

TOWNSHIP HISTORIES.

chronicle brought them not down to later times; and in every country there are some spots, which, above others, by history or tradition, inspire us with thoughts on past events. And now, if the reader has leisure, and will start (at the south end of the lake in Kosciusko County, Ind., whence the "Peepooce" takes its start and name), and go with me about four miles south-west, down the river, and on the north bank of the stream, we shall find the village of Monoquet. Here let us pause and take our reckoning for this its historic ground, which in time past, has been a theatre for human nature, where tragedy, comedy and farce have in turn been played by figure actors, who have left the stage and gone forever.

The Monoquet of the present is one thing, but the village of 1835 and 1836 was quite another, and peopled by a different race of men. At that time, the river had no bridge, the banks had been gashed by no mill-race, and the clear, bright stream ran on its course, its gentle flow unobscured by any dam. Here was Monoquet Village; its inhabitants were Potawatomies, and their chief was Monoquet, from whom the village derived its name. Just west of where the Leesburg Road now crosses the river, stood the old village, and its eastern edge was about twenty yards west of the springs, which rise by the side of the road. The springs in latter times made many new acquaintances among the whites, being introduced by James Hawk, whose grocery was over them, and whose grace, and manner, and infinite politeness made it the wayfarer's pleasure to give him a call.

The village contained about fifteen bark-covered wigwams, which were scattered over two or three acres of land on the north bank of the river, the village being longest from east to west. There were no regular streets, and the wigwams were set at random, like the forest trees among which they were placed.

My first call at the village was with Dave Burrell, a notable of those days, and who (to me, at least), was a person of more than common interest; in fact, he was to me a school-master, who taught me a useful vocabulary of Indian words, to assist me in my dealings with the tribe. I will sketch him and give some of his points: He was a clean-limbed, active man, about thirty-three years of age, stood five feet nine inches high, dressed and painted like an Indian, and lived and moved with them as one of the tribe. He spoke French and Indian readily, and enough English to make him a useful interpreter between the Indians and the whites. I think he was a Frenchman, but he acted the Indian so well that it was entirely at his convenience whether he would be French or Indian. When with the Indians he was one of them; but when with the whites and wanting to buy whiskey, he was a Frenchman. He could be "all things to all men." His attainments forced my regard, and when occasion gave him scope for his three languages, his ready use of them won my admiration. Most men of talent have their oddities, and so, also, had the friend whom I admired. Dave was a discreet drinker of whiskey, and a good judge of its quality; and it was worth the price of his first dram to observe how wisely and carefully he would proceed to take it. In those days the kind of whiskey in common use, was "Smith's Rectified," made in Piquet, Ohio, and brought here by way of Fort Wayne.

"Thunitions Smith, of wide renown,
Whose name pervades in every town."

I make mention of the kind of whiskey, because some who read this may have quaffed it in days gone by, and will yet remember its peculiar and thrilling qualities.

David had exalted to the dignity of a fine art the taking of his first dram, and I have seen few, if any, who would show so much form and circumspection in taking a drink. First, he wanted to be certain it was whiskey, and of this he has seen scent would soon assure him; then, in his left hand holding a glass, he would pour into it about two third ounces (his quantity had to be exact), and if he had doubts, he tipped his glass to one side to be certain that he was right; then he was not in haste to sip it, but still holding his glass to view, would spin out pleasure by hope, heighten it by imagination, and then—drink.

I have been thus careful and exact in telling how David used to take his first dram, because the first drink is of vast importance, and has been the turning point in the life of many a man; and right here I will tell young men of a better way than David's and, that is, omit the first drink entirely.

It has been said that he was wise in language and discreet in drinking, but he gave proof anew that "riches are not unto the wise," for there were times when his ready money would not reach beyond the first drink, and his raiment was so scant as to remind one of the "first Adam in the garden." The attention of the whites had been fixed on Monoquet, even while in the possession of the Indians, and soon after they had quit it, passed into the hands of men who, with choice words and strong reasons, would impart to others a bright prospect of its future greatness. It was in those fancy-colored years, between 1836 and 1840, when hope prevailed over reason, and speculation over both, that Monoquet assumed some of its phases to which the mind may now revert with lively interest. Imagination pictured mills and warehouses, instead of wig-wams, and a great and busy mart, which would make absurd the puny efforts of rival points and neighboring places.

The hamlet did not grow to need a pompous title, but modestly, and perhaps wisely, adhered to its Indian name.

Many men of note have lived in Monoquet who, from its "classic shades," have, in due course of time, come forth to shed their luster on the varied walks of life in the outer world.

