

HISTORY OF HOLMES COUNTY

Prepared by
G. F. Newton, Esq.
Millersburg, Ohio

To be read at the Centennial Celebration
at that place, July 4th, 1876.

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MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:— Your committee have assigned to me the arduous task of historian on this occasion. In this epitome, it can scarcely be expected that I record all the events connected with the early settlement of this part of the country, by the white man, and the departure of the Indian. Therefore I shall confine myself to a few of the most important ones; giving as briefly as possible the progress of civilization, the organization of the county and other institutions for our benefit and welfare. In doing this I may record events that to some, may seem foreign to a history of Holmes county, but to such I will say, there are many events that did not transpire within our borders, and yet are so connected with others that did transpire here that it is difficult to separate them without destroying the sense of the narrative. In giving the various items of history, I may at times deviate from their chronological order. If so it is for the purpose of condensing it as much as possible. After a single preliminary remark in reference to the occasion that brought us here today, and some incidents peculiarly connected therewith, I shall proceed with my subject.

It is in the Providence of God that we are permitted to assemble together on this occasion to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of American Independence, an event, to us, the most important and interesting of all others in the history of our beloved country. There

is in the time and place of this meeting a very remarkable coincident with the first one of the kind held after the organization of the county. Fifty years after the signing of that document just read in your hearing (the Declaration of American Independence,) the people of this county, as citizens thereof met for the first time in this square, on the 4th day of July 1826, to celebrate this memorable epoch. To-day we meet on the same spot and for the same purpose; making this the Semi-Centennial of our first celebration in the county, as well as the Centennial of our National birth. What is still more remarkable, there are a number of persons here today, who were at the first celebration, some of whom held conspicuous positions on that occasion. The names of those who officiated at that celebration are; President, Major John Glasgo; Orator, Hon. S. S. Henry, then our Representative in the Ohio Legislature; Chaplin John Stogdon, minister in charge of the Presbyterian congregations at Hopewell and Millersburg; Chorister, Archibald Barton, who I understand is to sing the Doxology, here to-day; Marshall of the day, Colonel Russell Wheaton; Commandant of Military department, Captain John Cary.

On a map of the territory of Ohio, made in 1764, there are three Indian towns located on the Killbuck. One at its confluence with the Walhonding, ^{the} called/White Woman's Town, one near the northern boundary of Holmes county called Killbuck's Town, and one at the forks of the river at Wooster, called Beaver-hat -- sometimes Apple-Orchard. This beautiful valley and these romantic hills were once the hunting grounds of that noted and humane Indian Chief, Gelelemend, (Captain Killbuck) and his people. The river yonder, was called by them Killbuck, after the old chief, Captain Killbuck's father.

THE FIRST WHITE RESIDENT ON KILLBUCK.

In 1730, Mary Harris, then a girl, was taken prisoner by some Delaware Indians belonging to Custaloga's tribe, and was adopted as one of their people. When she grew to womanhood, the beauty of her charms captivated the young Prince, Eagle Feather, Custaloga's son, and he made her his squaw. The various tribes of Indians, including the Delawares, were crowded back by the white colonies of the east, and Custaloga with his people took up their abode in Ohio, on the Tuscarawas. Soon after the year 1740, the young chief, Eagle Feather, with Mary, established themselves on the Walhonding river, at the mouth of the Killbuck. He was soon joined by others of his kinsmen who made up his clan. Their town was called the White Woman's Town, and the river from there to the Muskingum, White Woman, in honor of Mary, Eagle Feather's squaw. By the year 1750, Mary had become thoroughly Indianized; entering into all their manners and customs with apparent delight. When Eagle Feather went on the war-path, Mary with her own hands mixed the paint and laid it on his brow -- pluming him in the most approved Indian custom. She was careful to put up a sufficiency of dried venison and corn for the journey. After handing him his hatchet, polished for the occasion, she would admonish him not to return without some long-haired scalps for wig-wam ornaments for the first-class Indian ladies of the town.

The valley of the Killbuck was Eagle Feather's principal hunting grounds, and Mary frequently accompanied her husband, as she called him, when on his elk and bear hunts. Eagle Feather was very fond of Mary, and when he visited his cousins up the valley, at Killbuck's Town and Apple Orchard, he was careful to take her with him. She was the first white person known to have passed along

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the váley of the Killbuck.

