DEEDSVILLE

is a small village on the I. P. & C. R. R. It was laid off in 1870, by William Deed and Samuel Leedy. It contains the following business houses:

W. Leedy and R. Hill, General Store; Warehouse, Leedy & Hill; G. Stiner & Wm. Flitcraft, Blacksmiths; Jonathan Deed, Saw-mill; Jacob King, Wagon Shop; 1 School House and a Post Office. Population, 125.

DENVER.

Several dwellings and the following business houses of this rapidly-growing town are in Union:

W. O. Piper, Dry Goods and Notions; J. H. Charles, Hardware; A. P. Price, Dry Goods; Jerry John, Wagon Shop; —— Armastrout, Blacksmith; A. Griffith, Saw-mill; J. H. Ritzius, Cabinet Shop; 1 Church—Methodist.

The population of the town, including that portion which is in Jefferson, is about 350.

ALLEN TOWNSHIP.

In the winter of 1834-35, three sturdy men, John Horton, T. N. Wheatly and T. J. Holmes, having determined to try their fortunes in a new country, came and built three cabins, preparatory to moving their families the next Spring.

Only one of these cabins, however, stood within the limits of what is now Allen Township. This belonged to John Horton, and stood on the farm now owned by the Widow Johnson. Hence, to Horton is due the honor of being the first white settler in the township. He moved his family in March of 1835, and took formal possession of his forest home. Two of his sons who came at the same time are yet residents of the township. Wheatly and Holcomb moved at the same time, but settled just across the line, in Fulton County.

Until 1836, Horton was the only white inhabitant of the township. In that year, however, several dauntless men fixed their home in the then unbroken forests of Allen. They were George Neece and his brother William. George located on what is now the Mrs. Heart farm, while William settled on the farm owned by David Zortman; also Jonathan Williams and his brother Isaac. Jonathan located on the S. S. Tracy farm, and Isaac on the Neece, now Heart, farm.

In 1837 came the following substantial citizens: The Wilkinsons —John, Baldwin, George, Anderson and James. John died soon after their arrival; Baldwin settled on the Ewing farm; Anderson, on the farm where he is now living; George, on the land which is now the present site of Lincoln; and James, on the land belonging to F. P. Heart. The same year, J. Ricker settled on the Weller farm; Frederick Beck, on the farm owned by William Savage; Jesse Yost, on that owned by Mr. Gold; James, John and Samuel Dabney, on the land owned by Sumner and Horton; P. M. Carney, on the farm belonging to his son, and Steward Bailey on what is now the Carney farm.

Prominent among those who came in 1838 were —— Hatch and son, who located on the farm where he lives; Thomas Clemens on the Sullivan Waite farm, Richard Bailey on the land belonging to a non-resident, George Hakins on the farm where he is now living; Jesse, Richard and Elijah Thompson on the Widow Heart farm; Elijah Ogle on the Powel land, and William Squires on the farm belonging to Mr. Washington.

Among those of 1839–40 were Jonathan Williams, David Kinder, Nathaniel and Charles Bryant, William Carney, Sullivan Waite, Daniel C. Horn, Samuel Carr, Fredrick Fere, William Fenimore, Henry Stodebaker, William Boggs, Joseph and Richard Reddley, Peter Weaver and Elias Bills.

After 1840, the township was rapidly settled, the greater part of the land soon being entered. Having given the basis of the early settlement, we shall not attempt to name those who came later than 1840.

The first religious meeting in the township was held at the house of George Neece, in 1838, by the Baptists, George Pope preaching. The next was at Anderson Wilkinson's, the year following, by the Methodists, William Williams preaching. The same year, 1839, meeting was held at the cabin of Richard Thompson by the Baptists, a Mr. Kindle preaching. The first regular church organization was perfected by Ansel Beech, a Methodist minister, at the house of Anderson Wilkinson, in 1840. The first church was built by the Methodists in Lincoln, in 1842. It was also used for a school house. The next church was built at Five Corners in 1860. In 1871, the Methodist church of Lincoln was rebuilt. In 1873, the Christians or Disciples built in Lincoln a neat, substantial brick church.

The first school was taught in a cabin on the Mathias Carvey farm, in 1839, by Sarah Bryant. She received as salary her board and $1.00 per week. The year following, Betsy Bailey taught a school in the same place. The first school house was built on the Neece, now Heart, farm in 1840. The next was at Five Corners, on the Bryant farm. George Wilkinson taught the first school in the township supported by public money.

