

they erected a house of worship on Section 28, in which they have since conducted regular services. Their membership at present is fifty-two, and the Church is under the pastoral care of Rev. J. Dustman.

The United Brethren Church was organized at Claypool, in the spring of 1877, with twenty-two members. Rev. John Good was the pastor for then placed in charge of the congregation. They have not, as yet, erected a church, but still continue to hold regular meetings at the village schoolhouse. Rev. John R. Brown is the present pastor.

The Sunday School was organized in the spring of 1878, with fifty scholars. Henry Harris was the first Superintendent. During the winter following its organization the school was discontinued, but was re-organized April 13, 1879. Rudolph Collins is the present Superintendent.

THE VILLAGE OF CLAYPOOL.

Claypool, a station on the Cincinnati, Wabash & Michigan Railroad, was laid out May 10, 1873, by John M. and Nelson Beigh, who were the proprietors of the land upon which it is situated. Its principal business interests are represented by the following firms: A. J. Whittenberger, general merchandise and grain dealer; Hazel & Keplinger, drugs and groceries; Hillard & Pinney, proprietors of saw-mill; George W. Thomas, lumber dealer; M. W. Arnold, furniture dealer and pump manufacturer; Drs. H. P. Hazel and B. F. Bigelow, physicians; Elias Tridle, blacksmith.

Claypool Post Office was established in 1840, at the house of Joshua Caldwell. Mr. Caldwell was appointed Postmaster, and held the position several years, and was succeeded by H. L. Farmer, Sarah Janesman, Philip Rhoades and John Skinner at various times. In 1865, the office was abolished, but, in 1873, was re-established, under the same name, at the village of Claypool. Reuben Beigh was appointed Postmaster, and held the position until 1876, when he was succeeded by the present incumbent, A. J. Whittenberger.

LAKE TOWNSHIP.

Lake Township is composed of the north half of Town 30 north, Range 6 east of the Second Principal Meridian, and embraces the south tier of sections of Town 31. It has an area of twenty-four square miles, or 15,360 acres. The township was organized September 20, 1870.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

Jacob Rhoades and family came to the township in May, 1837, and located on Section 34. Between that year and 1840, the following pioneers arrived in the township and established homes: Isaac Vancigler, Chris. Correll, Amos Shobe, Joshua Herendeen, Caleb Phillips, Joshua Botkin, George Butterbaugh, Samuel Butterbaugh, John Butterbaugh and William Laffel; Gabriel Swartz came in January, 1840. John and Chris. Franz, Jacob Hay, John and Sol. Uery, John Moulde and Abraham Roland were also among the early settlers of the township. After their arrival, new settlements arrived in rapid succession, and joined hands with those who preceded them in the common effort of felling the heavy forests by which they were surrounded, and developing farms—a work which was prosecuted with great vigor, and produced good results.

The First White Child.—Enoch Rhoades, son of John and Catherine Rhoades, was the first white child born in the township. He was born in October, 1837.

The First Grist-Mill.—Hall & Paulus built the first grist-mill in the township, in 1859. It was located at the village of Silver Lakeville, and was operated by steam. In 1865, it was destroyed by fire, but was rebuilt in the following year by J. & D. Paulus, and is still in operation. Yotter & Brother are the present proprietors.

The First Saw-Mill was built on Section 34, by Henry B. Funk, in 1848. It was also operated by steam.

The First Store was opened by Jacob Paulus in 1853, on the site of the village of Silver Lakeville. One year after the organization of the village, he built a frame store-room on the corner of Jefferson and Main streets, where he sold goods for a number of years.

The First Hotel was opened at Silver Lakeville, in 1864, by Joseph Keplinger. In 1871, two hotels were erected in the village, viz., the "American House" and the "Silver Lake House."

THE CHURCHES.

The United Brethren.—In 1855, the United Brethren organized near the present site of Silver Lakeville, under the preaching of Rev. S. W. Wells, who remained in charge of the congregation. In 1862, they erected a church at Silver Lakeville, 36x54 feet, which was dedicated in the winter of that year. The number of members at the date of organization was fifteen, and at present fifty-five. The Church is now under the pastoral care of Rev. J. R. Brown.

The Sunday School was organized by William P. Wells in 1855, with forty scholars. Ephraim Wells is the present Superintendent. The present number of scholars is 140.