When Christopher Gist visited the Tuscarawas valley, in 1750, for George Washington and the Virginia Land, Company, he went up the Walhonding river to the White Woman's Town, and to some extent enjoyed its Indian festivities for a few days with Mary. She told him she loved the savage warrior and that she preferred the Indian to white life; saying she thought that white men were more cruel to their wives than the red men were to theirs.

Thomas Burney, a white man lived among the Indians of the Tuscarawas from 1750 to 1760. He was a blacksmith and used to sharpen hatchets, &c. for the Indians. He was at the White Woman's Town, and other towns up the Killbuck, and it is believed he was the first white man within the limits of Holmes County.

OTHER WHITE PERSONS WITHIN OUR BORDERS.

In 1755, James Smith, while engaged in opening a wagon road through Bedford county Pa., was suprised and taken prisoner by some Delaware Indians and taken to Fort Duquesne. He was afterwards taken to one of the Delaware towns on the Mohican called Tulhillas. After Smith arrived at this town, he was taken into the river, where all the white blood was washed out of him, (as they called it) by three young squaws, and after other ceremonies were gone through with he was pronounced one of their people. The Indians took a great liking to him giving him much attention. He says, "the county abounded in game of all kinds, including bears, elks and buffaloes, and that they frequently took him with them hunting." On one occasion he got lost and lay in the woods over night. The Indians supposing he had gone back to the whites, were making preparation to go in pursuit of him, when Smith returned. They were much pleased and treated him with more attention than before.

As it is but a short distance from the north-west corner of our county to where the town of Tulhillas was located, there is every reason to believe Smith was over the west end of our county. Tulhillas was a kind of a city with the Indians and was once the head quarters of that wily daring chief, Captain Pipe.

In the latter part of the year 1760, Captain Rogers, of Vernon, and 200 men was sent by the British to take possession of Detroit. The next year he and his men returned to the settlements by way of Fort Pitt, which by this time had become a British post. On their way to Fort Pitt, Rogers and his men stopped at the Indian town Tulhillas, for provisions. Rogers says in his notes, after leaving the Indian town we crossed a long prairie. This must have been what we now call Big Prairie, and as it extends over into Holmes county, there is every reason to believe that, that little army were within our borders.

When I came to this county forty years ago, there was a tradition among the early settlers, that General Wayne, with his army passed over the southeast corner of our county. This is in part a mistake, and in place of it being General Wayne, it was Colonel Boquet. After the defeat of the French at Quebec by General Wolf, the whole frontier along the Canada border, the Lakes and the Ohio Valley, fell into the possession of the English Colonies. In this newly acquired territory, between the Blue Ridge and the Lakes, by the year 1762 the English occupied twelve Forts, garrisoned by soldiers for the protection of the fronttier settlers against the Indians. The wily chief, Pontiac, of the Ottawa tribe, then located on Lake Erie, preferring the French to the English and Americans, determined to drive the whites back beyond the Alleghenies. To do this he formed a confederation of all the tribes

of the western Indians, himself becoming the head chief. A simultaneous blow was struck at each of these forts.. By the trickery and bravery of himself, nine of these forts fell into his hands. The whole frontier was now exposed to the Indians, who in the most brutal manner killed hundreds of the settlers, and carried many more for into the wilderness, there to be tortured to death or held as prisoners.

In 1766 General Bradstreet, with 3,000 men marched up the lakes against Pontiac, who was defeated and the Indians in that part of the territory entered into a treaty, agreeing to return all the white prisoners. In the same year Colonel Boquet was ordered to Fort Pitt, that being one of the forts that did not fall into the hands of the Indians, and from thence into the Ohio valley against the Delaware, Shawanese and other tribes in that locality. On the 3d day of October, 1764, he left Fort Pitt, with 1500 men and two pieces of artillery. After reaching the Tuscarawas valley, and a little below the Indian town of that name, he built a stockaded fort for the purpose of storing some provisions for the troops on their return. The Indians were very much afraid of his artillery. The chiefs who were in council a few miles distant, sent some of their men to inform the Colonel they were ready to treat with him. The next day a treaty was agreed upon, and soon after the Delaware chiefs delivered to him 18 white prisoners and 83 sticks, the number of prisoners they would deliver as soon as the Colonel reached Coshocton. The other chiefs did likewise. The chiefs in this council were, Kiyastrula, of the Seneca tribe; Custaloga, ~~of~~ of the Wolf and Paupelenan, of the Turkey Delaware tribes, and Keiffiwautchtha of the Shawanese tribe. The Colonel was informed by these chiefs, that there were bands of Indians down the