Monoquet was a thin, spare man, about fifty years of age; stood five feet seven inches high in his moccasins; his forehead was high and rather square; his eyes small and bright; his nose (something uncommon for an Indian) was aquiline; his voice tenor, clear and sharp. He touched his forehead with the index finger of his right hand, and thus addressed me: "Nin Mon-o-quet," then brought the hand down with a clap on his thigh, and said "cheep" (the Indians could pronounce no word ending with the sound of the letter "t"). It was a warm Sunday in the fall of 1835; his dress was a ruffled shirt of blue calico, reaching midway down his thigh, and his feet were clad in moccasins. Our conversation was brief, for neither knew more than seven or eight words of the language of the other. We soon said all we could, then shook hands and parted; each made a bow to the other, and said, "Ba-sho-nick," which in English meant "good-bye." He probably died of lung disease and debauch, though his tribe supposed him poisoned by a young and handsome squaw, then on a visit from Michigan. She was barbarously killed by some of the young Indians on suspicion.

Half a mile south of his village, and about forty rods north-west of the present dwelling of H. P. Kelley, there was a deep shade and a secluded spot in the woods, and thither from his wigwam the Indians took their dead chief, and performed his funeral rites, after the manner of their tribe. In a crib or pen (about six feet long, four feet wide and four feet high, carried up square, built of round logs of the size of large rails, top covered with the same material, the long way of the pen north and south), they placed his remains. He was fixed in a sitting posture, with his blanket

over his shoulders, his face toward the south, and was held in position by two poles across the inner part of the crib, one of which was under the chin, keeping the head in an upright position, and one lower down the head, and in position of his hands; and in this attitude I saw him when he had been there about a month. I was in the woods alone with the dead, and in deep thought I looked at the ghastly form, which grinned at me a mute and horrid lesson on the conclusion of human life.

When a few wet and dry days had passed over his crib, and in a short time almost forgotten.

"Thus wags the world."

The spring and summer zephyrs breathe gently, and the fall and winter winds blow fiercely, over the places which once knew Monoquet, and now no enduring monument marks the place of his repose.

THE VILLAGE OF OSWEGO.

In 1837, Messrs. Barbee, Willard & French purchased of Mr. Vaughn a tract of land, upon which they laid out the village of Oswego, in the same year. It enjoyed, at one time, a degree of commercial prosperity, and gave promise of becoming a town of importance; but, in the year 1849, a score of its best citizens removed to California, withdrawing capital and patronage from the village, and from that time dates its decline. It now contains a post office and store, kept by John Hour, and one blacksmith-shop.

The First Physician in the village was Dr. Rohan R. Willard, who practiced his profession for a number of years.

The First Store was kept by Barbee, Willard & French, who conducted an extensive trade with surrounding settlements.

A Blacksmith-Shop was erected in the village, by Elkannah Huffman, in 1843.

A Tannery was put in operation, in 1840, by A. M. Cowan, and was, for many years, one of the principal industries of the village.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

Leesburg Lodge, No. 422, I. O. O. F., was instituted by D. D. G. M. Andrew Milice, assisted by eight members of Kosciusko Lodge, No. 62.

The charter members were J. E. Stephenson, B. Burkett, G. D. Vincent, J. J. Wood, William Gunter, Paul Boehm and J. M. Armington. A. Clark was admitted by card, and the following members were initiated on the night of organization: Ross Brady, T. G. Best, William Zimmerman, William Archibald, S. N. Garrett, E. D. French and A. B. French. The following were the first officers: J. E. Stephenson, N. G.; J. J. Wood, V. G.; G. D. Vincent, Recording Secretary; A. Clark, Permanent Secretary; William Gunter, Treasurer.

The present number of members is forty-three. The present officers are as follows: A. Garrett, N. G.; W. S. Tracy, V. G.; William Zimmerman, Recording Secretary; W. H. Best, Permanent Secretary; I. M. Watt, Treasurer.

Leesburg Lodge, No. 181, A. F. & A. M., was organized March 6, 1855, and worked under dispensation until May 31, following. The first officers were: William B. Barnett, W. M.; William Parks, S. W.; Elijah S. Blackford, J. W.; William K. Fidler, S. D.; William C. Mason, J. D.; Edward Moon, Secretary; Eli W. Summey, Treasurer; Nelson Watts, Tiler.

