Union as it was; Vallandigham and Liberty"; which remained throughout the campaign.  

In August, 1864, A. S. Ramsey took charge of the Democrat, after it had ceased publication for some time, and continued as editor and proprietor till April, 1865, when he disposed of it to Charles L. Zahm, who at once assumed entire control. After running it nearly a year, Zahm concluded that a change of name would help the paper; so, in March, 1866, it was issued under the title of the Democratic Advocate; but, in December, circumstances compelled him to sell out.

Daniel Flanagan purchased the paper December 13, 1866, and soon after began the publication of the Kenton Democrat (Vol. 1, New Series), with the motto, "Equal and exact justice to all—special privileges to none." It was a twenty-eight-column paper, issued every Thursday, at $2 per year in advance, $3 if paid within three months, and $3.50 at the close of the year. Thus the Democrat continued, with slight change, until March 9, 1871, at which time Vol. VI began with an entire new outfit of presses, type, etc., and enlarged to a thirty-two-column sheet, and greatly improved in every way. It was now a paper of large dimensions, able and creditably edited and conducted. By his ability as a writer, and his sound business management, he brought the paper up from absolute worthlessness until it was regarded as one of the best conducted county newspapers in this portion of Ohio, attaining an influence in the party and a financial success most gratifying to its owners.

On the 1st of January, 1875, David S. Fisher bought out Mr. Flanagan. He had been the editor and publisher of the Allen County Democrat for about fifteen years prior to this time, and brought to the aid of his new enterprise a wide experience and a well-grounded knowledge of the business. He changed the name of the paper to the Hardin County Democrat, thus going back to the title adopted in February, 1837. It was enlarged to a thirty-six-column sheet, and came forth in an entire new dress, bearing at its head the following motto: "A family journal, devoted to literature, news, agriculture and the dissemination of Democratic principles." Mr. Fisher purchased a two-story brick building on Franklin Street, three doors east of Main, whither he removed his office.

Mr. Fisher continued to publish the paper until the year 1885. After Daniel Flanagan sold the Hardin County Democrat to Mr. Fisher in 1875, he published the Union Democrat at Urbana, Ohio, for over three years, and the Delaware Herald, at Delaware, Ohio, for more than eight years. He, however, did not move his family from Kenton, On January 1, 1885, Mr. Fisher sold his paper back to Mr. Flanagan and the latter associated with himself, as partners, Alfred Mathews, and Thomas J. Flanagan, the former a brother-in-law, and the latter a brother. They soon moved the plant to a brick building owned by them on the south side of East Franklin Street, which is now the present site of the publishing office. In October, 1892, the proprietors of the Democrat founded a morning daily paper. At this time there were two other daily papers in Kenton, but this was the first and only morning daily the county has had. This was issued from the same plant as
the weekly. The daily was soon afterwards changed to an evening issue and has so remained until the present time.

In 1898, the partnership incorporated under the name of "The Kenton Democrat Printing Company" with Daniel Flanagan, President and General Manager; Alfred Mathews, Secretary, and Thomas J. Flanagan, Treasurer. Daniel Flanagan continued as Editor-in-Chief and was a prominent and picturesque figure in local journalism, until his death which occurred in February, 1901. Mr. Flanagan was a bold writer, a shrewd manager and was one of the best known editors in Ohio, the paper being frequently quoted by large state newspapers. Upon his death, his son, Corrin E. Flanagan, succeeded him as President of the Company, and Editor-in-Chief of the paper, which position he now holds. W. J. Glenn is Vice President and Treasurer. Alfred Mathews, a former partner of Daniel Flanagan, is still in the employ of the company after a service of half a century.

Corrin E. Flanagan has been connected with the paper for forty-five years, having started as a carrier-boy, then a type-setter, and pressman, etc., working his way from the ground up to the Presidency of the company. A sketch of the Flanagan family appears in this work.

The Kenton News.—The first independent newspaper in Kenton was established in June, 1881, called The Kenton News. It was printed in Tiffin and delivered to patrons here. D. M. Eyelands bought the paper in November of that year, and opened his office in Kenton. It continued only six months. In later years Henry Price used the name of The Kenton News, issuing a weekly paper with considerable success. One of the doctrines advocated by this paper was temperance and prohibition. Fred M. Childs was in the employ of Mr. Price as news writer, but Mr. Price took care of the
editorial columns himself. He sold the paper to J. L. Hampton, who in turn disposed of it to Baker and Meyers, who published it for a time under the name of the Graphic.

The Kenton Wochenblatt.—Among the noteworthy independent papers in local history was a German weekly, The Wochenblatt. It was founded by John L. Born and David Rife, the former being the first editor. It first appeared on Thursday, January 7, 1882. It was a quarto sheet, six columns to a page, published at $2 per year. It was the first and only German newspaper published in Hardin and adjoining counties, and for many years was owned and edited by Louis Schloescharf. The franchise was sold to the Kenton Republican Co. in July, 1900, and the paper discontinued.

The Kenton Press. On August 23, 1895, another Democratic paper was established by B. B. Williams and W. L. Finley, who for six years was the editor of the Caldwell Press. The Kenton Press was a weekly paper, edited by Mr. Finley. Following the election of Governor Patteson, the Press was transferred to Lloyd B. Richards and shortly after the holidays in 1906, the Kenton Democrat Printing Co. bought the mailing list and good will of the Press, Mr. Richards selling the printing machinery.

History of Towns and Townships

VILLAGE OF ADA

Fifty years ago a brief sketch of the Village of Ada in this county was published by R. C. Brown. We quote in part from this sketch as follows:

"There is but one town in Liberty Township—Ada—formerly known as Johnstown. This town was laid out in lots, streets and alleys by William Mitchell as proprietor, July 30, 1853. The original plat consisted of seventy-five lots all on the north side of the railroad and was named Johnstown. On May 24, 1861, upon petition of thirty-eight residents of the town, it was by the act of Commissioners, Samuel Wood, E. C. McLean and Peter Marsh, made and constituted an incorporated village, and subsequently its name was changed to Ada in correspondence with the name of the post office, which was established soon after the building of the railroad by the name of Ada.

It will be seen by the extensions and many additions of Ada, that it has had a very rapid growth. At the time the railroad was being built, the company received large amounts of timber and lumber, and S. M. Johnson was prevailed upon to locate at this place and erect a saw mill. This was the first business and the beginning and foundation of the town. Very soon after, a company store was started here, of which the head and principal was William Mitchell. He was succeeded by Horace Gilbert, William Wilson, Mr. Green and William League, who constituted the first and earliest merchants. The saw mill employed several men, who with their families, made a demand for houses. These were the nucleus from which sprung the present large and flourishing town.

The next most important business carried on here was the hoop pole and stove trade; many thousands of car loads of hoop poles, staves and barrels were shipped from this station. Mr. League being the principal dealer and manufacturer of barrels, and employed many men. Joseph Crawford is said to have been the first blacksmith, and Mr. Morgan (colored) the second. The first physicians were Dr. Ward and Dr. Kyle. The town had only a moderate growth up to 1860, but in the meantime the country around was becoming thickly-settled and improved which gave a support and impetus to a more rapid growth. In the spring of 1862, N. B. Hohler located here and opened the first drug store in the place. Business of all kinds rapidly increased and stores were multiplied and a steady growth of the town was maintained.
until 1870 when the Normal School building was erected, and from this time forward to say the town grew rapidly does not express the true condition—it really "jumped" from a thriving village to a prosperous town of almost 2,000 inhabitants.

We have thus briefly traced the history of the town which has now (1883) been in existence scarcely thirty years, and we will now sum up the present business interests numerically, which will allow to generations in the future its volume of business in 1883; they are as follows: Four dry goods and general stores, seven groceries, one produce dealer, two hardware stores, three slop and tin stores, three drug stores, three boot and shoe stores, one book store, three clothing houses, two furniture stores, four millinery and fancy goods stores, one saddle and harness shop, three restaurants, three saloons, two billiard parlors, two banks, two livery stables, one grist mill, five blacksmiths, one scroll saw and planing mill, one saw mill, two carriage and wagon manufactories, three hotels, three livery shops, one artist and photographer, two bakers, two jewelers, one gents' furnishing goods, two warehouses and grain elevators, four meat markets, one dry-goods factory, one tile factory, one architect, eight physicians, three dentists, two attorneys-at-law, and one newspaper (weekly) established in 1873 by H. L. Thompson as a neutral paper, and known as the Ada Record. In 1877, J. E. Fisher became business editor, and its name was changed to The Commercial. In September, 1878, Mr. Fisher retired. In November, 1877, the Literary Casket was established by Miller & Rudge. In September, 1878, Mr. Rudge sold his interest to H. L. Thompson, and the firm—now Miller and Thompson—purchased the Commercial of Mr. Fisher and consolidated the two into one paper, under the name of the Ada Record. In December, 1879, Mr. Miller purchased the interest of Mr. Thompson, and in August, 1881, Mr. Agnew Walsh became sole proprietor of the paper, and has since conducted its publication, and has seen a circulation of about 1,000.

In June, 1885, the first number of the University Herald appeared, with W. W. Poulton, U. S. G. Cherry, and S. H. Wagner as editors and proprietors. For several years it was printed at the Koons office, but later was able to put in a plant of its own. Many years ago it was made a weekly and was conducted by the late Ralph Parlette. His partner was the late M. E. Snyder. The paper is now conducted by Mrs. Ola Snyder and her son, Barton F. Snyder.

Ralph Parlette acquired a national reputation as a lecturer, and was the author of a number of books. He was the editor of the Ada Herald from 1889 to 1897, but remained his ownership in the paper until his death on November 18, 1926.

Regarding the early history of Ada, Agnew Walsh, in his history of the town, says: "About 1860, Wm. Mitchell, a resident of Fort Wayne, Indiana, bought a 100-acre tract of timber land that is now largely covered by the village of Ada. The Ohio and Indiana railroad was pushing westward, active construction through this immediate region beginning about 1862. In 1863 Mr. Mitchell induced S. M. Johnson to come to this land and locate a saw mill, and with his coming Ada sprang into life. The shipment of lumber, stoves and bedding was for many years the only industry. Mr. Johnson remained in Ada until 1867 when he moved to Lima where he died in 1882. The early village consisted of a few cheap buildings in which there were one of two general stores and the inevitable grgger. These were clustered about the railroad depot, now used for a freight house, the location being a square east of the present Main Street. The pioneers got what little mail was received and dispatched from Hunterville or Mayville, both then villages of some importance but now like Goldsmith's "Deserted Village."

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The post office at Mayerville was called Hug Creek. In 1853, a post office was established here to replace the horseback delivery from Findlay through the small towns in the southern part of the county. The office took the name of the town. In 1854, the railroad had train service established and mails were more frequent. Much confusion arose in both mail and shipments of merchandise from the fact that there was a Johnstown in Licking County, and in 1855 the Post Office Department changed the name of the office to Ada and the railroad did likewise shortly after. The receipts in the post office grew to such an extent that in 1910, her own delivery was established.

Ada's first impulse was received in 1872. Professor Lehr's Normal School project was taking root. He had been here six years as head of the public schools and conducting a select school, and calling normal school all the time. The town was taking on a progressive air. The new Normal building was ready for use, the joint Masonic Temple building was erected, the Baumen-J. D. O. P. building, the Ashfield bank building—all two and three story brick buildings—went up in this 1872 period and gave the village a metropolitan air, compared with its little wooden business rooms.

On April 9, 1880, H. S. Lehr began his life work in Ada, by teaching the spring term of the village school, thus but little more than a large rural district, and all the pupils were taught in one room. Within five years Mr. Lehr had "sold" his Normal School proposition to the citizens of Ada and the Normal School was formally opened on August 11, 1875, with an enrollment of 147 students. During the first ten years of the existence of the Normal, Mr. Lehr associated with him as part owners of the school, J. G. Park, R. F. Nuson, Lewis Rutledge, J. J. Wood, Frederick Magoun, G. W. Rutledge, N. G. Stormfellow and H. E. Neff. The growth of the institution was phenomenal and attracted the attention of educators throughout the country. During the first fourteen years the institution was known as the Northwestern Ohio Normal School; but in the spring of 1885, the school expanded its name in keeping with its growth and on May 21, 1885, it became a corporate body under the name of the Ohio Normal University, in order that it might lawfully confer degrees. On August 2, 1899, the University became the property of the Central Ohio Conference of the M. E. Church, and on July 11, 1902, Dr. Lehr retired from the school, after having spent thirty-six years in educational work in Ada. By action of the Trustees the name of the institution was changed on July 28, 1903, to Ohio Northern University, thus preserving the famous old initials—O. N. U.—by which name it has since been known.

On October 30, 1916, Mr. and Mrs. Lehr celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at their Ada home on West Long Street. They were married on a farm in Stark County, Ohio, near Mount Union College, the ceremony being performed by President Mariahorn of that institution. What a world of activities those 50 years embodied! Dr. Lehr answered the call of the Great Teacher early Monday morning, January 29, 1923, when nearing his 85th
birthday. He was born at Weathersfield, Trumbull County, Ohio, on March 6, 1858. His life's work is indelibly stamped upon the history of Ada, and his public achievements are written in the human monuments that form the city's civilization to all the varied professions.

VILLAGE OF FOREST

The village of Forest was laid out and platted by John A. Gormley on March 13, 1855. The lots, streets and alleys were surveyed by J. Harvey Davis, the original plat containing thirty-five town blocks. Since that time numerous additions have been added to the town, eighteen being added from 1866 to 1882. The town was duly incorporated September 6, 1865, by the commissioners, on petition of fifty-six resident voters.

The first general store in Forest was opened by a Dr. Atwood and the second by Josiah Smith. The first hotel was a frame building erected and kept by P. Carman, on the site of the old Forest City House at the northeast intersection of the two railroads. John Maudfield was the first blacksmith. Dr. J. A. Stansell was the first physician in the town. The Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad was built across Hardin County in 1853-54 and at the point where it crossed the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad, it was natural that a town should spring up. At first the new town was greatly handicapped by the flourishing town of Patterson located only five miles south, but after a few years the town began to grow and a new era of prosperity developed. A half century ago Forest had three dry goods stores, three hardware stores, seven groceries, two drug stores, one book and shoe store, two stove and tin stores, one furniture store, two harness and saddler shops, two millinery stores, two livery stables, one grist mill, erected in 1870 by Owens Bros., later owned by Henry Merchant and one saw and planing mill, erected by Young, Allen and Company; one warehouse; two flour manufacturers; three physicians. J. A. Stansell, W. T. Gernand, and W. A. Swin- ley; two attorneys, Russell Price and R. W. Waitsworth; two hotels—Scott House and Forest City House; three churches—Methodist, Presbyterian and Methodist Protestant. The Union School building was erected in 1872.

The first weekly newspaper was established in August, 1875, by J. J. Williams and published under the name of the Forest News. Three years later the name of the paper was changed to the Forest Review. The town continued to have a steady growth until it finally became the third largest incorporated in the county, being surpassed only by Kostet and Ada.

The present town hall was erected about the year 1900, and the High School building was constructed in 1903. For many years Forest was well known for its several industries, which included the following manufacturing concerns: the Dicklemans Manufacturing Company; the Perfect Gate Company; the G. W. Fisk and Son Planing Mill and Lumber Yard; the American Farm Products Company; and the Forest City Works. For many years Forest was also well known for its active fraternal organizations and lodges, and as late as 1900 it had a G. A. R. post of 44 members. Among its professional men, the physicians acquired more than a county-wide reputation. The town has always been a progressive community, and its citizenship, composed of enterprising citizens are devoted to their work and all civic interests.

VILLAGE OF DUNKIRK

Dunkirk, the only town or village in Blanchard Township, was surveyed and laid off into lots, streets and alleys by R. D. Millar, Surveyor of Hardin County, for Hugh D. Millar, and the same was platted and recorded, being duly acknowledged April 9, 1852. Hence the village is about 81 years old at this time, 1933.

The town was incorporated on petition of ninety-nine resident voters.
represented by W. D. Edgar and Isaiah Larkin, who brought the petition before the commissioners, and the prayer of said petition was by them granted and the town organized into an incorporated village under the name of Dunkirk, September 4, 1867.

Rutger Gunn built the first house in the town and also opened the first grocery store and William Porterfield the first good general store.

Frank Walden was the first blacksmith. The first physician was Dr. Styer. The first family to locate in the town was George Kinsey, and the second John Watters. Anderson Watters was the first child born in the village in 1838. The Pittsburgh, Ft. Wayne & Chicago Railroad was completed in 1854, and soon after the town began to improve. In 1857 Thomas Mahon & Co. opened a large dry goods store. In 1857 Bowers and Robertson opened a good hardware store. In 1860 Mahon Bros. entered upon the manufacture of agricultural implements, which did a large business for several years. The town had in 1863 about 1,500 inhabitants and many fine residences, and almost all kinds of business was represented with many large stocks of goods.

The business of the town thirty years ago was as follows:

Four dry goods and grocery stores, six groceries, two boot and shoe stores; two bakeries; two hardware, stove and tin stores; two drug stores; one merchant tanner; four millenary and fancy stores; three hotels; three livery stables; one furniture and music store; two harness shops; three barbers' shops; two warehouses with elevators; two meat markets; six physicians; one dentist; one gist mill; two planing mills, with lumber yards attached; two saw mills; one flour mill; two wagon shops; four blacksmiths; one tile factory and one marble works.

The Dunkirk Stone Quarry was opened in 1877 and in 1883 was operated by Hipple and Talbert of Pennsylvania. They employed 120 hands and took out 60 car loads of stone per day.

The crusher in connection with the quarry had a capacity of thirty car loads every 12 hours, the fine material being used for roads and sidewalks and the balance for railroad ballasting. The stone was also used for building purposes, and this quarry was one of the leading interests of Hardin County.

S. H. Davis issued the first copy of his paper at Dunkirk, July 1, 1875, called the Dunkirk Standard, and continued the publication of this paper with good success and a good patronage, until the 1st day of March, 1882, when he sold out to the Orleans Bros. Mr. Davis resided at once to Hancock County, where he purchased the paper at McComb and entered upon his fields of labor there.

The following persons had filled the office of Mayor of Dunkirk up to 1889, viz.: 1867, Isaiah Larkin; 1868-70, wantling; 1871, D. Youngker; 1872, D. M. Bowers; 1873, A. K. Macaskiey; 1875, D. H. Edgar; 1877, H. N. Hallinger; 1879-79, John Watters. He resigned in March, 1880, and H. J. Edgar was appointed to fill the unexpired term. In 1881 J. J. Wood was elected mayor.

Such is the history of the neighboring village of Dunkirk a half century ago. The early pioneers have gone to their reward, yet the present population numbers among its citizens many descendants of these hardy founders of the town.

VILLAGE OF MT. VICTORY

Mt. Victory was surveyed and laid out by R. D. Miller, for Ezra Dille, August 23, 1851. In May, 1856, an addition of several lots was made by W. Converse. Alonzo Snowdy made an addition April 1, 1868, and on June 10, 1877, Peter J. Howes made an addition. The name of the town came about in this manner. The land upon which the town was laid out belonged to the estate
of Cyrus Dille, and was soon to be sold at administrator's sale. Samuel McCullouch had just laid out the town of Ridgeway, and for the interests of that village, he desired to prevent the starting of another town so near his own village, therefore he made an effort at the public sale of said land to outbid all others, purchase the land and turn it into a pasture. But Ezra Dille was in the arena; he bid off the land and returned home rejoicing. He was met by Thomas McCall, who inquired who succeeded in buying the land. Mr. Dille replied, "We did," and Mr. McCall immediately exclaimed, "Vic-
try! Victory! Its name shall be Mount Victory." And the name was adopted by the proprietors of the town, and by that name it has ever since been known.

Before the town was laid out, a cabin had been built on the ground where the old Mount Victory Hotel stood, by Thomas Manley. He moved away, and the cabin was occupied by Stephen Strickland, then Ezra Dille, the proprietor of the town, occupied it for a time. After the town was laid out, the first building erected was a small frame, built close by the above-mentioned cabin by Daniel Stone, which was occupied by Frank Seaman, who put in a small stock of goods, which was the first store in the new town; this was in the fall of 1851. In 1852, Seaman and Dille erected a long frame building, just south of the railroad. In this building, Mr. Seaman and his brother, George, put in a general stock of merchandise, and for several years carried on quite an extensive trade. The next store was opened by David Ellis and Eliza Curt.

About the year 1853 or 1854 the post office was established, with David Ellis as postmaster. Russell & Elliott were the first blacksmiths. The first physician was Dr. Converse. The first hotel was kept by Jefferson Halsey, who was succeeded by Lewis Cowgill.

In 1852-53 Ezra Dille erected a large warehouse by the railroad, which was also used as a great mill. The first child born in the township was Blunt Dille, in the spring of 1852. The first saw mill in the village was erected by Jeremiah Elliott, about 1851; it was run by steam power and moved large quantities of ties for the railroad, whose track was then being laid through Mount Victory. He was succeeded in the ownership of the mill, about 1884, by Joseph and Eli James, who continued to run it for many years, but it went into decay and out of use. A grist mill was erected in the warehouse in 1881 by Carter & Howa.

In the eighties the population of the town was about 500, and had the following business interests represented: Five general stores, Peter S. Howa, M. S. Elder & Co., Henry Williams, Shepherd Humphrey, and J. W. Gregg; two grocers, William McOwen and Adam Allen; one drug store, E. L. Tinsworth; one harness shop, Jefferson Boyd; one dealer in agricultural implements, Smithson & Co.; three boot and shoe shops, W. H. H. Pfeil, T. H. Sampson and James McDaniel; one wagon maker, Frank Schmidt; one livery, Rosenberg Bros.; three blacksmiths, S. T. Eames, Wooley and Sons, and Gustave Gross; one creamery and warehouse, Burke, Greathouse & McIver; one saw mill and lumber yard, Bird Bros. & Co.; one tile factory, Stewart Bros.; two millinery and fancy stores, M. C. Allen and Mrs. Eugenia Press; one hotel, L. M. Beebe; one attorney at law, Brice Williams; two physicians, Drs. W. H. Fedean and C. W. Morrow, and one veterinary surgeon, Dr. Robert Stewart.

The first school house was a small frame, erected soon after the laying out of the town, on a lot owned by William Boyd. This was succeeded by a large frame building with two rooms, later used as a drug store. This house served for school purposes till 1878, when a large and commodious brick building was erected, with four rooms, at a cost of $5,000.
Centennial Celebration Program

May 28th, 29th and 30th

1933

SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1933

10:30 A.M. Homecoming in Churches of Hardin County.

10:45 A.M. American Legion—Memorial Day Service, at United Presbyterian Church; E. O. Kaltmun, Minister.

1:00 P.M. Open House and Homecoming of Lodges, Societies and High School.

3:00 P.M. Opening Ceremonies, Ringing of Church Bells. Ceremonies held at West Side Court House.

Program

Music by Band

Invocation

Opening Remarks by Mayor George Lingrel

Singing Hardin County Song by Chorus. (Song composed by Miss Eliza Durbin; Music by Mrs. Lettie Koch Leoffert)

Music by Band

Introduction of Governor George White

Singing Kentia Song (Song composed by Miss Eliza Durbin; Music by Mrs. Lettie Koch Leoffert)

Centennial Address by Herbert S. O. Blue, Professor of History, Central High School, Canton, Ohio.

Singing of Star Spangled Banner

8:35 P.M. An Historical Pageant of Hardin County, at Pfeiffer Swim Grounds. Admission 50c.
MONDAY, MAY 29, 1933

3:00 P.M. Concert by Kenton High School Band, Court House Public Square.

4:00 P.M. Parachute jump by P. A. Frazier of Bucyrus, Ohio, at Kenton Airport.

7:00 P.M. Street Carnival and Exhibitions by Merchants and Manufacturers, North Side Public Square.

8:15 P.M. Historical Pageant of Hardin County on Picnic Ground, West Franklin Street. Admission 5¢.

TUESDAY, MAY 30, 1933

9:00 A.M. All Veterans to meet at Courthouse; March to Armory.

9:15 A.M. Program at Armory:
   Song, "America," by Legion Auxiliary Trio
   Prayer by Legion Chaplain, Rev. E. O. Ralston
   Introduction—Chairman Allan D. Ochs
   Introduction of Speaker by John H. Smick
   Memorial Day Address
   Song by Auxiliary Trio
   Benediction by Rev. E. O. Ralston

Parade from for March to Cemetery

Program at Cemetery:
   Reading of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address—Sam McCormick
   Presentation of Wreaths—J. H. Smick, Civil War Veteran
   The U. S. W. V. will be represented by Dr. Boodley
   The American Legion, Commander William H. Mann
   Boy Scouts, William Hesse, Scoutmaster
   Benediction by Rev. E. O. Ralston.

9:30 P.M. American Legion Centennial Ball at Armory; Mack Finch Orchestra.

1:00 P.M. Street Carnival and Exhibitions by Merchants and Manufacturers—north side of Square, continuing throughout the afternoon and evening.
Parade Formation:

Advance Motorcycle Police Guard
Band
Chief Marshal on Horsetack
Parade Committee (at least four) on horsetack
Parade Committee in cars and all Centennial Committee Members in cars.
Mayor, City Officials, in cars
County Officials in cars
Visiting Mayors, Officials and Honored Guests in cars
Drum Corps and Band

Historical Division:
Indians and all pack horses, etc., of this period
Early Settlers, Pioneers, Trappers, Covered Wagons, etc.
Anything showing early education, schools, etc.
Costuming of the Civil War Period, etc.
Floats and Costuming of 1870 to 1900
Spanish-American War Veterans in cars
American Legion Drum Corps
American Legion, Legion Auxiliary, Red Cross; other World War features
National Guard and other military bodies
Band (Comedy)
Old Fashioned Fire Department
Modern Fire Department
All floats not included in historical division
Oldest Automobile
Other old automobiles
Display of modern cars
Calicoa, Musical Bells, or other noise-makers

8:30 P.M. An Historical Pageant of Hardin County at Pfeiffer Show Grounds. Admission 50c.
Historical Pageant
of
Hardin County
Presented as the Feature Night Attraction of the
HARDIN COUNTY CENTENNIAL
Sunday, Monday and Tuesday—8:15 P. M.—May 28, 29 and 30
Pfeiffer Show Grounds—West Franklin Street
Kenton, Ohio
A JOHN B. ROGERS PRODUCTION
Staged by Jack Geller.

SYNOPSIS

Prologue—Trumpeters announce the arrival of Miss Kenton and Miss Hardin County, preceded by the Guard of Honor and followed by their Attendants. Miss Hardin County greets Miss Columbia and her Daughters, the forty-eight States, and invites them to review the pageant in state from the Court of Honor.

Interludes—Father Time prophesies good things for Hardin County.

Episode One—The Dawn of Creation. In symbolic dance formation we see the Dawn of Creation—the birth of Sky, Land, Water and Flowers, shaped and moulded into a beautiful harmony of movement.

Episode Two—The Indian. Indian camp life and primitive occupations are shown, and then, trading with the first white men followed by a savage dance celebrating their good fortune.

Episode Three—Simon Kenton. Simon Kenton was captured by the Indians and made to run the gauntlet; he was taken from village to village before the various chiefs and sentenced to die. Through the efforts of his friend, Simon Girty, he was sent to Detroit and held as a prisoner of war but escaped and returned to Ohio in 1779.

Episode Four—The First Settlement. In the spring of 1818, Peter C. McArdle and Daniel Campbell built the first log cabin near what is now known as Roundhead, and were the nucleus around which gathered the large population of Hardin County.

Episode Five—The First School. Education has advanced by leaps and bounds since the day Eri Strong opened his first school in Hardin County.
Episode Six—The First Railroad. Many of the pioneers of Hardin County traveled by stage coach, and a great celebration in 1846 heralded the arrival of the first railroad train.

Episode Seven—War! A peaceful community slumbered in lazy somnolence—but in an instant, all was changed! Into their midst had stalked the vixen figure of War! Four years of strife between the North and the South.

Episode Eight—Harrison vs. Cleveland. The year of 1888 found Hardin County in the midst of a great political rally.

Episode Nine—The Spanish-American War. Hardin County is honored! Kenton is selected as a mobilization center for the 2nd Ohio Regiment. All is excitement.

Episode Ten—The First Automobile. The sensation of the age—a horseless carriage! Will it run? Will people permit such a contraption on their streets as frighten horses?

Episode Eleven—The World War. A war to end wars! Millions of men fighting! The return of the broken ranks—and then Peace—Eternal Peace!

Epilogue—The Grand Finale. A patriotic spectacle showing the Spirit of Today. The audience is requested to join the singing of the “Star Spangled Banner.”
HARDIN HARMONY

Words by Eliza W. Durbin
Music by Lettie Koch Leoffers

Oh, Hardin, my home, estalish me
Whenever I open my eyes,
The charms of your beauty estalish me,
I love the deer line of your skins;
On hilltop and marshland and river
On woodlands of forest green and old,
With serpentine your life is answer
Dear Hardin, part name of our God.

I love your grey skies with rain falling
Delight on your wheeleed and corn.
And oh, the delight of birds calling
To wake me in greeting each morn.
Your orchards their fragrance distribute
The scent of your planted fields is aster,
I pick in delight the wide ribbons
Your fertile soil rings at my feet.