Tuscarawas valley, over which they had no control, and lest hear his men might be annoyed by them, they offered to show him a nearer route to Coshocton. This was accepted and the chief Kiyafhuta, their principal speaker was retained for that purpose. The army crossed the Tuscarawas river and going in a southwest direction, crossed Sugar Creek at the mouth of Broad run, thence up that stream and over the ridge they struck the south branch of Sugar Creek up which they continued to its source. Again crossing the ridge they came into the valley of White Eyes creek, and down it to the Tuscarawas river. After receiving all the prisoners he could get that fall, Colonel Bouquet returned home up the valley. He left Coshocton on the 18th day of November, with 206 released prisoners, and a pledge from the Shawnese tribe of 100 more early the next spring.

There is no doubt about Colonel Boquet's army crossing the south-east corner of German township in this county; as the road cut by the soldiers for the transportation of the artillery and other munitions of war, could be easily traced by the Pioneer fathers when they first settled that part of the county.

CRAWFORD'S ARMY ON THE KILLBUCK.

On the 25th of May, 1782, Colonel Crawford with over 400 volunteers, mounted on horses and well armed, ^{left} the Mingo bottom on the Ohio river, for the purpose of chastising the Indians on the Sandusky, for depredations committed on the border settlers. They crossed the Tuscarawas river near the mouth of Sugar Creek, and continuing up the valley, entered Holmes County on lot number 14, township 10, range 4, now owned by E. Malone in Paint Township. Their route through the county, was down Martins creek to the gap on the Dawson farm, thence through that gap and over the flats at Holmesville;

crossing Saltcreek on the Croco farm, they reached the Killbuck at the big spring on the Jones farm, where they encamped for the night. One of the men who was sick, died that night, and was buried early the next morning, May 31st, and the initials of his name cut on a tree, to show his last resting-place. As soon as the army ~~could~~ could be got ready they set out up the valley and crossed Killbuck at the mouth of Hershey's run and continued up the valley to Polley's run. Here they struck out westward and passed along the north side of Odell's Lake. In that army was a man by the name of Nicholas Dawson, a volunteer from Westmoreland county, Pa. He was the grandson of Thomas Dawson, who came to America with his parents with Cecil Calvert, (Lord Baltimore) and the grandfather of Benoni Dawson, who is now the owner of the land at the gap which that army passed through in 1782.

THE LAST RESIDENT INDIAN ON KILLBUCK.

The valleys of the Killbuck and its tributaries, abounding in game were favorable hunting grounds for the Indians. They were loth to give them up; and although they had long before ceded to the United States Government their rights to these lands, they did not leave them until long after the first settlement made by the whites. Tom Lion, an old Indian of the Delaware tribe, was the last of that race to retain a residence here. His wigwam was north of Berlin, on Lion's run. He was well known to the early settlers, and as he could talk tolerably good English, he very much annoyed and frightened the women with his yarns; telling them of his desperate encounters with the white settlers in his young days. Some times he would tell the women, he had at his wigwam, the dried tongues of 99 white persons; saying, " you speak much and me like yours to make the hundred." A little north-east of the old town of Millersburg lived Jacob Ammon, one of the first settlers of the county,

