

1794.

HISTORY
OF
MUSKINGUM COUNTY, OHIO,
WITH
ILLUSTRATIONS AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
OF
PROMINENT MEN AND PIONEERS.

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SALEM TOWNSHIP.

IN 1774—"THEIR PEACEFUL SHADES"—ABSENCE OF RECORD—FIRST SETTLER—PIONEERS—TOPOGRAPHY—SOIL—STREAMS—THE OLDEST "BLAZE"—AGRICULTURE—STOCK RAISING—FIRST ORCHARD—FIRST FRAME HOUSE—STONE HOUSE—BRICK HOUSE—FIRST MOWER—SULKY RAKE—THRESHING MACHINE—SHORT HORNED CATTLE—MERINO SHEEP—FIRST PUBLIC ROAD—FIRST MARRIAGE—FIRST BIRTH—FIRST DEATH—GUNSMITHS—BLACKSMITH—CARPENTER—MILLWRIGHT—NEW HOPE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH—MILLS—FIRST SCHOOL—MUSKINGUM NORMAL SCHOOL—SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH—FORMATION OF TOWNSHIP—FIRST DISTILLERY—POSTOFFICE—ADAMSVILLE—ITS SETTLEMENT, INCORPORATION AND DIRECTORY—PHYSICIANS—FIRST STORE—FIRST TAVERN—ADAMSVILLE M. E. CHURCH—"SALEM CHAPEL" M. E. CHURCH—"GOOD HOPE" LUTHERAN CHURCH—"BEULAH" BAPTIST CHURCH—MILITARY RECORD.

This territory was probably traversed by white men as early as 1774, when, by order of the Governor of Virginia—the Earl of Dunmore—Colonel Angus McDonald marched against the Indian town, Wakatomika, near the present site of Dresden, and spread desolation among those simple children of the forest. We cannot now see a reason to justify this procedure, indeed, if we illumine the past never so fully—history finds no justification for might making right! But they are gone to their fathers, who first enjoyed the allurements of those grand old forests; amid their peaceful shades hunting the appetising game, and drawing from the limpid waters toothsome fishes, and "worshiping in God's first temples." That their loss was our gain, we, of course, with due selfish gravity, proclaim, and add, "to the victors belong the spoils." In the briefest retrospection we say that the fortunes of war have discovered the beauty and fertility of most of our country. And those who have made their homes in the Muskingum Valley easily appropriate these maxims, and recount how their

ancestors "fought, bled and died" for the inheritance they now enjoy.

But one thing mars the completeness of this picture, and that is the absence of the record concerning those who were here probably before 1810.

The first actual settler in this township, William Denison, came from Massachusetts, and located on the northeast quarter of section fifteen, in 1810. His son, William S. Denison, now occupies the property, and claims that his father was the first actual settler in the present Salem township.

Jesse Williams came with Denison, and married his daughter, Lucy, and settled on the northwest quarter of section thirteen. Jacob Swigert came soon after, and located on lot forty, of the school land, in Salem. Philip Shroyer located on lot eleven, of the same lands. Peter Worts on lot eight, and Jacob Gaumer on lot twenty-eight, about 1811. Lawrence Wisecarver, George Stoner, Peter Livingood, George Shurtz, Samuel Shurtz, John Shurtz and Jacob Sturtz were early settlers. Joseph Stiers came in 1815, and settled on the southwest quarter of section eight. William and Stephen Starkey came from Virginia and settled about the same time, and Thomas Collins located on the southwest quarter of section thirteen, in 1815. The Rev. William Spencer located on lot thirty-six, of the school lands, in 1816.

TOPOGRAPHY.

Topographically the territory embraced in this township is moderately hilly, with a considerable part of the surface very low, called "prairie." The highest grounds are in the southern part, on William Drummond's farm, on which there is a cone-shaped hill, known as "Drummond's Knob." When first settled by the whites, the prairie lands were covered with a coarse grass, or low brush. Within the memory of the "oldest inhabitant" large trees have grown from these brush oaks, but much the greater part has been cleared away, and the land converted into fertile grain and meadow fields.

The soil is a mixture of sand and clay, and generally quite fertile. The principal streams are Salt Creek, which enters from the east, flows in a westerly direction through the township, and turning southeastward passes into Perry township; and Prairie Run, its principal tributary, which rises in the northeastern part of the township, flowing south and west, and unites with Salt Creek, on Dolphin Winn's farm; and there are two branches of Symmes Creek that pass through the northwest corner of the township.

THE OLDEST "BLAZE" IN THE TOWNSHIP.

Mr. Sutherland Stiers, a reliable citizen, residing on section eight, one mile south of Adamsville, relates that in 1868 he cut down a large white oak tree for rails, and found within the body of the tree a number of distinct marks, successively one above the other, appearing to have been made for the purpose of a "blaze," or road-mark

—cutting in with an ax and hewing the hacked surface down in the usual manner, and that the growth of the tree had enveloped, but not obliterated these marks. He, with his neighbors, carefully counted the growth, or annular rings, and found them to number one hundred and sixteen, which, subtracted from the date of discovery, would make the date of their making 1752. These marks could not have been made with a tomahawk, and seem to have been made with such an ax as Americans use. 1752 was twelve years before Boquet's expedition, and ante-dates Braddock's expedition. Who made them?

