

HISTORY
OF
Champaign County
OHIO

ITS PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

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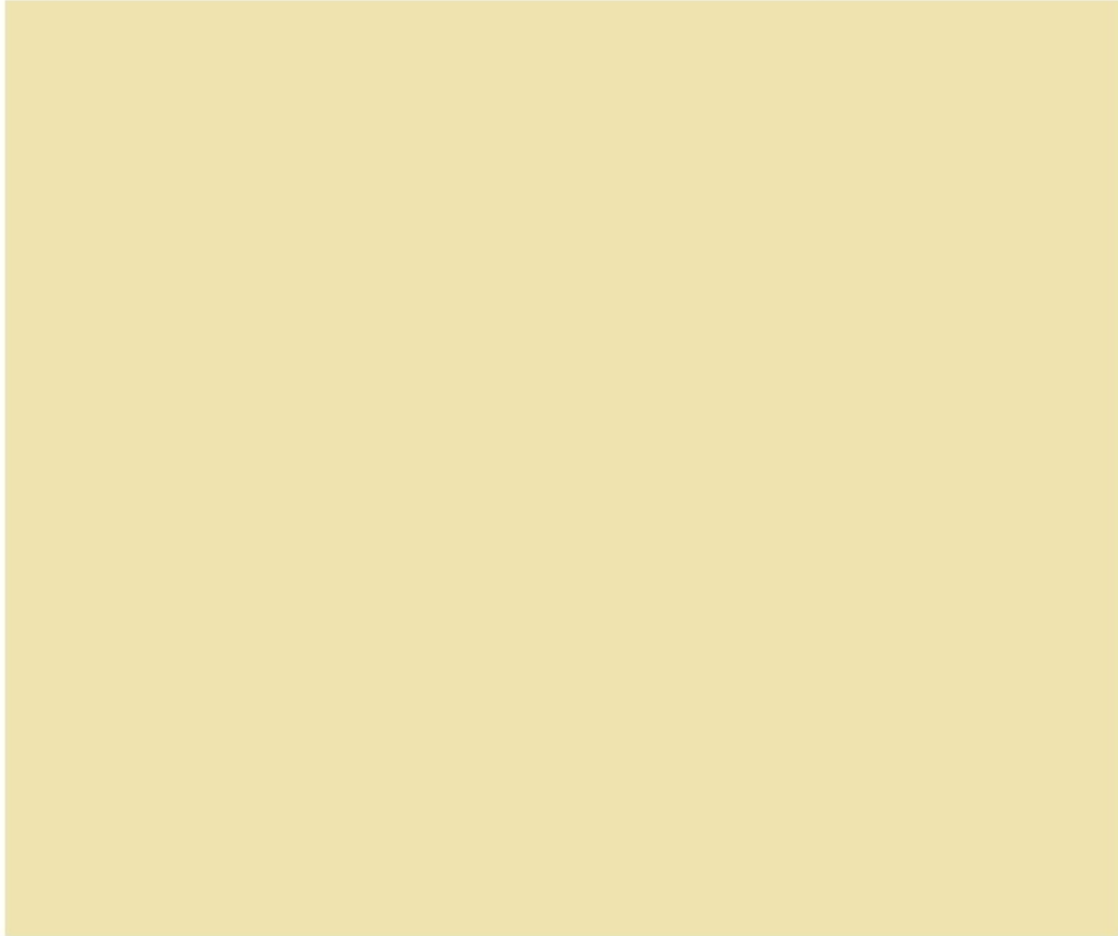
With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

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THOMAS MELANCTHON GAUMER.