and a volunteer in the war of 1812, for the protection of the border settlers against the Indians. He and Lion were once on terms of intimacy and the latter was frequently at the cabin of the former. On one occasion Lion borrowed Ammon's gun, promising to return it in a few days, but did not do so. After waiting some days longer than the stipulated period, and Ammon needing his gun, sent Lion word that if the gun was not returned by a day mentioned, it would cost him his life. Before the day fixed, Lion returned the gun, but in a very bad humor, and threats were made on both sides. Mrs. Ammon gave Lion something to eat and he went off toward the Killbuck. In a short time he returned, saying he had found an old she bear ~~with~~ with two cubs in the alder swamp, south of the Killbuck, and wanted the gun to shoot her. Ammon, suspecting a trick, refused the gun, but offered to go himself and do the shooting. To this Mrs. Ammon objected, and finally prevailed on Jacob to stay with her. The next day there was a great gathering of the people for the purpose of raising a house at Geo. Painter's in Saltcreek township. Lion was there, and boasted of being connected, with other Indians, in the murder of the Hochstetler family on the Pennsylvania border. A young man, a relative of the murdered family was present, and heard Lion make the boast. He said he would have satisfaction for the atrocious crime. Shortly after Lion left, the young man and Ammon was seen going in the same direction. No one ever knew whether they overtook Lion, or what became of him. Certain it is he was not seen in any part of Holmes county after that evening. Ammon, who was a great talker, was often heard to say he knew where Lion went to. Nothing was done about his disappearance,- the people were all glad to get rid of him. Your writer got this story from Anson Wheaton, one of the early settlers and bosom friends of Mr. Ammon.

SURVEYS AND SALE OF THE LANDS.

In the year 1784, the Mohawk, Onondagam Seneca, Cayuga, Oneda and the Tuscarora tribes of Indians, known as the six Nations, by treaty, made at Fort Stanwix, ceded to the United States all their right to the land in the north-west Territory. In 1785, the Delawares, Wyandot, Chippawa and Ottawa tribes of Indians, then living in the North-west Territory, by treaty made at Ft. McIntosh, ceded to the United States all their right to the lands therein except so much as is contained within the following boundaries. Beginning at the mouth of the Cuyahoga river and up that stream to the portage; thence to the Tuscarawas and down that stream to Fort Laurens; thence westerwardly to the portage of the Big Miami, which runs into the Ohio; thence along said portage to the great Miami, or Ome River, and down that stream to its mouth; thence eastwardly along the shore of Lake Erie to the place of beginning. All the land within those limits were reserved for the Indians, except a few small tracts allowed the United State for military and trading posts. The land within this boundary was called the Indian reservation, and a line running diagonally through this county, was its southern boundary.

Congress relying on these treaties directed the land thus ceded to be surveyed. In 1786, the survey of the first seven ranges of townships began. John Mathews, acting under General Putnam, the Surveyor General, was the surveyor. His operations were retarded by bands of Shawanese Indians - that tribe not having signed the treaty at Fort McIntosh, they very much annoyed the Surveyor and his men. In 1796, the United States Congress for the purpose of satisfying land bounties, granted by the Continental Congress, appropriated the land, and fixed the boundaries of the United States Military Districts, as follows: Beginning at the north-west corner of the first seven ranges of townships, thence south along the western boundary of said townships to the Scioto

River, thence up said river to the Indian boundary line, thence eastwardly along said boundary to where it intersects the west boundary of said first seven ranges of townships. All the land in Holmes county, south of the Indian boundary line is in this district. The surveying of the lands of this district commenced in 1797 and was completed in 1800.

In 1787 a land office was opened in the city of New York for the sale of lands in the North-west Territory, and in 1796 offices were opened for the same purpose in Philadelphia and Pittsburg. The first land office in Ohio was established at Steubenville in 1800. Soon after this other offices were established in the State, and the lands in this county south of the boundary line became subject to sale at Zanesville; those north of that line at Canton.

By treaty made with the Indians at Fort Industry, ⁱⁿ 1805, the Indian titles to the land west of the Connecticut Western Reserve and north of the Indian boundary line was extinguished. In 1806 Congress directed their survey and in ~~1806 Congress directed their survey and in~~ 1807 the surveying commenced in the new purchase.

THE FIRST ENTRY OF LAND IN THE COUNTY.