Until September 6, 1859, Allen formed a part of Union Township. At that time, Allen was set off from Union with boundaries, the same as now. The name Allen was given the township in memory of Senator Allen, of Ohio.

The first election after the division was held in Lincoln, at the residence of Anderson Wilkinson, in the Fall of 1859. A. Wilkinson was first Inspector; Frederick Huffman was chosen first Justice of the Peace; William Fenimore, Trustee. Fenimore enlisting in the army before his term of office expired, his place was filled by A. Wilkinson.

In 1855, the first store in the township was started at Five Corners, by Reymon Bryant. The next was by George Wilkinson, in Lincoln, in 1859.

In 1856, Rankle & Woodring built the first mill of the township. It was a steam saw-mill, with corn-burrs attached. This mill was run successfully for a time, when it was blown up, killing three men—Mr. Heart and his son William, and Mr. Hipple. Another saw-mill was built by Mr. Peck in 1869. This was afterward converted into a grist-mill, which was destroyed by fire. In 1873, a steam grist-mill was built at Lincoln, by Wagner & Swihart.

The first brick in the township was made by Stewart Bailey, in 1845, on the farm of Sullivan Waite.

To George Hakins is due the credit of building the first brick house in the township, in 1850.

The first manufacturing establishment of any kind was an ashery. This was put in operation in 1840, by William Squires.

The first marriage was that of Elijah Ogle to Catharine, daughter of John Wilkinson, in 1838.

In December, 1838, Margaret, wife of William Hatch, gave birth to a daughter, Delilah, who was probably the first white child born in the township.

The first death which occurred was that of John Wilkinson, December 24, 1838.

Among casualties, we have to relate, in a very few words, a rare and very singular incident. Men will trade cattle, horses, houses and lands, without enlisting much attention; but when it comes to trading wives, we are astonished beyond measure; and yet such a trade actually occurred at an early day within the borders of Allen. There were two farmers by the name of Adams and Hensbarger living not a great ways apart. An intimacy sprang up between Mr. Adams and the wife of Mr. Hensbarger. At this we are not surprised, for in this the era of the nineteenth century it has grown quite common for men to admire the wives of others more than they do their own. The friendship between Mr. Adams and Mrs. Hensbarger increasing, an elopement was planned, and a day fixed for executing said plan. At the appointed time, happy, we may suppose, in each other's love, they started on their journey. Mr. Hensbarger, it seems, was on the alert, and the guilty pair had not proceeded far before they were overtaken by him. He did not approach rashly the despoiler of his home, with drawn revolver, and shoot him dead upon the spot, but calmly, with the utmost composure, and in a business-like manner, approached and proposed that since he (Adams) thought more of his (Hensbarger's) wife than he did of his own, if he would give him his wife and a shot-gun to boot, he might proceed on his journey unmolested. Adams, without the least hesitation, accepted the proposition, and all parties concurring therein, the trade was at once closed, and, for aught we know, all lived in the enjoyment of domestic felicity ever afterward. Moral: It is better to "swap" than to shoot.

In improvements, Allen does not claim to be foremost. In the vicinity of Lincoln, as well as in other parts, are found many well improved farms. The location of churches will be found by reference to the map. The school-houses are — ; enrolled school children, ——; population, ——

THE TOWN OF LINCOLN

was laid out by George and Anderson Wilkinson, in 1850. At first twenty lots were laid off. An addition was made by G. Wilkinson and Powell, in 1869. Its business men at present are as follows:

Carl & Clendening, Dry Goods; Hurst Brothers, Dry Goods; Milton Bryant, Dry Goods; Omer Core, Hardware; A. H. Leedy, Provision Store; Rensford Howland, Marble Shop; Blackburn & Kelley, Meat Market; Marshall & Hoover, Blacksmith and Wagon Shop; Henry Palver, Blacksmith and Wagon Shop; Lewis Caffee, Furniture and Cabinet Shop; J. W. Hurst & George Wilkinson, Warehouse; W. H. Hoover, Warehouse; G. W. Zortman, Saw-mill; John Thompson, Grist-mill; the Physicians are Sutton & Caple; W. J. B. Fenimore, Attorney at Law. Two churches, Methodist and Christian; graded school, J. C. Ogle, Principal; Post Office, E. B. Clendening, Postmaster. Population, 300.

