

In the spring term of 1876, Mr. McAlpine retired, and J. P. Dolan acted as Principal of the school during the remainder of that term. In the fall of 1876, H. S. Bortner was chosen Principal, and still serves in that capacity.

The present teachers are: H. S. Bortner, Principal, and Teacher of the Grammar and High Departments; J. P. Dolan, Teacher of the Intermediate Department; Miss Lida Welch, Teacher of the Primary.

Its standard as a school is high, and it is only surpassed by the city schools of Warsaw. The course of study is nearly the same as that pursued at the schools of Warsaw, so far as relates to the primary, intermediate and grammar departments.

THE CHURCHES.

Church of God.—In 1858, a Church of God was organized east of the Nine-Mile Lake, by Rev. George Thomas, with ten members. Church meetings were held in the neighboring schoolhouses until 1860, when, by the united efforts of the various denominations, a union church was erected on the land of N. Crow, on Section 14. In this edifice, services are conducted by this denomination at intervals of three weeks.

The Sunday School was organized with forty scholars, by Samuel F. Isenhower, in 1860, but is not now in operation.

The Church of God at Syracuse was organized in March, 1863, by Rev. George Thomas, with forty members. John Gordy and R. V. Cory were elected Elders, and Amos King and Harvey Veniman, Deacons.

Rev. George Thomas was retained as Pastor. In 1865, he was transferred to another charge, and E. Bryan and John Shock were chosen to serve as Pastors. At the same time, James Brady and William Bushong were chosen Deacons. In 1866, Rev. George Thomas again became Pastor of the Church, and during that year they erected a frame church at Syracuse, at a cost of \$3,300, which was dedicated, free from debt, by Revs. J. S. Smith and John Shock. In 1867, Elder George Smith was elected Pastor, and served in that capacity until 1871, when he was succeeded by John Shock. Rev. Edmund Miller, the present Pastor, was chosen in 1877.

The Sunday School was organized in 1872. John Gordy was the first Superintendent. It is in a prosperous condition, having seventy scholars enrolled. W. A. Mann is the present Superintendent.

Methodist Episcopal.—At an early day, the Methodist denomination organized a small class at Syracuse, and have held meetings regularly since, but have not erected a church. Their congregation numbers eleven members at present, and services are conducted at intervals of two weeks, by Rev. William Graham, of Milford Circuit.

The Baptist Church was organized at Syracuse, in the summer of 1843, with ten members. Rev. James Martin was the first Pastor, and Jeremiah Cory and John Gill were the first Deacons. The Church prospered for about ten years, when, owing to deaths and removals of its principal members, it was disorganized and finally disbanded. The church-building was sold to the German Reformed congregation, and one-half of the proceeds applied to benevolent institutions. (The foregoing data furnished by A. C. Cory, Esq.)

The German Baptist Church was organized in the south part of the township in 1851, with twelve constituent members. George P. Rothenbarger and Conrad Brumbaugh were the first Pastors. They were succeeded by John Mook, Jr., Peter Hamman and Samuel Fields. Daniel Rothenbarger and Ephraim Brumbaugh are the present Pastors. In 1860, the congregation built a frame house of worship, 45x60 feet, on Section 14.

The Sunday School was organized in 1862. Bales Weybright was the first Superintendent. After that summer, the school was discontinued until 1876, when it was re-organized. George Mook is the present Superintendent. The number of scholars enrolled is seventy.

The United Brethren Church.—In 1856, this denomination organized in the south part of the township, under the preaching of Rev. Samuel Wells, with nine members. Rev. Isaac Cleaver is the present Pastor. The present number of members is sixty.

The Sunday School was organized in 1867, with Walter Hurd, Superintendent. The number of scholars now in attendance is seventy.

Harrison Malcolm is the present Superintendent.

The Evangelical Association have a small house of worship on Section 11. Their congregation is as yet limited.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The First Road.—About the year 1834, a road was surveyed through the township from north to south, known as the Huntington Road. The survey was made by Dr. Shue, and A. C. Cory carried the chain.

The First Mill was built by Crawson & Davis, in 1833, on Turkey Creek. About four years later, the creek was swollen by heavy rains, causing a freshet, during which the dam at this mill was washed away, and two pairs of mill-stones fell to the bottom of the creek, from which they have never been removed. Subsequently another flouring-mill was built at the lower end of the race, on the site occupied at present by N. Crow's mill.