On the 13th of March, 1800, the lands of the United States Military District became subject to entry. In that year Hodijah Baylis located 400 acres on Douty creek for services in the war of 1776. It was the first tract taken up in the county, and was known in after years as the Williams farms in Mechanic township. Soon after this other tracts of Military land was located in Monroe, Walnutcreek and Paint Townships. No Congress land in the county, was located until the land office at Zanesville was opened, and in a short time thereafter, most of the best tracts south of the boundary line was taken up. As before stated the surveying of the lands north of the Indian boundary line (known as the newpurchase) began in 1807. In 1808 an office for the entry

of these lands was opened at Canton. John Beaver located in that year 320 acres, now known as the Painter farm. It was the first entry made in that part of Holmes county, north of the boundary line. So rapid were the entry of land in the new purchase, that in a few years all the best tracts of land in that part of the county were taken up.

OUR COUNTIES AND COUNTY SEATS.

In 1787, the Northwest Territory was organized and Gen. St. Clair appointed its Governor. By proclamation issued on the 27th day of July of that year, he fixed the boundary of Washington county; the first one organized in the territory and which is as follows: Beginning at the Ohio river on the Western boundary of Pennsylvania, thence with said line to Lake Erie; thence along the shore of the Lake, westwardly to the Cuyahoga river; thence up said river to the portage between it and the Tuscarawas; thence down that stream to Fort Laurens; thence on a line previously drawn known as the Indian boundary line until it reaches the trail from the Lower Shawanese town to the Sandusky river; thence south to the Scioto river; thence down that river to its mouth and up the Ohio to the place of beginning. The land on which we stand to-day was included in that county and Marietta was our county seat. In 1796 the boundaries of Wayne county were established, by proclamation of Governor St. Clair. All the territory north of the Indian boundary line (heretofore described) was included in that county, and Detroit was the county seat. In 1804 Muskingum county was organized. All that part of Holmes county south of the Indian boundary line became a part of Muskingum county and Zanesville the county seat. In 1808 Tuscarawas county was organized and a strip of land, two miles wide at the east end of this county and south of the Indian boundary line was included in that county and New Philadelphia its county seat. In 1811 Coshocton county was organized. All the land in the county south of the bound-

ary line and east of Tuscarawas county was included in Coshocton county and Coshocton the county seat. The same year Wayne county was organized by legislation. All the land in this county north of the boundary line was retained in that county and Wooster the county seat. The settlers within the limits of this county and north of the Indian boundary line went to Wooster; those south of that line to New Philadelphia and Coshocton, to pay their taxes and transact other legal business, until the organization of Holmes county in 1825.

THE FIRST SETTLERS.

It is a difficult task to ascertain, at this late period, who were the first settlers. It is generally conceded, however by the early settlers now living, that Jonathan Grant was the first white man that built a cabin and cultivated a crop in the county. In July, 1809 he, with his son, came on foot from Beaver county, Pennsylvania, bringing with them an axe, auger, sack of corn meal, gun and ammunition. In that month they put up a cabin in the valley of Saltcreek, on the Beaver land. After building the cabin they cleared some land and sowed it with turnip seed. The day the seed was sown, an Indian came to the cabin and asked for something to eat. Grant, who was sick at the time said he had no food to give - that he was nigh to starvation himself. The Indian said, "pale face down at the big spring". Grant sent his son to see who was there, and in a short time he returned with Jonathan Butler and some provisions. Butler came from Virginia, who, with his family had reached the big spring the day before. As soon as Grant got better, he went to Butler's and helped him get up his cabin. Grants turnip patch produced a large crop. On the approach of cold weather he buried what he wanted of them, giving the remainder to Butler and then went back to Beaver county. The turnips proved of

much service to Butler and his family who stayed on the Killbuck^{el} this winter. Butler was in fact the first white settler in the county. During that winter Butler's nearest neighbor was Jesse Morgan, who had settled three miles up the valley at the old Killbuck's Town. They came from Virginia together, His next nearest neighbors were at Wooster. On the 4th day of February, 1810, Hannah daughter of Jonathan Butler and ~~his~~ wife of Mr. David Finney was born at the Big Spring. She was the first white person born in Holmes county and is the oldest resident thereof. The place where she was born was also that of the first person buried in the county, being one of Col. Crawford's men as before alluded to.