The lodge was organized under charter, May 31, 1855, with the following officers: W. B. Burkett, W. M.; William K. Fidler, S. W.; Elijah S. Blackford, J. W.; Robert Giddis, S. D.; Eli W. Summey, J. D.; Edward Moon, Secretary; Jonathan Moon, Treasurer; Nelson Watts, Tiler. The following were the charter members: Jackson G. Long, Antipas Thomas, Jeremiah Stephenson, William Parks and William C. Mason. November 1, 1857, the lodge-room, together with the furniture, charter and a part of the jewels, were destroyed by fire.

The lodge now owns a good hall, 30x50 feet, and is in a prosperous condition. The present number of members is fifty-four. The present officers are as follows: William Archibald, W. M.; William D. Wood, S. W.; Samuel Chrowl, J. W.; Fred L. Forbes, S. D.; John Stookley, J. D.; A. M. Sanderson, Secretary; Amos Garrett, Treasurer; E. D. Carpenter, Tiler.

TIPPECANOE TOWNSHIP.

Tippecanoe Township was organized March 8, 1838, from territory which originally belonged to Plain Township. It is bounded on the north by Turkey Creek Township, east by Noble County, south by Washington and west by Plain Township, and has an area of 36 square miles, or 23,040 acres, a large percentage of which is not tillable, owing to the numerous lakes with which the township abounds. Of these, the most notable is Tippecanoe Lake, as it is the source of the river bearing that name. Boydston's and Barbee's Lakes are remarkable, chiefly, for their beautiful scenery.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

In the spring of 1835, Benjamin Johnson, from Harrison County, Va., settled on Section 9, and, in the following fall, entered 160 acres of land, upon which he still resides. In the following summer, William Divinny came from Ohio, and settled near Mr. Johnson, and, in the fall of the same year, Ephraim Murthead, from Virginia, joined them.

In 1836, Henry Warner, from Hamilton County, Ohio, settled on the southeast quarter of Section 9. In the same year, Thomas K. Warner, from Cincinnati, Ohio, settled on the present site of Webster, and Andrew Woodruff, of Huron County, Ohio, settled on Section 6. In 1838, Henry Woslake settled on the same section.

The First Cabin was built by Ephraim Murthead, in the winter of 1834-35. It was situated near the outlet of the lake. In the following spring, he went to Virginia, and upon his return found that the cabin of his kinsman, Benjamin Johnson, had been built during his absence. Soon other cabins appeared in the vicinity, and the settlement of the township was fairly inaugurated.

The First Road was surveyed through the township in 1834 or 1835, and was designed to run from White Pigeon, Mich., through Goshen, to Huntington, Ind.

The First Marriage was celebrated in 1840, the contracting parties being the Rev. Samuel K. Young and Miss Amelia Ann Warner.

The First Mill was the saw-mill erected in 1836, near the outlet of near the same place. The latter is still in good running order (having been remodelled), and is now operated by Benjamin John. In 1837, William Barbee built a saw-mill near the outlet of Barbee's Lake.

The First School was taught by Thomas K. Warner, in the winter of 1838-39, in a cabin built by Warren Warner, and subsequently abandoned. The subscription method was the one then in vogue, and for many years thereafter was the popular system of instruction. Public schools

improvements of later years, and of this there are now ten in the township, having a total enrollment of 29 scholars.

THE CHURCHES.

The Methodist Episcopal Church.—In the summer of 1832, a church was organized at Webster, with fifteen members, by Rev. George W. Warner, local minister. In 1862, they erected a house of worship in Webster, local minister. Rev. Robert Reed is the present pastor. The Sunday School was organized in 1848, with fifty scholars.—The Warner, Superintendent. Benjamin James is the present Superintendent.

United Brethren.—The United Brethren *"Oak Grove Chapel"*, organized in 1861, under the preaching of Rev. John Todd, and in the spring of 1869, erected a house of worship, three miles east of the village to which they gave the name "Oak Grove Chapel." The building is 36x48 feet, and was erected at a cost of \$1,600. In June, 1869, it was dedicated by Bishop J. Weaver. The membership has increased to forty-one, and the Church is now under the pastoral care of Rev. Isaac Green. The Sunday School, which was organized in 1868, is now in a prosperous condition, having forty scholars enrolled. Cyrus Wetzel is the present Superintendent.

The Evangelical Association.—In 1855, a class was organized at Webster, under the auspices of this denomination, by Rev. Charles Glause, with twelve constituent members. Mr. Glause was retained a Pastor, and Henry Kline was the first Class Leader. In 1864, the congregation erected a house of worship 34x44 feet, at a cost of \$1,500. Charles Baugher, Henry Kline and Jacob Stemler constituted the Building Committee. The present number of members is thirty-four. Rev. D. Oakes is the present Pastor. (This data furnished by John Kline.)