I watch your soft-handed sheep go grazing
Your clouds cover seeking the shade,
When truth sets your heart, they blasing
I wander exult through each glade.
While breath leaves me ble I shall love you
And death shall not find me dismay.
If I can but live, earth your skins like
Adorn in your maple trees' shade.
KENTON

The Capital of the World—to all Kentonites

By Eliza W. Durbin

O, Kenton, dear home town, from east unto west,
From north to south bound'ry with beauty you're best.
Above your wide streets woodrovs maple trees bend,
And with their soft shadows their dark verdure blend.
Within their green bowers spring songbirds appear,
Against their burn grace winter red birds there cheer.
Of all spots in the world by both nature envied,
Our hearts hold you nearest and love you the dearest.

O, Kenton, the dearest, the nearest, the best.
On all the wide earth there's no home spot so blessed.
By beauty and spirit courageous and pure,
And the hearts of your people beat responsive to you.

Your mountain goes racing to ocean and lake,
Your woodrovs surrounding a paradise make.
For homes of contentness, where people abide,
In constant love as they serve side by side.
Your children have built upon your rare site
A temple of justice, protection and right.
And so round that loved square your life current sweeps
In Your name's patron saint keeps heed watch from on high.

O, Kenton, your name is sweet song to our ears,
Each line we are with you your shores more solemn;
When fate bids us wander in sadness we yearn.
For your dear warm welcome when we shall return.
O, Kenton, dear home town, our hearts you possess;
By our live's loyal service our love we'll express.
And at last when we sleep on your Grave's celestial hill.
In each green tree and grass blade we'll show our love till.
GENERAL CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

James H. Allen, Jr. General Chairman of the Centennial Committee
Miss Grace Pleister Secretary of the General Committee
Miss Mary Lou Johnson Director of Publicity
Neil Ashfield Director of Finance
John Ryan Director of Arrangements
Edwin Rutledge Director of Programs
Rev. E. S. Weaver Director of Homecoming Reception
R. A. Keckler Official Photographer
Frederick Machetaux Artist for Poster Design

MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE
Allen Olen, chairman
William Mark
Eunice Johnson
Elva Olen
John H. Stinnett
William Roby
Alfred Amberson
Zel Butler
Ivan Siddle
W. F. Stinson
Carl Davis
Clyde Ward

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Carl Price, chairman
Walter Goetz
A. C. Johnston
Arthur Roese
T. C. Langford
John Hoag
Carras Phillips

PARADE COMMITTEE
B. B. McVay, chairman
Ted Aungst
Grover McEever
Mark Peterson
Harvey Leuscher
A. W. McGuff
B. E. Sagle

DECORATIONS COMMITTEE
William Krant, chairman
Mrs. E. E. Batchelor
Mrs. J. C. Hedrick
Mrs. Carter Schwimmer
Roy Reed
"Colonel" Ellis
R. Minnich
Boyd Kirkland

WINDOW DISPLAYS COMMITTEE
Hurl Harwood, chairman
Nat Cook
H. F. Gethers
H. A. Reed
M. W. Cress
Mrs. Frank McGehee
Gordon Rosenhall

AMUSEMENT COMMITTEE
George Schenkewell, chairman
D. H. McGregor
O. M. Stidman
W. J. Walker

SPEAKERS COMMITTEE
George Liegel, chairman
C. L. Barnett
William Hudson
Mrs. Margaret Campbell
Raymond Murphy
L. S. McKelvie
Mrs. H. L. Johnson

MUSIC COMMITTEE
Capt. L. E. Wilcox, chairman
Mrs. E. E. Gethers
J. E. Haines
Martin Hart
Mrs. Olive Crooks
Mrs. William Loebert

HOMECOMING COMMITTEE
Rev. H. E. Plester, chairman Churches
Dr. Frank Berger, Lodges
Eleanor Schaefer, H. S. Class Reunion
Mrs. J. E. Allen, Jr.
Elroy Ranker
Mrs. Harrison Briggs

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
George Cox, chairman
H. E. Pearce
C. E. Nash

MARKERS COMMITTEE
John McLaughlin, chairman
Pete Duff
William Hesse
Ray Ziegler
D. M. Sager

HISTORICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE
D. P. Blew, chairman
Mrs. Willis Keller
Miss Elsie Griffith
Miss Addie Moore
Kenneth Young

PAGEANT COMMITTEE
Mrs. L. S. Harrell, chairman
Mrs. S. L. Wooten
Claire Harrison
J. H. Pack
Frank Ellis
Miss Myrtle Sparklin
Miss Lucille Dowlin
Mrs. Carolee Ottum
Miss Elza Doughin
In 1876, through a desire of many citizens and the members of the board of directors, by earnest and diligent efforts of one or two of the directors especially, the high school department of the school was made a township school, open and free to all in Hale township. This gave school privileges to the more advanced students throughout the township.

Such is the history of the village of Mount Victory, nearly a half century ago. During the past fifty years many changes have been made and much progress is evident. The early pioneers have passed on, but their descendants still march on to “victory.”

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEWAY**

Ridgeway is located on the Logan County line, near the southwest corner of the township of Hale, the extreme south part of the village lying in Logan County; the latter is located in about the geographical center of the township, both villages being situated on the Cleveland Division of the Big Four Railroad.

Ridgeway was surveyed and laid out into lots, streets and alleys by R. D. Millar, County Surveyor, for William Boggs and Samuel McCulloch, proprietors, May 20, 1851. In August and September of the same year, an extension was made of outlots. On December 7, 1858, on petition of forty-eight resident voters, the village was incorporated under the name of West Ridgeway. This village received its name in honor of the Ridgeway Company, from whom Samuel McCulloch purchased the land. When the town was laid out, there was one log cabin standing on the lot where Dr. Crow’s residence now stands (1885), which had been erected by Judge A. Snoddy.

Gorham Bunker built the first house, a small frame. W. P. Hew opened the first store and Robert Stevenson the first hotel and first blacksmith shop in 1852. Dr. D. C. Wooten was the first physician. The post office was established in 1851 or 1852, with Michael Printz as Postmaster. The first improvement, however, that was made in Ridgeway was the erection of a saw mill by William Callahan, on property owned by R. F. Luskens, in the west part of the town, just south of the railroad. Mr. Callahan purchased four acres of the land from Samuel McCulloch and erected the above mentioned mill in the spring of 1851, and soon after built himself a house. Subsequently he purchased three acres more of land adjoining his first purchases.

This mill was run for several years and served all hunters for the first houses of the town and vicinity, then went out of use. In 1859, Mr. Callahan purchased a saw mill which had been erected by Van Denser & Headly a short time previous. Soon after Mr. Callahan put in two saws of burls and machinery for a grist mill and took in a partner in the person of William R. Watson. This was a good mill and did good work. About 1860 Messrs. Campbell & Howe erected a third saw mill and a grist factory combined.

This mill and factory did a large business for several years, but finally went out of use; subsequently the property was purchased by Jacob Runser, who rebuilt the saw mill. The public school was organized and a small frame house built for school purposes in 1853. This was succeeded, in 1860-67, by a new union school brick building, consisting of two departments, which served the purpose until the increase of pupils demanded more room, and in 1883, a brick building was erected, containing four rooms, at a cost of about $5,000.

The town in 1883 embraced the following businesses: two general stores, one by R. McElhaney and one by Moffat and Fisher; one grocery, by John Lines; one hardware, by Sarah Davis; one drug store, by A. D. Bailey; one bakery, by James Lake; one saddlery and harness shop, by R. J. Williams; one millinery store, by Mrs. Davis; one livery, by C. M. Kennedy; four blacksmiths; M. Osmby, John Prinz, L. Stevenson, and J. L. Runser; and
four physicians, Drs. E. B. Crow, R. Edwards, W. C. Hodges and J. H. Crow; also one hotel, by Mrs. Culbertson.

Like other villages in Hardin County time has made its many changes in the physical appearance of the town but a glance at the names of the early pioneer residents indicates that many of their near relatives still live in the village.

VILLAGE OF DOLA

The village of North Washington, now the town of Dola, is located in Section 15 of Washington Township. It was platted and laid out into lots, streets and alleys by Judi Shaw and A. Landis in the summer of 1852. The original plat contained seventy-two lots, thirty-six on each side of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The first house erected in the town was a log cabin, built by Ephraim Harvey; the second house, also a log cabin, was built by C. W. Shaw. In this frame building Shaw and Darst opened the first general store with a stock of general merchandise for sale. Peter Ash was the first blacksmith in the town and the first physician was a Doctor Rayl. However, the first physician and surgeon to remain any length of time was the late Doctor J. B. Heistand of Kenton who practiced in the town for several years before his removal to Ada.

The post office was first established about the year 1853 and the first postmaster was Samuel M. Andrews, the father of J. Frank Andrews of Kenton. Mr. Andrews was the postmaster of North Washington for about fifteen years; and for over twenty years he was the Pennsylvania Railroad Agent at the station. He was also Justice of the Peace, Township Clerk, Township Trustee, Assessor and School Director. Samuel M. Andrews was a native of Greene County, Penna., but came with his parents to Crawford County, Ohio, where he was reared until he was twenty-one years of age. He settled in Washington Township about 1849, and became one of the most prominent citizens of the village of North Washington. Other early postmasters in the town were Frank Kinneer; Pierce and Lukens; Albert Behrends and Earl Maynard.

In 1890 the leading business enterprises in the village were the following: G. W. Burnworth, general store; John Reifenstein, general store; Mrs. R. Smith, grocery; J. J. Orth, drug store; Charles Guider, blacksmith, and Henry Mason, blacksmith; one saw mill, with one set of burea used for grinding, owned by G. W. Burnworth; this mill stood on the south side of the railroad tracks just west of the town, and was known as the Burnworth Flour Mill, Lath, Saw and Saw Mill. There was one warehouse owned by Frank and Levi Perce. At that time there were two physicians in the town, Dr. Joseph Seiger and Dr. W. R. Brayton. C. A. Guider manufactured carriages and wagons.


In 1907 the name of North Washington was changed to "Dola," owing to the confusion in sending mail, because there were so many other post offices in the state with some form of the name "Washington." The town is
now well known for its excellent township High School, its churches, its coating and water station on the Pennsylvania Railroad, and as the home of Ira E. Marshall, champion corn grower of the world.

VILLAGE OF PATTeson

The Village of Patterson, situated eleven miles north of Kenton, was laid out in 1846 by Peter C. Boslow and H. G. Harris. The original plat of the village contained 48 lots, 24 on each side of the Big Four Railroad, and was surveyed by Charles Arendschildis. Boslow owned the land west of the railroad and Harris that on the east. Boslow was a native of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, where he was born in 1819. He came to Hardin County in 1843 and was a leading citizen of Patterson for many years. The name proposed for the new town was Petersburg, but when the plat was recorded, August 29, 1846, it was named "Patterson" in honor of Robert Patterson, of Bellefontaine, who was Secretary and Treasurer of the old Mad River Railroad, now the Big Four. Mr. Patterson was a special friend of Boslow who suggested the name for the town in honor of his good friend.

For many years after the Civil War, Boslow was known as "Captain." In 1861 he raised Company C of the 82nd O. V. I., and was commissioned a Captain. He served until the following May when he was discharged on account of disability.

The first building erected in Patterson was a frame structure 14 by 32 feet, built by Boslow. The timber was sawed with a "whip saw," and this was said to be the first frame building in the township. Into this Capt. Boslow put a general stock of goods, which was the first store in Jackson Township. Two years after, Capt. Boslow sold the building to William Buel, of Cary, Ohio, and erected another building, into which he moved his stock of goods. He also erected a warehouse at the railroad for the purpose of receiving grain and all kinds of produce for shipping to distant markets.

Capt. Boslow rode on the first train ever run over the road, from Sandusky to Bellevue, in May, 1838. The road was completed to Kenton in July, 1846.

The first hotel was a log house, which was moved from Thomas Ketich's farm, one mile and a half east, and was kept by Dr. A. F. Stanley; this was occupied as a house of public entertainment until he could erect a new house; it was called "The Hunters' Retreat." The new hotel, when erected, was known as the "Sylvaia Hotel." Previous to Dr. Stanley's opening his tavern, Capt. Boslow used to accommodate the traveling public at his own log cabin, and was not accustomed to make any charge, but travelers became so numerous that he finally decided to charge "one shilling" per meal. On one occasion, a very wet and disagreeable day, Mr. Cook, of Blanchard, was passing through, wet and hungry, called for a dinner and to have his horse fed. When he came to settle his bill, he was charged two shillings; Mr. Cook laughed at the price, and told him he should have charged 50 cents. This incident illustrates the hospitality and low prices of the early settlers in those days.

The first physician in the town was A. F. Stanley. Boslow's and A. F. Stanley's families were the first located in Patterson. The next merchants to succeed Mr. Buel were Lewis and Hare. A post office, named "Sylvania" was established about 1847-1848, with either Dr. A. F. Stanley or Mr. Lewis as postmaster. Subsequently, about 1850, the name of the postoffice was changed to Patterson, by which name it has since been known. In 1847, the election which had previously, for years, been held at McVittie's schoolhouse, were held at Patterson.

The first carpenter to locate in the town was a Mr. Carr; and Caleb Gardiner was the first cooper. The town grew very rapidly, and did a large
business in lumber and mercantile trade for several years. About 1848, Isaiah Ikes built a sawmill, which did an extensive business for thirty years. During this period, Mr. Ikes was succeeded by Mr. Walker, and he by J. M. Nelson, and the last to conduct the business was Alexander League. The first blacksmith in Patterson was Samuel Lewis.

In 1883 the town contained a population of about 400, with one general store, conducted by M. C. McVitty, who had a large and prosperous trade; a grocery was operated by J. Swinney; while the village hotel was conducted by John Perry; one blacksmith shop, by P. Woodard; one drug store, by Mr. Phillips; one billiard room, by D. Wilson; one grist mill, operated by John Poch of Upper Sandusky; one saw mill, erected by H. G. Harris in 1847 owned by Punk Bros., and one cooper shop, carried on by D. H. Timmons. In the same year there were two churches in the town, the Presbyterian in the east part of the village and the Methodist in west part. The public school building was a brick structure erected in 1867. It contained three school rooms only, with an enrollment of 88 in the primary, and intermediate rooms, while 33 were enrolled in the high school. Other prominent residents of Patterson in the early eighties were Dr. W. A. Swinney, Dr. J. B. Young; and W. H. Seymour, late of Kenton, who at that time was engaged in merchandising and stock-raising. Mr. Seymour was the father of the late John B. Seymour of Kenton.

It is also interesting to note that Dr. A. F. Stanley, the pioneer physician of Patterson, was the father of William E. Stanley, who in later years was elected governor of the State of Kansas. His daughter, Harriett, was for many years a resident of Kenton and principal of the West School Building. There were three other children, John R., Carrie L., and A. F., Jr.


VILLAGE OF SILVERCREEK

The village of Silvercreek six miles southwest of Kenton on the Big Four railroad was formerly called Hudsonville. The town came about in this way. When the old Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad was completed in 1866 from Cincinnati to Sandusky, the railroad officials decided to establish a station at this point for the purpose of making it more convenient for the farmers in the southern portion of Hardin County to market their grain and other products of the soil as well as to provide for a passenger station to accommodate passengers between Bellefontaine and Kenton. The station proved a valuable asset to the railroad company and officials were not disappointed in their decision. In those days much grain was shipped to Cincinnati, the Queen City of the West, from which point it was sent on to other Ohio River ports. The little station of Hudsonville, in Taylor Creek Township, now called Silvercreek, hence thrived and prospered. The town was called Hudsonville from 1846 to 1867 or for a period of twenty-one years. In 1867 the name of the town was changed and it has since been known as Silvercreek.

In June, 1867, however, the railroad station became a town, for at that time Frederick Hanger laid off lands on both sides of the railroad right-of-way into lots, streets and alleys, the survey being made by Robert D. Miller, well known Hardin County Surveyor, who had served in that office from 1851 to 1856. The survey was duly platted and recorded under the name of
Silver Creek, from the name of the stream which flows near the village on the east.

The first general store was opened by Frederick Hanger, the proprietor of the town, but he later sold out to Robert I. Ewing. Ewing was also the first railroad station agent and the first postmaster, when the post office was established on July 1st, 1866. In the late sixties Benjamin Scott operated a large saw mill. He was succeeded by Samuel Wenner, who operated a steam saw mill in the town for many years. Wenner was born near Strasbourg, France, in 1833 and came to America when he was seven years of age. His father, Peter Wenner, was a soldier in the French army and a member of the bodyguard of King Louis Phillippe. Samuel Wenner served in the Union army in the Civil War as a member of Co. H, 101st Regt, O. V. I., and when Kirby Smith, a Confederate officer, threatened to take Cincinnati, Wenner was one of the “Squirrel Hunters,” who helped to drive Smith from the city.

In the late seventies and early eighties, James McWilliams owned a blacksmith shop and Chamberlin and Wenner operated a tile factory. In 1885 Robert I. Ewing and John S. Rice kept general stores and Rice owned a large warehouse for receiving and shipping grain. At that time there were about fifty residents in the town. Ewing was born in Lancaster, Penna., in 1835. He was also a Civil War veteran, serving in the Army of the Cumberland, from December, 1861, to July, 1865. Ewing fought in many battles and was with Gen. Sherman in his march to the sea.

John S. Rice, late of Kenton, prominent banker and well known citizen, was a pioneer merchant in Silver Creek, conducting a large general store for many years and also the proprietor of the large warehouse from which he shipped thousands of bushels of grain annually. In the early eighties he also carried on farming extensively, and the raising of live stock. At the time he owned 530 acres of well improved and cultivated land. Mr. Rice was born in Taylor Creek Township in 1838, the son of John and Eliza Rice. He served four years in the Civil War from June, 1861, to June, 1865. He was a member of Co. G, 4th O. V. I., which company was known as the Kenton Rangers. He fought at Romney, Chancellorville, second Bull Run, Gettysburg and the Wilderness. In the last named battle he was taken prisoner, and confined in the Andersonville prison from May till September, 1864, when with four others he escaped from the prison. However, he was recaptured eighteen days later and transferred to Salisbury prison where he was kept till March, 1865, when he was exchanged at Wilmington, N. C. He had been commissioned as a Sergeant in 1863 serving as such until the close of the war. After the war he was engaged in the book business in Columbus for two years. He then returned to Hardin County where he taught school again, having previously taught two years before enlist ing in the army. In July, 1867, he began the mercantile business at Silver Creek. His later business career is well known to the citizens of Kenton.

Thus, we may conclude that Silver Creek has been a town noted for its soldier-citizens and business men. In recent years, of course, the business pursuits of the town have gradually drifted away to larger centers of trade; but the Big Four still retains the station in this quiet little town, once called Hadsonville.

VILLAGE OF HUNTERSVILLE

The village of Huntersville was laid out and platted on June 21, 1836, by Thomas Hutchcock, who located in Cessna Township in the year 1835. He and his wife were quite prominent settlers in Cessna Township and through his efforts the first Methodist Church was established in the community on lands then owned by Joseph Wilson. The church was made of hewed logs, and the first minister was Enoch Holmes.
Mr. Hitchcock soon conceived the idea of laying out a town, which plan was very much in vogue in that day, and all the villages were laid out and platted with the ardent hope that some day they would become great cities.

With these thoughts in mind Hitchcock acquired a tract of land in what is now Marion Township in the northeast quarter of Section 12, and securing the services of a surveyor laid out and platted the "Town of Huntersville." It was named by Hitchcock in honor of his friend, Jabez Hunter. At that time the present Harding Highway which passes through the village was a mere Indian trail, leading from Solomon's Town near the present village of Belle Center to old Fort Jennings on the Auglaize River in Putnam County. The land where the town was to be located was covered with a heavy growth of native forest trees, which were cut down and rolled into heaps and later burned.

For many years the town contained but a few scattered log cabins, but after the town of Ada was established in the early fifties there was more or less travel on the "Lima and Kenton Road" between the two places, and Huntersville became quite a prosperous village. A post office was established, there were two general stores, a steam saw mill and blacksmith shop owned by Joseph Smith, who lived in the town for many years. Josiah Smith was a typical village blacksmith, enjoying a lucrative trade from all the settlers in the community. For fifteen years he was the postmaster at Huntersville and was always regarded as a good public official. He was born in Lincolnshire, England, July 26, 1826 and came to America when a young man. He came to Hardin County and started his blacksmith shop at Huntersville in the year 1855. He also owned and cultivated a small farm near the town and was a prominent member of the Grange, and the Methodist Church. He was a Republican in politics and served several years as school director. His blacksmith shop was on the north side of the highway at the center of the town and his residence just across the roadway on the south. He had learned the blacksmith trade in England when a boy. He married Elizabeth Gould, also of Lincolnshire, England, in 1852. To this union were born three sons, Gould, William Arthur, and John Henry, and one daughter, Elizabeth Ann. Josiah Smith was perhaps the best known citizen who ever lived in Huntersville. His death occurred in 1905.

In the early eighties Dr. J. E. Evans was a prominent resident of Huntersville. In addition to his medical practice, Dr. Evans operated for a time a small grocery, which aided greatly in supplying the wants of the community. The coming of Dr. Evans to the town seemed to infuse new life into the place, and for some years considerable business was carried on. The chief drawbacks to the growth of the town was the fact that no railroad ever came along its way.

The original plat of Huntersville contained 32 lots, nine on the north side of the Ada and Kenton Pike and 23 on the south side of the highway. The Kenton Road was called Main Street; High Street was one block south of Main Street and parallel with it. Columbus Street was the principal cross street north and south in the center of the town and West Street was one square west of Columbus Street and parallel with it, north and south.

After the post office was abandoned at Huntersville, the residents of the village were required to go to Ada for their mail, until the Rural Delivery system was established.

In this day as one drives through the old town, he is reminded of those famous lines of Goldsmith when he wrote:

Sweet smiling village! loveliest of the town,
Thy sports are fled, and all thy charms withdrawn;
No more the smith, his dusky brow shall clear.
OTHER HARDIN COUNTY VILLAGES

Alger.—The village of Alger was platted on October 23, 1882, on the lands of Elias Jagger and named for him. Some years after it was laid out, the name of the town was changed from Jagger to Alger, in honor of Russell A. Alger, a Michigan statesman. The onion business on the marsh near the town has been very largely responsible for the gradual development of the village, until at the present time it has become a thriving community. The village was incorporated on March 3, 1896. The Alger Storage houses for the onion crops are large, commodious buildings. The town has a modern school building, costing $18,000; two churches, numerous retail stores; post office and one rural route. In 1909 the business section of the town was visited by a disastrous fire, destroying the hotel and several stores.

McGuflsey.—The village of McGuflsey was platted on December 23, 1890, and named in honor of John McGuflsey of Columbus, Ohio, the promoter, who conceived the idea of draining the great Scioto marsh lands. The town was incorporated on March 6, 1896, and has always been a prosperous and thriving village, its residents being chiefly engaged with the onion industry. McGuflsey is a great shipping point for onions and its warehouses have huge capacities. The town has a fine brick school building erected in 1908 at a cost of $18,000. There are three churches in the village, a post office and one rural route.

Hepburn.—The town of Hepburn was laid out in September, 1882, by J. C. Smith on behalf of the Chicago and Atlantic Railroad Company. The company purchased the 200-acre farm of S. Hopkins, in order to procure the large gravel banks in the center of his farm for the use of the company in the construction of their railroad grading. When the railroad was completed, the company erected a depot and made the place a station stop. It was not long until a good sized village was the result. For many years Hepburn was known as Kenton's playground on account of the Spring Lake summer resort. There are several general stores, a good school building and two churches in the village at present.

Grant.—The post office at Grant was established at the time U. S. Grant was President. Later the Big Four railroad established a crossing station near by and soon a cluster of houses and stores developed. The Grant M. E. Church was organized in the winter of 1888-90 by Rev. Enos Holmes with twenty charter members. The congregation met in log cabins for twenty years, but in 1888 they erected a frame building known as the Pleasant Grove M. E. Church. This was used until 1906 when the present modern brick structure was erected. The old frame was moved over to the railroad where it was used as a warehouse. This congregation is one of the oldest in the county, being in its 95th year.

Yelverton.—The town of Yelverton was laid out in 1888 by Harris and Goss, who platted the lots, streets and alleys, the survey being made by R. D. Miller. It was named for John Yelverton, a large stockholder in the Mud River railroad. Philip Hisey opened the first store, and a post office was established with Mr. Hisey as postmaster. R. K. Lane was the first blacksmith.

Forsaker.—The town of Forsaker was laid out by Henry Price on October 30, 1886. It was at first called Oakland, but the name was later changed to Forsaker in honor of J. B. Forsaker, Governor of Ohio. J. B. Seymour of Kenton erected a large grain elevator; and onion storages were constructed,
There are several general stores, two churches and a school in the town.

**Pleiacher**.—Pleiacher Station was established in 1883, near after the Chicago and Atlantic Railroad was completed. Until 1907 a post office was maintained. It was named for John Pleiacher, a former postmaster. For many years before the advent of the railroad, the place was known as "Wheeler," named for Curtiss Wheeler, the owner of the taverns.

**Blocktown**.—Sixty years ago there was a post office at Blocktown, two and a half miles south of Dela. The postmaster was Charles Black; there was a store, a sawmill, cider-press; and a blacksmith shop conducted by the late J. H. Willick of Kenton. Nothing remains of the village except the St. John’s Evangelical Church.

**Peru** was a town platted on March 9, 1836, the survey being made by Jacob Kimberlin. The town was to contain 90 lots; and in the center a large public square. The location was on the Range Line Road between Cosmo and Pleasant Townships, on the present farms of Grant Geiger and George A. Mathews. There was even talk of making this place the county seat on account of its high elevation and central location in the county. The Governor of Rhode Island paid $300 for a lot in the original plat.

**St. Michael’s** was the name of a town surveyed and platted on July 13, 1836, by Thomas M. Hardcastle and Richard Amos, the proprietors. It was composed of 125 lots and was located on the present Clements Reese farm in Golden Township, where the Harding Highway crosses the old Sandusky Road, a little more than six miles east of Kenton.

**Geneva**.—This was the name of a town platted by Levi W. Bodley on September 30, 1837, and surveyed by John H. Wear, county surveyor, containing 42 lots. It was located on the Range Line road in Pleasant Township on land now owned by Frank Wedertz.

**McGoldrick’s Town** was platted by Thomas and Jane McGoldrick on September 10, 1833, and surveyed by John T. Terry, county surveyor, and was composed of 32 lots. The records do not indicate the site of this town.

**Armortsville** was a town plat of 90 lots, located in the extreme northwestern corner of Liberty Township by John Armot, proprietor. The survey was made by John H. Wear, Deputy Surveyor, on May 7, 1836.

**Maysville** was at one time a village on the Harding Highway where the road intersects the Allen County line in Liberty Township. A cluster of houses still remains.

**Blanchard** was a post office established in 1892, after the T. & O. C. Railroad was completed. It was maintained until the advent of the rural delivery system. A general store is still maintained.

**Holden** was a small village northwest of Roundhead on the Auglaize County line; and Jumbo and Jump were post offices in McDonald Township, maintained in general stores.

**SKETCH OF THE TOWNSHIPS**

All geographical units in the world from the smallest hamlet to the great city, nation or continent have, like persons, received a certain name. Such names have been assigned for a thousand and one reasons. It is sometimes difficult to determine why or how a certain name has been attached to a given river, mountain, lake or city. When we look over the map of the United States, we frequently wonder why certain places have been so named. The people of Hardin County are well aware of the origin of the terms “Hardin” and “Kenton,” but to know the origin of the township and village names is quite another problem.

The oldest township in Hardin County is Roundhead, and when the County of Hardin was organized in 1820 there were in reality only two town-
ships, Roundhead and Blanchard. All that part of the County south of the Scioto River was referred to as Roundhead, named in honor of the noted Wyandot chief, who had a village at the present town of Roundhead. His Indian name was Selhta. He was known far and wide by all the early settlers, who first came to Hardin County. The present township of Roundhead was organized in 1832 and was naturally named after its best known Indian inhabitant.

Blanchard township formerly included all the land in Hardin County north of the Scioto River in 1820, while the present township of Blanchard was not organized until 1838. It is well to note in this connection that the early settlers simply called the land north of the Scioto “Blanchard” township after the river by that name, which had its source in the locality north of what is now the city of Kenton. The name “Blanchard” came about in a peculiar way. We have learned that the Shawnee word for the Blanchard River was Sho-po-que-te-sepe, which translated means the “Tailor’s River.” It seems that a white man by the name of Blanchard in a very early day had a cabin on the banks of the river not far from the present city of Findlay. Blanchard was a tailor by trade and often sewed garments and made various articles of clothing for the Indians. Blanchard was a native of France and a man of some intelligence; he had fled from France to escape punishment for some offense he had committed, and came to America where in the vicinity of Findlay he intermarried with a Shawnee woman. He lived in the locality about 30 years and died in the year 1802 near the site of old Fort Findlay. When the Shawnees went west in 1842 seven of his children were living, one being a Half-Breed Chief. The Indians and early settlers always referred to the Blanchard as the Tailor’s River, and the same name was later applied to the township, in which the tailor’s river was located.

McDonald Township was organized about 1836 and named after William McDonald, one of its earliest settlers whose former home was probably in Ross County near Chillicothe. The McDonald family came into Hardin County as squatters about 1822. Another prominent member of the family was Daniel McDonald, also from Ross County. There has been some contention that an early Indian chief whose Indian name signified McDonald in English was the origin of the name, but there is nothing of record to verify the claim.

Lynn Township was not organized till 1856. The name came about in this way. When the early county surveyors were striking off the new township from McDonald, Taylor Creek and Buck and were checking up on their field-notes, they discovered an unusually large number of Lynn trees on the new boundary lines. This suggested the name Lynn to the County Commissioners.