WAGONER'S STATION

is a small village on the line of the L., P. & C. railroad. It has one General Store, owned by T. J. Holcomb, a Post Office, and a Saw-mill, by Wagoner & Brothers.

BIRMINGHAM

is also situated on the L., P. & C. railroad. It was laid off in 1870, by Caulk & Jones. Isaac Caulk is located here as General Merchant and Postmaster.

PERRY TOWNSHIP.

James Malcomb was the white man destined to lead the march of civilization in this township. As early as 1833, he entered her borders, and, obtaining a log cabin from an Indian village, soon after fixed his home on the farm now owned by Jacob Wiles. He doubtless entered the deep forest, as the majority of the young pioneers did, with exultant hopes, looking forward with joyful anticipations to the day when the dense woods should be cleared away, and when fine cultivated farms should appear in their stead. When that time should come, he no doubt fully expected to be the owner of some of her broad fertile acres. He lived to see the forests fall before the sturdy woodsmans ax; to see the round log cabin supplanted by the comfortable frame and substantial brick. When he beheld all this and then turned away to find a home in the County Poor House, what deep pangs of disappointment must have pierced his bosom. We know not to what it is to be attributed, but regret to say that the last days of the first settler of Perry Township were spent in the Poor House.

The next man who possessed the dauntless energy ever necessary to grapple with the many obstacles presented in an unbroken wilderness was William Akright. He came in 1834, and located on the farm now belonging to Jacob Wiles. Regardless of the hardship of pioneer life, by reason of his gross strength his life is yet spared. He is now in his ninetieth year, and is accordingly the oldest resident of the township. Much respect and honor is due these gray-haired veteran pioneers.

John Akright, son of William Akright, came with his father in 1834. He is also still a resident of the township, being one of the leading merchants of Gilead.

The same year, 1834, Matthew Meyer settled on the farm now owned by Jacob Baker; Benjamin Musselman and Jacob Gill came at the same time and took a lease on the Meyer farm.

In 1835, emigration seemed to turn toward Perry and before the close of the year a number of worthy, determined men were added to the little colony. They were Andrew Onstott, who settled on the Tombaugh farm; Adam E. Rhodes, on the land now the present site of Gilead; Ira Mitchel, on the farm of Timothy Barker; John Close, on that owned by the heirs of Shirley; James Waddle, on the land belonging to Samuel Seitner; and Peter Onstott, who settled in Gilead and started a blacksmith shop which was the first in the township. Others of 1835 were James Fiers, on the land owned by his brother Wesley Borders, on the Geo. Turnbaugh farm; Joseph and James Wildman, on the farm now owned by James Treay; Alfred Dowd, on the John Summerland farm; Charles Cleland, on the farm belonging to the widow Blackman; James Biggs, on that owned by Row and Barney; Benjamin and David Marcus, on the B. Low farm; Jacob Reiker, on the Weller tract of land; Willis Hill, on the Groff and Tracy farm; Jacob Richards, on the F. Kircher land; John Wahon, on the farm where Jacob Kessling lives; John Anderson, on the Johnson Bird farm; Mathias Bird, on what is known as the Baker farm, and a Mr. Burton, who died before he made permanent settlement.

In 1836, Dr. R. L. Sutton, the first physician of the township, located in Gilead. He is now a resident of Lincoln, Allen Township. The same year, 1836, came Henry Shoemaker, locating on the farm where he now lives; Samuel Essick on the Timothy Baker farm; and Peter Kessling, father of Jacob and Titus Kessling, still worthy citizens of the township, fixing his home on the David Groff farm. Others of 1836 were Zera Sutherland, Jacob Huffman, John Gregg, Hiram Butler, William J. Keever, John D. Hakes, John Clifton, Peter Sugar and Geo. Gregg.

Prominent among those of 1837 and '38 were the following: George Tombaugh, John Bowers, John Meyres, Larker Norman, John Chambers, with his sons Pleasant and Elijah; William Hester, William Butler, Henry and John Daggy, Jesse Butler, Robert A. Meek, Peter Ihrig, John Tracy, Alexander Jameson and his son Allen, John Old, Prior Wright, Joshua Murphy, Amos Ellison, Calvin and Kiaz Tracy, John Gilland, Joseph Oldfather, James Chapen, Caleb B. Ash, Charles S. Low and Thomas Carpenter.