The late Thomas M. Gaumer was born in Adamsville, Ohio, February 2, 1848, a son of Jonathan and Mahala (Barrett) Gaumer; a grandson of Daniel Gaumer and a great-grandson of Jacob Gaumer. The Gaumer family, which has numerous members in many parts of the United States, is of German origin; however, the coming of the founder of the family to the New World was at so early a period that the date of that immigration is not known. The known history of the Gaumer family in the United States begins with Jacob Gaumer, Sr., whose family lived at various times in Virginia, Maryland, and in Lehigh and Somerset counties, Pennsylvania; in which latter state he was born about the middle of the eighteenth century. Some

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time after the "embattled farmers stood and fired the shot heard round the world" at Concord bridge, Jacob Gaumer left his farm and those dear to him to follow the martial fortunes of Washington, from Ft. Du Quesne to Yorktown, as drum major. In 1806 Jacob Gaumer and his family pushed out of Ohio from Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and settled on a tract in the unbroken wilderness, eight miles north of Zanesville, in Muskingum county. Later, however, he moved to another tract in the woods near Adamsville, in the same county. At the latter place his death occurred in 1820, and that of his wife in 1814. Jacob Gaumer's son, Daniel, and his family remained back in the Keystone state when his father came out to Ohio in 1806; but in 1809 he, too, found the lure of the West irresistible and followed his father to Ohio with his family and settled near Adamsville, in Muskingum county. His death occurred there in 1859, and that of his wife, Hannah (Baughman) Gaumer, in 1874. All four of these pioneers, as well as Dr. Thomas M. Gaumer and many others of the family, are buried in the New Hope Lutheran cemetery, near Adamsville, Ohio, the land for which was given by Jacob Gaumer from his farm soon after he located at that place. Daniel Gaumer, too, heard the call of his country in the time of its need and went forth to do or die in the War of 1812. He was the father of fourteen children, the eleventh of whom was Jonathan Gaumer, the father of Dr. Thomas M. Gaumer.

Jonathan Gaumer was born in Ohio, in 1822, and died in 1895. His wife, Mahala Barrett, the mother of Doctor Gaumer, was born in 1823 and died, November 9, 1915, in the ninety-second year of her age. The father of Doctor Gaumer devoted his whole life to agriculture, but he was often called to fill local offices. He was the father of nine children, and among them are the following: Dr. Thomas M., the eldest; Charles N., a prominent citizen and newspaper man of Mansfield, Ohio; Hannah J.; Rachel V.; Daniel H., who is deceased; Mary; Martha; and Cidda. The Gaumer family has been one of prominence and influence in Muskingum county. Two of Doctor Gaumer's brothers have been members of the Ohio Legislature, and Charles N. Gaumer, of Mansfield, was a member of the national House of Representatives from 1890 to 1894. Daniel H. Gaumer, of Zanesville, was a representative in 1888-89, a state senator in 1890-91, and was postmaster in Zanesville at the time of his death in 1898.

While still young in years, Thomas M. Gaumer removed with his parents to a farm in Muskingum county, which continued to be his home until 1876. He was educated in the public schools and at Denison University at Granville, and subsequently taught school for a number of years.

Having determined to devote his life to the practice of medicine, he entered the Ohio Medical College of Cincinnati, and was graduated therefrom in 1876. The year previous he married Eliza M., daughter of Barton and Julia (Walker) Cone, and thus became allied with a family as meritorious as his own. Barton Cone was born in Monroe township, Muskingum county, Ohio, August 23, 1824, and was a son of Jared Cone, a pioneer of Muskingum county. Jared Cone was the son of Jared, the son of Mathew, the son of Jared, the son of Daniel, who was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1626, came to America with two brothers in 1660, and settled in Haddam, Connecticut, where he died in 1706.