The Lutheran Church, was organized in 1865 by Rev. G. W. Wilson, who, after the organization, was retained as Pastor. Albert Scobles and Jesse Stackhouse were elected Elders, and John Chambers and William Chandler, Deacons. The number of members was eighteen. Until 1871, the Church meetings were held in the United Brethren Church, but in that year they erected a frame house of worship at Silver Lakeville, where services have since been regularly conducted. The present officers of the Church are as follows: Adam Oldfather and Adam Oregger, Elders; Adam Stout and John Bigler, Deacons.

The German Baptist Church, was erected on Sec. 3, in 1868. It is a substantial frame structure, 32x45 feet, and is a branch of the Church of that denomination in Jackson Township.

The Union Church was erected in 1868, on the farm of John Rhoades. It was built by members of various religious denominations, and is the exclusive property of none.

The Union Sunday School was organized in 1872, with fifty scholars. Adam Stout was the first Superintendent. The present number of scholars is 120. Perry Johnson is the present Superintendent.

SILVER LAKE TOWNSHIP.

Silver Lake Lodge, A. F. & A. M., was organized under dispensation of the Grand Lodge of Indiana, December 5, 1873, with the following officers: U. I. Ward, W. M.; Henry Paulus, S. W.; Peter Kepler, J. W. There were eight members at the date of organization. A charter was granted June 18, 1875, and the Lodge was organized under charter by G. W. Piper, Grand Lecturer. U. I. Ward was chosen W. M., Henry Paulus, S. W.; Peter Kepler, J. W., and John Yotter, Secretary. The present number of members is eighteen, and the present officers are as follows: Henry Paulus, W. M.; U. I. Ward, S. W.; W. H. Boutton, J. W.; Adam Stout, Secretary.

SILVER LAKEVILLE

The following are its principal business men: Henry Paulus, boots, shoes and harness; H. J. Connor & Son, O. P. Jaques and Mack Forest, dry goods and groceries; Britten & Jantz and John Kerlin, groceries; John Bigler, agricultural implements; William Boulton, Alvin Robinson and P. J. M. Burkett, druggs; Smith & Karwell, hardware; Decker & Haney, marble works; Adam Hill and Chandler & Tenney, carriage and wagon-makers; Yotter & Bro., grist-mill, saw-mill and broom-handle factory; O. B. Turner, photographer; J. W. Hawley, furniture-dealer and manufacturer; A. McClure, bakery.

SEWARD TOWNSHIP.

Seward is one of the southern townships of Kosciusko County, and is bounded as follows: North by Harrison Township, east by Clay and Lake Townships, south by Wabash County, west by Franklin Township. It has an area of thirty-six square miles, or 23,040 acres, the major portion of which is excellent farming land, and sufficiently undulating to afford fine natural drainage.

Portions of the central part of the township are occupied by lakes, which add greatly to its natural beauty. Yellow Creek Lake occupies nearly all of the south half of Section 27, and has an outlet by way of Yellow Creek, which flows from the northern extremity of the lake through Seward and Franklin Townships.

It is a beautiful body of water, and is surrounded by impressive scenery. Its eastern and western shores are skirted by a white, sandy beach, and enjoy a delightful picture, as he traverses its length.

Its neighbor, Beaver Dam Lake, possesses all the natural beauties which distinguish Yellow Creek Lake, and, being well supplied with fish, it is a popular and profitable resort for sportsmen; and throughout the fishing season its surrounding woodlands re-echo the merry shouts of gay fishing parties, who seek its shores and wage war upon its finny inhabitants.

In the years of long ago, its echoes were awakened by the savage voices of its red possessors, whose right none dared dispute; its waters were parted by their light, bark canoes, and beneath its overhanging foliage the dusky brave told his love.

But the years brought many changes, and a different race of beings, and the hunting-grounds of the savage became the home of a band of pioneers, whose names form the first "roll of honor" of this township.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

Samuel Bishop was the first who came to the township with the view of making it his home. He came in the spring of 1836, and, with the aid of a span of horses, erected a rough log cabin on the land which he subsequently cleared and reduced to a farm.

In the fall of 1836, William Davis and James Garvin came from Plain Township, and erected the cabin which still stands on the farm of Mrs. Prudence Garvin, on Section 14.

William Davis settled in the township in 1837, and Girton Hurbut, with his three sons, settled later in the same year.