Among those who came in 1839 and '40 we name William A. Sower, the Keims, Daniel, Benjamin and David; Barnes Dowd, James S. Love, James Cleland, Peter Mowry, Hiram and Adam Daines, Jacob Barnheisel, John Gaerte, Jacob and John Myne, D. Garber, James Tracy, John Gilland, Jacob and Joseph Miller, John Fires; Thomas, James and John Gowdy, Henry Holding, Reuler Drake, Samuel Rank, Henry Kettle, V. Thurston, Samuel Thompson and John Slagle.

Of those who came soon after 1840, we name Hugh Miller, Michael and Phillip Smith, George King, William Garber, Jacob and Samuel Seitner, Jacob Harman, Robert and David Love, John Cregg, T. L. Hallaut, Isaac Hester, Cyrus Kreig, Fleming Smith and William H. Smith.

The first religious meeting in the township was held at the cabin of James Fires, in 1835, by the Methodists. Soon after, their meeting was held at the house of Alfred Dowd, by the same denomination. Their early preachers were Avoatis Dowd, Ansel Beech and O. Y. Lemon.

The first church was built at Gilead, by the Methodists, in 1838. The next was what is known as the "Olive Branch Church," built in 1843, by the same denomination. About 1849, the Presbyterians built a church in Gilead. The Baptist was probably the next denomination. They built a church at Nineveh about 1858.

The first school house was built on the farm of Benjamin Leeds, in 1837. The next was on the Thomas Gowdy farm, the following year. Some of the early teachers were James Potter, Joel Crunpecker, Caleb B. Ash, Samuel L. Thompson, James Adams and John Gaerte.

The first store was started at Utica—now Nineveh—in 1836, by James Waddle. His store room was a small round log cabin 14 by 16 feet. The first post office was established at Nineveh, about 1837, J. Waddle being Postmaster.

About 1840, the clay of the township being found valuable for earthen vessels, a pottery establishment was put in operation by Mr. Slagle. This was run successfully for a time, when the enterprise was abandoned.

The township was organized February 27, 1837. The same year, an election was held in Gilead, at the house of Peter Onstott. Wesley Borders was elected first Justice of the Peace. George Tombaugh served next, and after him Jacob Richards. Alexander Jameson was first Inspector. William Hester, Hiram Butler and George Tombaugh were probably first Trustees. John Gaerte, —— Clerk, and —— Butler, Treasurer.

The first mill in the township was put in operation by John Bowers, in 1848. It was simply a saw-mill run by water. A steam saw-mill was built by Alfred Dowd in 1855. Several other mills have been in the township for a short time.

The earliest marriages in the township were those of Thomas Clemens, to a daughter of Joseph Wildman, in April, 1836, and Peter Ihrig, to a daughter of George Tombaugh.

The first death was a Mr. Burton, in August, 1835. He came to the township in the spring of that year to make preparations for moving his family in the Fall, but taken sick, died at the date given above. He was buried at the South Nineveh graveyard.

The same year, 1835, died the wife of Mathias Meyer. There being no saw-mills then to furnish lumber, a coffin was made from hewed puncheon.

In the early settlement of the township, the citizens were greatly annoyed by the wolves carrying off sheep, pigs, etc. These troublesome animals remained in the township as late as 1847. About this time, some of them had grown very bold, and many a belated traveler has fled terror stricken from their swift pursuers.

In the winter of 1847, Squire Richards and Jacob Kessling started from Peru homeward at rather a late hour in the evening. It was a beautiful moonlight night; the ground was covered with snow, and the "jumper" in which our friends rode bounded lightly over the crystal surface. About 10 o'clock, Mr. Kessling looking back saw a large gray wolf swiftly pursuing them. The whip was applied to the horse and for some time they had little trouble in keeping a safe distance from their foe. Presently, however, both parties looking back, the horse was drawn from the road and the "jumper," striking some obstacle, was overturned. Although Mr. Kessling tells us they were not scared, yet he assures us a lively scene followed the overturning of the "jumper." The wolf, strange to say, to the surprise, and we may add pleasure, of all, stopped as