Taylor Creek Township was organized in 1835 and from all available sources the name was derived from one of Kentucky’s well known officers in the War of 1812, General James Taylor. Some of the early settlers had served under him and named their new township Taylor Creek in his honor.

Buck Township was organized in 1845 and named after one of its most prominent citizens, Harvey Buckminster. Mr. Buckminster settled in Dudley Township about 1828. He was born in Stratford Co., Vermont, Nov. 13, 1800; emigrated to Tioga Co., Penna., and then lived a year on the Sandusky Plains in Crawford County before coming to Hardin County. He was a farmer, a tavern-keeper at Grassy Point and stagecoach driver for many years on the old Sandusky road, between Bellefontaine and Upper Sandusky. He was past ninety years of age at his death, and will be remembered by many citizens of Hardin County now living.

Hale Township was organized in 1835, and while there is some question
as to the origin of the name, the preponderance of opinion is that it was named by the early settlers in honor of John P. Hale of the State of New Hampshire. Many of the early pioneers who settled in Hale Township were from New Hampshire and Vermont and John P. Hale was no doubt one of these early "squatters" and was probably a relative of Alfred Hale who for some years made his home at the old Fort McArthur blockhouse on the Scioto.

**Dudley** Township was organized in 1834, and was named in honor of Moses Dudley, one of the early settlers, who was a native of Maine. He settled on land in Section 7 about a mile west of the present Pleasure Station in the year 1830. Later he lived for a time in Wyandot County, but finally removed to Kenton, where he died. His last surviving child was Mrs. Sarah Cary of Kenton. The first minister in the township was Elder David Dudley, no doubt a relative of Moses Dudley.

**Goshen** Township was organized in 1834, and was named by its pioneer founders "Goshen" because of the fertility of the soil and the great quantity of honey produced by wild bees in the forest, the name being suggested to the pioneers by the Biblical "Land of Goshen," an Egyptian district "flowing with milk and honey" located near the Red Sea.

**Pleasant** Township was formally organized in 1834. The early settlers including John Jackson, the three House brothers, the Wilmoths, the Dinniehers, William Furney, Samuel Wagner and many others were all greatly impressed by the high elevation of the land, the excellent drainage facilities, especially that region just north of the Scioto in what is now Kenton. The land was frequently referred to as the most pleasant situation for a town they had seen anywhere in the Scioto Valley. When the town, however, was named Kenton in 1833, the settlers decided in 1834 to name the township Pleasant to express their complete approval of the land they had chosen for their homes.

**Cesena** Township was organized in 1834 and was named in honor of Charles Cesena, a native of Coshocton County, Ohio. He located in the forests of Section 12 near what is now known as Four Mile Run. He was the first settler in the township locating his land and building his cabin in 1830. He was a member of the first board of Township Trustees, and always had a part in the welfare of the township. He raised a large family of children, living on his farm until his death many years ago. He was buried in the Salem M. E. Cemetery.

**Marion** Township was organized in 1856 and was named in honor of Gen. Francis Marion of Revolutionary War fame. The Marion family were of French descent, and the general's paternal grandfather, Benjamin, was a Huguenot, who left France in 1690 for America. One of his sons, Gabriel, married Esther Cordes, to whom six children were born, Francis being the youngest. He was born at Winyah, South Carolina, in 1732, the same year as the birth of Washington. He was a Brigadier-General in the Revolution, and one of the most gallant soldiers of his day. He died Feb. 27, 1795. A county in his home state is named in his honor as well as our own neighboring county on the east.

**Jackson** Township was organized in 1836 and named after Andrew Jackson, seventh President, whose second term was drawing to a close about the time the new township was organized.

**Washington** Township was organized in December, 1835 and named by the County Commissioners "Washington" in honor of George Washington, the "Father of his Country."

**Liberty** Township was organized in 1837 and was named "Liberty" by the first Board of Trustees, Amariah Thorne, Lewis Long and Hugh W.
McElroy to make perpetual the memory of the freedom and liberty of the American nation. The name was suggested by Hugh W. McElroy, a native of Ireland, born in 1797. He came to America with his parents about 1801, the family locating in Columbus, Ohio. Hugh came to Liberty Township where he settled on the Southeast quarter of Section 1. To commemorate the new liberty he enjoyed in America in contrast to the oppression of Ireland, which he had heard his parents frequently discuss, he suggested that the new township be called "Liberty." The other trustees consented and the name still stands on the map of Hardin County. Mr. McElroy died October 3, 1854, aged fifty-seven years, leaving a family of 16 children.

REMINISCENCES BY W. W. DURBIN OF KENTON

Old "Cap" Winslow

Here was an old character around Kenton for more than forty years. He was an Englishman and claimed to have been a sea captain. The whole family, old "Cap," big "Cap," and little "Cap" used to follow the fairs with a tent, making ice cream candy, popcorn balls, gingerbread, root beer, lemonade and roasted peanuts. There were no paved streets and the wind used to blow great gusts of dust up the street until "Cap" would whiten the ice cream candy by pulling it on a hook, gathering up his part of the dust which the people ate. Old "Cap" was a great story teller and he used to tell how, when out at sea in a big storm, the lightning flashed on all sides and he climbed the mast with a claspboard to ward it off. He noticed it was forked lightning, so he hit the board over his knee, split it and held a piece in each hand so that they both were struck, falling into the sea, and the boat was saved. He also used to tell in a large powder magazine a fellow lit his pipe and dropped a match in the powder, but he trumped it out before it burned more than a peck. He used to be a fireman around Dickson's grocery store and always regarded the people with his stories.

G. G. Grady's Circus

Kenton boasts of a great showman in G. G. Grady, whose circus started from Kenton in 1866 and was on the road until 1871. Prior to starting the circus, Grady ran a "Peep" show where you looked through glasses to see enlarged pictures, a little like the stereoscope. Then he evolved into a concert, or what we now call vaudeville, with singing and dancing; then into a one-ring circus without any menagerie. After several seasons, he leased animals from L. B. Lent of Detroit, and had trained lions, an elephant, and a very respectable menagerie. A feature was the entry into the lion's den of Herr Polfield, one of the greatest lion tanners of that day. In the afternoon after the circus, was a great balloon ascension. First they used a basket, finally attaching a trap upon which the balloonist would perform high in the air. Many performers in the circus who afterwards made their mark originated in Kenton. The Van Zande Brothers were wonderful acrobats, and one, Moerley, worked for old Jim Waters as a shoe maker in the winter and went with the circus in the summer. The Miller Brothers, Theodore and A. D., were the first to perform a balancing hand to hand act. After this they traveled with the New Orleans Minstrel and Gorton's Gold Band which started in 1879 from Kenton, Ohio.

Joe Goodman was another old tumbler who went with Grady's Circus and with many others. He was so supple that at 65, he could turn a flip flop without any trouble.

Grady left Kenton in the early 70's, going to Indianapolis where he ran a little theatre, and there he died.
Dickson's Opera House

Henry Dickson was a country boy who came to Kenton about the time of the Civil War and worked as a clerk for Jerry Crowley when Crowley's business was where Yeagley's Hardware Store is now. Up on the third floor was a hall with a small stage where all the shows in Kenton were held. Dickson could play the fiddle and was much interested in dancing, singing, etc., and naturally became interested in the theatre. Finally taken in as a partner with Crowley, they erected the block known as Dickson's Opera House which burned in 1892. This was built about 1885 and had a fair sized stage and seating capacity on the third floor. Dickson succeeded Crowley and in 1887 the opera house was remodeled, still on the third floor. Dickson's dream was to have the finest opera house in this part of Ohio and lived to see that day. In 1881 he secured the services of Wallace Hume, an architect of Chicago, who made plans to remodel the old opera house and bring it down to the second floor. At that time Dickson had never been out of Kenton except to Spencerville, Ohio. Hume took him to Chicago and showed him the great theatres.

Dr. J. W. Binckley who sold the reserved seats suggested to Dickson that he would have to make a speech on the opening night. As much as Dickson was in love with his opera house, we think he would have preferred to have it burn down than to attempt to make a speech, but he was relieved by Frank C. Dougherty, one of Kenton's most eloquent speakers, who paid great tribute to Dickson, who had to rise and bow to the great applause.

There were so many local talent shows given here. Among them were plays of the Civil War. "The Union Spy" and "The Drummer Boy of Shiloh"; there was the wonderful oratorio, "Queen Esther," given by local talent. There was one company, Hardy and Von Lees, "On the Frontier," which had a 23-piece band, Indians, and the lights went out during the performance and they had to give it in the dark, but it was wonderful.

Kenton's Fire Department

Way back in the old days, Kenton had a fire engine named "Simon Kenton No. 1." This engine could throw water as high as the court house steeple but it always got out of kilter when a big fire was raging. It did when the east side burned and it did when the great fire burned out the block in which were the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, Seymour's elevator, the Big Four depot, St. Nicholas hotel and the Fornay block. With great difficulty the buildings to the east were saved. Then the leading men of Kenton realized they must have fire protection and resulted in the company being organized to build the water works here. They were built in 1882, 1883 and 1884, and dedicated on July 4th, 1884. We always had fine hook and ladder companies who, with the hose companies and fire engine annually attended fireman tournaments in surrounding towns. On Wednesday, Sept. 6th, a fireman's tournament was held in Kenton in connection with a band tournament in which contestants from Sandusky, Fremont, Tiffin, Upper Sandusky, Marion, Lima, Bellefontaine, Van Wert and Findlay were present. It drew the largest crowd ever seen in Kenton up to that time.

Great Political Meetings

The largest Republican meeting ever held in Hardin County was when Blaine and Logan were running for president and vice president. They spoke from a stand in front of the Big Four freight depot, September, 1884. Both Blaine and Logan spoke and then the train journeyed on leaving Hon. Emery A. Storrs of Chicago, a most eloquent orator, to entertain the great crowd. General Robinson was Republican candidate for Secretary of State and came
in on the train with them.

In September, 1896, Wm. Jennings Bryan was brought to Kenton on a special train by W. W. Durbin, Chairman of the Democratic State Committee, and spoke from a platform on the south side of the court house. When his train arrived the people packed the streets solidly from Rosenthal's corner to the Big Four station and when he spoke, the court house yard was filled and also Franklin Street had the traffic shut off because the street was crowded with citizens eager to hear Bryan.

**Thomas Espey**

We must not forget this public spirited citizen who always lent a helping hand to every movement for betterment in Kenton and Hardin County. In 1882 he with General James S. Robinson built the Erie Railroad from Kenton to Marion, then called the Chicago and Atlantic Railway. At the same time he was one of the company who put in the water works in Kenton. In 1889 he helped to route the T. & O. C. Railroad through Kenton and in his connection with the White Mill and the Brick Mill, he helped to give Kenton the best flouring mills in all the country around. For many years he was connected with the Kenton Gas and Electric Company and was manager of that concern when Kenton first installed electric lights. There never was a more patriotic and public spirited citizen than Thomas Espey.

**Thomas J. Cantwell**

He was one of the greatest huskiers and best business men of his day. It was in the late 70's and during the 80's when harvesters and other machinery was being purchased by every farmer that Cantwell and Company sold thousands of various farming implements. They maintained an able corps of solicitors who went all over the county during the winter months and secured orders for delivery the next year and that's what brings us to what we want to say about the great Delivery Day about the first of June. All this machinery that had been sold would be sent to Kenton, mostly from Springfield, Ohio, and the farmers would begin to roll into town by 7 o'clock and before noon the town was crowded. Free meals were given to all those who came to receive their machinery and every hotel and eating house was packed and in addition practically all the churches served meals. By that time the machinery had been loaded into wagons and with the bands from Ada, Forest, Dunkirk, Mt. Victory, Rodgeway, Belle Center, Kenton and the Alger Drum Corps, a parade two miles long would take place and usually some one of the officers of the plants that had furnished the machinery would ride at the head of the parade with Tom Cantwell. Upon several occasions Asa Bushnell, afterwards Governor of Ohio, rode with Tom at the head of the parade. These deliveries ran over a period of at least fifteen years and they always were great days.

**Reforestation**

The new plan of reforestation brings to mind that in the early days Hardin County was filled with saw mills. The finest furniture was made of walnut and afterwards of oak. Away back in 1876 Walker's Saw Mill south of the bridge in Kenton, was a place employing no less than two hundred people; Canon and Carl had another large saw mill over at the Erie Junction; Jacob Fortung had a large mill where the Price Monument Works is, which furnished walnut scroll to the chair manufacturers in the East. We had ever so many handle and stave factories including Hinkle's and old "Bill" Campbell. Farmers in those days used to cut ties and sell them to the railroads and get enough money to pay their taxes.
Judges in Hardin County

Under the old constitution of Ohio, a Supreme Judge sat with two laymen for judges and the only layman who ever sat in Hardin County was David Goodin, one of the old pioneers whose son, John R. Goodin, was a member of Congress from the State of Kansas in 1876.

Up to 1914 Judges of the Court of Common Pleas were elected by districts and the first time that Hardin County ever got a Common Pleas Judge in the district was in 1889 when A. S. Johnson was elected for five years. He was succeeded by Charles M. Melhorn of this County who was elected in 1894, and re-elected in 1899, but who died and was succeeded by Charles C. Lemert who was appointed for about one year. The next judge elected from this district was William P. Henderson elected in 1906 and who served until 1914 at which time such county was entitled to a Common Pleas Judge and Judge Henderson was re-elected in Hardin County in 1914 for six years and retired in 1920 when he was succeeded by the present Common Pleas Judge, Hamilton E. Huse.

Hardin County has had two members of the Circuit Court which is now called the Court of Appeals. Henry W. Senev was elected in 1884 and re-elected in 1890. Phil M. Crow was elected in 1910 and is still serving on the Court of Appeals.

GEN. JAMES S. ROBINSON

James S. Robinson was born near Mansfield, Ohio, October 14, 1827, and grew up on his father's farm with only the meager advantages of the district schools. At sixteen, he learned type setting on the Richland Eagle, Mansfield, and continued in newspaper work for many years. In January, 1847, he came to Kenton and took charge of the Kenton Republican, being not quite twenty. He was editor of this paper, until the Civil War broke out, when he enlisted (April, 1861) in Co. G, 4th O. V. I. Mr. Robinson's war record was brilliant, and he rapidly rose, until he reached the rank of brevet major general on March 13, 1865. He participated in the battles of Bull Run, Cross Keys, Resaca, Peach Tree Creek, Bentonville, Gettysburg, Chancellorsville, and many others, and was severely wounded at Gettysburg. He participated in the famous march to the sea and was present at the Grand Review at Washington at the close of the war.

General Robinson was clerk of the Ohio House of Representatives in 1855-6, and once served as postmaster of Kenton. He was chairman of the Republican state central committee at the close of the war and filled the same office in the state executive committee 1877-79. Later he was commissioner of railroads and telegraphs. In 1880, he was elected to Congress from the 9th district of which Hardin County was then a part, and re-elected two years later to represent this district. He had a notable career in Congress,

GENERAL JAMES S. ROBINSON
home of general james S.

robinson—east view

in Grove Cemetery. His funeral was attended by Governor McKeeley and
staff and many state officials.

General Robinson had the unique distinction of being the Secretary of
the first Republican State convention ever held in Ohio, of which Salmon P.
Chase was the Chairman. The general was identified with every phase of
the public life of Hardin County.

REMINISCENCES OF KENTON IN 1857

The following notices were copied from the Hardin County Republican
of July and September, 1857. The first is from the pen of Stella Powell, who
had previously lived here, but was then with the Bellefontaine Republican.

"Being in Kenton the other day, we were considerably pleased, and not
a little surprised, on witnessing the steady, slow, but sure, strides that
clever town is making in the 'march of improvement.' The school building
(Old Central Bldg.), which promises to be one of the best in the State, is
apparently in the hands of builders who will 'speedily, neatly and substan-
tially' finish their work. Another noteworthy improvement now in progress
is the grading, paving and foresting of the public square. Prominent among
the private enterprises, are the improvements of Messrs. Goodin, Kinney,
Kibler, Brunson, Robinson and others. Kenton is being rejuvenated, and
nice fences, handsome gardens, gravelled walks and other pleasant appur-
nances make it a 'camp ground,' whereas 'you and I, and all of us' may
'pitch our tents' in safety, at least 'for a few days.'"

The second was written by Samuel Campbell, for the Republican, and
published in the issue of September 4, 1857. He says:

"I came to Kenton a little over 22 years ago, when the town, as well as
the surrounding country, was almost an entire wilderness, except a few
openings for farms commenced, and some log huts or small houses in Kenton,
that indicated there was a town laid out. I remained in Kenton several days,
wandering over—or rather climbing over—logs and brush, and through where
they said streets were laid out. And however unflattering the prospects, I
purchased a lot and concluded to share its privations, and, if spared, to enjoy
its advantages should it ever have any. I then returned home, and remained
several years before again coming to Kenton.

"In moving out, after an absence of two or three years, I naturally felt
a curiosity, to see how Kenton had prospered, but must say I did not feel
sanguine. I feared that a number who had settled for the purpose, no doubt,
of making fortunes, had left, and the town, so far from rising up and im-

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peering, rather on the decline, and still a very small village. Since then, various have been the changes. But, contemplating the past in contrast with the present I hardly know where to commence; but of the past, my mind is carried back to the days when I wandered through the streets, when there was no public improvement of any kind (except a temporary court house), nor even a house of worship. Now we have six or seven respectable churches; we have a good, substantial court house and jail; we have a railroad running through Kenton, adding much to its prosperity; and we have a fine school-house in progress of erection. Too much credit cannot be awarded to Mr. Simms for his untiring zeal and integrity in carrying forward an enterprise of such immemorial value. Mr. Cassidy, no doubt, in the completion of the brick work, will do himself great credit. I cannot express the satisfaction I feel in noticing the many fine residences, fine gardens, lawns and shrubbery; the improvement of the public square; and also the fine block of brick buildings erected by Messrs. Goodin, Kickler and Kinney. Truly, Kenton is getting out of the woods. But prosperity is not confined to Kenton alone; the county at large is fast settling up. Where a few years ago, you saw nothing but weeds, we now find fine farms, fine houses and barns. Surely, there is much to be thankful for.

**DICKSON'S GRAND OPERA HOUSE**

Monday, August 1, 1902, will be a day long recalled by the citizens of Kenton, for on that eventful day the Grand Opera House staged its final drama.

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**DICKSON'S GRAND OPERA HOUSE**

About 1858-59, Jeremiah Crowley, Sr., and Henry Dickson erected a three-story brick building on the northeast corner of Main and Franklin Streets, and fitted up a hall in the third story, which was the first of its kind built in Kenton. This was used for public entertainments until 1863, when Crowley and Dickson, Steiner and Meyers erected the Grand Opera House building on the southwest corner of the square. The third story of this building became the Opera House. Mr. Dickson subsequently became sole owner and in 1879, remodeled the interior of the theatre at an expense
of about $12,000. In April, 1882, he again remodeled and enlarged it, dropping the upper floor to the first story, thus making it one of the finest opera houses in this portion of Ohio. The seating capacity was 1,200 and exits were so ample that the house could be emptied within a few minutes. The parquette and parquet circles were equipped with the well-known Andrews' folding opera chairs and the balcony with cushioned chairs. Everything was handsomely upholstered, and there were four finely furnished private boxes. The scenery used in stage equipment was the work of W. P. Davis of the Grand Opera House, Chicago, Illinois. The decorations and fresco work were done by F. Pedretti, a noted Italian artist of Cincinnati, Ohio. The entire work of this second remodeling was under the supervision of the architect, Wallace Hame, and was completed at a cost of about $44,000.

Mr. Dickson well deserved the gratitude of the citizens of Kenton for his enterprise and public spirit in furnishing the city with an opera house excelled by none in any town of like population in the state.

For 69 years the Grand Opera House was a favorite place of amusement. Many of the great stage characters of the country appeared on its spacious stage. Among those recalled are: Thomas Keene, Walker Whitside, Scatoun, a noted singer, Charles A. Gardner, Robert Downing, Charles Vernon, Tim Murphy, Melrose Sisters, Barney Gilmore, Ada Rehan and Clara Morris. Older Kenton citizens recall that after the theater was remodeled in 1882 it was officially opened with a production of "The Black Crook," a kind of musical comedy of much dignity.

Frequently, before a performance began, the Second Regiment Band would appear before the Opera House and render several stirring selections.

The old stage was the scene where many a Kenton high school graduate in a shaky voice, and even shakier knee, delivered a compulsory oration. Through two generations the graduates of Kenton High School appeared upon this historic stage as with oration, essay or play they bade farewell to high school days. It was the threshold into life's real work for many a Kenton youth, and as the flames raged on that August day in 1932, many tender memories were recalled.
On this same famous old stage appeared many of the nation's outstanding characters, including Tim K. Donovan, a noted Civil War correspondent; Mark Hanna; Gov. James E. Campbell; Gov. Joseph H. Foraker; Gov. Frank B. Willis; George H. Pendleton; Allen G. Thurman, and many others.

The great fire which completely destroyed the Opera House Block was discovered on Monday morning about 8:30 on August 1, 1913. The flames leaped through the three story building and for hours threatened the destruction of the entire south side of the public square. Fire departments in Lima, Findlay, Marion and Bellefontaine were hastily summoned and arrived upon the scene in record time. It was a battle, but the firemen succeeded in holding the fire to the Opera House Block, owned by the heirs of the Henry Dickson estate; the Heil Block owned by the Heil heirs and the store owned by Tom Appel in the same block. The fire drew the last great audience to the Opera House portals as thousands stood to watch the enactment of a tragedy, more melodramatic and spectacular than any that ever was staged upon the site.

TYMOCHTEE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The following announcement appeared in the Kenton papers about August 1, 1913: "The Tymorelche School Association, Classes of 1848 to 1861, will hold their 23rd annual reunion at the residence of John Kermbatte, Lima, on Thursday, August 12, 1915, and remember, it has been 67 years since the beginning of our school and the number is gradually growing smaller. Soon the last member of the Class of 1848 will answer taps, lights out. By order of Levi Wagner, President, and Wm. H. H. Wagner, Secretary."

The Tymorelche School Association was composed of pupils who attended the first school in the southeast corner of Pleasant Township. The school was a small log cabin erected near the bank of the Scioto River. Eli Strong was the first teacher, receiving $40 for 72 days service, and boarded himself; school beginning December 7, 1846. Samuel Wagner was District Clerk. Other early teachers were: Elizabeth Davis, Robert Miller, William Williams, John French, Sophia Ewing, Shepherd Green (the father of Nehemiah Green, who became Governor of Kansas in 1868). Resin Widner, Joseph Wescott, and Almer W. Johanson.

In the spring of 1848 old District No. 1 was divided, that district retain-
ing all the territory south of the base line of Pleasant Township, known as
the Scott-town pike. North of that line it was known as District No. 2, and
this was the beginning of Tymochtee School. Tymochtee is a Wyandot
Indian word meaning "Around the Plains," and is the name of the stream
encircling the plains of Wyandot County. It was near the headwaters of the
Little Tymochtee that a school house was erected in the summer of 1848, in
the geographical center of the district, one-fourth mile east of the center
of Section 35 in the forest and one-half mile from any road, on the northwest
corner of the 80 acre tract formerly owned by John Pfeiffer. Huge boulders
were used for a foundation. The school was 20 by 22 feet, of white ash
weather boarded with black walnut. It had a white ash floor and was celled
with first class lynn timber, paneled and joined. This building many years
later was moved to Kenton and stood on the north side of West Franklin
on the second lot west of Leighton Street. In the summer of 1909, it was
torn down to make way for two new dwellings.

Before the new school was completed in 1848, Sophia Ewing taught a
summer term in an old log house on the corner of Henry Wagner's land and
among the pupils was a little ashen haired lad, Nehemiah Green, who later
became Governor of Kansas. The first term taught in the Tymochtee School
was in the winter of 1848-49, by Oliver Perry Draper. Many interesting
accounts have been related by the former pupils of this school how they tried
to keep out the teachers on holidays, and how exciting were their spelling
schools and social gatherings. Joseph Weldin, one of the teachers who
became a soldier in the Civil War, was killed at Vicksburg, and of the sixteen
"big bayos" of the school who went to the Civil War, just eight returned.
About 150 pupils attended this school from 1848 to 1861, when the Tymochtee
district was abandoned. Part then attended Heisner, and others Gray Eagle
School.

The teachers of this quaint old school were as follows: O. P. Draper,
Moses Louthan, Ennica Smith, Jane Morser, Nathaniel Williamson, William
Louthan, Rachel A. Williamson, Gilbert Russell, Serena Davis, Harriet E.
Wysong, James C. Hutchinson, Julia Howe, Elizabeth Hulman, Sarah J.
McCormick, George B. Castro, Katherine Jenkins and Joseph Weldin.
Twenty-six terms were taught from 1848 to 1861.

LUTHER M. STRONG

Luther M. Strong was born near Tiffin, Ohio, June 23, 1838. Like many
other public men his boyhood was spent on a farm, attending country school
when possible. When he grew older he taught in the country in the winter
and attended school at an academy in the spring and fall. At the outbreak of
the rebellion he enlisted in Company G, 49th O. V. L. soon becoming captain
of the company. About September 1, 1861, the regiment proceeded to Kent-
ucky, and from then on Mr. Strong saw active service. He participated in
the battles of Shiloh, Chattanooga, Missionary Ridge, Chickamnga, Atlanta,
Pickett's Mills, Nashville, Columbia and many others, being wounded twice.
He rose rapidly and reached the rank of colonel before the close of the war.

In January, 1867, he was admitted to the bar and at once located in
Kenton. In the fall of 1870, he was elected to the State Senate, and re-elected
two years later. In 1883, he was appointed judge of the Common Pleas Court,
and in November, 1892, he was elected to Congress from the Eighth Con-
gressional District. At the close of his first term Colonel Strong was again
elected by a larger majority than at first. At the close of his public career
he retired to his fine farm on East Franklin Street, and there lived until his
death on April 26, 1900. Mr. Strong married Mary Millman on February 15,
1865, and they were the parents of three children, Milton, Salley and John H.
The fine old Strong mansion still stands at 920 East Franklin Street.
HARDIN COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION

This association was organized June 4, 1898, at Kenton, to keep alive the history of the pioneer times, and also as a sort of social gathering for the old settlers. At first no member was admitted who came to the county after December 31, 1898, but afterward that rule was modified to take in later pioneers. The meeting time was set for the 4th of July of each year, but that was not strictly followed. Judge Anthony Bannion, Dr. A. W. Munson, Judge Hugh Letson, Rev. B. F. Waddle, Thomas Shanks, D. H. Edgar, Miles Van Fleet, Abraham Hille, Dr. U. F. Leighton, Luther Farney, William Kelly, Rev. Thomas Wilson and many others were prime movers in starting the society, and nearly all the old residents of the county joined. There was a vice-president from each township, in addition to the regular officers, and for many years raising meetings were held annually.

At the first meeting of the Association, held at the court house July 4, 1898, a song composed by Dr. U. F. Leighton was sung for the first time. The chorus was:

"Come, Pioneers of thirty years, Around our standard throng; Friendship renew, old times review, And join in social song."

The first celebration combined patriotism with good cheer. For the national airs were played and the Declaration of Independence read by Dr. A. W. Munson. Addresses were made by prominent pioneers and the large audience enjoyed the tales of life in the woods. The elderly men and women told such thrilling stories of adventures with wild animals, Indians and trappers, that the young people present regretted that the county was now so thickly settled that exciting things seldom happened.

The first death to occur in the Association was that of Mrs. Alugail Buckminster, who passed away July 14, 1898, but as the years rolled on so many of the early settlers died that the members voted to regard every person in Hardin County eligible for membership who had lived here thirty years,

THE LOG CABIN ON THE FAIR GROUNDS

During the summer of 1889, the members of the Pioneer Association brought logs to the county fair grounds, each member contributing a log, and a pioneer cabin with old fashioned chimney, large fireplace and rough floor was erected. The old time cabin raising was carried out in fine style and
on September 11, Pioneer Day was celebrated, the Fair Board admitting free every member of the Association. The pioneers also brought in old-time spinning wheels, Dutch ovens, cooking utensils, candlesticks, books, guns, old china, furniture, bullet molds, and many other relics of the log cabin days and the little cabin was completely furnished. Thousands of people eagerly looked over the interesting articles, and warmly commended the Association for thus keeping alive the history of pioneer days. The cabin was dedicated with appropriate exercises and the famous General Gibson of Tiffin made the speech of the day. Other orators made short addresses, among whom were Colonel W. T. Cresson and Dr. A. W. Messon.

For many years this old cabin was an attractive place on the county fair grounds. In time, however, the relics were removed to a room in the Armory and when the new court house was erected most of the old relics were placed in the recite room, where they will be kept for future generations to study. Dr. Messon faithfully kept up the records of the Association, and the names of all the members are on file in his records, which are also preserved.

THE FLOOD OF 1913

In 1913, Hardin County was visited by the worst flood in its history. The Scioto and Hog Creek marsh lands were entirely covered with water, both resembling the original lakes before the marshes were drained. The Scioto Valley and all other low areas of the county were completely inundated.

SOUTH LEIGHTON STREET DURING THE FLOOD

In Kenton, the flood attained serious proportions. On Tuesday, March 25, 1913, the News-Republican issued extras, each resembling small handbills. The first is quoted in its entirety.

"City in Flood Grip—City Officials Issue Warning—No Gas—No City Water—No Train Service—Bridges Gone—Wide Communication Cut Off—Scores of Families Saved with Boats—Flood Worst in City's History.