The First Saw-Mill was built on Turkey Creek, in 1836, by Ward & Crawson. There are now two saw-mills in operation in the township.

Hotels.—The first hotel in the township was kept by George Kirkpatrick, in 1836. In 1848, James Hall purchased the dwelling of Samuel Crawson, at Syracuse, which he converted to a hotel, giving it the name of the "Rough and Ready House." It was located on the corner of Harrison and Carroll streets.

About 1853, the "Lake House" was built on the corner of Main and Huntington streets, by Jacob Renfro, and kept as a hotel by Preston & Miles. It has been occupied for the same purpose ever since, and is now kept by Robert & Bowld. A frame hotel has been recently completed by Dr. D. C. Kelley.

The First Blacksmith in the township was Joseph Cowell, who started the fires of his forge at Syracuse, in 1834.

The First Physicians.—Dr. Hartshorn located at Syracuse in 1835, and practiced there several years. Dr. John Shue located in the village about the same time.

The First Election was held at the office of Henry Ward, Syracuse, in April, 1838. Samuel Crawson was Inspector.

THE VILLAGE OF SYRACUSE.

Syracuse was laid out August 11, 1837, by Crawson & Ward, who were the proprietors of the land upon which the original plat is located. It was surveyed and platted by Christopher Lightfoot.

William Kirkpatrick was the first merchant. Its mercantile interests are now represented by the following firms: Dietrick & Son and G. W. Stedler, general merchandise; Henry Keefer, groceries and notions; Isaac Kindig, grocery and bakery; C. W. Knorr and Eli Holloway, drugs; Addison Green and Davis Yancey, hardware; John Wayer and Frank Lesh, boot and shoe manufacturers; Ira Widner and William Wallace, harness-

manufacturer; Misses Hardisty & Roberts, milliners and dressmakers; Z. Widner & Son and Young & Basney, carriage and wagon-makers; J. A. Kindig, flouring-mill; Samuel Bushong, planing and saw mill. Physicians, Drs. D. C. Kelley, F. M. Thrig, C. Knorr, and A. R. Collar.

The Chicago Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad was completed to Syracuse in 1874, and has added largely to the prosperity of the village.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

Syracuse Lodge, No. 454, A., F. & A. M., was organized July 6, 1872, with thirteen charter members. The following officers were appointed: John Wayer, W. M.; S. L. Ketting, S. W.; Preston Miles, J. W. A charter was granted May 27, 1873, and on the 24th day of June, 1873, the Lodge was duly constituted and its officers installed at a grove meeting, W. Piper, of Warsaw, officiating. An oration was delivered by W. Chaplin, of Michigan.

The present number of members is twenty-four. The present officers are as follows: John Stetler, W. M.; Preston Miles, S. W.; F. M. Thrig, J. W.; David Fry, Treasurer; Joseph Rippey, Secretary.

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP.

Van Buren Township is designated as Town 24 north, Range 6 east of the Second Principal Meridian. Its territorial area embraces 36 square miles, or 23,040 acres. A portion of this acreage is unillable, from the fact that it comprises a "wet prairie," or marsh.

Wauvau Lake, about one mile southeast of Milford, is a beautiful sheet of water, clear as crystal, one and one-half miles in length, and about one hundred rods wide; and, being well stocked with fish, is a profitable resort for sportsmen.

Langle Lake, in the southeast part of the township, has an area of about two square miles. It is beautifully situated, and in all respects, a romantic spot. From its shores, the banks slope gently upward, terminating in picturesque highlands; and the dreamy beauty of its surroundings, and its clear reflection of adjacent objects, combine to make it the spot where the poet or artist would love to linger.

The natural beauties of the landscape have been impaired, to some extent, as civilization advanced, and industrious men came to claim from the wilderness a home and farm. In those localities not covered by lakes or marsh, the soil is of excellent quality, and very productive. Turkey Creek traverses the northern part of the township from east to west. Van Buren was organized, June 29, 1836.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

In March, 1833, Oliver Wright, with his son, Moses, settled on Section 28, and on the 20th day of the same month, William Felkner settled on Section 21. Elijah Miller and Richard Gawthrop, from Sandusky, Ohio, settled on Section 32, and A. C. Cory settled on Section 1. In December of the same year (1833), Mrs. Sarah De Vault, with five children, settled on Section 32, where she pre-empted 160 acres, and Samuel Street settled on Section 29 in the same year. Early in the spring of 1834, Judge Aaron M. Perine settled on the present site of Milford. Later in the same year, came Samuel Stephenson and Alexander Thompson. And during the years 1834 and 1835, the following pioneers joined the settlement: James and Samuel Chipman, Joel Long, Henry Doolittle, John Egbert, Samuel Sackett, Elijah Jones, Bently Jarrett, James Jarrett, Andrew Edgar, William Mackey and David Maxwell.