Grant

Early in the spring of 1810, returned to his cabin, bringing his family with him. He found Butler in good health and his turnips in fine condition excepting a few of them had been taken from the hole during the winter by the Indians, or white persons looking for land. Grant was followed in April by Messrs. Martin Dawson, and the Knoxes, who settled on Martin's creek. Martin coming three days first, the creek was honored with his name. In the same year came Messrs. Haleys, Casters, Wolgamots and John Neville. That fall John Nevill put up a hewed log house with shingle roof. It was the first of the kind built in the county. In the spring of 1811, Hugh McCulloch and family came and settled on Martins creek, adjoining Dawson's. The same year the Guinps, Buckmasters and several others settled in Prairie and Saltcreek townships. In April, 1811, an election was held at Jonathan Butler's at which time David H. Knox was chosen a Justice of the Peace. This was the first election had in the county and Mr. Knox was the first judicial officer.

In the beginning of the war of 1812, the great Indian Chief Tecunseh^m became the ally of the British. He managed to unite all the hostile tribes of Indians in the Northwest territory, and was ready at any moment to strike a blow on the border settlers. This threw them into great alarm and they sought protection by building block houses. About this time some Indians were seen on Martin's creek, and the settler, put up a block house on John L. Dawson's land. It was built at the very gap that Dawson's father and Crawford's army had passed through, thirty years before on their way to the Sandusky, to punish the Indians, for depredations committed on the white settlers. As soon as the block house was finished forty-five persons went into it, the women and children remaining there night and day, but the men went out in the daytime to look after their crops. Hugh McCulloch, sr., a finely educated man, wrote letters to the Governor, and two companies of ~~six~~ soldiers were sent to the Killbuck for the protection of the settlers. No depredations were committed by the Indians in the neighborhood and in a short time the soldiers were sent elsewhere.

A settlement in the east end of the county was commenced in 1809. In that year Jonas Stitzman built a cabin on Walnutcreek, but did not move to it until 1811. In the spring of 1810 Jacob Miller, Christian Yoder and John Troyer, settled in the same neighborhood. They built cabins and grew a crop of corn that year. By 1812 the Weavers, Hochstetlers, Shrocks and others had formed quite a settlement and in 1815 a school house was erected and a school taught. This was the first school house in the county. On the 10th of November, 1810 Yost C. Yoder was born in the neighborhood, and was the ~~first~~ third person born in the county.

In 1810-11 the Berger's, Domers, Haneys, Millers and Troyers settled in German township. From 1810 to 1812 a few settlements were made in Paint and the east end of Saltcreek townships by Harolds, Snyders, Hurless, Thomberg and others.

In the early part of 1810, James L. Priest settled on Mohican and near the town of Loudonville. He was soon followed by the Drakes, Conners, Newkirks, Bonnets and Odells. East of the lake in Ripley township, Humberger, McConkeys, Stuckeys, Gorsuches, Matherson and others settled about the same time.

In the south part of the county, Abraham Shrimplin made the first settlement. He came in March 1810. After building a cabin he cleared the land and put out a crop of corn. In April of the same year George and Thomas Carpenter, William and Samuel Morrisson settled on Douty creek. They each grew a small crop of corn the same year. During the summer of that year Peter Casey settled on the west side of Killbuck and opposite the town of Millersburg. His first crop^{was} rye which was a good one. Charles Uhl Sr., settled in the flats Southwest of Millersburg in 1815. His brothers William, Jacob and George followe^d soon after and settled on lands adjoining.

From 1811 to 1814, Finneys, Mackeys, Underhill, Heveland and Thomas Fraizer settled in Monroe township. and during the same period, Jacob Korn, John Swiggart, James Shimer, Joseph Edgar and others made a settlement about Berlin. Korn was a blacksmith, the first in that part of the county.

In Richland and Knox townships settlements were commenced about 1816. The DeWitts, Harrises and Mackeys were among the first settlers in that locality.