"The City of Kenton is in the grip of the worst flood in the city's history. The Scioto River has risen two feet since midnight and most of South Kenton is under water. Scores of helpless families are being helped from their homes in boats. The police assisted by scores of heroic citizens are doing noble work.

"The city water works is out of commission and the water may be shut off for several days. The Hardin Wyandot Lighting Company is unable to furnish gas, washouts cutting off this service. When it can be resumed is
unknown.

"WARNING.—Fire Chief Bates says that all citizens should use exceptional care regarding fires since the water supply has been shut off. In case of fire every citizen is requested to report at the scene as the only means of fighting fire will be with a volunteer bucket brigade.

"Why This Extra?—Owing to lack of gas and water the News-Republican's mechanical department is powerless today. We are issuing bulletins from time to time as an extra edition and will endeavor to issue others during the day as the occasion requires."

The second extra appeared on the same day at 10:30 A.M. A few of the paragraphs are quoted:

WATER WORKS PARK DURING 1913 FLOOD

"Cessation of Rain Gives Much Hope. Mi'ser the prayers of scores of people who are temporarily homeless, the rain which had been falling steadily for thirty-six hours in this section, ceased about 9 o'clock. At ten o'clock the river was still rising but it is expected that the waters will soon begin to recede. It is hoped that by early afternoon the river will be close to its banks. During the early part of the morning the river rose at the rate of six inches an hour.

"Factories Quit Business. Practically every factory in Kenton is out of commission today either through lack of power on account of there being no gas or city water, or through failure of employees to reach their places of work. Some have been unable to leave their homes because they are surrounded by water, others have been busy aiding friends in distress.

"Moving to Safety. Many in South Kenton have been moving to upstairs rooms of their homes but some will be unable to get any meals except what outsiders are able to send to them in boats. Nearly all, however, are being removed to places of safety.

"Out of Danger. At nine o'clock it was reported that residents of South Wayne and South Detroit Streets were out of danger. Every store and business place but one south of the river is flooded and no business can be carried on.

"Sick People Removed. Several people who are ill in South Kenton and whose homes have been surrounded with water had to be moved in the face
of a driving rain. Doctors have been unable to reach some of their patients except in boats. The condition of several is reported critical."

Kenton was visited by another great flood two years later on July 16, 1915, which continued until the 30th. The damage was not so serious as in the flood of 1913.

**HAPPY VALLEY HOME**

One of the very oldest pioneer homesteads standing in Hardin County today is that of Clarence Morrison, in Dudley Township, where he has lived since 1878. This quaint old house was erected in 1832 by Ass Davis. Mr. Davis was a native of Muskingum County, O., and came to this county in 1832, locating on Sec. 7 in Dudley Township. After several years residence here, he removed to Iowa, where he and his wife died. Later, their remains were returned to Ohio and interred in Mason County.

**HAPPY VALLEY HOME**

The old home stands about forty rods north of the Scioto and is built of hem timbers with brick between the studding laid in lime and sand. It is 34 by 40 feet and remains as originally constructed. It is still in a fair state of preservation and its two old fashioned fireplaces are in excellent condition. It has its third roof; the first was clapboard shingles; the second patent shingles; and the third is of steel.

In 1853, Alexander Morrison, with his family, left their home in Zanesville, Ohio, to locate in Oregon. Stopping at Kenton to bid farewell to their eldest daughter, Mrs. Robert Miller, before continuing their westward trail, it was through her influence that they decided to remain in Ohio and bought the farm then known as the Ass Davis land. The name of the old homestead is "Happy Valley," deriving its name back in the fifties from Mrs. Alexander Morrison, when she and her husband would be returning home from their pleasure trips after supplies for the family, she would say on seeing the little house in the valley, "Back again, Pappy, to Happy Valley," and it has always retained that name. At the present time the old homestead is furnished with the antique furniture of the parents and grandparents of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence S. Morrison. Robert Morrison made this house his home for 46 years.

**FORT McARTHUR CHAPTER D. A. R.**

Fort McArthur Chapter, No. 602, Daughters of the American Revolution, was organized February 12, 1903, and March 9th of the same year, was granted a charter. Its charter members were: Eleanor Armstrong Bain, Almira Converse Armstrong, Mary Lydia Arsham Woodward, Grace A. Donaldson Matthews, Anna Stewart Dean, Helen Hopkins Johnson, Anna E. McClain Johnson, May Donaldson McKimick, Isabelle Platt Runkle Ross, Elizabeth C. Blake Hindman, Alice M. Spelman Holmes, Helen Robinson Kraus, Harriet Seymour Timmons, Mary Elizabeth Walker, Marjella Woodson Teeters, Frances Gardner Leland Westernfield.

The first officers were: Mrs. F. D. Rain, regent; Mrs. W. H. Dean, vice-regent; Mrs. Alahai Woodward, registrar; Mrs. A. B. Johnson, treasurer.
Mrs. Austin S. McKitrick, recording secretary; Mrs. Joseph Tsountas, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Cedric R. Johnson, historian; Mrs. W. M. Hindman, chaplain.

The purpose of the Organization is—To foster a spirit of Patriotism; To encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution; To cherish, maintain and extend the institutions of America, to advocate appropriate celebrations of all Patriotical Anniversaries; To preserve the memory of the noble men and women who bore their share in the dangers and privations of the War of the Revolution; To give unswerving loyalty to the government; To inculcate these principles in the children both native and foreign born; and, To encourage the study of American history.

The present officers are as follows: Miss Ada Moore, regent; Mrs. D. B. Clark, vice regent; Mrs. Carl Ellis, recording secretary; Mrs. W. A. Bell, treasurer; Mrs. W. D. Combs, registrar; Mrs. D. H. Bowman, corresponding secretary; Mrs. H. J. Piniffer, historian; Mrs. James Maxwell, librarian; Mrs. J. C. Poling, chaplain.


CANTWELL POST, G. A. R.

The first formation of a Post of the Grand Army of the Republican in Kenton was made by Colonel Bonner of Toledo, Ohio, on June 5, 1881. The first officers were: Post Commander, L. M. Strong; Senior Vice Capt., J. H. Camp; Junior Vice Capt., Silas Protzman; Q. M., John R. Selby; Adj., Herman Sagebeld; Surgeon, Solomon Kramer; Chaplain, W. W. Stevenson; Officer of the Day, J. N. Welch; Officer of the Guard, Charles Collier; Q. M. Sergt., Isaac M. Collins; and Sergt. Major, D. J. Mentzer. The Post was named in honor of Col. James Cantwell, of Kenton, killed at Bull Run.

In April, 1883, Cantwell Post, No. 77, Department of Ohio, G. A. R., was reorganized with the following charter members: David Thomson, David J. Mentzer, Wm. W. Stevenson, Godfrey Satermeister, Herman Sagebeld, Abraham R. Scott, Solomon Kramer, John R. Selby, John H. Camp, Charles Canna, Thomas Patridge, Christopher Ushman, David E. Goodlin, Luther M. Strong, John S. Scott, Silas Protzman, Isaac M. Collins, George W. Darst, Charles Collier, Jasper N. Welch, Wesley A. Strong, Charles Farmer, Wm. M. Ellis, John V. B. Maine, Mathias Zimmerman, and George Inker. The new officers chosen were: Post Commander, Charles Canna; S. V. C., J. S. Scott; J. V. C., D. J. Mentzer; Adj., Lewis H. Wells; Surgeon, Silas Protzman; Q. M., Wm. M. Ellis; Chaplain, W. W. Stevenson; Officer of Day, Isaac M. Collins; and Officer of the Guard, John Maine. The Post Commanders in the nineties were: J. S. Scott, John H. Smiech, Godfrey Satermeister, Amos Wroten, L. B. Tyson, and Isaac Wilson. The Commanders in the twenties were: Edward Sarge, J. M. Baldwin, W. W. Snodgrass, and Wesley A. Strong. Later, John Wilson and Ira C. Richards served as Commanders of the Post. In the year 1909, there were still 118 members of the Post; but taps have sounded for these "boys in blue" and now only a very few are left.

In 1886, the trustees of Grove Cemetery presented to Cantwell Post the four lots on which the monument now stands, and the Post placed a marble marker at each corner to mark the block. The Post, assisted by the Relief
Corps, erected the present fire monument at a cost of $1,500, all the money being contributed by soldiers who had served in the Civil War. The Cantwell Relief Corps was organized in May, 1886, with twenty-two charter members.

LEWIS MERRIMAN

Lewis Merriman was one of the foremost citizens of Kenton, and a leader in promoting its best business interests. He was born May 4, 1827, at Bucyrus, Ohio, and grew to manhood in Marseilles, Wyandot County, where his parents settled when he was a child. Beginning as a clerk in his father's store, he became familiar with mercantile pursuits, and on April 1, 1850, began business on his own account as a merchant and a dealer in hardware and stocks. He gradually enlarged his operations, and in 1863, erected in Kenton the building now occupied by Woodworth's store. On the first of April, 1854, he established a business in Kenton, still retaining his interests, however, in Marseilles for fifteen years, forming a partnership with the late Anson Norton, under the firm name of Merriman and Norton, and opening a general store on the west side, two years later moving to what is now Bradley's Jewelry Store. In 1868, he erected the building now occupied by Norton's Store, and Merriman and Norton immediately assumed its possession. In September, 1875, Mr. Norton retired and was succeeded by Mr. Merriman's son, Charles C. Merriman. The business was greatly enlarged, being merged into a wholesale notion and men's furnishing business, when the son was taken ill with typhoid fever, from which he died March 24, 1883. A short time later, Mr. Merriman closed out his stock. During these years, in the early seventies, Mr. Merriman was interested in banking and was one of the founders of the present Kenton Savings Bank and Trust Company. In January, 1882, Mr. Merriman was elected President of the Kenton Savings Bank and served in that capacity for the remainder of his life, a period of 23 years. He was also connected with other enterprises, having been the founder of the Home Savings Building and Loan Association, and was a director in the Kenton Gas and Electric Company. He erected four of the five blocks in the business section of the city, while he owned many of Kenton's most important business rooms. He was one of the most extensive real estate owners in Hardin County and the records show scores of real estate transactions. He, with Andrew Carnegie, was the founder of Kenton's Public Library, towards which he gave ten thousand dollars.

Lewis Merriman married Rebecca Hooker, of Marseilles, in February, 1850. She died on October 4, 1900. Their children were Luella, who became the wife of Frank C. Daugherty; Clarabelle, who became the wife of D. T. Rebe; and Adelbert G. Adelbert G.'s son, Richard R., is now carrying on the interests of this pioneer family and is connected with the Kenton Savings Bank and Trust Company.
DANIEL FLANAGAN

Daniel Flanagan, for many years editor and principal owner of The Kenton Democrat, died at his late home on North Main Street on the 14th day of February, 1901. He was born in County Clare, Ireland, in 1840, and came with his parents to this country in 1848. They landed at New Orleans, and later came to Butler County, Ohio, where the young man grew to mature years. From Butler County he went to the office of the Cincinnati Enquirer, where he learned the trade of a printer, and he remained there, after acquiring the trade, as a reporter. His residence in Kenton dates from December 8, 1866, the Sunday on which the Catholic Church of this city was dedicated by Archbishop Pecorel. He soon made a bargain with Charles Zahn for the Advocate, supposed to be the organ of the Hardin County Democracy, but in those dark hours of Democracy immediately following the war it took a courageous man indeed to successfully publish a Democratic paper. But Daniel Flanagan demonstrated that he had the required ability. Changing the name of the paper to the Kenton Democrat, he made it a paper that won for itself and its editor a reputation more than local. He was soon known over Ohio as the editor of one of the staunchest organs of Democracy, and yet while always a Democrat with an almost idolatrous devotion to party
be so conducted himself among his fellows that he won many friends in the camp of his political opponents.

From 1879 until 1885, Mr. Flanagan edited the Herald of Delaware, D. S. Fisher, of Warren, being the proprietor of the Democrat. While editing the Herald Mr. Flanagan secured control of the Union Democrat of Urbana and conducted the two papers for three years. In 1885, by a transfer of properties, he again assumed control of the Kenton Democrat and held it until his death. Associating with him his brother Thomas and his brother-in-law, Alfred Mathews, he erected a fine home for the Democrat on East Franklin Street, and the paper has been issued from that office to the present time. His good and faithful wife, who was Clothilda B. Mathews, a daughter of Bernard Mathews, deceased, a most prominent and well-to-do pioneer, preceded him in death. Mrs. Flanagan was a woman of the noblest attributes, ever an influence to highest attainments of character, and one whose life was rich in deeds of kindness. It was truly said of her that she was one of God's loveliest creatures. Her death hastened that of Mr. Flanagan.

Daniel Flanagan was a distinct type, a type of editor now fast disappearing. He was an editor in practice as well as theory, who felt it his stern duty to be ever present at his office looking after the management of his paper. The children surviving are: Curran E. Flanagan, present editor of the Daily Democrat, Helen G. Flanagan, and Irene Flanagan Dugan (Mrs. Frank O. Dugan).

Since Mr. Flanagan’s death, his son, Curran E., has been president of the company, and editor of the paper, though his period of service with the paper has extended over a period of 45 years. Mr. and Mrs. Flanagan reside on North Main Street, Kenton. Mrs. Flanagan was Corrin Ablefield, daughter of the late Nathan and Corrin Ablefield, prominent pioneer citizens of Hardin County. Two sons, William Ablefield Flanagan and James Ablefield Flanagan, reside in Los Angeles, California.

LIEUT. THURMAN G. FLANAGAN

Born, August 30, 1889. Died, October 5, 1918.

There out into the stillness echoed the soft notes of taps, and all that was mortal of Lieut. Thurman G. Flanagan was buried in St. Mary’s Cemetery, in Kenton, on Friday, July 22, 1919. On that day the citizenship of Kenton paused to do honor to one of her most prominent soldier citizens. Thurman G. Flanagan, son of Daniel Flanagan, founder of the Kenton Daily Democrat, was the only native born Hardin County commissioned officer to make the supreme sacrifice on the battlefields of France. He was also the only graduate of the Kenton High School to lose his life in that conflict; and was the only newspaper man in the county to be killed in battle. He graduated with high honors in the Class of 1907; and the 1919 annual Echo of the Kenton High School was dedicated in his memory in the following words: “To Lieutenant Thurman G. Flanagan, the only one of Kenton’s high school soldier sons called upon to sacrifice his life for his country and world freedom on the field of honor in the World War, we in gratitude
and as a humble expression of appreciation of his valor and great citizenship, dedicate this high school annual. As he lived among us honorably, so he died for us nobly." One lone star of gold now gleams from the service flag of the Kenton High School, embalming the memory of Lieutenant Flanagan.

After his graduation from Kenton High School he attended Ohio State University enrolling in journalism. This completed, he returned to Kenton, renewing his association with the Daily Democrat. He rose rapidly to the position of assistant manager and associate editor, in which capacity he was serving when he volunteered. He entered the Officers' Training School at Fort Sheridan, Chicago; and at the completion of his training service he was commissioned Second Lieutenant, ranking 12th in a class of 900 officers. Because of his high standing he was selected for immediate overseas duty, and after a few days' furlough spent with his brother and sisters in Kenton, he sailed for France in January, 1918. He engaged in the thickest of the conflict and was distinguished for remarkable coolness and fearlessness. In the early morning of October 1, 1918, while leading an assault, in the advance on the Meuse-Argonne, he was mortally wounded and died the following morning. He was buried in a little American cemetery on a beautiful hill near the village of Semamont sur Meuse, where his grave was kept green until his remains were brought to Kenton on July 21, 1921. On the next day, under the auspices of the Kenton Post of the American Legion, a military funeral was conducted. The services were held in the Church of Immaculate Conception, where Rev. Father Schumacher delivered a most impressive oration. His complete address was published in that day's issue of the Daily Democrat. In the same issue appeared a beautiful tribute to his memory by Attty. James Ray Stillings. Grant Moore, advertising manager of the paper, wrote an excellent oration of Thurnman's career; while Charles E. Bors, city editor, sketched the outstanding principles of his character. Carl W. Smith wrote an eloquent editorial, which is quoted as follows: "He kept the faith. It isn't the fact that he is gone that counts—but how he lived and why. He kept the faith. When the test of war came, he went forth modestly and unadorned, but with the dauntless spirit of a Crusader. Unafraid and uncomplaining, he accepted the full obligation and responsibility of American citizenship. At a supreme moment in history, when the fierce fires of awful conflict searched and sifted the souls of men, he measured up to the finest ideals and the noblest aspirations of the human heart. Out on the frontiers of freedom he fell, 'going forward, in front of his men, when he was hit.' He gave his life for his fellowmen. No man can do more. And in that last hour I know that in his heart was a song of triumph, for he had ascended the mountain peaks of his own ideals and had achieved his own conception of the fullest life. For his life has counted. In front of his men, he went forward into immortality. The crash of musketry has echoed above his grave; but his soul is marching on. His tent is pitched upon the camp-ground of eternity. With his comrades who sleep, he has earned the undying gratitude of humanity and has written his name among the immortals of the republic.

NATHAN AHLEFELD

Nathan Ahlefeld was born December 19, 1833, in Richland County, Ohio, son of Rhinardt and Phoebe (Young) Ahlefeld. His father emigrated to the United States in 1818, living for a time in Baltimore. He then removed to Richland County, Ohio, where he was married; and then moved to Allen County in 1849. In 1859, he came to Hardin County, selecting his home in Liberty Township near Ada, where he died in 1871. Nathan Ahlefeld was reared on a farm. He and his brother, Peter, and William Cary of Kenton, founded the Citizens Bank of Ada in 1873. He remained in the banking
business at Ada until 1881, when he moved to Kenton. He served one term as County Auditor.

On May 22, 1856, he was married to Miss Celia E. Wiley, a native of Franklin County, Ohio. Their children were: Ida, who became the wife of J. Frank Andrews, well-known and prominent Kenton citizen; Albert G., who erected the stately Ashfield Building on the southwest corner of the square, and who was one of Kenton’s prominent citizens; Effie, who became the wife of J. B. Andrews; and Cora, who is the wife of Cuyra F. Flanagan. Neil Ashfield, son of Albert, now represents the interests of this pioneer family with his offices in the Ashfield Building in Kenton.

THE RUTLEDGE FAMILY

Through five generations the Rutledge family has been prominent in the history of Hardin County. Thomas Rutledge, born August 3, 1772, came to Hardin County in 1832, and settled near Roundhead, where he died August 30, 1846. His son Richard was born near Hagerstown, Maryland, July 28, 1798, and in 1812 settled in Champaign County, Ohio. Here Richard Rutledge was married to Mary Lewis, also a native of Maryland. A few years later they removed to Logan County, near the present village of Richland, where Mr. Rutledge built a mill on Cherokee Creek, which in time was destroyed by fire. After this loss they decided to push on into the wilderness and in the autumn of 1832 they entered land northwest of Roundhead. Richard Rutledge served many years as Justice of the Peace, often riding long distances through the forests to solemnize the marriage of pioneer couples. He was long identified with the Floydville M.E. Church and was regarded as an honorable Christian gentleman. His death occurred on January 12, 1875. He was twice married, and by his first wife there was a large family of children. Those who lived to maturity were Lewis, Benjamin, Harriet, Richard Jr., and Jefferson. His second wife was Mrs. Sarah (Hill) Lay, a daughter of James Hill, an early pioneer of Roundhead Township. His first wife, Mary Lewis, died in 1845, and the second wife died in 1873, leaving one son, Sampson Rutledge.

LEWIS RUTLEDGE

MRS. JANE THID Rutledge
Lewis Rutledge, eldest son of Richard, was born in Champaign County, Ohio, September 2, 1818. He married Jane Tild, who was born November 15, 1823, in Roundhead Township, the first white female child born in Hardin County. Lewis and Jane Rutledge were married in 1845 and commenced life in the woods in the most humble circumstances. Six children were born of this union, four dying in infancy, while George W. and Charles H. grew to manhood. Lewis Rutledge and his wife were prominent and useful citizens through a long life lived in Roundhead Township. Mrs. Rutledge died on March 17, 1873, and was followed by her husband in June, 1875.

Thomas, the grandfather of Lewis, Richard his father, and Lewis, are all buried in Roundhead Township.

George W. Rutledge, son of Lewis, was born three miles north of Roundhead on August 16, 1851. He was a lover of books and when only sixteen taught his first country school in Taylor Creek Township. He then entered the Northwestern Ohio Normal School at Ada in 1873, and graduated in 1875. For a time he was connected with the Normal School as a teacher, and at one time had a business interest in it. He was a member of the Ohio State Senate for a few years, but in 1880 he purchased the Hamilton County Republican at Kenton; and in 1886, when he was elected County Auditor he sold out his interest in the paper. He was seven years in office, being twice elected. He became prominent in the public affairs of Kenton, serving on the Board of Education, was interested in the Kenton Hardware Manufacturing Company, and the Kenton Gas & Electric Company. In 1888, he organized the Home Savings Building and Loan Company, of which he became secretary. He was a Scottish Rite Mason; a member of the M. E. Church; and a staunch Republican. George W. Rutledge was married to Susanna Shuler, a native of Allen County, where she was born on June 20, 1856. Mr. and Mrs. Rutledge were the parents of four children: Earl E., Carl C., Donna D., and Warren W. Mr. Rutledge was at the head of the Bureau of Inspection and Supervision of Public Offices of the State of Ohio at the time of his death on January 18, 1906.

Earl E. Rutledge, present president of the Kenton Republican Company, was born at Ada on August 13, 1874. He was six years old at the time his parents located in Kenton, and there received his education in the public schools. He graduated from high school in 1891, and attended Eastman Business College of Poughkeepsie, New York, graduating from same in June, 1894. He became associated with his father in the insurance business in August of that same year, and continued in this business until November 1, 1906, when he sold a half interest to E. A. Loop, of Crawfordsville, Indiana.
February 4, 1909, Mr. Rutledge bought him out and sold a half interest to E. C. Sells, the firm being Rutledge & Sells. A short time later Mr. Rutledge became identified with the Kenton Republican Company, and for more than 30 years he has been the active head of this well-known newspaper.

April 27, 1899, Earl E. Rutledge married Edna M. Stahl, a daughter of C. A. and Elizabeth (Fisk) Stahl. Their only son, Edwin S. Rutledge, was born September 10, 1903; graduated from Kenton High School in 1921, and from Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, in 1925, with a degree of Ph. B. He entered the newspaper publishing business with his father in 1927, as editor of The News-Republican. He was married on April 18, 1931, to Miss Ruth Spicer, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. D. M. Spicer, of Lakewood, Ohio.

REMINISCENCES BY VINTON STILLINGS OF LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

"The great fire took place prior to the Civil War and burned the frame buildings on the southwest corner of the public square.

"Many incidents of that fire come to mind. It was the first big fire I ever saw. I shall never forget the Negro Drivers. They were after runaway slaves—big men dressed in new Sunday clothes, armed with horse pistols; one had his horse pistols sticking out of his boots. There were no fire engines or water works in Kenton and they helped to pass water in buckets and tubs and all Kenton helped; but it burned everything from Detroit Street to McKinney's Grocery on the alley. The Negro Drivers were from Kentucky and stopped at Eglin Hotel. Kenton was then on the main underground railway,
which aided runaway slaves from Kentucky to escape to lake ports, then to Canada. They came through Kenton on account of the marsh, where they were fed on corn meal and molasses.

In the midst of the fire there was a great crash and some heavy machinery fell from the attic of a burning building to the cellar. This was supposed to be counterfeiters' machinery to make counterfeit state money for Indiana. A large cube of iron 2 ft. x 2 ft. x 2 ft. was used as a stamp, cracked from the attic to the cellar. This cube was taken to Bloom's foundry and bored out, made into a cannon, placed in the Court House yard and used for many years to fire salutes on the Fourth of July, etc."

The back date of May 4, 1833, Vinton Stillings wrote from Leavenworth, Kansas, as follows:

"One of the items I forgot to tell you about was the good fishing in the Scioto River, down at the drift, between Kenton and Gary's Dam. At the latter place, there was always good fishing. Old Sammy Campbell, who used to sing at day-break, would often be found at one of these fishing places.

"In those days, the Scioto marsh was a big swamp and no man dared enter it without a guide, and if he did, and made a mis-step, he would sink out of sight in the black ooze. This brought many urged drivers to Kenton in search of runaway slaves, who were concealed in the marsh by friends.

"There were four passenger locomotives on the Stadusky, Dayton and Cincinnati railroad (the Big Four), greatly admired by all. They were named: The Niagara, painted red; the Mississippi, painted brown; the Ohio, painted green; and the Scioto, painted yellow.

"P. S.: It was just this time of the year, May, 1833, that we left Kenton for Kansas. I shall never forget the day. The whole town seemed to be at the depot; some of the women were crying, and all said we would soon come back. Kansas was thought further away than China is now."

THE McCloud DEED

One of the valuable relics owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Rarre of Cassina Township, is the original deed executed February 27, 1844, by William McCloud and Elizabeth, his wife, when he sold the property, now known as the Rarre farm, to David Goslin. It will be recalled that Mr. McCloud and his family lived in Fort McArthur at the time Kenton was established, and that Mrs. McCloud was the one who named the new town "Kenton." The two signatures of McCloud and Elizabeth, his wife, are plainly written and still very legible. McCloud had purchased this property of 90 acres on December 24, 1835, for $120.

Mrs. Rarre is the proud possessor of a valuable piece of antique furniture in the form of a straight-bark chair, which was the property of Thurston Raynor, her grandfather five times removed. It was brought from England in 1634.

HISTORICAL SIDELIGHTS

During the preparation of this work, many interesting incidents came to the author's attention. A few are here related.

In the early thirties, a great storm passed over Dudley Township and near the Marion County line great forest trees were laid low, being uprooted in a way that furnished a great field for the cultivation of crops. The Indiana had partly cleared up the underbrush and burned the logs. All that was necessary was to plant the corn and watch it grow. The early settlers of Dudley Township left their families in camp their first summer in the county, going to the "Windfall" to raise their crops. A few of these were: Moses Dudley, for whom the township was named; Jacob Dirck, George Elry, John G. Marks, Solomon Goss, William Salmon, Ava Davis, Joshua Cope. Abraham
John Henry, Harvey Chapman, Samuel Cofiner, Josiah Roby and Miles Van Fleet. John Henry donated the land for the present Lee Cemetery, in which place he is buried. His death occurred August 12, 1863. Samuel Cofiner, born in Rhode Island, January 22, 1769, settled in Dudley Township in 1831 and died March 30, 1833. He was probably the first to die in Dudley Township, and was the first person buried in the Lee Cemetery. Harvey Chapman, Sr., was the father of Harvey Chapman, jeweler in Kenton for many years. Miles Van Fleet deposited the first vote ever cast in Dudley Township, serving as Clerk of the first election. He died April 11, 1892, aged 87. Joshua Cope, Sr., was born in Virginia in 1781, and settled in Dudley Township in February, 1833. He was an early commissioner of the county. He died in 1851. John Lastimore, a native of Kentucky, located opposite the old Wheeler Tavern, in 1830. He was in the War of 1812, and passed through Dudley Township in September, 1813, with Gen. Shelby's troops. Twenty-three years later he passed over the same trail making the "Indian Crossing" his home.

The first election in Dudley Township, 1834, resulted in 10 votes for Duncan McArthur for Governor, and 10 for Robert Lucas.

When Bernard Mathews, father of Alfred Mathews of the Kenton Democrat, came to Kenton in 1834, he and his wife drove into the town in a covered wagon. Mrs. Mathews wore a silk dress, the first in the county.

James Madison Lombard, father of Ralph Lombard, Court House custodian, was a traveling tailor. He made clothes for the early pioneers of Kenton in a small log tailor-shop when on his trips from Maysville, his home town, to a village larger than Kenton. Ralph is the only surviving child of six sons and four daughters.

The fine old brick house on North Detroit Street, long the home of the Gage family, was erected by William Cary, the founder of one of Kenton's early banks.—The old James White house, now used as the Kenton City Building, was erected by Alexander S. Ramsey, a prominent early attorney, who came to Kenton in 1834—William A. Norton is of the opinion that Samuel Hale, who for some time resided on a farm on the Ridgeview Pike just north of the Fulton Airport place, was a direct descendant of Alfred Hale, the county's first settler who lived at Fort McArthur.

About 30 years ago, when taking a curve out of the road along the Carothers farm, north of Kenton three miles, an Indian burial ground was discovered. Several bodies were found in a sandy ridge along the road. The author found two bodies of Indians, one with a string of copper beads around the neck. The skulls and some bones were preserved for many years. The author's brother, Veld, and his cousin, Russell, each found a body the same afternoon.

Mrs. Minnie Icheler Kohler, author of "The Twentieth Century History of Hardin County," possesses one of the rarest relics in Hardin County. It is probably a medal awarded to some French soldier for military service, and bears the date of 1796 plainly legible. It has an inscription in French meaning "the brave soldier of the legion—Beaujarte." It was found by Mrs. Kohler when a girl, on the Joseph Icheler farm in Buck Township, not far from an old trail used by the French traders as early as 1750.

Hardin County furnished Kansas with three Governors.