Mrs. Gaumer's paternal grandmother, Eliza (Schoff) Cone, was the daughter of Philip Schoff, one of the heroes of the Revolution, and Elizabeth (Ramsey) Schoff. Through these Mrs. Gaumer is descended from a long line of ancestors who were numbered among the founders of this great country, and who sprang from the ancient families of Europe, now celebrated in song and story. Philip Schoff, Sr., a pioneer of Guernsey county, Ohio, was a hero of three wars, and was probably the youngest soldier whose name appears upon the official records of the War of the American Revolution. When a lad of scarcely nine years, in 1778, he carried a gun in helping to defend a little frontier settlement in Pennsylvania (where he was born), from an attack by British and Indians. During the "Whiskey Insurrection" in 1794, he, as a young man, made the memorable march over the mountains to western Pennsylvania where anarchy was quelled and peace and order restored. During the War of 1812 he served, from Guernsey county, in the Ohio militia.

In Indianapolis, Indiana, there is a patriotic organization, a chapter of the United States Daughters of the War of 1812, which has been named in honor of this hero of three wars, the Philip Schoff Chapter of Marion County. The Indiana state society, as well as the Marion county chapter of the United States Daughters of 1812, was organized by Philip Schoff's great-granddaughter, Mrs. Fanny R. W. Winchester; and both organizations have done much valuable patriotic and historical research work, recognized powers for all that is uplifting and beneficial in the life of the community. Philip Schoff's father was also a Revolutionary War patriot, and he laid down his life for the cause of American independence. He crossed the Delaware with General Washington and fought at Trenton and Princeton in that dark winter of 1776-77 when the patriot cause was at its lowest ebb.

The Schoffs of Ohio are descendants of one of the ancient families of German nobility. They were among the earliest crusaders to the Holy Land, and later the family took a lively part in the Protestant Reforma-

tion which followed Luther's nailing of the ninety-five theses to the door of the Wittenberg church. Mrs. Charles Peabody Wilder, a granddaughter of Philip Schoff, born in Muskingum county, Ohio, and who died in Indianapolis, Indiana, began the compilation of the Schoff family history. She died long before the necessary data had been gathered for the work, but her daughter, Mrs. Fanny R. W. Winchester, has resumed the work where her mother left off and will soon have ready for publication a valuable contribution to Ohio's genealogical lore.

Through Elizabeth Ramsey, the wife of Philip Schoff, Sr., Mrs. Eliza M. Gaumer is descended from one of the most ancient and illustrious families of Scotland, which dates from the time of David I, of Scotland, in 1140. Sir Walter Scott, who had a high regard for the Ramsey family, makes honorable mention of their valiant services in Scotland's cause in one of his historical novels, "Fortunes of Nigel." Fordoun, the historian, and many other writers have eulogized the members of this famous family of Scotland's nobility. Through her Schoff ancestry Mrs. Gaumer has three Revolutionary sires, for Elizabeth (Ramsey) Schoff's father was an officer in the patriot army. Moreover, Mrs. Gaumer's father served in the Civil War.

After his marriage and graduation, Thomas M. Gaumer located in Wyandot county, Ohio, and after practicing medicine for a time removed to Adamsville, which continued to be his home until 1882. In the meantime his aspirations had undergone a change, and he seems to have found less enjoyment in his profession than he expected. At any rate, after weighing the chances, he decided in favor of journalism, and thereafter medical science knew him only as an erstwhile practitioner. After purchasing the *Champaign Democrat* at Urbana, he edited and published the same for about a year, and then, in partnership with his brother, D. H. Gaumer, published the *Zanesville Signal*, a daily paper. After disposing of his interests in the *Signal* in 1887, he repurchased the *Champaign Democrat*, and from then until the time of his death, September 30, 1893, his energies were devoted to making this sheet a practical and interesting news dispenser. He was a staunch Democrat, a keen observer of men and events, and had the faculty of finding out what the public wanted to know. His editorials evinced a world of common sense, and an intelligent understanding of all sides of prevailing public conditions. He was a member of the Lutheran church, and was fraternally associated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His wife, who survives him, is the mother of three sons: Charles Edmund, Frank Cone, and Bruce Barton. Mrs. Gaumer is a member of the Independent Bible Students Association, of which the late Pastor Russell was president.