John and Robert Robinson came in 1838, and Milo R. Barbour came in 1839.

Prominent among other early settlers of the township, may be mentioned Jonathan Smith, William Anderson, William Wigham, Frederick McSherry, William Raker, Benjamin Sutton, Samuel Magner, John Haues, Francis Hines, John and Nathaniel Paxton, and Mark Smith, Sr.

The First White Child born in the township was Rhoda L., daughter of C. B. and Grata Hurbut. She was born September 23, 1838.

Jersha Garvin, the second white child born in the township, was born September 30, 1839.

The First Marriage.—September 10, 1839, Thomas Jameson, Esq., a Justice of the Peace in Clay Township, was called upon to solemnize the first marriage in Seward Township. Dandforth Hurbut and Ann Robinson were the principal parties in the ceremony.

The First Schoolhouse was erected in 1842, on the farm of John Robinson. Mark Smith, Sr., taught the first term in the winter of that year.

The free-school system was inaugurated in the township in 1851, and twelve school districts established, in which school has been regularly maintained every year since that date. The present number of pupils is 505. Each schoolhouse in the township is supplied with a copy of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary.

The First Religious Meeting.—In 1839, Rev. Asa Johnson, a Presbyterian minister from Perry, Ind., preached the first sermon in the township at the cabin of John Robinson.

In 1840, religious services were conducted at the house of James Garvin by Rev. James Martin, of the Baptist Church.

In 1842, Rev. Alexander Lemon, of the Presbyterian Church, began to hold regular meetings in the schoolhouse, where services were conducted until 1850. In that year the Presbyterians erected the first church in the township on the farm of John Robinson. It was a rough log structure, and was the only church ever erected in the township by that denomination. Rev. Alexander Lemon was for several years the officiating pastor, but deaths and removals of members caused disorganization, and after a few years the congregation was disbanded.

The First Road.—In 1840, James Garvin sent to the State Legislature a petition praying that a road be surveyed and located through the center of the township from north to south.

The petition was granted, and the road surveyed by George R. Thralls, assisted by David Garvin and Daniel Underhill, Viewers, Amos Joy and Andrew Nye, chain-carriers, and William Stapleford, blazer.

The First Orchard.—In the spring of 1837, James Garvin set out a lot of young apple-trees, which were grown from seed brought from Franklin County, Ohio. This was the first orchard in the township. In the fall of 1837, John Robinson set out an orchard on the farm now owned by his son Andrew. The trees were purchased at a nursery near Nicoenza, Wabash County, Ind.

The First Tannery.—In 1856, David Blue established the first tannery in the township, and conducted a profitable trade until 1866. In that year it was removed to Silver Lakeville, since which time this industry has not been represented in the township.

The First Mill.—In 1839, William Magner built a saw-mill on the north fork of Trimble Creek, and operated it successfully for several years, when he sold it to Thomas King. Mr. King operated it but a short time, and finally left it to go to decay. The frame-work of the building still remains, but it is in a ruined condition.

The First Blacksmith in the township was James Garvin, who, in 1846, built a forge and opened a shop on his farm, and carried on his trade in connection with the occupation of farming.

The First Physician.—Dr. George F. Birt came to the township in 1845, and remained eight or nine years, during which time he was engaged in the practice of medicine. He is now a resident of Larwill, Whiting Co., Ind.

The First Store was opened in 1875 by John H. Shoemaker, on the north bank of Yellow Creek Lake; but, as it did not prove a profitable institution to its proprietor, it was subsequently abandoned. There is now no store in the township.

ORGANIZATION.

"Come now Milo R. Barbour and Elias McClure, of Franklin Township, and present a petition signed by some 220 citizens of said township, asking for the creation of a new township, to be taken off of the east side of said township, to the width of 4 1/2 sections, running north and south through said township."

"Whereupon, after due consideration of the same, it is ordered by the Board that the prayer of the petitioners be granted, and that a new township be formed as follows, to wit: composed of Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, E. 1 1/2, E. 1 1/2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, E. 1 1/2, 17, E. 1 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, E. 1 26, 27, 28, E. 1 29, E. 1 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36, Town 31 north of Range 5 east, and Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, E. 1 5, E. 1 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, E. 1 17, Town 30 north of Range 5 east, or otherwise, by line running north and south through the center of Sections 5, 8, 17, 20, 29 and 32, Town 31 N., Range 5 E., and Sections 5, 8, and 17, of Town 30 N., Range 5 E.; said township thus formed to be known and called by the name of Seward." It is hereby ordered that said division shall take effect from and after this date.