Nehemiah Green, born at Grassie Point, Hale Township, March 8, 1837, and died at Manhattan, Kansas, January 12, 1896. Went to Kansas in 1855. Educated at O. W. U. at Delware, Ohio; in 1860, became a Methodist minister; in 1862, enlisted in the 8th O. N. I. serving as a Lieut. in Co. B. Later served in the 153rd Ohio until the close of the war; was then pastor of the M. E. Church at Manhattan, Kansas. In November, 1866, was elected Linn
tenant Governor, and when Governor Crawford resigned in November, 1868, he became Governor. He was president elder of the Manhattan District in 1870-71; and served in the State Legislature in 1881; his brother, George S. Green, was in the same session.

**Thomas Carney**, a native of Delaware County, lived in Kenton for several years, being employed in the earliest dry goods stores. In Nov., 1851, he married Rebecca Ann Kennedy, of Kenton. He later moved to Illinois, then to Leavenworth, Kansas. He was elected to the State Legislature in 1861 and on Jan. 12, 1863, was inaugurated Governor. In 1873, he retired from active business, and died on July 28, 1888, aged 68. Four sons grew to manhood. Mrs. Carney died at Leavenworth on September 25, 1893.

**William Eugene Stanley** was born in Knox County, Ohio, December 28, 1844; but in 1846, he removed with his parents to the village of Patterson, where his father, Dr. A. F. Stanley, was a prominent physician. W. E. Stanley attended the village school, and later O. W. U. at Delaware. He then read law with Bain & King in Kenton, where he was admitted to the bar in 1866. In 1870, he went to Jefferson County, Kansas, where he was elected county attorney. In 1872, he went to Wichita, serving as county attorney three terms; in 1878, he was elected to the State Legislature; and twenty years later was elected Governor of Kansas and re-elected in 1900. He was a member of the Dawes Commission in 1903. His sisters, Carrie and Harriet Stanley, were teachers in Kenton for many years.

**John Callam**, prominent lumber dealer in Kenton for many years, was born in Toronto, Canada, in 1839. His father, Peter Callam, was a native of Scotland. John Callam came to Kenton in 1874, and established the Michigan Lumber Yard. He was married in Saginaw, Michigan, in 1870, to Miss Isabella J. Reid, a native of Buffalo. Their four children were Nellie J., George A., Hattie B., and Bessie. George A. is active in the business interests of Kenton.

**G. J. Carter**, long identified with the Champion Iron Company, was born in Lenawee County, Michigan, in 1853. He was a son of Richard and Mary (Bolton) Carter, the former a native of Ireland, the latter of Michigan. His father removed to Oswego County, New York, where he died. G. J. Carter studied dentistry under Dr. Gantz at Ligonier, Indiana, and in 1876, completed a course in dentistry at the University of Michigan. The same summer, he located in Kenton, where he later became prominent in the industrial life of the city. He was married in Noble County, Indiana, in 1875, to Miss Pyresa Pancake. Their children were: Lloyd, Eda and Clara.

**H. W. Gramlich**, President of the First Commercial National Bank of Kenton, was born in Cassia Township, this county, in June, 1835. He is the son of John F. and Julia (Eust) Gramlich, both natives of Witterburg, Germany. His parents emigrated to America in 1838, locating the same year in Hardin County, settling on 117 acres of government land in Cassia Township, where the family resided for forty-four years, moving to Kenton in 1882. Henry W. Gramlich attended the Northwestern Normal School at Ada; taught school in the winter and worked on the farm in summer. In 1878, he entered the Hardin Savings Bank, now the First National, as cashier, and, at this writing, has been identified with the bank for 35 years.

**A. B. Johnson**, for years a prominent attorney in Kenton, and one of its outstanding citizens, was born in Norwalk, Ohio, September 9th, 1843. He was the only son of William P. and Betty (Bell) Johnson, both natives of Massachusetts. His parents settled in Huron County in 1835. A. B. Johnson secured his primary education in Wellington, Ohio, and graduated from Oberlin College in 1864. He then taught school and read law; served as superintendent of the Kenton Schools, completing his law course in the Union
Law College of Cleveland; and beginning the practice of law in Kenton in August, 1866. He was married in July, 1866, to Miss Louise Crane, daughter of George W. Crane, of Medina County. Their children were: Cedric E., Ethel G., Burke L., Kent P., Cecil and Louise. Mr. Johnson served as mayor of Kenton, member of the School Board, Prosecuting Attorney and Common Pleas Judge.

J. C. Miller, boot and shoe merchant on the north side of the square for many years, was born on Long Island, New York, on July 27, 1838, a son of Enoch and Amy (Goulding) Miller. Mr. Miller came to Kenton in 1858 and opened a small shoe shop near the present Big Four depot, making shoes at the bench for ten years. He opened his store on the north side of the square in 1876, and in partnership with his son, Henry P., continued the business until very recent years. Mr. Miller was married to Miss Caroline Raynor on Long Island in 1852. Their children were Henry J., of Kenton, born on Long Island, April 14, 1855, and Emma W., born in Kenton Nov. 9, 1862, and now the wife of Ralph W. Ransy of Crossa Township. The old Miller homestead stands for years on the site of the present new post office.

John H. Smick, prominent attorney of Kenton, now in his 80th year, was born in Canton, Ohio, on January 29, 1848, a son of Solomon S. and Margaret (Pettcher) Smick. Receiving his early education in the Union Schools of Canton, John H. Smick, at the age of sixteen, enlisted in 1864 in the Second Ohio Cavalry, which was assigned to Custer's Division of Gen. Sheridan's army, and served until the close of the war. In 1867, he located in Ada, as manager of his father's saw mill. He was admitted to the bar in 1873, and opened his first law office in Ada. When he was elected prosecuting attorney he moved to Kenton in 1879, and has continued his practice here for 54 years. On January 1, 1889, he formed a partnership with Hamilton E. Hoge. Mr. Smick was married on January 8, 1869, to Hannah Ekenrode. Their children were: Stanton, Mary E., Anna and Bessie.

Edward Sorgen, Sr., for many years a prominent furniture dealer on the east side of the square, was born in Switzerland in 1842, a son of Nicholas and Mary A. Sorgen. Mr. Sorgen came to Kenton in 1855, in 1861, he enlisted in Company G, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving throughout the war. He fought at Chancellorsville and at Gettysburg, where he was taken prisoner and confined in Andersonville and several other southern prisons. He was finally paroled at Vicksburg and when on board the steamer Sultana, which exploded near Memphis, he barely escaped death. He was mustered out at Columbus and came to Kenton, establishing the store now carried on by his son, Edward H. Sorgen. In 1867, he was married to Miss Catherine M. Fink. Their children were: Edward H., Mary C., Clara and Eloise.

REMINISCENCES OF KENTON—1847 TO 1860

This article is largely quotations from an early file in the office of the News-Republican which was kindly suggested to the author by Earl Rutledge.

Masonic Lodge. On June 17, 1848, a dispensation for the organization of Latham Lodge was made and on Sept. 26, the Grand Lodge of Ohio granted the charter. The lodge was named in honor of Bela Latham, close friend of Col. John Stevens, Hardin County's first Mason. The first meeting of the lodge was the initiation of E. G. Spelman—Dec. 27, 1849. First Hardin County men leave for the gold fields of California—First Masonic funeral in the county over the remains of E. G. Carlin. In 1849, Pelham and Addison Heath built a saw mill on the site of the present Martin farm. A plank road was built from this mill to the Teeters farm by the Heaths and Curtis Wilkin. The Ingman Block (where McCoy's Drug Store now stands) first brick business block built in 1851.—The population of Hardin County, 1860.
was 216. Taxes collected 1835: McDonald Township, $455.60; Taylor Creek, $661.66; Dudley, $270.75; Cashen, $40.87; Pleasant, $134.90; Jackson, $9.91; Roundhead, $109.41; Blanchard, $14.62; Cessna, $18.90; Hale, $445.39; Marston, $8.68.

June 8, 1847. The first passenger coach passed through Kenton on Mad River Railroad.—Oct., 1847. All good roads in the county are now regular toll highways.—March 5, 1850. Harlin Co. men who went to California dug gold were: Drs. J. H. Delong, who died there; H. Reyce, W. W. Nison, A. Goudes, J. Faught, G. B. Berry, Dan Shoot and M. Woff. Dr. Leighton staked several of them. Late in the spring, Preston Faught took Benedict Steiner, David Mestzer and Samuel Kelly. Daniel Show's party of 17 disembarked in Missouri, east of funds.—Sept. 18, 1850. The Grand Jury declared the old log jail a nuisance.—Dec. 11. Large black bear killed by Rob. Gruen near Six Mile Schoolhouse on Roundhead Pike.—Feb. 14, 1851. A Company organized with capital of $50,000 to build a plank road from Kenton to Findlay. D. Thomson, David Snodgrass and J. S. Robinson interested in project. William J. Walker delivered an address on the subject.—July 4, 1851. First appearance of women on the streets in bloomers costume.

Oct. 22, 1851. First Hardin County Fair held on the N. E. corner of the Square. (Other early historians say it was on vacant land on West Columbus St. Evidently this is in error.)—Dec. 31, 1851. German band organized in Kenton with Henry Price, leader.—Sept. 25, 1852. Barnum showed for first time in Kenton. Came in large wagon, elephants drawing cars of juggernaut, Gen. Tom Thumb along. Admission 25c. Showed on site of Stebbins home, corner Detroit and Carroll Sts.—Sept. 20, Big Whig rally held in Kenton to launch campaign of Gen. Scott for President.—July 1, 1853. Lucifer match factory in Washington Turn owned by James E. Moses. Turned out a thousand gross of matches per week.—Sept. 16, 1853. First circus to come to Kenton via the Mad River railroad.—Population of Kenton in 1854 was 1351 against 1054 in 1850.

Nov. 16, 1854. Large wolf, 6 ft. 8 in. from tip to tip, killed west of Kenton by Thomas T. Austin.—Jan. 25, 1854. County Treasurer robbed of $2760. Safe unlocked by skeleton key; $7285 was in the safe, the balance being overlooked. Dr. U. P. Leighton, Treasurer.—July 14, 1854. An express train on Mad River Railroad ran from Kenton to Bellefontaine, 24 miles in 24 minutes. Fastest train speed on record.—Oct. 4, 1854. Uncle Tom's Cabin first showed in Kenton under big tent.—Oct. 8, 1854. The Disciple Church dedicated their first frame building on N. Main St.—Current prices 1854: wheat, $1.65; corn, 38c; oats, 31c; potatoes, 75c.—Jan. 10, 1855. First plank road being built east and west of square.—July 21, 1857. J. N. Fehr, "the immortal J. N.", made a speech in Court House. He was candidate for State Legislature.

Oct. 1, 1857. Union Schools located in 3rd floor of Kinnear Bldg. 305 pupils enrolled. C. E. Smith, Bellefontaine, Supt., succeeding D. W. Littlefield.—Oct. 1, 1857. Dr. E. B. Hiastand comes to Kenton from North Washington.—Feb., 1858. First red petticoats worn by Kenton women created not a little comment.—Sept., 1858. A. M. Davis bought the Democrat paper of Stevens & Hunt, and A. S. Ramsey became editor.—March 12, 1859. Grand wheeling match just south of town. It cost 10c to enter. Contestants had to wheel wheelbarrows 150 feet blindfolded and strike stump four feet in diameter. The one striking it nearest the center got the pot.—May 3, 1859. Remsen John, largest man in the county, killed by a falling tree at Velverton. He was 6 ft. 7 in. and weighed over 300 lbs.—June 4, 1859. Heavy frost. Crops damaged.

July 22, 1859. Land appraisers reported average value of land to be $9.00
per acre—Aug. 31, 1839. A balloonist who left Ft. Wayne at 11:00 a.m. arrived here at 1:30, and landed in the Hog Creek Marsh, where he stuck in the mud.—Oct. 2, 1839. School Board admitted negro children to public schools, and by vote of the people the following spring, the action of the Board was approved.—Feb., 1860. Ed. D. Wheeler, son of Judge Porius Wheeler, appointed cadet to West Point.—Mar. 19, 1860. First sleeping car goes through Kenton.—June 2, 1860. Lincoln and Hamlin clubs organized throughout the county.—July 27, 1860. Wm. Pool began erection of a wagon factory on E. Franklin St., Oct. 6, 1860. Spanish Merino sheep introduced in county by Wm. Thompson.—Nov. 9, 1860. Lincoln carries county by large majority.

**EARLY KENTON LODGES**

Scioto Chapter, No. 119, Royal Arch Masons.—On June 2, 1860, a dispensation was granted to David Thomson, W. H. Phillips, James M. White,

![The Masonic Temple](https://example.com/masonic-temple.jpg)

**THE MASONIC TEMPLE**

Edmund Cary, J. H. Harrod, Andrew Vance, A. W. Jones, A. P. Cutting, John F. Henkle, Charles Mains and A. R. Scott to organize the chapter, which was effected on Oct. 10, 1869. The first officers were David Thomson, W. H.; W. H. Phillips, King; and James W. White, Scribe.

Amelitia Lodge, No. 79, I. O. O. F., is the pioneer secret society of Kenton. The dispensation was granted November 21, 1846. The lodge was instituted on February 17, 1847, with the following officers: Jeremiah McLenan, N. G.; S. H. Donnel, V. G.; J. K. Goodin, Sec.; E. T. Stevens, Treas. The lodge was first located in the second story of a brick residence on East Franklin Street, near Cherry Street. Three years later, it moved to the third floor of the Leighton building, on the site of the present St. Nicholas Hotel. In 1857, it moved to the third floor of the new Goodin block, and here it met until the erection of the present Odd Fellows Block in 1878 on the east side of the square.
Scioto Encampment of Patriarchs, No. 159, I. O. O. F., was instituted on May 6, 1874, the dispensation being granted to Luther Farney, M. J. Rockefeld, D. J. Meister, Henry Lofquist, W. J. Kellogg, Curtis Wilkin, F. S. Howe, J. M. Maine and Joseph Erwin. The first Chief Patriarch was Luther Farney.

Latham Lodge, No. 154, F. & A. M., was instituted on June 17, 1848, when a dispensation was granted by M. Z. Krider, G. M. of Ohio, to the following: Abner Root, James Mandleo, J. A. Rogers, John Stevens, John Souls, H. P. Ward, Joseph Ulman, and S. D. Seymour. The first meeting was held on July 14, 1848, and in October the lodge was granted a charter. The first lodge room was located at the N. E. corner of Franklin and Market Sts. The next location was on the west side of the square, until the erection of the Cary and Kinney Block in 1856, when the lodge built the third story of the north half of said block, and occupied it. Upon the erection of the Masonic Block which adjoins the Cary and Kinney Block, the Masons rented the third story for a lodge room, though still owning the old hall. The order held their meetings in the Masonic Block until they purchased their present quarters at Carroll and Main Sts., adding an addition and remodeling the old building until now the order has a most modern and complete lodge building.

COMPANY I BASKETBALL TEAM U. S. CHAMPIONS

Front Row (left to right)—Al Ackerman, Will Ellis, Artie Stahl.

Basketball took possession of Kenton about 1897, and Companies C and J, O. N. G., organized teams. J. D. Deming, H. A. Dora, Jack Pool, Will...
Deakin and Earnest House being very active in getting up the teams and drilling the men. These two rival companies fought for the home championship in the armory before a large crowd and Company 1 won. The other company then disbanded. Under various names enthusiasts of the town played all over the state and in 1899 were the acknowledged champions of Ohio. At this time Ralph V. Crouts was manager. In 1900, with E. S. Anstey as manager, the team won the championship of the United States, and later won a great many victories with all sorts of crack teams from all over the country. Later, Dr. G. J. Carter was given the privilege of renaming the organization, because each year he fitted them out with new uniforms. He called it "The Champions Iron Company Basketball Team," by which name it was known until the team disbanded about 1906. Among the notable victories won by this club were those with the Yale College team, Fremon, Cleveland, Springfield, Columbus, New York, Buffalo, Ohio State University, Fun-da-lac, Stevens Point, Wis., and several teams from Chicago.

The championship team was composed of Will Ellis, R. V.; Al Ackerman, L. E.; Jim Eddy, center; Arthur Stahl, R. G.; and Claude Zindler, L. G. Other members of the team were Warren Ruthledge, Harry Dorn, and Gale Warren. Scott Sharp was the official referee.

CORNERSTONE OF NEW COURTHOUSE LAID

From September 26, 1923, issue of The News-Republican:

"Kenton yesterday opened her heart, her hands and her homes to an invading host of visitors and by her long-to-be-remembered hospitality and enterprise made 'Courthouse Day' a date which will remain a treasured memory.

"The presence of Gov. James Cox added dignity and success to the cornerstone laying. The program was in charge of the local order of Odd Fellows.

"The parade which began shortly before two o'clock was an imposing feature. Hundreds of school children as well as scores of old war veterans added an inspiring touch. Bands galore and drum corps contributed to the general gaiety and when the climax of the day's events was reached in the impressive rite of the cornerstone laying, the visible sea of humanity was thrilled and made to realize the significance of the spectacle.

"E. C. Garrison of Forest, grand chaplain of the I. O. O. F. of Ohio, pronounced the invocation and this was followed by: 'The Star-Spangled Banner' sung by the school children. Judge W. P. Henderson read congratulatory telegrams from President Woodrow Wilson and Congressman F. B. Willis. Judge Henderson then delivered the address of welcome, touching briefly upon the county's history and in fitting language driving home the lesson of what the cornerstone laying of a courthouse meant. Gov. James Cox, next introduced, gave an address containing many sound and worthy thoughts. While speaking of the dignity and significance of the law, he read a quotation from Abraham Lincoln upon 'Reverence for the Law' and asked that it be placed within the cornerstone receptacle, which was done.

"At this point the usual service of the I. O. O. F. for the cornerstone laying was introduced and R. W. Kuntz of Zanesville, state grand master, assisted by other state grand lodge officers, performed the impressive rites. The articles which were placed in the metal box, afterward carefully sealed in the cornerstone, were named aloud as they were deposited within the box.

"The closing address was delivered by John L. Sullivan of East Liverpool, past grand master of the Ohio I. O. O. F."

NEW COURTHOUSE DEDICATED

Hardin County's New $275,000 Courthouse is Dedicated Today. Public interest is centered in dedication of splendid new county structure. Many
Visitors in Attendance.

This beautiful May day will go down in history as one of Hardin County's greatest—one on which a memorable event takes place amid most appropriate scenes. The entire city, thronged with hundreds of visitors, is interested in practically nothing else today, save the exercises, which mark the dedication of Hardin County's beautiful new Courthouse.


The pioneers of Hardin County have witnessed the building and dedication of three county courthouses. Col. W. T. Cessna, pioneer Hardin County man, who came all the way from California to be present at the dedication of the third Hardin County Courthouse to be built within his lifetime, said: "Yes, there is a great change since I was young. But these ought to be. People and affairs are advancing and progress is to be seen everywhere. It is only to be expected that we should today be dedicating the finest structure ever raised in Hardin County."

The formal dedicatory exercises began at one o'clock P. M., when the Auxiliary to the Spanish War Veterans presented A. A. Dole, Superintendent of construction, with a beautiful flag for the Courthouse flag-pole. The ritual service was in charge of Mrs. Reuben Kettle, Mrs. O. P. Magann and Mrs. Dennis Gercrich. The presentation address was given by Mrs. Reuben Kettle. Old Glory was then run to the top of the flag-pole. The program of addresses was next in order, after which the new building was thrown open to the public.


(From the News-Republican, Wednesday, May 12, 1915.)

HARDIN COUNTY OFFICIALS IN CENTENNIAL YEAR

Representative—Eliza Limes.
Commissioners—Peter M. Duff, Grover C. McElree and Elmer J. Ramey.
Treasurer—P. C. Lingel.
Auditor—Lester McDaniel.
Recorder—Harvey Ferber.
Surveyor—Russell L. Harvey.
Sheriff—Wilbur Mitchell.

Judge Court of Common Pleas—H. E. Hoge.
Judge Probate Court—G. B. DeWitt.
Prosecuting Attorney—Harry L. Kaylor.
Clerk of Courts—Ray W. Patterson.
Coroner—Dr. Floyd M. Elliott.

County Superintendent of Schools—Frank C. Ransdell.
County Board of Education—F. D. Huston, W. N. Mundy, Elza Limes, W. P. Woods and Ralph Daniels.
County Board of School Examiners—P. W. Thomas, Minnie Johnston and Frank C. Ransdell.
TO THE NEW COURTHOUSE

We watch thy massive walls arise
Upon that cherished square,
And all the hopes that free souls prize
Are building with thee—there.
Thou art of us, and what in thee
For well or woe betide
Shall mark for Hardin's sons to be
Our height, is axiom in pride.

May rumor stay below,
When crime goes up thy stately stair
And justice waiting calmly there,
Into her balance throw
No hint save sweet mercy's plea,
That he who leaves thy door,
May go, not filled with hate toward thee—
But strong to pay life's score.

May greed within thy splendid halls
Strick in their guardian's sweep
And sham'd by love built in thy walls
May sell to hiding creep.
There art of us, faith overcoming fears,
We build ourselves in thee,
Take thou this message to the years,
"Their souls were high, and free."

—Elina Wallace Durbin.
The Fearless and Daring Exploits of
Col. John Hardin

One of the most gallant and patriotic names in American History is that of Hardin. Running through the records of the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War, and the numerous campaigns against the Indian tribes of the West, the name of Hardin is frequent. Among the most prominent of these early patriots, are John, Mark and Martin Hardin. Martin, father of our hero, lived with his family in a humble log-cabin in Fanquier County, Virginia, where his son, Col. John Hardin was born on October 1, 1753. During his childhood, the French and Indian War raged with great fury along the frontier, and as a mere lad, John Hardin heard the tales of Indian warfare discussed in his Virginia home. These impressions were stamped vividly in his memory.

At the close of the French and Indian conflict, which resulted in a British victory, Martin Hardin removed with his family, to George's Creek in the Monongahela Valley in what is now western Pennsylvania. Mr. Hardin thought, however, that he was still in Virginia. This was about 1766. John was then a strong, robust boy, and although only twelve, had acquired considerable skill with a rifle. Many a day, as a youth, he spent in the forests, hunting deer, bear and buffalo. On several occasions while in his teens, he took part in repelling Indian forays and in avenging their victims. This experience developed his ability as a skillful hunter and marksman and the excitement appealed to his fancy and imagination.

In the spring of 1774, before he was 23, young Hardin was appointed ensign in a militia company, commanded by Capt. Zack Morgan, and shortly afterward in a skirmish with a band of Indians, he was wounded above the knee, while firing his gun on bended knee. The bullet lodged near the groin and was never extracted. Before he had fully recovered he joined the noted expedition of Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, in that long march over the mountains against the Indians in the lower Scioto Valley; and participated in all of its important engagements. Returning, Hardin planned an overland journey to Kentucky, a land he had never seen, but of which he had heard much during "Dunmore's War." It was his intention to make Kentucky his home.

However, his plans were very materially changed, for about the time he was to leave for Kentucky, the Battles of Lexington and Concord opened the Revolutionary War. His restless nature found expression in recruiting a body of sharpshooters. He enlisted with this company in the new Continental army and at length was commissioned a second-lieutenant. His company was attached to the rifle-corps of General Daniel Morgan, most celebrated and widely known regiment of sharpshooters of the Revolution. The exploits of this company of expert riflemen would fill a volume. That winter, Hardin was recognized as one of the most daring of scouts, is borne out by the fact that he was personally commanded by General Morgan himself; and won the confidence and respect of the intrepid Richard Butler, by whom he was frequently entrusted with the most perilous assignments.

On one of these occasions, Hardin was on a reconnoitering expedition, with orders to take a prisoner, for the purpose of obtaining information. Marching silently in advance of his party, he reached the top of an abrupt hill where he met three British soldiers and a Mohawk Indian. It was a critical moment. Hardin instantly presented his rifle, and ordered the party...
to surrender. The soldiers threw down their arms, and the Indian clubbed his gun, as if to wage no conflict. The men stood still as Hardin advanced, but none of his men having come up, Hardin saw the need of assistance. He turned his head slightly, and called to his men. At that moment the Indian observed Hardin withdraw his eye, the savage reversed his gun, ready to fire. The gleam of light reflected from the polished barrel, meant quick action on Hardin's part, who instantly raised his rifle to a level of his own hands, and fired. On that quick movement depended Hardin's life or death. The Indian received a deadly wound; who, also, being in the succeeding moment sent a bullet through Hardin's hair. The three British soldiers were taken to the camp of the Americans, and the desired information obtained. This adventure is depicted in a fine painting on the ceiling of the south rotunda of the new Court House. For this successful adventure Lieut. Hardin received the thanks of General Gates, American Commander of the Northern Army. After over four years in the Continental army, Hardin resigned his commission in December, 1779, having been honorably discharged for his meritorious services with the rank of First Lieutenant.

Carrying out his original intention of visiting Kentucky, Hardin, in 1780 journeyed to a point about fifty miles southwest of the present City of Lexington, in what is now Washington County, where he located several tracts of land on treasury warrants. However, he did not take his family to this region until after the close of the Revolution. Finally in April, 1789, after the western frontier seemed less dangerous from Indian attacks, he removed his family to their new home.

From this time on, there was not a military expedition of any consequence in which Hardin did not participate, except that of Gen. Arthur St. Clair. He was prevented from joining the army of St. Clair, because of lameness, resulting from an accidental injury while using a carpenter's square.

In the summer following the inauguration of President Washington, the Indian tribes on the extreme western frontier began to give evidence of hostility. Washington, accordingly, authorized the calling out of the militia, 1,000 from Ohio and 500 from Kentucky, to insure the needed protection to the settlers. Gen. Arthur St. Clair had been appointed Governor of the newly organized Northwest Territory, which gave him command of the army of the territory. The Indians along the Wabash, in what is now Indiana, had been stealing the horses of many Kentucky settlers. Late in the summer of 1789, Colonel John Hardin, as County-Lieutenant of the Kentucky Militia, made a foray against them. A company of 200 well mounted volunteers was organized with Colonel Hardin in command. The expedition set out on August 26, 1789. Hardin led his men across the Ohio River at the Falls, then through the almost unbroken forest to the Wabash country where, without the loss of a single man, a very important Indian village was destroyed and a small party of Indians killed.

The cavalrymen returned home on Sept. 28, 1789. This was the first blow by the new Kentucky militia which opened the Indian wars in the Ohio country, which cost so dearly in lives and property.

The next year, Colonel Hardin took a most prominent part in the expedition of General Josiah Harmar against the Indians in the upper Maumee valley, where some of their largest villages were located. Governor St. Clair hoped to bring them under complete control of the U. S. Government, hence Harmar's campaign is regarded as the first major attempt of President Washington to subdue the savages, and open the entire Northwest Territory to settlement. On October 4, 1790 the army under command of General Harmar departed from Fort Washington, site of Cincinnati. It was composed of 320 well trained regulars, and artillery with 3 rather light brass cannons; 1138
Kentucky Militiamen and a battalion of Pennsylvania infantrymen. They marched north to the St. Mary's River, thence down that stream toward the present City of Fort Wayne, Indiana. On October 14, Colonel Hardin, with a company of regulars and six hundred of the Militia was ordered to advance at once to the Miami villages, 35 miles away, to give battle to the Indians, who, it was learned from a captured Shawnee were preparing to evacuate their towns.

Hardin's detachment, by a forced march of two days reached the source of the Maumee only to find the villages already abandoned. The Indians, in their hurried departure, left behind a number of cows and vast quantities of vegetables and corn. The largest village on the bank of the St. Joseph River had been destroyed by fire presumably to prevent the army from using their comfortable cabins for winter quarters. However, upon General Harmer's arrival, he ordered all the dwellings in the neighboring villages burned, numbering 188 according to his official report.

Colonel Hardin's troops fell to plundering the ruins of the burned village and it was with some difficulty that the soldiers were brought under control. Finally the colonel ordered his men to prepare a camp in the immediate vicinity of the burned Indian village. The next problem was to discover the whereabouts of the savages. Several scouts were sent out, but no favorable reports returned.

On October 18, 1790, General Harmer sent out 300 men under Colonel Trotter, with orders to thoroughly scour the country for the hidden Indians. They were well provided with three days rations. The party discovered only two struggling Indians whom they killed and after marching in various directions during the day, Colonel Trotter returned to the main camp of the army. His unexpected return did not please Gen. Harmer, and upon the request of Col. Hardin, the General permitted him to take the army out for the remaining two days.

Colonel Hardin's detachment followed a trail, for about five miles, in a northwesterly direction, when they came upon an abandoned Indian camp. From this point all the militia companies, except that of Captain Faulkner, were ordered forward. Col. Hardin ordered Faulkner's company to form on the left, and in executing the movement his company fell too far in the rear of the advancing companies. The absence of this company soon became apparent, whereupon Col. Hardin sent Major James Fontaine with a party of cavalrymen in search of Faulkner, thinking his company lost in the woods. About this time, Captain John Armstrong, commander of the regulars, informed Col. Hardin that a shot had been fired in front of the detachment, that seemed to him like an alarm gun, and that the fires of the Indians had been sighted. Col. Hardin, however, stated that the Indians would not fight, and to prove his contention, the colonel rode bravely at the head of the advancing column. Suddenly the Indians fired a deadly volley from behind their fires into the ranks of Hardin's militia, many of whom had never been in an engagement with savages. This ambush had been skilfully designed by the noted Miami Chief, Little Turtle. With the first fire, most of the militia fled without firing a shot. The regulars stood their ground, making a brave resistance with their bayonets until 22 of the 30 were killed. In the midst of the fight, Captain Armstrong, Ensign Hartshorn, and five privates managed to escape. The ensign was saved by hiding behind a large log, while Armstrong was missed in a muddy swamp, where he was forced to remain during the night, within hearing of the wild war dances of the victorious savages. Next morning the two officers reached the main camp in safety, the Indians retiring to their own camp. In the meantime, Major Vostaine, who had been sent to locate Captain Faulkner's company, came up
and with the aid of the latter's company of militia succeeded in driving the Indians from the scene of conflict. 52 had been killed, making a loss of about 75 including the regulars, under Armstrong. This disaster tended to break the morale of the raw recruits, and practically demoralized the army.