AGRICULTURE.

Grain raising was formerly the leading occupation; now stock raising divides the honors, and is receiving considerable attention.

HORTICULTURE.

The first orchard was planted by the first settler, William Denison, on the farm now occupied by his son, William S., where he built the first frame house in the township, in 1812.

The first stone house was built on the northeast quarter of section sixteen, by Jacob Zimmerman, in 1827. William S. Denison built the first brick house in 1841, and now occupies it.

The agriculturist's implements changed slowly. Mr. W. S. Denison introduced the first mower and sulky rake. The first threshing machine was operated by Singleton Hardy. It was styled a "tramp" machine.

FINE STOCK.

The first short horned cattle were brought into the township by W. S. Denison, and, although not raising thoroughbreds, he has a fine herd of "grades."

In 1861, W. W. Adams purchased some thoroughbreds of Moses Robertson, Washington county. In 1868, he bought a bull in Coshoccon county, and since that time has purchased of Mr. Robertson two calves at \$75 each, and from these he has raised a fine herd of high grades, having crossed Durhams and Devonshires.

The first merino sheep were introduced by non-residents, in 1858.

The first public road in the township was surveyed from Zanesville to Plainfield, in Coshoccon county. The next was from Mechanicsville to Livingood's Mill, on section eighteen.

The first marriage was between Jesse Williams and Lucy Denison, "high contracting parties," in 1810. The first birth was their son, Gordon, born in April, 1811.

The first death recorded was Catherine Gaumer, wife of Jacob Gaumer, in 1816. She was buried in the ground set apart for a graveyard, by the Lutheran Denomination, and was the first person buried there. This is the oldest cemetery in the township. The land was deeded for church and cemetery purposes, by Jacob Gaumer.

GUNSMITHS.

Jacob Gaumer lived on lot twenty-eight of the school land, and repaired guns, and occasionally did blacksmithing, in 1811. He may be called the first blacksmith. The descendants of Peter Wertz and Abner Wade, cotemporaries of Gaumer, dispute and claim this honor.

The first carpenter and millwright was Stephen Starkey.

CHURCHES.

New Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized in 1811, by Rev. Anthony Weyer, with the following members: Jacob Gaumer and Catharine, his wife; Philip Shroyer and Maria, his wife; Peter Wertz and Susan, his wife; Henry Bainter, Adam Bainter and wife, Samuel Shurtz and Mary, his wife; George Shurtz and wife, Christian Shroyer and wife, Catharine; Jacob Gaumer, Jr., and Elizabeth, his wife; Daniel Gaumer and Hannah, his wife; Catharine and Margaret Shurtz, John Shurtz, John Ault and Mary, his wife; Jacob Sturtz, Jacob Shroyer, Abraham Shroyer, Anthony Slater and Susan, his wife, and George Stoner and wife.

The Elders, from 1812 to 1818, were Daniel Gaumer and Frederick Munnig (now spelt Minnick). The Elders, from 1818 to 1821, were Samuel Shurtz and Frederick Garijan (now spelt Yarian).

The Deacons, from 1812 to 1818, were Jacob Gaumer and John Stoner; from 1818 to 1821, Michael Shain and George Shurtz.

The Trustees, from 1816 to 1818, were Jacob Gaumer, Adam Lander, Daniel Gaumer, Philip Shroyer, and Jacob Gaumer, Jr.

The first church was built on the northwest corner of lot twenty-eight, the site now occupied by the Lutheran Cemetery. It was a small structure, erected in 1817, and, in 1838, was removed, to give place to a two-story, brick church, which did service until 1870, when a new frame building was erected. The corner-stone was laid May 14th, 1870, by N. J. Knisely, and the house was finished the same year. It is forty-two by seventy, and cost six thousand dollars. The dedication ceremonies were performed May 28th, 1871, by Rev. M. C. Horine and Rev. J. A. Roof.

The old church site and graveyard, consisting of about two acres, was donated to the Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, in 1819, by Jacob Gaumer, and the present site of the church (about one acre), was donated for that purpose, by Jonathan Gaumer.

The following is a list of those who have served as pastors of this church:

Anthony Weyer, 1811 to '15; Andrew Henkle, 1815 to '18; Ludwig Sheid, 1818 to '20; Samuel Kaemmerer, 1820 to '59; A. N. Bartholomew, 1859 to '70; J. P. Hentz, 1871 to '73; John Weber, 1873 to '80—and the latter is the present incumbent.

The present membership numbers one hundred and fifty.

The Deacons are G. W. Bell, Peter W. Sturtz, Jonas Bainter, and J. W. Vinsel.

The Elders are John O. Shrigley and Solomon Gaumer.

The Sunday School has an attendance of ninety, with Peter W. Sturtz as Superintendent.