

PAST AND PRESENT  
OF THE  
CITY OF ZANESVILLE

AND  
MUSKINGUM COUNTY, OHIO

BY  
J. HOPE SUTOR

TOGETHER WITH  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

OF MANY OF ITS LEADING AND PROMINENT CITIZENS AND ILLUSTRIOUS DEAD

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ILLUSTRATED

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## SALEM TOWNSHIP.

Under date of February 12, 1817, the commissioners' journal records that "A petition was presented to the commissioners praying a township to be incorporated at the southwest corner of township two, range six, of the military district, thence east five miles to range number five, thence north five miles to township number two, thence west five miles to range number seven, thence south five miles to the place of beginning, being the second surveyed township in the sixth range of the military district and to be called Salem township." It does not appear that this became effective as July 2, 1819, in the general division of the original Highland township, the record reads, "The second township in the sixth range is called Salem township." The name was derived from Salem, Massachusetts, whence a number of the early settlers came, and as now defined the township is bounded on the north by Adams township; east by Highland township; south by Perry township, and west by Washington and Madison townships. The northeast quarter was appropriated as school lands and divided into one hundred-acre lots. The first election was ordered held at the house of Jesse Williams, but no record is extant of the result.

The only village in the township is Adamsville, the site of which was owned by Mordecai Adams;

in 1832 he laid it out as a town and several houses were at once built, the first to be occupied being that of Dr. Jacob Reasoner, in 1832, and he was, after Adams, the first resident of the village, as he was the first physician of the township. In 1835 A. H. Wheeler laid out an addition and later Jared Cone made several. A postoffice was established one mile from the town site in 1827 and in 1835 was moved to the village, where the first store in the township was opened in 1833, by Thomas Few. The village was incorporated in 1864, David Richardson being first mayor and George Shoemaker, J. W. Stiers and A. P. Baker, first councilmen.

The first settler was Wm. Denison, who located in section fifteen, in 1810, and erected the first cabin and planted the first orchard, and in 1812 erected the first frame house; he was accompanied by Jesse Williams who married his daughter, Lucy, in 1810, being the first wedding in the township, and their son, Gordon, was the first white child born in the township, an event which transpired in April, 1811. Williams located in section thirteen. Jacob Swigert, Peter Shroyer, Peter Worts, Adam Wade and Jacob Gaumer were early successors of Denison, the last three being blacksmiths, and Gaumer was in addition a gunsmith. Lawrence Wisecarver, George Stoner, George, Samuel and Jacob Shurtz and Peter Livingood came soon after, and the latter built the first grist mill in section eighteen in 1814-15. Joseph Stiers located in section eight, in 1815.

Jacob Zimmerman built the first stone dwelling, in section sixteen, in 1827, and Wm. S. Denison built the first brick in 1841; he also introduced the mower and sulky rake, and short horned cattle, and Singleton Hardy owned the first threshing machine. Stephen Starkey was the first carpenter and mill wright; Denison Ross opened the first tavern, in Adamsville, in 1838; Joseph Bowers operated the first saw mill in 1832, on Salt creek in section sixteen; Philip Baker conducted the first distillery in 1819, in section nineteen, and George Stoner had a still in section four in 1822, and produced a so popular brand of liquor that people carried it away in jugs while it was so hot they could not handle the vessel without gloves.

## SCHOOLS.

The first school house was in lot 37 of school lands, in December 1817, with Abraham Smith as teacher. The township is now divided into the Adamsville special district, with a four-room building, valued at \$4,000.00, and employing one male teacher in the high school, and one male and one female in the elementary branches, the enrollment being fifty-five boys and thirty-five girls. The remainder of the township has three school

districts, each with a one-room building, of an aggregate value of \$2,500.00, and employing two male and one female teachers, with an enrollment of forty-one boys and thirty-seven girls.

#### CHURCHES.

**New Hope Evangelical Lutheran.** A class of thirty-one was formed in 1811 and a small church was built in 1817 on the site of the Lutheran cemetery, a tract of two acres which had been donated by Jacob Gaumer, and whose wife, buried in 1816, was the first death in the township; in 1838 a two-story brick was erected and May 14, 1870, the corner stone of a frame church, 42 by 70 feet, was laid, completed at a cost of \$6,000.00 and dedicated May 28, 1871, on a site containing one acre contributed by Jonathan Gaumer.

**Salem Baptist.** A class of twenty-one was organized October 10, 1818, and a small hewed log meeting house was built east of Adamsville, in 1822; in 1838 it was replaced by a frame, 40 by 60 feet, at a cost of \$1,000.00, and in 1872 a new frame, 36 by 52 feet, was erected at a cost of \$2,500.00.

**Adamsville Methodist Episcopal.** In 1840 a class of nine was formed and held a large meeting in Noah Honnold's barn, May 16, 1841. During 1842 a frame, 40 by 56 feet, was built in Adamsville at a cost of \$1,500.00.

**Salem Chapel, Methodist Episcopal.** A class of twenty held meetings at private houses and Benaiah Spragg gave an acre of ground in section eighteen and in 1852 a frame building, 40 by 50 feet, was erected at a cost of \$900.00.

**Good Hope, Lutheran.** A class of nine was organized in 1868 and in 1871 a frame building was bought in Adamsville and fitted up and dedicated November 5, 1871, and soon after a Sunday school was formed.

**Beulah Baptist.** During March, 1872, a series of meetings was held in Salem Chapel and a congregation of twenty-six organized, which is now located at Sonora, in Perry township.

#### SOCIETIES.

**Hubbard Lodge, No. 220, F. & A. M.** A dispensation was granted October 4, 1851, to open a lodge at Adamsville, named in honor of W. B. Hubbard, well known and beloved throughout the United States; two lodges desired the name but it was assigned to Adamsville; October 21, 1852, a charter was issued and the number 220 assigned.

Of Fred. Aler Post, No. 412, G. A. R.; Delphian Lodge, No. 627, Knights of Pythias, at Adamsville, and Eureka Grange, P. of H., formed in April, 1889, no information respecting organization has been obtained.