However, the ardor of Colonel Hardin was by no means cooled. He was determined to seek revenge at all costs; even when General Harmar had given orders for the army to return to Fort Washington, still he persisted that something should be done to retrieve his defeat.

Meanwhile, Harmar's retreat had begun. On October 19th, the army moved down the north bank of the Maumee to a small deserted Shawnee village. Here they encamped and the next morning, Harmar issued the following orders:

"The party under the command of Captain Strong is ordered to burn and destroy every house and wigwam in this village, together with all the corn, etc., which he can collect. A party of one hundred men (militia) properly officered, under command of Colonel Hardin, is to burn and destroy this afternoon, the Piquaway town with all the corn, etc. The cause of the detachment being scottered yesterday was entirely owing to the shameless cowardly conduct of the militia, who ran away and threw down their arms without scarcely firing a gun. In returning to Fort Washington, if any officer or man shall presume to quit the ranks, or not to march in the form that they are ordered, the general will most assuredly order the artillery to fire on them. He hopes the check they received yesterday will make them in future obedient to orders."

"Juiaham Harmar, Brigadier General."

While the army was settling itself for the night, Colonel Hardin sought an interview with Gen. Harmar. He informed the commander of his plan to bring victory out of defeat, by returning to the village sites and giving the savages a severe and final punishment which would force them into submission to the Americans and cause them to abandon their British alliance. Harmar listened attentively to the persistent Hardin, but was reluctant to send back a detachment of the army. The colonel urged his request, pleading that as he had been unfortunate in the first conflict with the Indians, he wished to be given authority to pick the militia and restore the honor of the troops and retrieve his own reputation. Harmar finally yielded, giving his consent to the detachment of four hundred men to return to the villages, while the remainder of the army awaited the outcome.

Accordingly late in the night of October 21st, 340 picked militiamen and sixty regulars under command of Major John P. Wyllys were ordered forward that they might gain the vicinity of the Miami villages before daybreak, and thus in surprise attack, inflict a crushing defeat upon the allied forces of the redmen, under Chief Little Turtle. Colonel Hardin was given full command of the detachment. The little army marched in three columns, with the regulars in the center. Shortly after sunrise, they reached the banks of the Maumee, without being discovered by the Indians, who were thus engaged in unearthing the buried property in their largest village.

Colonel Hardin quickly called a council-of-war and a plan was formulated by which Major Hall with his battalion was to make an attack from the west, Majors McMullen and Fontaine from the east and north and Major Wyllys from the south. They were to make a daring charge upon the village and subject the Indians to deadly cross-fire at a given signal. The plan was splendid in theory, but the human element, which can never be weighed or measured, made of it a tragic failure. Hall gained his ground unobserved, but one of his men disobeyed orders by firing upon a lone Indian. This aroused the entire Indian encampment, and gave them an
opportunity to scour the forest before the troops under Majors Wylye, McMullen and Fontaine were prepared to advance. Little Turtle perhaps was aware that he was surrounded, and the startled Indians were seen flying in different directions and when small bands of them retreated to the northeastward, the militia under McMullen and the cavalry under Fontaine, pursued them, contrary to orders. This left Wylye at the Manner unsupported. Suddenly Little Turtle with the main body of the Indians poured a deadly volley into the ranks of the regulars as they made an attempt to cross the river. The river was literally strewn from bank to bank with the killed and wounded, the brave Major Wylye himself being one of the first to die. Few of the others escaped and the wounding bodies of men and horses soon filled the river bed. Meanwhile, Majors McMullen and Fontaine had encountered another force of warriors a short way up the St. Joseph River. Fontaine, with a number of his comrades, fell at the head of his mounted troops. The major was killed at the first charge, and as he fell from his horse was immediately scalped. Major Hall was at that moment about to cross from the other side of the St. Joseph to support Fontaine and McMullen, found the savages driven into the river, directly between the two portions of the army. Here the fighting was fierce and decisive, the Indians forcing the remnants of the two battalions to retreat. Messengers from the battle hastened down the Manner to advise him of the condition of affairs, and a battalion under Major Ray was ordered to the relief of Colonel Hardin's soldiers. Major Ray met the colonel, who was hastening back to Harma's headquarters to urge him to send the entire army against the savages, but the general, pointing out the poor condition of the troops, declined to grant the request.

The army left the Indian country on October 23rd, by easy marches to Fort Washington, which they reached on November 4th. The number of men lost in Colonel Hardin's two engagements was reported by General Harman as 183 killed and 38 wounded. Many historians, who have studied the reports and journals made in later years by soldiers in Colonel Hardin's detachment, have agreed that as many or even more of Little Turtle's warriors were killed at Colonel Hardin's second battle with the Indians on October 22nd, than the entire loss suffered by the American battalions. Many unusual records located in the pioneer history of Fort Wayne, indicate that the dead of Hardin's troops were not buried for four years, until General Wayne with his victorious army reached the upper Manner in his campaigns of 1794.

Colonel Hardin's Tragic Death

After his campaign with General Harman, Colonel Hardin returned to his home in Kentucky and about a year later was assigned to the United States army with headquarters at Fort Washington.

The most authentic narrative of the tragic death of Colonel Hardin is best told in the words of Jacob Barnet, in his "Notes on the Early Settlement of the Northwest Territory," published in 1867. The account is quoted as
follows: "On April 3, 1792, eight days before General Wayne was appointed to the command of the Western Army, Major Alexander Trueman, being at the seat of government (Philadelphia), was appointed by President Washington to negotiate a treaty with the Western Indians, and on the same day received his instructions from the Secretary of War with an order to proceed to Fort Washington and to disclose to the commandant, Col. Wilkinson, the object of his mission; who would put with him the proper means to carry it into execution. On the arrival of Major Trueman at Fort Washington, Col. Wilkinson had in the interval been promoted to the rank of a Brigadier General, saw proper to associate Colonel John Hardin with Major Trueman, and to send them both on the same embassy. Accordingly, they left the fort sometime in June (1792) with a servant and a guide, and proceeded on their way to the Indian towns." (Hardin was to visit the Wyandot Indians at Upper Sandusky, and Trueman was to treat with the Indians along the Maumee.)

"On the 3rd of July following, Colonel Vigo arrived from Vincennes, with information brought to that place by a Wesi chief that four men, who had gone to the Indian country from an American fort, had been fired on by a party of Indians, that three of them were killed on the spot; and the fourth who carried a flag (of truce) and had papers in his possession was taken prisoner, but was killed on the next day. It was further stated that the papers were taken by the Indians to a white man, who could read, and who informed them that one of the papers was a long, good talk from a great chief; on which they expressed sorrow for what they had done. No doubt was entertained that those brave officers, Hardin and Trueman, with their attendants, one of whom was a son of A. Freeman of Cincinnati, had been treacherously and barbarously murdered. That conclusion was corroborated by some prisoners who had escaped from the Indians. Although the information thus received settled the fact conclusively that the American commissioners and their attendants had been cruelly murdered, yet various rumors were in circulation as to the manner in which the crime had been perpetrated. It is highly probable that the report of the Wesi chief was substantially correct. It seems to be a well authenticated fact, that after Colonel Hardin was selected to accompany Trueman, he expressed his conviction confidentially to a friend, Captain James Ferguson of Cincinnati, that the Indians would violate the flag and assassinate him, assigning as a reason that they had long feared and hated him."

The sequel shows Hardin's belief was too well founded, and his life thus became a sacrifice upon the altar of liberty, and in his death the country lost a noble son and gallant defender. He died in the month of June, 1792, in his 39th year, having been killed, according to a strong tradition, on the spot where the village of Hardin is now located, a few miles west of the City of Sidney, in Shelby County, Ohio. The disposition of the body of Col. Hardin will never be known.

His wife was Jane Davies, who survived him, together with six children, all of whom were well known citizens of Kentucky, the most prominent being their eldest son, Martin D. Hardin, a distinguished Kentucky lawyer, member of the State Legislature, Secretary of State and United States Senator. He was a major in the war of 1812 and was a survivor of the massacre at the River Kanaw, now Monroe, Mich. Many of Colonel Hardin's descendants fought in the Mexican and Civil Wars; while many of his relatives are leading citizens throughout the middle west at the present day.

That Hardin County is named in honor of a patriotic citizen who gave his life for his country is a fact to be remembered by the citizens of this county, and future generations yet to come.
Sketch of Simon Kenton

(From a Rare Manuscript, written in 1852, by Elizabeth F. Ellet.)

The name of Simon Kenton has a conspicuous place in the annals of the early pioneers, second only to that of the renowned woodsman, Daniel Boone.

Born in Virginia, he was involved when scarcely grown to manhood in a romantic adventure growing out of rivalry in love, which came near a fatal termination, and launched him into life with no protection but a resolute spirit and a sublime frame. Leaving his home he plunged into the wilderness of the Allegheny mountains, and joining parties of explorers and traders, spent two or three years in hunting and tramping in the neighborhood of the Kanawha river till the breaking out of the war between the Indian tribes and the colonies in 1774, in which campaign he did service as a spy. With two companions he afterwards penetrated the wilds of Kentucky and built a cabin on the spot where now stands the town of Washington, aiding the other settlers in their struggles with the Indians, and meeting with many adventures. The most remarkable of these—unparalleled in the history of the west—is the succession of incidents that followed his capture by the Indians when carrying off some of their horses.

For weeks his fate vibrated between life and death, the gleam of sunshine quickly followed by deepest gloom, no effort or wisdom of his availing to save him, but the changes in his fortune wrought by seeming accidents. He was tied, Mazeppa-like, on the back of an unbroken horse, was eight times exposed to the gauntlet, and three times bound to the stake, with no prospect of rescue from a terrible death. Once he was saved by the interference of Simon Girty, who, learning his name, discovered in him an old friend and companion; once the celebrated Mingo Chief, Logan, intervened in his behalf, and once was rescued by an Indian agent. These experiences, and his after services with Gen. George Rogers Clarke, and in other campaigns to the close of Wayne's decisive one, are thrilling tales of adventure.

The first wife of Gen. Kenton was Martha Dowden; to whom he was married about 1781, in Mason County, Kentucky. They lived together for ten years, when she died, leaving four children, all of whom lived to maturity.

Elizabeth, the second wife, was the youngest daughter of Stephen Jarboe, a native of France, who settled first in Maryland, where he married Elizabeth, the daughter of Thomas Cieland. She was a well educated woman, and a deeply spiritual Christian, in membership with the Presbyterian Church. The family moved to Mason County, Kentucky, about 1796, at which time Elizabeth, the daughter, was seventeen years old. Her opportunities of education
were confined to reading, writing, and the elements of arithmetic.

Not long after the removal to Kentucky, Mr. Jarboe was obliged to go to Maryland, whence he was prevented from returning to his family by ill health, for seven or eight years. Within that time Mrs. Jarboe with her children had removed into what is now Clarke County in Ohio. Her home was with her youngest son, Philip Jarboe, about four miles north of Springfield, where she died in the spring of 1808. Shortly after her death Mr. Jarboe was enabled to return, and in the same year, at the same house, he also closed his earthly pilgrimage. His acquaintances remember his arrival, a feeble old man, coming as he said, to lay his bones by the side of her who was the companion of his youth. After a life of many sorrows they slept in a quiet spot within sight of the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad, near their last home on earth.

Their daughter Elizabeth was a young woman of rare attractions and manner and had numerous admirers. Among these a Mr. Reuben Clark had won her favor and it was expected she would marry him. But the sagacious pioneer and hero of Indian encounters had seen and loved her, and moreover had lost none of his early aversion to a rival. He gave young Clark employment which took him to Virginia, obliging him to be absent a considerable time. Having removed him from the scene of action, he laid siege to the heart of the fair lady, and brought the citadel, ere long, to terms of capitulation. They were married in 1798 at Kenton's Station, the Rev. William Wood of the Baptist Church officiating; nor did the wife ever again see her former lover.

A few months after the marriage, General and Mrs. Kenton removed to Cincinnati, where they resided six or eight months, and removed in the spring of 1799 to what was then called the Mad River Country. Their first residence here was about four miles north of Springfield. The home of the forest warrior consisted of two roughly constructed log cabins, with the usual puncheon floors, mud chimneys, clapboard doors, etc. Here were established Kenton's family, composed of himself and wife with five children, and his two mothers-in-law with their families, besides some black people.

The latch-string of Kenton's cabin always hung outside the door, a welcome ready for all who sought his hospitality. His generosity and habitual kindness to strangers contributed as much as that of any other man in Kentucky to stamp their character for liberal hospitality, since proverbially attached to that State.

For many years Kenton attempted to recover his large Kentucky land holdings, but without success; He had been the victim of dishonest land agents; and on one occasion he was imprisoned in the jail at Urbana for debt. When an old man he journeyed to Frankfort, Ky., to press his claims before the Legislature. He was kindly received, and told his story from the Speaker's chair in the House.

FAMILY OF SIMON KENTON

Simon Kenton, in whose honor the City of Kenton, Ohio, was named, descended from a sturdy Virginia family. Simon Kenton's father was Mark Kenton, born in Ireland, March 1, 1701. In early life he came to America and settled in Northern Virginia. His wife was of Scotch descent, and their oldest child William was born Sept. 20, 1737. Other sons were Benjamin, Mark Jr., Simon and John. There was one daughter, but her given name is unknown to modern historians. Benjamin Kenton, the second son, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and died in Philadelphia during the war. Mark Jr., was born in 1749 and died in 1788. He was also a soldier. Simon Kenton, the fourth son, was born on April 3, 1755, and John Kenton, the fifth and youngest son, was born in 1757. John lived for many years in Mason
County, Kentucky, but the date of his death is not in the family records.

Whether Mark Kenton, the father, lived in Calpepper or Fauquier County the family record does not say; some writers give one county, some the other as the birthplace of Simon Kenton. However, it is certain that when the Kenton family left Virginia for the west in 1783, the leader of the colony, William, the oldest son of Mark Kenton, Sr., moved from Fauquier County, Virginia. William Kenton and his family of six children, the father, Mark, Sr., and about forty other Virginians, neighbors and friends, left Fauquier County on Sept. 16, 1783, and reached the Muscogulga, in the vicinity of Redstone (now Brownsville, Penna.) about the middle of October.

The father, being in his eighty-third year was very feeble and died just before the colony reached the river, and was buried on the bank of that stream. For some days previous he was carried on a horse-litter, which consisted of two long poles, one end of each being fastened to the collar of a horse and the other end resting on the ground ten or twelve feet behind the horse. To these poles cross pieces were fastened, and a cot was then firmly tied on this rude frame and the invalid bound to the cot. The company securing boats, provisions and ammunition, embarked for the falls of the Ohio (now Louisville, Ky.) and reached that point December 1, 1783. Thence the family moved to the vicinity of Harrodsburg, Ky., and remained about ten years. They then moved to Mason County, Ky., and remained until about 1801, when there was a general emigration of the Kenton family to the valley of the Mad River in what is now Champaign County, Ohio, west of Urbana. Their lands extended west from the Mad River two or three miles and lay north of the present village of Westville.

By this time William Kenton’s children were mostly grown and several were married. They were Philip, Thomas, William Jr., Mark III, Elizabeth, Jesse and Mary. Simon Kenton had preceded his brother by two years and with a few other families had erected a kind of fort about two miles west of the present city of Springfield. This was long before either Urbana or Springfield was laid out. In those days the Mad River was sometimes called the Chillicothe River, and the early pioneers considered it the finest valley they had seen. Simon Kenton was first married to Martha Dowden in Mason Co., Kentucky, on May 14, 1781. The wife dying after ten years, he married on March 27, 1798, Elizabeth Jarboe, a cousin to his first wife; both his wives were nieces of Mary Kenton. William Kenton, Thomas Dowden and Stephen Jarboe married sisters, daughters of Thomas Cleland. These and others were of the colony, led by William Kenton to Kentucky in 1783.

Many of Simon Kenton’s descendants still live in Ohio and Indiana. Of his first marriage there were two sons and two daughters of the second marriage, one son and five daughters. All of Simon Kenton’s children were dead by the year 1906. He himself died at his home a few miles east of Bellefontaine on April 29, 1836, aged 81 years and 26 days. Mrs. Kenton died at the home of her son-in-law, J. G. Parkinson, in Jasper Co., Indiana, on November 27, 1842. She was buried in Jasper County.

**MEN WHO KNEW SIMON KENTON**

The official biographer of Simon Kenton was Col. John McDonald, a native of Pennsylvania, who became a noted Indian scout and surveyor in the lower Scioto valley; and who for many years was a friend and associate of Kenton. He was a prominent officer in the War of 1812, and was later a member of both branches of the Ohio Legislature. In 1834, when nearly eighty years of age, Col. McDonald began writing reminiscences of the first settlements along the Ohio and its tributaries. The book was published under the title of “McDonald’s Sketches.” It contained valuable biographies of such noted military men as Duncan McArthur, Nathaniel Massie, William Wells
and others. When McDonald was preparing his life of Simon Kenton, although past sixty years of age, he made his way on horseback from his home on Poplar Ridge to the head of Mad River, a few miles north of the present village of Zanesfield in Logan County, in the humble cabin-home of the old warrior, where he gathered many of the facts of Kenton’s eventful life. He found Kenton an admirable host, although the old pioneer was then past eighty years of age.

On January 7, 1900, Professor R. W. McFarland of Oxford, Ohio, a relative of Simon Kenton, published some interesting sidelights on the life of Simon Kenton, in the Chillicothe News-Advertiser. A part of his article is quoted as follows: “William Kenton was eighteen years older than his brother Simon. William and his family moved from Fauquier County, Virginia, to Kentucky, in the fall of 1783, and thence to the valley of Mad River, in Champaign County, Ohio, in 1801. Simon having preceded him a year or two. William Kenton’s children were Philip, Thomas, Elizabeth, Mark, Jane, Mary and William. With the first four of these I was well acquainted for more than a score of years, the other three having died before my time; but I was acquainted with the children and grandchildren of all the seven, as also with Simon Kenton and his children and grandchildren. My father married Philip Kenton’s eldest daughter. The first twenty-five years of my life were spent among the Kentons. The Kentons formed a sort of colony of no mean dimensions. In the early 40’s I taught school for more than two years, in three adjoining districts, and in each about half the pupils belonged to some branch of the Kenton family. For the last thirty years of Simon’s life, his residence and my father’s were not many miles apart, although each of the men had changed his place of residence at least three times. In the last four or five years of Simon’s life, when unable to undergo the fatigue of constant labor, he was accustomed to visit his children, his nephews and nieces, and he was always heartily welcomed. On those occasions, the lads of eight, ten or twelve years, always beset the old “hurker,” and begged him to tell of his fights with the Indians. I was one of these youngsters, and heard the stories from Simon’s own lips. One item I mention here—an item, so far as I know, now for the first time put on record. To the question as to how many Indians he had killed, the answer was that when he was entirely alone he had shot sixteen, but he did not know how many he had killed when he was in company with others. Hundreds of times I have heard the exploits of Simon Kenton talked over by his relatives—accounts told them by Simon himself... It was a subject that never grew old.”

An unusually interesting anecdote is told of Simon Kenton while a resident of Urbana, Ohio, pertaining to his part in the War of 1812, when General Isaac Shelby came through the town with his cavalry on their march to Lake Erie in September, 1813. Simon Kenton, without the knowledge of his family, mounted his horse and joined the expedition. Members of his family were suspicious that the old General would follow Shelby’s army, and though they kept a close watch as to his movements, yet he outwitted them and succeeded in his plans. He was with General Harrison and fought at the Battle of the Thames on October 5, 1813, and helped to celebrate this great American victory in which contest the celebrated Chief Tecumseh was killed.

AN ANECDOTE OF SIMON KENTON’S CONVERSION TO CHRISTIANITY

In 1853, Rev. James E. Finley, one of the most noted pioneer Methodist ministers of Ohio, published his autobiography, a book widely known for its excellent treatise of early Ohio pioneer life. As early as 1788, Rev. Finley, then a mere lad, became well acquainted with Simon Kenton. He tells this
interesting anecdote about the conversion of Kenton.

"Simon Kenton was respected and loved by all who knew him. In the latter part of his life he embraced religion. In the fall of 1819 General Kenton and my father met at a camp meeting on the Mad River, after a separation of many years. Their early acquaintance in Kentucky rendered this interview interesting to both of them. The meeting had been in progress for several days without any great excitement till Sabbath evening, when it pleased God to pour out His Spirit in a remarkable manner. Many were awakened, and among the number were several of the General's relatives. It was not long till their awakening was followed by conversion. The old hero was a witness to these scenes. He had faced danger and death in every form with an unquailed eye and unyielding courage, but the years and trials of piety, and the outbursts of rapturous joy from 'sins renewed and sins forgiven' proved too strong for the hardy veteran. His heart was touched and the text was seen to kindle the eye and start down the arrow of his manly cheek. Say not the man of courage cannot weep.

"On Monday morning he asked my father to ride with him to the woods. To this he readily assented, and, as they were passing along in silence, and the song of the worshippers had died upon their ears, addressing my father, he said, 'Mr. Finley, I am going to communicate to you some things which I want you to promise me you will never divulge.' My father replied, 'If it will not affect any but ourselves, then I promise to keep it forever.' By this time they were far from the encampment in the depths of the forest. They were alone; no eye could see them, and no ear could hear them, but the eye and ear of the great Omniscient. Sitting down on a log, the General commenced to tell the story of his heart and disclosed its wrestlings; what a great sinner he had been, and how merciful was God in preserving him amid all the conflicts and dangers of the wilderness. While he thus unburdened his heart and told the anguish of his sin-wounded spirit, his lip quivered and the tears of penitence fell from his weeping eyes. They both fell to the earth and prostrate, cried aloud to God for mercy and salvation. Then from the old veteran who immediately sprang to his feet, there went up a shout toward heaven which made the woods resound with its gladness. Leaving my father, Kenton started for the camp, like the man healed at the Beautiful Gate; leaping and praising God, so that the latter and father he went, the leader did he shout glory to God. His appearance startled the whole encampment, and when my father arrived he found an immense crowd gathered around him, to whom he was declaring the goodness of God and His power to save. Approaching him, my father said, 'General, I thought we were to keep this matter a secret!' Kenton instantly replied, 'Oh! it is too glorious for that. If I had all the world here, I would tell of the goodness and mercy of God!'"

"At this time Kenton joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, lived a consistent, happy, Christian and died in the open sunshine of a Savior's love."

AN HEROIC DEED

The following interesting sketch on Simon Kenton was written by Joshua Antwine of Logan County about 1872.

"Simon Kenton, whose name will appear frequently in these pages, was an early settler in Urbana. I quote from Judge Hardin's letter as found in Hovey's History. He says that when the troops were stationed, at Urbana, a mutinous plan was formed by part of them to attack and destroy a settlement of friendly Indians, who had removed with their families within the settlement under assurance of protection. Kenton remonstrated against this as not only mutinous but treacherous and cowardly. He contrasted his knowledge and experience of the Indian character with their ignorance of it.
He vindicated them against the charge of treachery, which was alleged against them as a justification of the act which they were about to perpetrate, and reminded them of the infamy they would incur by destroying a defenseless band of men, women and children, who had placed themselves in their power, relying on a solemn promise of protection. He appealed to their humanity, their honor and their duty as soldiers. Having exhausted all the means of persuasion in his power, and finding them resolved to execute their purpose, he took a rifle and declared with great firmness that he would accompany them to the Indian encampment and shoot down the first man that dared to molest them; that if they entered their camp they should do it by passing over his corpse. Knowing that the old veteran would redeem his pledge they abandoned their purpose and the Indians were saved. Though he was brave as Caesar and reckless of danger when it was his duty, yet he was mild, even tempered and had a heart that could bleed at the distress of others.

"General Kenton lived many years in Logan County, on what was called the old Sandusky road, about three miles north of Zanesfield, where he died April 29th, 1836. His remains were removed to Urbana by a deputation of citizens from that place, I think in 1865, and buried in the cemetery about three-quarters of a mile east of the city in a circular lot about 100 feet in diameter, appropriated by the city for that purpose, with a view of erecting a monument at some future day. The only thing that now marks his grave is the same plain stone slab that stood at the head of his grave in Logan County, with this inscription: 'In memory of Gen. Simon Kenton, who was born April 3, 1755 in Culpepper County, Va., and died April 29th, 1836, aged 81 years and 26 days.'

"His fellow citizens of the west will long remember him as the skillful pioneer of early times, the brave soldier and honest man."

AT THE GRAVE OF SIMON KENTON

(By William Hubbard)

Tread lightly, this is hallowed ground,
Tread reverently here!
Beneath this sod, in silence sleep,
The brave old pioneer.
Whose heart ne'er faltered in darkest hour,
Whose heart never knew a fear.
Tread lightly, then, and here knew
The tribute of a son.

Aye! can this be the spot where sleeps
The bosom of the brave?
Is this rude slab the only mark of
Simon Kenton's grave?
These fallen garments, are they all his
Trials in foreign land?
To one who period-life on all her
Hearts and hearths in awe?

GRAVE OF SIMON KENTON,
OAKDALE CEMETERY,
URBANA, OHIO

THE GRAVE OF SIMON KENTON

A few years ago it was the privilege of the writer to visit the present grave and monument of Simon Kenton in Oakdale Cemetery, Urbana, Ohio,
and also, the site of the original grave where Kenton was first buried. This first burial place was on the old Kenton farm about three miles north of Zanesfield in Logan County. It was located a few rods east of the highway on a hillside overlooking a small ravine, at the foot of which may be seen to this day the old foundation stones of Kenton’s log cabin home, where he died in 1836. Nearby is the spring where the Kenton family secured their drinking water.

During the term of Charles Anderson, Governor of Ohio, the state removed the body of Kenton from its lonely burial place to the Oakdale Cemetery southeast of Urbana. Here in the year 1884 a beautiful monument was erected by the state at the last resting place of this noted pioneer, in whose honor the City of Kenton was named.

The monument is of light gray sandstone, seven or eight feet high and over four feet square at the base; and is a most fitting memorial of the dead. The entire design is by John Q. A. Ward, the celebrated sculptor.

When Kenton’s body was removed to its present resting place, the parties in charge brought the old headstone with its quaint inscription from the original grave on Kenton’s farm to the present grave and placed it at the foot of the new grave. By means of a magnifying glass, the greater part of the old inscription may be read.

On the south face of the large monument is the following in bold relief:

“1753-1836 SIMON KENTON.”

On the north face near the top is the following significant inscription:

“Erected by the State of Ohio—1884.”

A VISIT TO THE SITE OF THE LAST HOME OF SIMON KENTON

Nestled among the hills of Logan County, Ohio, in the enchanting valleys of the Mad River is a historic spot. Here in a plain but comfortable log cabin, the celebrated western pioneer, Simon Kenton, friend and contemporary of Daniel Boone, passed his declining years.

It is located about three miles north of historic Zanesfield on the Wickersham farm; and about six miles east of Bellefontaine, in the immediate vicinity of the Zane Caverns. The road which passes Kenton’s old home was once a noted Indian trail extending from the Mac-O-Chee Indian villages of the upper Mad River valley to Lake Erie. Simon Kenton frequently traveled along this trail both as an Indian captive and as a scout for several military expeditions.

The valley seemed to hold a charm over the nature-loving frontiersman, and as old age overtook him, the venerable old pioneer decided to establish a cabin home in the solitude of the beautiful Mad River country and there pass the remainder of his days. Accordingly, he purchased a small farm along the familiar trail and erected his cabin on the south slope of a knoll, overlooking a peaceful little creek, a tributary of the Mad River.

Here, about 1820, the intrepid old warrior settled down amid the scenes he had learned to love; and here for sixteen years he entertained his friends who came to do him honor. Here, he recited to his grandchildren the stories of his daring deeds and thrilling escapes from the Indians. Here, a noted artist came to paint his portrait; and Col. John McDonald came to write the story of his life.

The United States Government granted Kenton a substantial pension for his military services, which greatly aided him in the closing years of his life.

At the present time the historic knoll where Kenton’s cabin stood is covered with grass and sheep are pasturing on its slopes. Near the base of the knoll are a few scattered boulders, which constituted the foundation for the cabin; and a few feet away in a fairly good state of preservation is the
old spring, which furnished the water for the Kenton family. To this day, the visitor sees the huge hollow log which, it is claimed, Kenton himself placed in the spring, in order to prevent the dirt from washing into its cool, clear waters. Careful hands have constructed a quaint rail fence around the spring, to afford protection and to save it from complete destruction. Nearby a dense cluster of willow trees are growing luxuriantly, providing a heavy shade for the grazing flocks, the only signs of habitation in this unvisited and sequestered little glen.

**SPRING AT SIMON KENTON’S LAST HOME**

Ascending the slope to the top of another knoll about one hundred yards to the south of the spring, three or four shallow depressions in the earth are plainly visible. These indicate that at one time the summit of the knoll was a burial ground. One of these marks the spot where the body of Simon Kenton was first buried, before its removal to its present resting place in Oakdale Cemetery at Urbana, Ohio, where a pretentious monument erected by the State of Ohio marks Kenton’s grave. Kenton wished to be buried on his old farm; and there his body lay undisturbed for nearly forty years, when his admirers saw fit to remove it to his former home town of Urbana.