The early settlement was formed in the southern part of the township, on Little Turkey Creek Prairie. And having no timber to fell, the settlers proceeded at once to plant crops; and the soil of the locality being very rich, they were rewarded with a good harvest. All united in constructing a fence around the prairie, and had it inclosed by the time their crops were well up.

EARLY BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES.

Rachel Felkner, daughter of William and Mary Ann Felkner, was the first white child born in the township. She was born May 15, 1833.

The great social event of the day was the celebration of the marriage ceremony of Fred Summey and Miss Adeline Trimble, in October, 1834. This was the first marriage in the township, and a very sumptuous feast was prepared for the guests.

THE SCHOOLS.

In the fall of 1835, the first schoolhouse in the township was erected on Section 29. John G. Woods was the first teacher.

Since the introduction of the free-school system, a radical change for the better has been apparent, and the course of studies is of a more advanced order. There are eight districts in the township in which school is taught each year. The number of scholars enrolled is 539.

The Milford Graded School.—In the fall of 1878, a substantial brick school-building was erected in the village of Milford. The dimensions of the building are 38x72 feet, two stories high, with basement. It was organized as a graded school soon after its completion, and the following teachers placed in charge of the several departments: C. P. Hodge, Principal and Teacher of the High School; Miss Loisa Felkner, Teacher of the Intermediate Department; Miss Jennie McDonald, Teacher of the Primary. The school is thoroughly organized, ably conducted, and comprises in its course of studies, all that is essential to a good practical education. The curriculum of the High School includes geometry, trigonometry and Latin. The number of pupils in attendance is 225. (The foregoing was furnished by F. McAlpine, Esq., who has our thanks.)

THE CHURCHES.

The Christian Church was organized at Milford, December 15, 1866. Rev. Marshall was the first Pastor, and the following gentlemen were chosen officers of the Church: Elders—H. P. Stanley and Jacob Felkner; Deacons—Jonothan Weaver and C. D. Felkner.

In 1867, they erected their present house of worship at Milford, where services have been conducted regularly. The present number of members is 102, and the Church is under the pastoral care of Rev. L. M. McDermod.

Methodist Episcopal.—In 1866, the Methodist Episcopal denomination erected a frame church at Milford, 36x60 feet, in which services are regularly held. The Methodists were undoubtedly the pioneer denomination in the township, and organized at an early day in its history; but the facts regarding such organization are a matter of memory alone, and cannot be obtained with sufficient accuracy to warrant their insertion here.

The German Baptist Denomination have a house of worship in course of erection on Section 14.

Concord Church was erected in the eastern part of the township in 1847 and 1848, and devoted to the use of all denominations. It is now occupied by the Methodists.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The First Road.—The road from Logansport to Goshen, passing through Leesburg and Milford, was the first road surveyed through the township.

The First Mills.—In 1837, John Egbert erected a saw-mill on Turkey Creek, about one mile east of Milford, and, in 1839, built a grist-mill at Milford, on the same stream. The latter is still in operation, having been remodelled at various times, but the saw-mill has long since fallen to ruins.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

Milford Lodge, No. 478, I. O. F., was organized March 4, 1875, by D. D. G. M., D. R. Pershing, of Warsaw, with the following charter members: Simon Miller, Levi Kehn, Milton B. Groves, Preston F. Miles, Davis Gilson and Frank McAlpine. The first officers were: Simon Miller, N. G.; Levi Kehn, V. G.; Frank McAlpine, Secretary; Davis Gibson, Treasurer.

The Lodge now has eighteen members, and is in good working order. The present officers are as follows: Dewitte C. Hostetter, N. G.; John Montgomery, V. G.; Milton B. Groves, Secretary; Simon Miller, Treasurer.

THE VILLAGE OF MILFORD.

Milford was laid out on Section 8, April 10, 1836. Judge Aaron M. Perine was its original proprietor.