THE VILLAGE OF WEBSTER.

Webster was laid out May 2, 1837, by R. R. Shoemaker. John Reed was the original proprietor of the land upon which it is situated.

The First Merchant was Henderson Warner, a former resident of Cincinnati, Ohio, who opened a stock of general merchandise in 1849.

Its business men at present are as follows: Henry Kline & Son and Kering & Co., general merchandise; D. H. Carpenter, undertaker and furniture manufacturer; Jacob Stemler, boots and shoes; J. J. Ogle, J. C. Salmon, physicians; Eli Marks, Philip Beghel and Joseph Kline, blacksmiths; N. W. Kline, Justice of the Peace.

The First Post Office was established at Boydston's Mill in 1852. Thomas G. Boydston was the first Postmaster, and an empty flour-bag did duty as a general delivery. In 1861, it was moved to Webster, and Eli Beghel was appointed Postmaster; but, in 1862, it was again removed to the mill, a mile distant from the village, where it is still kept. Benjamin John is the present Postmaster.

TURKEY CREEK TOWNSHIP.

Turkey Creek Township is situated in the northeast part of Kosciusko County, and is designated as Town 34 north, Range 7 east of the Second Principal Meridian. It has an area of thirty-six square miles, or 23,040 acres. Prior to 1838, it comprised all the territory west of its eastern boundary, &c., that which now constitutes the townships of Van Buren, Jefferson and Scott. The soil in the northeast portion of the township is level and marshy, while to the south it is characterized by hills, among which nestle a number of small lakes, some of which are more than 100 feet deep, although only a few acres in extent. Nine-Mile Lake is about five miles long, averaging one mile in width. Syracuse Lake, about a mile by three-quarters of a mile in extent, is situated directly east of the town of Syracuse.

A heavy growth of timber formerly covered the land of this township which, however, has been removed in the process of developing farms, excepting a small percentage in certain localities. The timbered regions of the present afford some good building material. The township was organized June 29, 1836.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

In 1832, Henry Ward and Samuel Crawson came to the township and constructed a dam across Turkey Creek, near the outlet, with the view of erecting at that point a grist-mill, so soon as the treaty with the Indians should place the land of this township in market. In 1834, Esau Middlelock settled on Section 26, and later in the same year came John C. Johnson, Patrick Johnson, William Cassidy, George Phobus, Andrew Cox, Valentine Slate, Henry Madden and Robert Warner. Valentine Slate came in 1835, and built his cabin on Section 20. Prominent among the early settlers were John Angell, John Dillon, George Kirkpatrick, Beek, David Mohler, Andrew Spangle, Joel Spangle and William Strick.

The First House.—In 1833, Samuel Crawson built a small log house near the site of the mill then in course of erection by himself and Henry Ward. This was the first house in the township.

The First Store was a small frame structure, built by Samuel Crawson in 1836. It was located on the present site of the Lake House. William Kirkpatrick opened a small stock of goods at this house, and subsequently sold out to Samuel Crawson, who, in partnership with Henry Ward, conducted the store. About the same time, William Cassidy built a farm store and dwelling, and became one of the early merchants of the township.

EARLY DEATHS—CEMETERIES.

In 1836, a son of Harvey Veniman died, and was the first person buried in the Syracuse Cemetery. Soon after his burial, Samuel Crawson donated one acre of ground for a cemetery, west of Syracuse.

THE SCHOOLS.

The first school in the township was built on the hill at Syracuse in 1836. The settlers in the southwest part of the township secured the services of a teacher in 1837, and school was taught in a cabin on the farm of Timothy Mote, which had formerly been used as a stable. In two years, a new era in education was inaugurated with the introduction of the schools, which were established at various periods in each district. This system there are now nine schools in the township, having a total enrollment of 538 scholars.

The Syracuse Graded School.—In the fall of 1874, a handsome brick school-building was completed in the village of Syracuse, 36x76 feet, containing two stories and a basement. During the winter of that year, the first session of the school was conducted by E. M. Chaplin, Principal; Mrs. Amie Aber, Teacher of the Primary Department. It was first organized as a graded school by Mr. Chaplin, and the primary, intermediate and grammar departments established by him. The grammar and high schools are combined, and both are in charge of the Principal. In 1875, R. McAlpine was chosen Principal, J. P. Dolan, Teacher of the Intermediate Department, and Miss Amie Aber, Primary.