In the fall of 1810, Abraham Shrimplin after gathering his crop of corn

returned to the old settlement and remained there over the winter. Early the next spring he and his wife returned to their new home. Samuel Shrimplin and some others came with them and settled in the same neighborhood. I had nearly forgotten to mention that the Calhouns settled in Hardy township in 1817. James, who settled on Sand run, the year they came to this county, has been a resident of Hardy township since that time. He is probably the oldest man now living in the county, being nearly ninety-two years of age. William Kerr settled the farm where Henry Croco lives, in 1812. He was the first blacksmith in the vicinity of Holmesville. Mr Gorsuch that settled on Paint Creek made augers, and in this way was of much service to the early settlers. James Adams moved to the Infirmary farm in 1816. His trade was sickel making. He was of great^service in repairing and sharpening sickels. Perhaps no one was more useful in the county than Jacob Kornis of Berlin. In addition to blacksmithing he made mill stones splitting them from the large granite boulders and dressing them in the nicest possible manner. The first school taught in the county was in 1812, by Joseph Edgar, in the house of Josiah Bell, and where the town of Holmesville is now situated.

INCIDENTS OF FRONTIER LIFE.

Bravery and manhood was considered by the Pioneers as the noblest traits of character, in the young man. The Castors and Buckmasters possessed a full share of it often to the chagrin and mortification of their comrades. Some time after the Castors came to the county Mac, who was considered the best man of the family, met a very large Indian, - they had seen each other before. Caster had with him his rifle a very handsome one. The Indian asked if he might look at it, at the same time setting his own gun by the side of a tree. Mac let the Indian look at the gun, who after handling it a little said, "Me swap." Castor said he would not swap. The Indian said, "yes, me biggest

man and me swap". Castor took hold of the gun to take it by force, when the Indian let go the gun and seizing Castor, threw him to the ground and commenced fighting. After several efforts, Castor turned the Indian under, and dealing such severe blows ~~to~~ in his face that the Indian soon cried out; "Me no swap, me no swap." Castor continued pounding away until the Indian's face was in a jelly; then springing suddenly to his feet, caught up his gun. A few seconds after the Indian was on his feet and taking^{up} his gun, said "me no swap." Castor extended to the Indian his hand and they parted apparently good friends.

A few weeks after this occurrence there was a gathering of the people for the purpose of raising a house. Young Jim Lion, an Indian, was there and bantered the young white men to jump. Mac Castor took the banter. Lion then proposed putting up their guns and the winner to take both of them. Mac did not like to risk the losing of his gun, but finally consented, and the guns were put up. The jumping was performed by a run, two hops and a jump. The Indian giving the banter was required to jump first. Castor's first jump over-reached the Indians several feet and Lion after several trials gave up beat, he jumping 50 and Castor 51 feet. Mack handed Jim his gun, telling him if he ever showed his face again he would serve him as he had the big Indian.

Joshua Buckmaster, who was a noted man among the settlers for his daring bravery and courage, had a desperate fight with an Indian, at or near Odell's lake, about some honey he was getting from an Indian squaw. Her brave was with her and took offense at something Buckmaster said about the honey, and told him he must fight or die. Buckmaster preferring the former to the latter stripped for the occasion.

When the Indian dropped his blanket he had nothing on but his breach-clout, and running at Buckmaster, caught him and threw him down. The Indians being a much larger man and naked had greatly the advantage and for sometime the fight was in his favor. After many efforts Buckmaster regained his feet and getting loose from the Indian delt him a blow that felled him to the ground and jumping on him with both feet knocked the breath out of him. Then kicking and pounding him severely the Indian soon gave up. When I settled in this county Buckmaster was one of my nearest neighbors. He showed me the scars on his back where the Indian bit him.

I might relate many incidents of great daring and courage, on the part of the early settlers, by both men and women, in fight with bears, panthers, wolves and catamounts, but time and space will not admit of them here.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The first saw mill in the county was built in 1814 on farm of Edward Martin on Martins creek. The first grist mill in 1815 by John Guinn, on Saltcreek. It was little above the lower reailroad bridge across that stream. The next was the Newkirk mill, at O'Dells lake built in 1816, and shortly after it the Morgan mill on Polly's run. About the same time a saw-mill was built on Walnutcreek and a grist mill on sugar creek in Paint township.

In the fall of 1815 the bridge over Killbuck west of Holmesville, known as the Poulson bridge was built by John Painter. It was the first bridge in the county. The second bridge across Killbuck was opposite the old town of Millersburg, and put up by John Painter and James French. The bridge across Killbuck west of this town (Millersburg) was built by William Painter in 1825.