"And it is further ordered that Milo R. Barbour be and is hereby appointed Trustee of said township of Seward, to serve as such until his successor shall be elected and duly qualified."—(Commissioners' Records, June 8, 1859; page 198.)

The proposed boundaries of the new township evidently failed to meet the approbation of some of the residents interested, for, on page 215 of the same volume, we find the following record:

"June 14, 1859.

"Comes Moses J. Long, attorney for John Paxton and Abner Wood (et al.), and files the following petition:

"STATE OF INDIANA,
COUNTY OF KOSCIUSKO." }

"COMMISSIONERS' COURT,
June Term, 1859.

"Come now the undersigned citizens of Franklin Township, county and State aforesaid, and move to set aside the order given by this Court, dividing the township of Franklin, for the following reason: That we believe that the division of said township will operate against the general interest of the citizens of said township."

"After an investigation of the case and hearing the evidence offered, the Board ordered a reconsideration of their action fixing the bounds of Seward and Franklin Townships, as recorded on page 198 of this Record, and order that the same be, and hereby is, null and void. * * * * * The new township shall be formed of the north half of Town 30 north of Range 5 east, and Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35 and 36 of Town 31 north of Range 5 east."

"And said new township thus formed shall be known and styled by the name of Seward."—(Commissioners' Records; page 215.)

The First Election.—In the spring of 1860, the qualified voters of the newly-made township assembled at the house of Jesse Paxton, near Yellow Creek Lake, to elect one Trustee and two Justices of the Peace. Milo R. Barbour was elected Trustee, and held the position for two consecutive terms.

Abner Wood and Jesse Paxton were elected Justices of the Peace.

THE CHURCHES.

The United Brethren Church.—On the 23d day of March, 1859, a class was organized under the auspices of this denomination, at the house of G. W. Hutchings, by Rev. N. W. Castle. There were nine consistent members, and the organization was styled "Yellow Creek Lake Class." For two years their meetings were held at the house of G. W. Hutchings, and subsequently in a neighboring schoolhouse.

During the late war, they began the erection of a house of worship, which, however, was never fully completed. It was inclosed and roofed, and in it they held services for several years. Soon, however, deaths and removals reduced their numbers, and there was, in the eastern part of the township, a class of the same denomination, whose numbers had become reduced by the same causes. Both classes united, forming one congregation, and, in 1873, erected "Ratview Church," on Section 27. Their house of worship is a frame structure, 34x46 feet, and was erected at a cost of \$1,250.

The Church has a membership of 120, and is now under the pastoral care of Rev. J. S. Todd.

The Sunday School was organized in 1861, and has been continued during the summer ever since. G. W. Hutchings was its first Superintendent. It had fifty scholars at the time of organization, and at the last session (summer of 1878) had seventy enrolled. G. W. White was the Superintendent at the last session.

The Church of God.—In February, 1863, eleven adherents of this faith met in the building formerly occupied by the United Brethren, and under the ministerial offices of Rev. David Keplinger, organized a congregation.

They continued to hold meetings at that place for a term of two years, after which services were conducted in Center Schoolhouse. In 1868, they erected their present house of worship, which is designated as "Yellow Lake Bethel." The building is 34x44 feet, and was erected at a cost of \$1,400. Since its erection, meetings have been regularly maintained, B. F. Bear, and has about forty members.

The Sunday School was organized in 1863, since which time it has been maintained during the summer, but discontinued during the winter. Henry C. Smith was its first Superintendent, and B. F. Bear occupied that position at its last session (summer of 1878), during which session it had an average attendance of sixty scholars.

THE TOWNSHIP LIBRARY.

This useful adjunct to the school system of the township was established at quite an early day in its history, but the precise date is not known. It contained, at one time, more than one hundred volumes, but many of these have been lost and no record has been kept relative to the borrowings until the library has become reduced to twenty-four volumes. Among them are historical works, natural history and reports by the Agent General. Those volumes which remain, bear the "ear-marks" of frequent use, and are often in demand by the pupils of the township schools.

The library is kept at the house of Joshua Trucker, Township Trustee.