**SIMON KENTON’S MEMORIAL MONUMENT, ZANESFIELD, OHIO**
History of Fort McArthur

Citizens of Hardin County are familiar with the markers made from the pillars of the old Hardin County Court House, placed along the line of Hull's Trail through Hardin County by the Fort McArthur Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution of Kenton. This organization has also marked the site of old Fort McArthur and has in many other ways stimulated the interest of our citizens in the early history of Hardin County.

The story of Hull's march through the primitive forests of Northwestern Ohio is one of the most thrilling in the annals of the west. Along his line of march, General Hull erected a chain of forts, each to serve as a base for his military operations. The first of these fortifications was built on the south bank of the Scioto River about three miles west of Kenton. This fort was garrisoned for a period of four years, and within and about its walls there transpired many events of important historical interest. At a meeting held at the fort one hundred years ago, the present City of Kenton received its official name.

Nearly a century and a quarter has elapsed since the blockhouses and the stockade were erected, and yet, the complete history of the fort has never been fully related. It is the purpose of this sketch to tell that story and to set forth a full account of the facts connected with this most historic spot in the military history of Hardin County.

Some time early in 1813, there were buried several soldiers of the garrison of old Fort McArthur, located west of Kenton. Sixteen of the garrison had perished during the winter, after General Tupper had been compelled to return to the fort, from his campaign along the banks of the Maumee in the fall of 1812.

The people of Hardin County should never lose sight of the fact that Hardin County is historic ground, and that some of the most gallant soldiers who ever fought for American liberty are now sleeping under the shadow of the banner of Colonel Duncan McArthur, in whose honor the old fort was named. We should not forget that some of the brave boys who are buried on the south bank of the Scioto, in Coosa Township, had laboriously marched all the way from Gallia County on the banks of the Ohio, to Fort McArthur, thence to the Maumee River Rapids near the present City of Toledo; and then returned through the dense forest to their winter quarters at old Fort McArthur, there to lay down their lives for the cause of American liberty, and complete independence from Great Britain.

The War of 1812 was expected for months before the actual declaration. However, the people of Ohio were not long in getting into action, when President Madison called for troops on the 19th of June, 1812. Even before the declaration of war had been passed by Congress, troops began to assemble in Dayton, Springfield, Urbana, and points in the Miami valley, knowing that it would be necessary to protect the settlements from open attacks by the Indians.

General William Hull, of the Michigan Territory, was in Washington during the winter of 1812 and had urged President Madison to increase the military forces in the Northwest; and had also pointed out the necessity for an American naval fleet on Lake Erie. Finally, the President made requisition early in April, 1812, upon Governor Return J. Meigs of Ohio for 1000 militia to be prepared for a quick march to Detroit in case war was declared. This was the first move in the true story of old Fort McArthur.

Hull, up to this time, had been the governor of the Territory of Michigan, but President Madison on April 8, 1812, commissioned him a Brigadier-
General in the United States army. Hull was at one ordered to take command of the Army of the Northwest, much against his own personal wishes, but he finally consented to accept. On May 31, 1812, Hull arrived at Dayton and took charge of the troops. On June 1st, the General reached Urbana, where his army was reinforced. on June 10th, by the 4th Regiment of the U. S. Regulars, which the President had ordered from Vincennes, Indiana, commanded by Lieut. Colonel Miller, a veteran of the Battle of Tippecanoe. It was the wish of General Hull to march as directly to Detroit as possible, and a great deal of discussion arose as to whether or not the army could make its way through the depths of the forest in Northwestern Ohio, because there were absolutely no roads or trails extending north through what is now Logan, Hardin, Hancock and Wood Counties.

Finally, General Hull held a conference with one of the Ohio commanders, Colonel Duncan McArthur, of Chillicothe, Ohio. McArthur, a gallant and well trained soldier, later became Governor of Ohio. It was agreed that McArthur was to detach his regiment from the main army and cut a roadway through the forest from Urbana to the Scioto River, in advance of Hull's army. McArthur's troops were largely volunteers from Southern Ohio, whose homes were located in the Scioto Valley. He called together his officers and explained that they had been selected to open the way to the north, and make it possible for Hull's army and his supply trains to march to Detroit. His men in true Yankee style were eager to begin the undertaking.

During the first week of June, 1812, preparations for the march were made, and the army set out amid the applause of their comrades, who were soon to follow. The regiment was commanded by McArthur in person, with James Denny and William A. Trimble, Majors. When the regiment reached a point three miles north of what is now Bellefontaine, they halted and a camp was made. This place was called Mauzy's Blockhouse. It had been built a few years before by the company of Captain James Mauzy, of Ross County, as a kind of trading post with the Indians. This blockhouse now stands on Lakeview, Ohio, near Indian Lake, having been moved by John A. Steling, who purchased it in November, 1924. The regiment moved forward the next day to what was called Solomon's Town, a small Shawnee Indian village, just north of the Greenville Treaty Line, and between what is now Belle Center and Velberton. The Indians in this village were good friends of the Shawnees at Roundhead's Town (now the village of Roundhead), and it was their custom to visit each other on various occasions. When Colonel McArthur reached Solomon's Town great excitement prevailed among the more peaceful Indians. They did not seem to understand that another war with England was imminent. They gathered about McArthur's troops with inquiring wonder. The soldiers continued cutting their way through the unbroken forest and finally crossed into what is now Hardin County, not far from the Bellefontaine Highway, where it crosses into Logan County. They passed over the point where the Big Four
Railroad now passes through the village of Silver Creek; and continued the same northerly course into what is now Lynn Township, matching near its east boundary line. Finally, they passed through the northwest corner of Buck Township to the south bank of the Scioto, where they erected a fort on what is now the farm of Clyde Long, three miles up the river from Kroton.

The Erection of the Fort

Having finally reached the Scioto River, Colonel McArthur ordered his men to begin the erection of a fortification. Logs were cut, and holes were dug in the ground for the purpose of building a stockade around the blockhouses. The men were busy in raising the fort after their gallant and popular commander.

The site selected for the fort was on the high gravel-like ridge of the river bank, and was considered an ideal location from the standpoint of military strategy. It was necessary to construct the fort at this point, on account of the warlike Shawnee Indians, who were likely to attempt to repel the invasion of their territory by an American army, at any moment. Moreover, it was necessary to provide a base of supplies for the remainder of the army, which was to follow under General Hull. The soldiers were anxious to have the fort entirely completed before the arrival of General Hull with the main army, so they worked in relays, each detail trying to outdo the other. The fort was a strong stockade, and was well constructed, considering the brief time permitted for its erection. It covered nearly an acre of land, but had only two blockhouses, one at the northwest corner and the other at the southeast angle. The logs were made of trunks of trees about fifteen to eighteen inches in diameter. The two blockhouses were connected by stockades, which added materially to the strength of the fort. The lower stories of the blockhouses were perhaps about twenty feet square up to a height of eight feet; while the so-called second story of the blockhouses projected on all four sides about a foot in order to make it possible for the garrison to more easily resist an attack from without. There were numerous post-holes through the log walls, about two and a half inches in diameter. On the inside of these postholes were small flap-like doors, which covered the post-hole openings. The whole structure was covered with large clapboards, and heavy posts were placed on top to hold the clapboards in place. There was one door in each blockhouse, made of very heavy puncheons, four inches in thickness. The doors were hung on large wooden hinges and securely fastened on the inside with strong wooden cross-bars. Inside the fort proper was a long row of cabinets resembling long corn cribs, each covered with a sluice roof sloping toward the inside. The shelves were used for storing army supplies, and were especially well guarded at night, lest a lurking Indian might throw over a torch and set the sheds on fire. A part of the pickets were of split timber, and lapped over at the edges; while others were round logs, set up endways, and touching each other. Rows of small huts were built for the garrison a few feet from the walls of the fort. These were so arranged that the soldiers could quickly assemble for duty in case of attack. The main gateway of the fort was on the north side next to the river.

Arrival of Hull’s Army

On June 19, 1812, General Hull reached Fort McArthur, with the main army from Urbana. This was on the day after war had been formally declared against Great Britain. The news had not yet reached the army at the fort; General Hull did not learn of the declaration of war until July 2, 1812. It was on a Friday evening that the army of Hull reached the fort, and the soldiers being fatigued by their long march through the forest were glad to go into camp; and of rejoicing their comrades of the first regiment. Upon his arrival at the fort, General Hull ordered his men to pitch their camp along the river bank in the immediate vicinity of the fort. The next day, the
soldiers were occupied in inspecting the new fort, and in relating their experiences in following the new trail cut through the woods by the men of the First Regiment under Col. McArthur. That night a heavy guard was stationed at the fort and about the camp of the main army to prevent a surprise attack. St. Clair's defeat was still a matter of much concern among soldiers on the march through the dense woods of the northwest. The army was now in the heart of the Indian country, and every precaution was taken.

The next day being Sunday, it was ordered by General Hull to give the troops one more day of rest, the army remaining in camp. This order was no doubt prompted by a heavy rainfall on Sunday morning. However, one regiment was selected by General Hull and his staff to move forward a day in advance of the main army to clear a trail, so that the supply and baggage wagons could get through the heavy forest north of the fort, in what is now Hardin County. It was agreed that the Second Regiment of Ohio volunteers was to take their turn in clearing a roadway. This unit left the fort at once under the command of Colonel James Findlay, in whose honor the city of Findlay was named. Colonel Findlay was a resident of Cincinnati, served with honor during the War of 1812 and later in life was elected to Congress. Thomas Moore and Thomas Van Horn were the majors of the Second Regiment.

Early on Monday morning, June 22, 1812, the entire army of Hull left Fort McArthur and proceeded northward over the trail made by Findlay's troops in the direction of Blanchard's fork of the Angle Creek River (where the city of Findlay now stands). One company of soldiers, however, was left at Fort McArthur as a garrison. The soldiers who were sick and unable to march were also left at the fort. The company composing the garrison was a part of McArthur's First Regiment and was commanded by a man who was well acquainted with Indian warfare. His name was Andrew Dill. Thus, Captain Dill became the first commander of old Fort McArthur. The army of Hull was piloted and directed by three noted scouts and Indian agents. One of these was the famous Isaac Zane, long a resident of Zanesfield in Logan County and the Indian agent at that place. Another was James McPherson, and the third was Robert Armstrong. Had it not been that General Hull was fortunate in securing the aid of such able pilots the movement of his army to Detroit would no doubt have been well nigh impossible.

**General Hull's Pilots**

Isaac Zane was born on the Potomac River in Virginia in 1753, and at about the age of nine was taken a prisoner by the Wyandot Indians, and carried to Detroit. He remained with his captors until he became a man. Like many other captives he married a Wyandot woman from Canada, and took no part in the War of the Revolution. After the Treaty of Greenville in 1795, he bought a large tract of 1800 acres on the site of Zanesfield in Logan County, where he lived until his death in 1816. His long residence with the Indians at Detroit made him an excellent guide for General Hull on his famous march. Zane had constructed a large block-house at Zanesfield, and this was often frequented by friendly Indians.

James McPherson, another guide in Hull's army, was called by the Indians Squa-la-ka-ke, which translated meant the "Red-faced-man." He was a native of Carlisle, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. He too was taken prisoner by the Indians on the Ohio at the mouth of the Great Miami River, and lived with them for some time. After Wayne's Treaty he entered the service as a guide and was assigned to Hull's army. After the war he was made the Indian agent of the Shawnees and the Senecas at Loretown, an Indian village located about where the town of Huntsville now stands. He served in that office until 1830.

Robert Armstrong, the third pilot of General Hull in his march to
Detroit, was a native of Pennsylvania. Being an orphan boy, he was bound to a trader, and while trapping and trading on the Allegheny River, he and his employer were captured by a band of Wyandot and Seneca Indians. His master was killed, and the boy, Armstrong, was brought to their town of Franklinton (Columbus, Ohio). The boy was raised by the Indians, became a great favorite among them; in fact, he lived, married and died among them. He was well paid by the government to act as a guide and interpreter for General Hull. He left two sons, who went west with the Wyandots. They were both well educated, and later in life, one of his sons was admitted to the Ohio Bar.

The March to Fort Necessity

General Hull was very particular about the order and the discipline of the army while on the march. The marching order was as follows: The Fourth U. S. Regiment was on the right; Colonel McArthur with the First Regiment on the left; Colonel Findlay, with the Second Regiment, on the left of the Fourth; Colonel Lewis Cass (later a noted Governor of the State of Michigan) with the Third Regiment on the right of General McArthur. Robert Morrison and J. R. Munson were the majors of the Third Regiment. The Cavalry was on the right of the whole army and was commanded by Captain Sloan of Cincinnati. In marching the riflemen of the respective regiments formed the flank guards, and on the days that the army marched these soldiers were excused from any other military duty.

The trail through what is now Harrison County had to be hewn through a solid forest. It was with great difficulty that the army made any progress at all. The army crossed what is now the southeastern corner of Cass County, thence through the western portion of Pleasant Township. It crossed Cassa Creek on the farm formerly owned by M. Traeger. Then the route angled toward the northwest into Cassa Township again, and entered Blanchard Township, proceeding northward about a half mile west of the town of Dansboro, finally striking the Hancock County line near the center of Section One of Washington Township. (Too much credit cannot be given to the Daughters of the American Revolution of the Harrison County Chapter, for placing the well-known markers taken from the old Court House, and placed on the line of Hull's famous trail.) On this part of the march the army suffered much annoyance from rain. There were a large number of baggage wagons, and frequently the van of the army had to halt and wait for the rear to catch up. Besides the road through which the horses and men had to walk, they were kept busy fighting off the small flies and the mosquitoes, which seemed to infest the region. Finally, when about sixteen miles north of Fort McArthur, or at a point just across the County line in Hancock County, General Hull ordered a halt. Here quite a large block-house was built by the army. It was surrounded by a stockade and several crude log-houses. The place was given the name of Fort Necessity, owing to the great need of a suitable place to store their food supplies and ammunition.

The March to Fort Findlay

Originally it had been planned by Hull to encamp at Fort Necessity until further news of the war had been officially received; but he became impatient and was anxious to advance to the Maumee. The camp at Fort Necessity was anything but comfortable, the mud in some of the soldiers' tents being nearly ankle-deep. While encamped at this fort, General Hull received a dispatch from the Acting Governor of Michigan Territory, Reuben Atwater, urging him to advance to Detroit with all possible haste. Consequently, the general ordered the army to prepare to march. It is not known whether a garrison was left at this outpost or not, but if so, it must have been a very small detachment of men. The weather had improved in the meantime, and after a strenuous three days' march the entire army arrived
at the Blanchard River, on the left bank of which Colonel Findlay’s troops had nearly completed a stockaded enclosure about one hundred and fifty feet square. A block-house was located at each corner, and a ditch in front. This was quite a substantial fort and was situated only a few blocks north of the present Court House in the City of Findlay. General Hull now directed Col. Lewis Cass in command of the Third Regiment to order his troops to take their turn in cutting and preparing a road northward from Fort Findlay to the Maumee. This was accomplished with less difficulty than before. After a few days of forced marches the army reached the Maumee River, opposite the site of General Wayne’s battlefield of Fallen Timbers, where encampment was made for the night. Forcing the river at this point, the next camp was located at the site of the old British Fort Miamis, where a number of Americans had settled. This was on the north bank of the Maumee River, within the limits of the present village of Maumee.

The Surrender of Hull

Hull’s army was composed of 2071 men, who had braved all the dangers of attack from the Indians and the hardships of the primitive forest from Urbana, Ohio, to Detroit; and as most of his men were skilled men and had labored diligently to clear an army trail through the forests of what is now Champaign, Logan, Hardin, Hancock and Wood Counties, it is little wonder that they were greatly disappointed when Hull was forced to surrender his entire army to the British, at the siege of Detroit. Generals McArthur, Cass and Findlay were made prisoners at Detroit, but were soon after released in an exchange of prisoners with the British. The subsequent events relative to Hull’s army do not pertain in the Fort McArthur History.

General Hull’s army, which passed through Hardin County and encamped at Fort McArthur on its march to Detroit, as reported in the Defense of General Dearborn, consisted of 2073 soldiers as follows: Fourth Regiment of Infantry under command of Lieut. Col. Miller, 483 men; Colonel McArthur’s First Regiment of volunteers and militia, 352; Col. Eldridge’s Second Regiment, 109; Colonel Cass’ Third Regiment, 483; Captain Shan’s Troop of Cincinnati Eighth dragoons, 48. Two of General Hull’s prominent field staff officers were his son, Captain Abraham P. Hull, and the General’s son-in-law, Captain Hickman.

General Tupper’s March to Fort McArthur

General Hull surrendered on the 16th of August, 1812; and as soon as the news reached Governor Moegs of Ohio, he communicated with the Secretary of War at Washington. General William Henry Harrison, the hero of Tippecanoe, was now placed in command of the Army of the Northwest. He was ably assisted by Gen. James Winchester, who figured prominently in the remaining campaigns of the war. The Army of the Northwest was now divided into three divisions, as follows: General Winchester was to retain his command of the left wing with headquarters at Fort Wayne; General Harrison was given the command of the right wing. He had his headquarters at that time at Fort Barbour (present city of St. Mary’s near the Grand River); General Winchester’s army was to move down the valley of the Maumee to about where the City of Toledo is now located; General Harrison’s army was to move down the Sandusky River and was to build Fort Pears at the present town of Upper Sandusky; the army then planned to move on to where Tiffin is now located and to build Fort Hull; and finally to construct Fort Stephenson, now the City of Fremont.

The command of the center was given to Brigadier-General Edward W. Tupper, of Gallipolis, Gallia County, on the Ohio River.

General Harrison ordered General Tupper to assemble his army at Urbana and march over General Hull’s trail, halting at Fort McArthur, Xenia and Findlay. Accordingly, he gathered his forces together, and
prepared for a great victory over the British at Detroit in order to retrieve the inglorious surrender of Hull. General Tupper was a brave man. He had personally recruited a thousand men from Gallia, Lawrence and Jackson Counties in Southern Ohio, who enlisted for a term of six months' service. In his regiment was a noted company of cavalrymen, under the command of Captain Daniel Womeldorf, who also lived in Gallia County. General Tupper moved forward with all possible haste until he reached Fort McArthur, having followed Hull's Trail. Here he camped for a few days in the month of October, 1812. He and his army were welcomed by Captain Dill of Gen. McArthur's First Regiment, who had been left to garrison the new fort as above related. General Tupper was anxious to advance, and though Captain Dill tried to persuade him to remain at the fort for a time, he knew that he must soon join Harrison and Winchester at the Maumee River Rapids, near the present village of Perrysburg, in Wood County. He marched through what is now Hardin County over the corduroy trail made by Colonel Findlay's soldiers to Fort Necessity, south of what is now the village of Williams- town in the southern part of Hancock County. Here he halted and camped for the night. The next day the army moved forward to Fort Findlay on the Blanchard. The stock of supplies was low and the men and the horses suffered much from hunger. However, they were a brave band, and after much hardship they finally arrived at the foot of the Maumee Rapids. Evidently the movements of his army had been observed by the Indians in the locality of what is now the town of Maumee on the north side of the river, for they soon gathered in large numbers to prevent the army of Tupper from crossing the stream. The General, not alarmed by Indians in the forest, decided to cross the Maumee under cover of darkness. Accordingly, that same night he ordered his men to proceed to the bank of the river, and an attempt was made to cross at the Rapids. Captain Womeldorf ordered the cavalry to cross the river at all cost, but the rapidity of the current and the half-starved condition of his men and his horses made the attempt very unwise. General Tupper changed his mind and ordered the men to retreat to their camp. Soon after this event, the Indians suddenly made a fierce attack upon Tupper's army while they were encamped on the south bank of the Maumee. His men fought with great skill and showed their ability to cope with the Indian method of warfare. The Indians suffered a great loss, and fearing the arrival of reinforcements, their Indian commander ordered a retreat to Detroit. General Tupper, knowing that the Indians might return and pursue him, decided to play safe and ordered a quick march back to Fort McArthur. This was about the first of December, 1812.

The return trip was uneventful. Tupper's army having been accustomed to marching in the forest, reached Fort McArthur without molestation by the Indians. On the way the army camped a day or two at Fort Findlay in order to give the men a rest. They went into winter quarters at Fort McArthur, spending the memorable winter of 1812-1813 in the depths of the forest of Hardin County. General Harrison found great difficulty in getting supplies to the army and they were compelled to undergo great hardship, and suffered much discomfort from the cold. Some of his soldiers were taken sick, and without doubt, some of these brave men under the command of Tupper died and were buried near the fort on the farm formerly owned by H. M. Shingle, and now owned by Leslie B. Dittus. Anyone driving west of Kenton on the old Shingle Pike will notice at the foot of a hill just west of the home of George Schodesenoff a spring at the south side of the road where General Tupper's men secured their water supply during that severe winter they were encamped near the fort. The spring is located only a few feet west from the pillar, containing the memorial tablet, placed on the site of Hull's trail by the Fort McArthur Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.
The writer was present on the day this pillar was dedicated, July 4, 1913, by the late Mrs. James H. Allen of Kenton, who had charge of the program and heard the forcible address given by a noted Ohio Historian, Professor G. Frederick Wright of Oberlin, and an address by Mrs. John T. Mack of Sandusky, Ohio.

Many interesting accounts have been told about the bravery of the men who garrisoned Fort McArthur during the War of 1812; and about the hardships and privations endured by the army of General Tupper, during the winter of 1813. The troops of General Tupper and his cavalry Captain, Womeldorf, returned to their homes at Gallipolis the next spring, their term of enlistment having expired. General Tupper died some years later and was buried at Gallipolis, while Captain Womeldorf lived for many years after the war, his death occurring about 1850.

One early writer on Ohio military history states that in the month of December, 1812, a Lieutenant Colonel whose name was Campbell led an expedition from Fort McArthur to a point near where Union City, Indiana, is now located, where he met a band of Indians at the Mississinewa River. Eight of his men were killed and forty-two wounded. Many of his horses were also killed in this skirmish. On the return to Fort McArthur, it was necessary to carry the wounded on stretchers. About 300 men took part in this expedition, and many of them were so frost bitten that they were entirely unfit for duty. How long Campbell’s troops camped at Fort McArthur is unknown.

**Tupper’s Letters to Governor Meigs**

While General Tupper and his army were encamped on the hillside near the old spring along the Shingle Pike, on what is now the Ottertail farm east of the Shingle school house, the General frequently wrote letters to Governor Meigs, and sent them via Franklinton (Columbus, Ohio) to Chillicothe, then the state capital.

Fortunately, some of these letters have been preserved. Printed copies were found in Dr. A. W. Munson’s scrap-book. The first letter was no doubt written before his advance to the Maumee Rapids, as it shows great anxiety for the success of the expedition. At any rate, it shows that General Tupper was fearless and courageous and anxious to strike the enemy a deadly blow.

The second letter, dated December 8th, 1812, would indicate that General Tupper and his men had gone into winter quarters near Fort McArthur to await further orders from General Harrison or General Winchester at the Maumee Rapids. While this second letter shows that the men in General Tupper’s command suffered untold hardships in the forest encampment near Fort McArthur, yet their fate can hardly be compared to the army of General Winchester, who had marched as far as Frenchtown (now Monroe, Michigan) where they were suddenly attacked by a large force of British and Indians. This attack was known as the River Raisien Massacre, and occurred on the 22nd of January, 1813. General Winchester had about 300 men killed; 547 were taken prisoners by the British and forty-five by the Indians. Many of the wounded were shot up in a cabin and burned to death; while only thirty-three men escaped. When the news of this great disaster reached the camp of Tupper’s men, they did not take their hardships quite so seriously. Afterward, General Tupper, in writing his reports to General Harrison, said that Winchester’s left wing “was at one time capable of tearing the British flag from the walls of Detroit.” The two letters written to Governor Meigs by Tupper, while at Fort McArthur, are quoted as follows:

**Tupper’s First Letter to Governor Meigs**


“Sir: Since writing to you this morning a circumstance has occurred
which makes another communication necessary. I ordered Capt. Thomas Hinkson to the Rapids with his company of spies, and with others to take a prisoner if possible. He has just returned and brought with him Captain Clark, a British subject who was out with a party of about 300 Indians and fifty British with two gun-boats, six bateaux and one small schooner at the foot of the Rapids. Captain Clark had just arrived with the vanguard of the detachment. The rafts had not yet anchored when the spies surprised him and brought him off undiscovered. At the same time several of Captain Hinkson's spies lay concealed on the bank within five rods of the place where some of the first boats were landing. Captain Clark was taken prisoner on the 7th, a little before sunset. He informs me that the forces contemplate remaining there from ten to fifteen days. I know not, sir, whether it will meet your approbation or that of our commander-in-chief, but I have ordered every man in the brigade, who does not fear the fatigue of a rapid march and is in condition to perform it, to draw five days' provisions and march with me for the Rapids in the morning, taking nothing with them but their provisions, knapsacks and blankets. Although the forces will not exceed 650, I am convinced it is sufficient to meet the forces now at the Rapids and save the greater part of the corn which is all important to us.

A moment is not to be lost. We shall be at the Rapids in three days. I wire you in great haste. The preparations for making our march will employ me the whole night. I shall not take with me a man but such as shall volunteer their services. I have apprised them that they have to endure hunger, fatigue, difficulties and dangers such as at the peril of their lives, and encounter the sufferings of a rapid march on short rations.


Tupper's Second Letter to Governor Mingo

Camp near McArthur House.
December 8th, 1812.

Dear Sir:—I have been compelled to send for a supply of medicine, owing in part to our medicine chests having been crushed by the falling of a tree, and in part to the great consumption necessary for the uncommon swelling of our sick list. I have directed the express by Franklinton, that they may, if possible, be drawn from the hospital stores at that place. If they cannot be, I must beg of you to take measures to have as supplied. Our sick list this morning amounts to 259, about thirteen of whom are considered dangerous, but all the others require medicine and those added to the men who cannot do duty for want of clothing will give you a sad picture of our camp. Our great number of sick arose from the situation at this place, we cannot get a camp in proper form, without taking in ground where other water settles. Indeed, I have seen sentinels standing in mud and water half leg deep. Thus, and the dampness of our tents here, creates colds which fall heavily on the lungs, often producing fevers, and in all cases render the men unfit for duty. The situation of the men as to clothing is really distressing. You will see many of them wading through the snow and mud almost barefooted and half naked. We have not more than five blankets for six men. Not half of the men have a change of pantaloons and linen.

E. W. Tepper.

The above letters indicate that Tupper with his thousand troops were in great distress; that only a small number were quartered in the fort, the remainder in a separate camp near the fort, probably on the hillsides near the old spring, along the Shingle pike.

Address of Dr. A. W. Munson

Many Kenton people will recall the venerable Dr. A. W. Munson, who for many years was the Secretary of the Hardin County Pioneers Association, and who was unusually well informed upon the local history of Kenton and
Hardin County. The writer has seen fit to incorporate an address delivered by Dr. Munson on Memorial Day of 1895 at Single Grove, near the Fort McArthur burial ground. The address is one containing many interesting details regarding the history of Fort McArthur, and exhibits great care in its preparation.

*COMRADES AND FRIENDS:—We have met here on this pleasant afternoon of May 30, 1895, in this beautiful grove, beneath these grand forest trees, around these graves to do honor to the memory of those who were buried here more than 80 years ago. I know that there are those who are disposed to doubt the correctness of the position assumed by most, if not all the members of 'Pap Thomas' Command' of Union Veteran Union of our city, viz.: That these graves contain the remains of soldiers who died here at the post of duty as defenders of our country in the War of 1812. Now if this assumption be true then it is highly proper that the memory of these heroes should receive the same consideration that the other defenders of our country are receiving.

'To establish the correctness of this proposition I will ask you to bear with me for a short time while I refer to some of the more important historical events, which will, no doubt, sustain the foregoing assumption to the satisfaction of all present.

'At the commencement of the War of 1812 this whole region was a vast and dense forest, not a single white inhabitant was found in all the territory now embraced within the limits of this county. Numerous tribes of Indians were scattered over the great northwest, many of whom were hostile and engaged in committing depredations upon the defenseless frontier settlers. So alarming had become the attitude of both Indian and British emissaries towards the frontier inhabitants that Governor Meigs, of Ohio, called into the Militia as early as May, 1812, and the First Regiment under Colonel McArthur was stationed at Urbana while other troops were quartered at Dayton.

'Governor Shelby, of Kentucky, at the same time called the troops of that state and they were also stationed at Dayton, Ohio. William Hull, who was then Governor of the Territory of Michigan, and who had been a valuable officer in the Revolutionary War was appointed a Brigadier-General and given command of all the Ohio and Kentucky troops.

'The hostile attitude of the British and Indians along the Canadian frontier became so alarming that Governor Hull decided to move his army to Detroit for the defense of that post. To accomplish this it became necessary that he should march his army through the dense forest from Dayton to Detroit. This course having been decided upon, Governor Meigs dispatched Col. Duncan McArthur with his troops, to open the way for Hull's army. He succeeded in cutting the way as far as the Scioto River and by the 9th of June he had completed a block house and stockade on the south bank of that stream and named it Fort McArthur.