The town of Berlin was laid out in 1816 by John Surgert. The old town of Millersburg was laid out by Charles Miller in 1819. Millersburg, our co-

county seat was laid out by Adam Johnson and Charles Miller in 1824. The first frame building erected in the town was by William Painter in which he kept the first hotel in the place. The first court in the county was held in this hotel and a portion of the barn was fixed up for the jail. The Judges were Hon. Alexander Harper of Zanesville President and Peter Casey of Hardy, George Luke of German, and William Hutchison of Saltcreek associates. Charles Godhart of Zanesville.

The act for the organization of the county was passed January 20th 1824, but the county was not fully organized until April 1825. The county is named after Major Holmes, an officer of the war of 1812, who was killed at Fort Mackinac and the county seat after Charles Miller one of the proprietors of the town.

As before stated our first term of the Court of Common Pleas was held in February, 1825. The Hon. Alexander Harper of Zanesville was the President Judge, and Hon. Peter Casey of Hardy, Hon. Geo. Luke of German and Hon William Hutchison of saltcreek townships, his associates. At this term of court Charles D. Goddard, Esq. of Zanesville, was appointed Prosecuting Attorney. James S. Irvine of Millersburg Clerk with Robert K. Enos as deputy and Daniel Hutchinson Sheriff. During the term of this court James^{S.}/Irvin was appointed County Recorder.

The first election held in the county of Holmes was in April 1825. At this election county as well as township officers were chosen. All townships officers in the several townships whose terms of office did not expire with the election held over to the end of their term. At this first

election there were but nine townships in the county. The county officers chosen were, Auditor Seth Flint of Millersburg; Sheriff Daniel Hutchison of Saltcreek; county commissioners, Frederick Hall of Berlin, Griffin Johnson of Washington and David Finney of Monroe townships.

The first session of the county commissioners was held April 18th. 1825, at which time Peter Casey was appointed Treasurer.

At the December session of the county commissioners in 1825, the number and boundaries of the several townships was fixed. They have remained unchanged to this day. Their order on the books of the county are as follows: German, Mechanic, Killbuck, Richland, Knox, Monroe, Hardy, Berlin, Walnutcreek, Paint, Saltcreek, Prairie, Ripley and Washington, and are numbered in the order I have given them.

After the organization of the county our first Representatives were; in Congress Hon. John C. Wright, of Jefferson county; in the Ohio Legislature Hon. Edward Every, of Wayne county, in the Senate and Hon. S. S. Henry of Holmes in the house.

POPULATION.

I have not the means of ascertaining the exact number of the population of the county at the time of its organization in 1825. It will be safe to say it was not less than 5000. At the taking of the census in 1830, the population of the county was 9,135. In 1840, it had nearly doubled, being 18,088. In 1850, it was 20,425, and is about that number at this time.

VALUE OF PROPERTY AND TAXATION.

The value of all property brought on the tax duplicate fifty years ago, being for 1826, and the total amount of taxes levied thereon are as follows:

Lands, - Total value of all lands and town lots	\$ 26,820
Chattels - Total value of horses	6,480
Total value of cattle	2,096

Total 35,396

The total amount of taxes assessed for all purposes on the above valuation was \$3,134,41~~0~~, being at the rate of eleven dollars, twenty-nine cents and two-mills on the one hundred dollars valuation, or 11.3-10 mills on the dollar's valuation.

It will be noticed that at the ~~present~~ time the above duplicate was made there were but three kinds of property subject to taxation, land, horses, and cattle, which was valued as follows. Land was divided into three classes, first, second and third-rates; first-rate valued at \$1 per acre, second-rate 75 cents, and third-rate, 50 cents per acre. Land was not taxed for five years after it was bought of the Government. All houses three years old and over was valued at forty dollars, and all cattle three years old and over, at eight dollars each.

The value of all property bought on the Tax Duplicate for 1875, was \$8,-408.792, and the total amount of taxes assessed thereon for all purposes was \$112,496.36, making an average rate of taxation of nearly thirteen and fourtenths mills on the dollars valuation.

CONCLUSION.

There are many other things I would like to notice, especially our improvements since the organization of the county; the foremost of which is our railroad, newspapers and schools, but time and space forbids it now. I will promise you however, that should my life be spared, I will give them in a better manner than I can possibly do here.