The First Store in the village was kept by Chipman, Chipman & Doolittle, who carried on an extensive trade in the line of general merchandise.

The First Hotel was kept by Judge A. M. Perine. This was his formally opened until after the organization of the village; but, from his earliest residence in the township, the Judge's house was always open to the wayfarer for a moderate compensation.

The First Blacksmith.—Samuel Sackett was the pioneer of this trade. He erected his forge at Milford in 1836.

The First Physician.—Dr. Joseph Chamberlain located at Milford in 1839, and was the first who came to minister to the physical infirmities of its population.

In the years which have passed since its organization, Milford has maintained its position as a prosperous village. The completion of the Cincinnati, Wabash & Michigan Railroad, in 1870, added largely to its prosperity, and has proven a benefit to the village in many respects.

Its principal business men at present are as follows: George Hons, M. N. Felkner and Kelly & Shiller, dry goods; C. C. Reynolds, A. Becknell & Son and F. P. Groves, drugs; M. N. Felkner, Peter Smith and T. W. Quackenbush, groceries; Charles Sparklin, restaurant; Peter Smith, boots and shoes. Physicians—Thomas Cammick, M. Bolan, Irvin Becknell, Levi Keene, Dr. Paul and Dr. Gilpin. Attorneys—Higbee & Worth, William Dennis and Isaac Hall. Flouring-mills—Weaver & Scott. Saw-mill—John Robinson.

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP.

Jefferson Township, in the northwestern portion of Kosciusko County originally included all of Town 34 north, Range 5 east of the Second Principal Meridian, but its territory was reduced by the organization of Scott Township, in 1848. Prior to its settlement, it was covered by a heavy growth of timber, part of which still remains undisturbed. In the central part, a marsh extends the entire length of the township, varying from a half-mile to a mile in width. With this exception, the soil is very fertile and the farms fine. The township was organized March 8, 1838.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first white settler in the township was Jacob Brumbaugh, who, with his family, came from Elkhart County, Ind., October 1, 1836. He erected the first log cabin in the township. During the ensuing winter, they cleared a tract of land, and, in the following spring, planted a crop.

Later, in the fall of 1836, Mr. Brumbaugh was joined by John Leath-erman, Andrew Sheely, James Martin, James Simpson and George Platt-ter, with their families. This settlement was formed on Sections 1 and 2, north of the large marsh, and near the line of Elkhart County. During the summer of 1837, the first settlement south of the marsh was formed by David and Samuel McCibben, Joseph Alexander and Isaac Bliven, with their families. The marsh formed an impassable barrier between the two neighborhoods, and for several months, neither were aware of the fact that there were other residents in the township beside themselves; but, in later years, roads were surveyed and communication established between the opposite extremities of the township.

FIRST ELECTION.

The first township election was held at the house of David McCibben, in April, 1838. David McCibben was Inspector. There were five votes cast, and it was subsequently learned that four of the number were illegal, as the voters had not resided in the township a sufficient length of time to be qualified. Thus the single vote of Isaac Bliven elected the ticket, consisting of a Justice of the Peace, Constable, two Road Supervisors, three Overseers of the Poor, and one Inspector of Elections.

EARLY BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

John Sheely, son of Andrew and Polly Sheely, was the first white child born in the township.

The first death was that of a child of Isaac Hall, but before the time appointed for its funeral, Nancy Crevison died. Both were interred in the cemetery on the farm of Jacob Brumbaugh.

THE SCHOOLS.

The first school was taught in 1840, in a log cabin on Section 11. James Martin was the teacher. It was a "subscription school," and was not superior to the average school of that period for thoroughness; yet to it are some of the residents of this township indebted for all the education they have acquired.

The township is divided into seven school districts, and a free school established in each district. The present number of scholars enrolled is 451.

THE CHURCHES.

The German Baptist Church.—Early in the spring of 1837, religious services were inaugurated in the township, by Elders John Miller and David Cripe, of the German Baptist Church. The meeting was held at the house of Jacob Brumbaugh, and at the same time and place, a congregation was organized by that denomination, consisting of William Brumbaugh and wife, and John Leatherman and wife. Meetings were conducted at the houses of members of the church until 1854, when the schoolhouse was adopted as a place of meeting, their membership having increased largely. Elder John Leatherman was the Pastor in charge, from the organization of the church until his death, in 1867.