'This fort was located about a mile from this place, down the river and on the opposite side. General Hull arrived with his army at Fort McArthur on the 19th day of June and proceeded on his way to Detroit, cutting a passage for this troops through the dense forest. This road was ever afterwards known to the people of this country as "Hull's Trail." In 1838, only 26 years after it was opened, I often passed along and across it. A thick growth of underbrush marked its course. Hull's army arrived the first evening at a point about three miles northwest from the village of Dunkirk and built a stockade and called it "Mud Fort" (Fort Necessity), in honor of the nature of the soil upon which it was built. In the fall of 1838 I visited this fort. A family named Hodge lived there for many years afterward. Hull arrived with his army at Detroit early in July and in August
thereafter he surrendered his whole army and the post at Detroit to the British and Indians under the British General Proctor. The surrender was made against the vigorous protest of his subordinate officers, viz.: Colonels McArthur, Findlay and Cass.

“The news of this disaster spread consternation among the people of Ohio and volunteers were called for to march to the defense of the northwestern frontier. Gen. Edward W. Tupper, of Gallia County, organized a force of 1000 men and on the 30th of August had them concentrated at Urbana, ready to march.

“The following letter was written by General Tupper to Governor Meigs; and I quote it for you as follows—

"Urbana, Aug. 30, 1812.

"Gov. Meigs, Sir.—With all the exertion we could make we are not in a situation to make a campaign in the wilderness. When I issued orders for an immediate preparation for a march I caused an examination of the public arms, and although two officers have been employed ever since we arrived here, there are still 32 rifles and 20 muskets awaiting repairs. We have no tents, few camp kettles, many blankets wanting, and no pay for the soldiers, yet they are ready to risk their lives in any perilous situation.—E.W.Tupper."

"General Tupper, following Hull's Trail marched his little army past Fort McArthur and arrived at the Maumee Rapids, and encountered a large force of Indians and engaged them in battle. He attempted to cross the river but, the embanked and half starved condition of his men rendered it impossible to stem the rapid current of the river, and he was forced to retrench his steps, and, with his wounded and sick, marched back to camp near Fort McArthur, arriving there the latter part of November. I know that some persons think there was but one encampment here and that was at the Fort on the south side of the river.

"I believe the following extracts from letters written by General Tupper will settle that question and convince anyone that there was a camp near McArthur Block House. A small-garrison under Captain McClelland was stationed at Fort McArthur, and no doubt those who died at the fort were buried nearby, but all evidence of those graves have long since disappeared by the cultivation of the grounds."

(At this point Dr. Munson read the two letters of General Tupper to Governor Meigs referred to above.) He then continued his address as follows:

"Upon his return from the Maumee, in November, he went into camp on yonder little hillside, his camp extending down into yonder little ravine, where a spring of good water was found, the same that is now seen by the side of yonder road (Shingle Pike).

"You old comrades can appreciate such a situation, can't you? Let us stop for a moment and reflect. These men were held in the wilderness, the only means of communication was by courier and horse, with no road save a trail through the forest. The nearest place where the supplies referred to could be obtained was at Franklinston, a distance of over 70 miles, and possibly none could be obtained nearer than Chillicothe, about 150 miles away. How long do you suppose it would require a man on horseback to make such a journey—many days at least, and during that time the sick soldiers must suffer on without medical relief.

"These scenes were enacted just on the side of yonder little hill, amid the great, dense forest. The actors in this drama were soldiers—boys who had voluntarily left home, friends and all, and marched into the great wilderness to defend our country from the savages of the forest and the tyranny of British oppression. Does anyone suppose for a moment that none of these soldiers fell a victim to the savages of the diseases as vividly depicted
been commenced in May, 1834. Just how the Williams' Tavern bar-room was converted into a Court-room, history does not relate, but it is hinted that there was ample space for Court officials and spectators at the trial.

The Grand Juries summoned at this session were as follows: Pomeroy Wheeler, John Gardner, Silas Bailey, Mathew Mahan, Benjamin Depew, William Corwell, Michael Pickle, Basil Bailey, John C. Ellis (Portman), James Elam, Levi Hoeman, Samuel Bailey, Jacob H. Homer, Thomas McGoldrick and Joseph5 Loomis.

The names of the Petit Juries drawn for this first trial, all of whom served during the session are as follows: Samuel Wagner, Moses Dudley, Daniel Barron, James Andrews, Daniel Trimpe, Peter C. McArthur, Jesse Holt, Robert McCord, George W. Newsland, John H. Homer, Edward M. Bailey, and William Scott.

The defendants, Matthew Dobson and Eliza Myers, had been indicted by the Grand Jury at the previous term of Court for larceny. The sequence developed the fact that Dobson and Myers "had gone into the timber" and cutting some very near "another" running trail, and not knowing in whom they belonged, selected those they wanted, shot them, and appropriated the pack to their own use. Arguments were presented by counsel for the plaintiff and defendant and the case given to the jury for deliberation. The jury retired from the bar-room (Court-room) to a small bed-room in the second story of the Williams' Tavern, which they reached by climbing a primitive ladder, made of wooden pins driven into the log wall at convenient distances apart. After due deliberation, the jury returned a verdict of "guilty as charged in the indictment" wherein the Court assessed a fine of ten dollars and costs against the defendants.

This court trial was a typical example of pioneer judicial procedure, and well exemplifies the spirit of the times.

THE FIRST COUNTY JAIL

Strange as it may seem, Hardin County's first public building was none other than a log jail structure, one story high. The jail building was completed in the fall of 1833 before the erection of the first County Court House, which was not begun until the month of May, 1834. This interesting old structure was only 24 feet long and about 18 feet wide and stood in the center of the east side of the Court House Square about where the drinking fountain is now located at the foot of the steps at the east entrance of the present Court House.

The walls were double, logs being Hewed on four sides and fitted closely together. To make the building more secure, the logs of the outside wall covered the corners between the logs of the inside wall. The roof was made of clapboards, and through the center of the building there was a board partition. By this arrangement two rooms were provided, one for male prisoners, and the other for female prisoners. The floor consisted of a solid layer of hard-packed earth, resting upon the ground on top of which the boards were nailed. The log-jail stood on the square until about 1849 when it was moved to the rear of the lot where Gasson's Drug Store is now located. This was done in order to make the jail less conspicuous on the square, and to make it more accessible to the rear of the old brick Court House, which stood at that time, where Scroggs' Furnishing Store is now located. The log-jail was in use until the year 1855.

THE FIRST JAIL ESCAPE

An interesting incident occurred in 1837 when the first jail-escape was effected by a prisoner whose name was Halstead. He had been arrested in the northern part of the county for stealing a horse. After being imprisoned,
in the Governor of the State by their commander?

"Do you suppose that some did, and what do you suppose was done with their dead bodies? Why, the only rational answer is, they were buried near their camp, and that was here in these graves amid the forest trees—buried by their comrades in their rude coffins made of puncheons split from the forest trees. That their coffins consisted of puncheons split from forest trees there is no doubt. I have here in my hand a small piece taken from the grave just by that black walnut stump. I, in company with Captain Parrot and others, made an examination of that grave to settle the question as to the identity of these little mounds, and there beneath a large walnut tree which had grown since that grave was made, the skeleton of a human being was found which had lain there for over eighty years.

"I said in the fore part of this address that at the time of the War of 1812 there were no white inhabitants in all this wilderness country. It was some years after the close of the war before any white settlers were located near this place. About 1820, Alfred Hale and his family settled at Fort McArthur and remained a few years during which time two members of the family died and were buried near the fort on the south side of the river. The first cemetery to be used by the early settlers in this part of the country was located about a mile east of this place, a short distance north of the river.

"A number of the early settlers were buried there, and although the ground is enclosed at this time and is preserved as a cemetery, it is in a dilapidated condition, none having been buried there for some time.

PORT McARTHUR BURIAL GROUND

"Now, comrades and friends, I hope and believe from what has been disclosed here today, none will hereafter doubt that these graves are the last resting places of soldiers of 1812, who died in camp here in the discharge of their duty, and were by their comrades buried in these graves, and that all belief or suspicion that they may be graves of some white settlers will be forever dispelled. It is, therefore, highly proper that this memory of these dead soldiers each year hereafter receive the same recognition that our other heroic dead are receiving."

Roll of Captain Andrew Dill's Company

When General Hull moved forward toward Detroit, as was stated in the first part of this narrative, one company was left to garrison Fort McArthur and to care for the soldiers who had taken sick. The Roster of Ohio Soldiers in the War of 1812 gives the names of the soldiers in this company, as follows: Captain, Andrew Dill; Lieutenant, William Weatherington; Ensign, John L. DeLorchesants; Sergeant, Andrew McMonan; Sergeant, Robert McElvain; Sergeant, Josiah Williams; Sergeant, William Mickey; Corporals, Jonathan Piper, Joseph Morgan, Samuel C. Rayl, Barratns Mc-
Abbott, Armstrong D. | Bogard, Joseph  
Back, William | Borden, James  
Conner, John | Carr, John  
Dawes, John | Calvinson, Samuel  
Ford, Benjamin | Harrison, James  
Lee, George | Hurl, Peter  
Lynn, Lewis | Leonard, John  
Mettal, Abel | Mosel, Jesse  
Nicholson, Urijah | Nicholson, Isacher  
Robinson, Daniel | Rigler, George  
Reid, Charles | Stid, Henry  
Shafer, Frederick | Woff, Charles  
Williams, Matthew | Walling, Asa  

Burk, Joseph  
Breckenridge, Joseph  
Davies, William  
Dyer, Samuel  
Hamler, Jacob  
Levin, John  
Martin, Daniel  
McNut, James  
Parkinson, John H.  
Riches, John  
Seedan, Jonathan  
Whiteman, James  
Wyant, John

The writer has searched every known record, and the county from which they came is unknown, and is so marked on the official records. However, it is known that they served a one year enlistment extending from May 1st, 1812, to May 1st, 1813. It may be that some of this company perished during the memorable winter of 1812-1813 and are among the 16 now buried at Fort McArthur. At any rate, we find no record where Captain Dill's company ever rejoined Hall's army; and it is quite probable that this company occupied the fort, while Tupper with his army camped outside the fort on the hillside, near the spring.

After careful research the writer has learned that Fort McArthur was garrisoned by a large company of soldiers under the command of Captain Robert McClelland, of Greene County, Ohio, from May 25, 1813, to November 24, 1813. The Captain was a very brave man, and when raised to action, was rash and daring. He would frequently go alone into the forest after a lurking Indian, who at times would fire at the fort or at some of his men, who would be hunting in the vicinity of the fort, or who would be going to the spring for a fresh supply of water. Tradition relates many interesting incidents relative to the encampment of the company of Captain McClelland at the fort during the summer and fall of 1813, and no doubt many of these were true, since it was during this summer that the Shawnees, Miami and Wyandot Indians were a great disturbance to the armies of General Harrison; finally resulting in the two sieges of Fort Meigs, and the attack upon Fort Stephenson, where the City of Fremont is now located.

Captain McClelland's company was composed of 108 privates, and was commanded by 24 officers, whose names are given as follows: Captain, Robert McClelland; Lieutenant, James McBride; Lieutenant, Elisha Leslie; Ensign, David Douglas; Ensign, William Erwin; Sergeant, Samuel Snodgrass; Sergeant, Isaac Miller; Sergeant, Jacob Hoozer; Sergeant, John McDaniel; Sergeant, John Barnes; Corporal, Samuel Lawrence; Corporal, Henry Web; Corporal, William Sutton; Corporal, John Alexander; Corporal, John Hacker; Corporal, Jacob Beals; Corporal, William Constan; Corporal, Adam Woff; Fifer, Robert Snodgrass; Musicians, Wm. Harrison and Daniel DeWitt.

The fort was garrisoned for two years after the war or until 1816 by small detachments from the State Militia; but was finally abandoned.

**Captain Robert McClelland**

In Henry Howe's History of Ohio (1847), is a very interesting personal account showing the bravery of Captain McClelland. The story was submitted to Mr. Howe by Thomas Coke Wright, an eminent historian of Greene County, Ohio, and at one time the auditor of that county. We quote Mr. Wright's article as follows:

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“It was at one time commanded by Robert McClelland who recently died in Greene County. He was brave, and when pressed, brave in rashness. While he commanded at Fort McArthur, one of his men had gone a short distance from the walls for the purpose of peeling back—while he was engaged at a tree, he was shot twice through the body, by a couple of Indians in ambush, whose rifles went off so near together that the reports were barely distinguishable. He uttered one piercing scream of agony, and ran with almost superhuman speed, but fell before he reached the fort. An instant alarm was spread through the garrison, as no doubt was entertained but that this was the commencement of a general attack, which had long been expected. Instead of shutting the gates to keep out danger, McClelland seized his rifle, and calling on one of his men to follow, of which but few obeyed, he hastened to the place of ambush and made diligent search for the enemy, who, by an instant and rapid retreat, had affected their escape; nor did he return until he had scored the woods all around in the vicinity of the fort.”

Chief Blackhoof

One of the most prominent Shawnee chiefs, who signed the Treaty of Greenville with General Wayne in 1795 was Blackhoof, who lived near the present town of Wapakoneta. From the day he signed the treaty he was always a friend of the white man, and took no part in the War of 1812. Sometimes he would visit the soldiers at Fort McArthur. The following incident is quoted from Howe’s History of Ohio. “In January, 1813, Blackhoof, the celebrated Shawnee Chief, visited Gen. Tupper’s camp at Fort McArthur, and while there about ten o’clock one night, when sitting by the fire in company with the general and several other officers, someone fired a pistol through a hole in the wall of the hut and shot Blackhoof in the face. The ball entered the cheek, glanced against the bone, and finally lodged in his neck; he fell, and for some time was supposed to be dead, but revived and afterward recovered from this severe wound. The most prompt and diligent inquiry as to the author of this cruel act, failed to lead to his detection. Blackhoof had a cheerful disposition and his conversation was sprightly and agreeable.”

The Fort Dismantled

As the years passed the fort was dismantled by the early settlers. Ralph Racey, well known Crisana Township farmer, who has lived all his life near the site of the fort, well recalls, as a small boy, seeing his father, Benjamin Racey, remove portions of the old stockade. He assisted his father in removing from the channel of the Scioto River, the old sycamore-log foot built across the river by McArthur’s troops. Some of the logs were in a fairly good state of preservation. By the year 1862, the last vestige of the fort had disappeared. Mr. Racey is probably the only Hardin County citizen now living who ever cast eyes on a single log of old Fort McArthur.

Grave of General Duncan McArthur, Chillicothe, Ohio
Work of Fort McArthur Chapter, D. A. R.

When the Daughters of the American Revolution of Kenton organized on February 12, 1903, they decided to name their chapter Fort McArthur. They received their official charter under that name on March 9, 1906, and from that day to this these patriotic women have been active in preserving the historic places of interest in Hardin County. They have achieved much and they merit the praise that is due them for their efforts.

In 1912, a committee was appointed to arrange for the placing of a suitable marker on the site of Fort McArthur. A century had elapsed since the erection of the fort. However, the erection of the marker was long delayed on account of the conservancy work and the dredging of the Scioto. The Centenary Committee was composed of Mrs. A. S. McKibben, chairman; Mrs. W. W. Nindig, Mrs. J. E. Campbell, Mrs. A. B. Johnson, Mrs. James H. Allen, Sr., and Mrs. J. F. Andrews. For the next few years the chapter devoted a great deal of time and attention in placing markers on Hull's trail, where it crossed the principal highways leading into Kenton. These markers were composed of the huge circular stones from the pillars of the old Court House porticos, when that stately old edifice was torn down, to make way for the present building. These markers have been set substantially and the bronze plates appropriately needed.

The next major work of the chapter was the purchase of the site of Fort McArthur Burial Lot on the north bank of the Scioto, and arrangements made for its preservation. Accordingly, the Chapter purchased eight-tenths of an acre where the sixteen soldiers are buried, from the owners, Michael Krack and wife. It was agreed that the Chapter build and maintain a substantial wire fence on either side of the lane enclosure, leading from the Lynn Valley Road to the burial plot. The deed for this conveyance of property was signed on June 28, 1916. A few years ago the Chapter completed another patriotic work by erecting a most suitable marker at each of the sixteen graves of the unknown soldiers of the War of 1812, who died while on duty at Fort McArthur.

The actual site of the old fort on the Clyde Long farm was also appropriately marked with a substantial stone pillar, similar to those on Hull's

Fort McArthur Marker Dedication

Trail. The site is located on the south bank of the Scioto, between the Erie Railroad and the river, about a half-mile west of the road extending north from the Scioto Valley Schoolhouse in Buck Twp. This marker was formally dedicated on Sunday evening at six o'clock, June 17, 1927. The cere-
Indian History of Hardin County

Hardin County was peculiarly located as far as the distribution of the Indian tribes was concerned. The rivers and small streams of Ohio furnished the means of communication when the Indian was compelled to travel with supplies in a canoe; but when the Indian was out on a hunt, he lived a different kind of life. Most Indians roamed almost aimlessly through the forests. Hardin County being located on the great water divide is the actual source of many streams. Within the county are the headwaters of the Scioto, the Great Miami, the Sandusky, the Auglaize, and the Blanchard rivers, and smaller streams. It will be noticed that most of these streams have Indian names.

The Scioto valley was occupied by the Wyandots and Shawnees in common; while the Blanchard and the streams to the northwest were often inhabited by moving bands of Ottawas, Miami and Senecas. The valley of the Tymochtee in the northeast part of the county was considered within Wyandot territory. Later, however, many Delaware and Mingo Indians journeyed in the headwaters of the Scioto from their homes along the Muskingum and the Toscawas rivers. The vicinity of the great Scioto Marsh in the Upper Scioto, and the marshes in the vicinity of Ada and Ada were choice hunting-grounds. Taylor Creek valley was also a very favorite Shawnee hunting-ground, and many an Indian campfire has been kindled in the vicinity of the Devil's Backbone.

It was also the custom among many of the Indian hunters to follow up a stream to its very source and then portage across to the source of some other stream. This was true in Hardin County.

The headwaters of the Auglaize is southwest of Alger in Marion Township; while the source of the Scioto is located northwest of Roundhead. The source of the North Fork of the Miami is south and west of Jumbo in McDonough Township; the source of the South Fork of the Miami is not far from Bellecenter, while the headwaters of Hog Creek is in Cassa Township. All were traversed by the Indians. The headwaters of the Blanchard River is located in Pleasant Township between the Dunkirk Pike and the Big Four Railroad, while the source of the Little Tymochtee Creek is in Pleasant Township. It was here the Indians set their traps or placed his birch-bark canoe over his head and trudged through the forests.

Sometimes the Indian would construct a rude hut made of bark. Levi Mathews, an early pioneer of Cassa Township, lived in one of these bark Indian huts until he erected a log cabin. Game was so plentiful that it was scarcely necessary to leave their farms to secure deer, turkey, rabbit or squirrel. Bears and wolves were found near the marshes, and Allen Lepers, a noted buck-woodsman of Cassa Township, relates that Indians told him Hardin County was one of the best hunting grounds they had found. Lepers was one of the best...
known Indian Scouts in Hardin County. The last remnant of the Wyandots left Hardin County in 1842, having lived on their reservations near Upper Sandusky on friendly terms with the early pioneers.

THE SHAWNEE TRAIL IN HARDIN COUNTY

The Shawnee Indians came into Ohio a few years before Braddock’s Campaign in the year 1754. It is presumed they came from along the Gulf of Mexico because they sought better hunting grounds. Being very good friends of the Wyandots, they settled in territory adjacent to the latter. Col. John Johnston, noted Indian authority, says that the word Shawnee was originally spelled “Shawennoe,” and that the true pronunciation in the Indian language was Shawaneo (Shaw-nee).

Hardin County was a favorite hunting ground of the Shawnee braves. They were familiar with Taylor Creek, Buck Dudley, Pleasant and Goschen Townships. The Shawnees had established at the headwaters of the Mad River in Logan County, three well known villages which they called the Mack-a-check towns. The first town called Mackachack was located near West Liberty on the farm formerly owned by Judge Benjamin Platt (near the present Platt Castles); the second village was about three miles northwest of this point and was called Pigeon-Town; the third village stood just below the village of what is now Zanesfield and was called Wappanawas.

The habit of the Shawnee in making excursions into the Wyandot territory at Upper Sandusky from the Mack-a-check towns soon made it necessary to establish a trail through Hardin County and many a Shawnee wigwam was pitched along this trail, especially at their crossing place over the Scioto at what is now Pfeiffer Station. This trail entered Hardin County about one mile southwest of Hickory Grove school. It followed thence northeastly to Grassy Point, where tradition says there was a small Shawnee village later occupied by the Mingo Indians; then northeast to a point just south of the Wolf Creek cemetery on the Mt. Victory pike. It continued to Garwood Run, thence to Jess Creek which it crossed on the farm now owned by Art McKinley. Continuing northeast to the Scioto River, which it crossed just south of the old Wheeler Tavern, the trail passed through Goschen Township through sections 34, 25 and 24, passing near the McGuffin school and the Bryant school. The trail then crossed the corner of Marion County and entered Wyandot county about a mile west of Twinflower Creek extending to Marseilles and on to the Wyandot towns at Upper Sandusky.

From the Revolutionary War until about 1830, this trail was a noted Indian highway and connected at Bellefontaine with other trails leading to what is now Wapakoneta, Columbus, Dayton, Chillicothe, and Greeneville. The crossing place of the trail over the Scioto at Pfeiffer was known as the Shawnee Ford, and the early settlers used the trail extensively. One of the first stage-coach lines in the county passed over this trail, and for this reason the Wheeler Tavern was built at the ford of the Shawnees.

Some of the Shawnee chiefs that passed over the trail were White Cap, Black Hoot, Red Pole, Long Shank, Capt. Reed, Blue Jacket, Civil Man, Black Wolf, The Snake, Mulianta, Tamie Hawk, Captain Jonny, Logan (High-Heen), Blackfish, Capt. John Lewis. In later years, when the first settlers began to move into Hardin County, they encountered such Shawnee Chiefs as Holy Cross, Grey Eyes, Penrock, Jump-on-the-Head and William Walker, the half-bred Wyandot chief, who made a noted farewell speech at the Shawnee Ford on the occasion of the removal of the Shawnees and Wyandots to the far west in the year 1845. Many early pioneers heard this speech among whom was Joshua Cope, one of the founders of Dudley Twp., who always stated that the address was delivered in English.
At the present time the state road extending from Belleville to Upper Sandusky follows in general the old Shawnee trail, or Trace as it was often called.

**CAPTURE AND ESCAPE OF DR. JOHN KNIGHT**

The earliest known incident of striking interest occurring in this county was the escape of Dr. John Knight in June, 1782. He was a brother-in-law of Col. Crawford, captured with the Colonel and two others near what is now Louisville, Crawford County. After the burning of Crawford, Knight was painted black and next morning put in charge of an Indian named Tuteh, a rough looking fellow, to be taken to the Shawnee town of Wapatomika for execution.

It is a well received tradition that the precise spot where the Doctor outwitted, overpowered and escaped from his Indian guard was in Section 8, Dudley Township, on the north bank of the Scioto, near the old residence and tavern of Judge Fortin's Wheeler. The details of the escape as told by Knight are these:

They started for the Shawnee towns, which the Indian said were somewhat less than forty miles away. Tuteh was on horseback and drove Knight before him. The latter pretended he was ignorant of the death he was to die, though Simon Girty told him he was to die, he affected as cheerful a countenance as possible, and asked the savage if they were not to live together as brothers in one house when they should get to the town. Tuteh seemed well pleased and said, "Yes." He asked Knight if he could make a wigwam. Knight told him he could. He then secured more friendly. The route taken by Tuteh and Knight was the Indian trail leading from the Delaware town to Wapatomika, near Zanesfield and ran some six or eight miles west of what is now Upper Sandusky. Its direction was southwest from Pipetown, home of Chief Capt. Pipe, to the Big Tymochte. They traveled, as near as Knight could judge, the first day about twenty-five miles. The Doctor was then informed that they would reach Wapatomika the next day a little before noon.

The Doctor often attempted to notice himself during the night but the Indian was very watchful and scarcely closed his eyes, so that he did not succeed. At daybreak Tuteh got up and washed the Doctor. They had built a fire near which they slept. Tuteh, as soon as he had washed the Doctor, began to stir the fire, and as the gnats were troublesome, the Doctor asked him if he should make a smoke behind him. He said "Yes." The Doctor took the end of a dogwood fork, which had been burnt down to about eighteen inches in length. It was the longest stick he could find, yet too small for the purpose he had in view. He then took up another small stick, and taking a rod of fire between them, went behind the Indian when, turning suddenly about, he struck the Indian on the head with all his force. This so stunned him that he fell forward, with both hands in the fire. He soon recovered, and springing to his feet ran howling off in the forest. Knight seized his gun, and with much trepidation followed trying to shoot the Indian; but using too much violence in pulling back the cock of the gun, broke the mainstring. The Indian continued his flight, the Doctor vainly endeavoring to fire his gun. He finally returned to the camp from the pursuit of Tuteh, and made preparations for his homeward flight through the wilderness. He took the blanket of the Delaware, a pair of mocassin, powder horn, bullet bag, together with the Indian's gun, and started on his journey in a direction a little north of east.

About half an hour before sunset he came to the Sandusky Plains, when he laid down in a thicket until dark. He continued in a northeasterly direction, passing through what is now Marion, Morrow, Richland, Ashland, Wayne and Stark counties and on the evening of the twentieth day after
his escape he reached the mouth of Beaver creek on the Ohio, in Beaver County, Pa., and was there among friends. During the whole journey he subsisted on roots, a few birds that were unable to fly out of his reach, and wild berries.

In after years Duttie Knight published a small booklet giving a full account of the expedition of Colonel Crawford, telling how when captured, he was with Col. Crawford, Major Harrison, who was the son-in-law of Col. Crawford, and a guide by the name of Slover. Major Harrison was captured in depth at the Indian town of Wasahocusia while the guide, Slover, was taken to a Shawnee village known as the Grenadier Square town on the Pickaway Plains, near the famous Logan Elm where he was stripped for execution, tied to the stake, and the fire kindled; but a terrible storm arose, the rain extinguishing the fire; the Indians, looking upon this as the manifestation of an angry Great Spirit, immediately postponed the horrid deed. That very night Slover escaped and reached his home in Pennsylvania in safety.

GOVERNOR SHELBY'S EXPEDITION THROUGH THE COUNTY OF HARDIN

During the War of 1812, the territory embraced in Hardin County became historic ground, not only because of Hull's famous march through the county or the erection of Fort McArthur, but also because of the long march of Gen. Isaac Shelby of Kentucky, whose army passed through this county.

Commodore Perry had won his notable victory on Lake Erie on Sept. 10, 1813, and General Wm. H. Harrison was planning a vigorous attack on the British and Indians, who had begun a retreat into Canada. They had evacuated their stronghold at Fort Malden, now known as Amherstburg, Ontario, and General Harrison knew that he must pursue without delay the British Army commanded by General Proctor, and the Indians commanded by the Shawnee Chief, Tecumseh.

It was a tense and critical situation. Kentucky was again called upon for reinforcements, and Col. Richard M. Johnson raised a regiment and moved down the Mammoth valley ready to join the army of Harrison.

General Harrison had invited the venerable Governor Isaac Shelby of Kentucky to accompany the Kentucky troops on an invasion into Canada. Thirty-two years before in the Revolutionary War, Shelby was the hero and victor at the Battle of Kings Mountain in South Carolina, and now he had the distinction of leading an army a second time against the British.

When he heard of Perry's plans to strike the British Navy a blow, he knew that it was time for another decisive engagement, and he therefore issued a proclamation, calling for volunteers to assemble at Newport, Ky., on August 31, 1813. In closing his proclamation, the Governor stated, "I will meet you there in person, and I will lead you to the field of battle, and share with you the dangers and honors of the campaign." On the day appointed four thousand troops assembled at Newport, double the number that had been called for. Every volunteer was mounted on horseback, and the United States Arsenal at Newport was exhausted of arms and equipment.

The army took up the march from Cincinnati in Dayton, to Urbana, to Bellefontaine, and thence over the Shawnee Trail through Hardin County to Fort Ferry, now known as Upper Sandusky. The army had been on the march for five days when they reached what is now the County line between Logan and Hardin Counties. They passed through this County on Saturday, the 12th day of September, 1813. A halt was made at the Shawnee Ford (now Pfeiffer Station). The troops disembarked, partook of a lunch and watered their horses in the Scioto. The order to proceed was given and the army reached Fort Ferry at Upper Sandusky that evening. Here they camped and
moved next day to Fort Ball (now Tiffin) where they first learned of Perry’s great victory. Gov. Shelby met Harrison at Fort Seneca, and by the 16th of September the army of Gov. Shelby had reached the general camp at the mouth of the Portage River, at the site of the present Port Clinton, Ohio. All of the horses were here turned out to graze, the army embarking on Perry’s vessels for Port Mahon, via Put-in-Bay. Only one small post could be found at the old British Post and it was taken by Gov. Shelby’s ese. On Sept. 30th, the army reached Detroit, and at a Council of War the Governor and former General in the Revolution said he was ready for battle and declared, “I will follow Prizer and his savages to Hell if necessary to avenge the wrongs of Kentucky.” No wonder the Americans won the great Battle of the Thames on Oct. 5th, and destroyed the British Army. Here Tecumseh met his death, and the Indian power was forever broken.

One of Gov. Shelby’s soldiers, John Lambourn, was one of the pioneer settlers in Dudley Township, and he afterward stated that when he came to the township to make his home he readily recognized the Shawnee Trail as the course over which the troops marched in September, 1813; and the Shawnee Ford as the place where they crossed the Scioto on their way to Fort Ferree at Upper Sandusky.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To assemble the data for a work of this kind is no small task. Errors may have been made, not intentional of course.
