MERCER COUNTY, OHIO, DURING THE CIVIL WAR

A Thesis Presented for the Degree of Master of Arts

By

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MERCER COUNTY, OHIO, DURING THE CIVIL WAR

INTRODUCTION

Almost opposite the middle of the boundary line between the states of Ohio and Indiana is Mercer County. Its western boundary is the state line. On the north is Van Wert County, on the east Van Wert and Auglaize Counties, and on the south is Darke County. The surface is rather flat, especially so east and north of the present town of Burkettsville where formerly lay the Old Cranberry Swamp, where the land is level, black, and very fertile. The land around Fort Recovery in the southwestern part of the county is a little more rolling. But the entire county is good agricultural land, and before settlement by the white man contained many forests of what would be very valuable timber today. In many places were swamps and marshes which took years of labor and engineering skill to drain. The natural slope of the county is towards the north. The fields thus formed from these low places were level and very productive. Mercer is predominantly agricultural and its soil constitutes its greatest source of wealth.

Three matters of historical interest are associated
with the early history of Mercer County. The first is the origin of its name. This county was named for General Hugh Mercer. He was a native of Aberdeen, Scotland, and was educated in the university of this city to be a doctor. Coming to America in 1747, he settled near what is now Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. He accompanied Braddock’s expedition of 1755 and was wounded in the fighting. On his return, he resumed the practice of medicine at Fredericksburg, Virginia, and at the outbreak of the Revolutionary war, volunteered for service in the Continental Army. In 1776, at the request of Washington, he was made a brigadier general. He performed much valorous service. In the battle of Princeton he was wounded and ordered to surrender. Upon his refusal, he was bayonetted five times, and died in great agony about a week later.¹ To commemorate his patriotism, the people chose to name their county after him.

Another historical episode in the history of Mercer County was a terrible battle that was fought within its boundaries. Early in November, 1791, General Arthur St. Clair was leading a force of regulars and militia towards the present site of Fort Wayne. They halted for the night on the banks of the Wabash River where later the stockade, Fort Recovery, was located. Early the next morning before breakfast the Indians attacked, and soon drove the militia back in confusion into the main camp. This caused much

disorder. The regulars and many of the militia fought bravely but the surprise and fierceness of the Indian attack were too great for the troops and they were forced to retreat, leaving many dead and wounded on the field. They were not pursued very far, fortunately, as the Indians wanted to plunder the camp. The number of killed was about six to seven hundred. In a clearing on the battlefield about two years later, a detachment of troops from General "Mad" Anthony Wayne's command buried over six hundred skulls. 2 The deaths in this surprise battle were over twice as many as in Custer's Massacre, and almost half as many as in the battle of St. Mihiel, 3 one of the great battles of the American forces in World War I. Or to make it plainer, more soldiers were killed in this battle than were killed in combat in all of the Spanish-American War, when the army suffered 279 deaths and the navy sixteen. 4

The last cause of interest which will be mentioned is the Grand Reservoir, or Lake St. Mary's, as it is sometimes called. For many years, until about 1913, it was known as the largest artificial lake in the world. It was constructed, 1837-1843, by closing the two ends of a long, swampy depression. The Miami and Erie Canal needed a feeder lake and the engineers considered this site the best location for one.

2. Ibid., p. 232.
3. "The St. Mihiel offensive cost only about 7000 casual-
The swamp mentioned above was situated on the divide between the St. Lawrence and Mississippi river systems. The water which flowed out of the east end of the reservoir finally reached the Atlantic by way of the St. Lawrence River. Water which left the west end of the reservoir flowed through Beaver Creek into the Wabash River, thence by way of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to the Gulf of Mexico. The area of the reservoir was about 17,600 acres. It was about nine miles long and from three to five miles wide, with an average depth of about ten feet. At first the artificial lake was used for commerce, boating, and fishing. Today, there is no commerce on it, but the recreational and fishing activities in and around this body of water have greatly increased. The very muddy and poorly maintained road of the Civil War years on top of the west embankment of the lake has been rebuilt into one of the best concrete highways of the present state system of roads.

Ohio became a state in 1803, but Mercer County was not established until April 1, 1820, by virtue of an act of the State Legislature for the erection of counties in northwestern Ohio, which was passed February 12, 1820. The county at first was much larger but later some of its area was used in the formation of other counties. By 1849 it had been reduced in size until it contained 460 square miles, its present area. There were then, as now, fourteen townships

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in the county.⁶

After the War of 1812 there was a steady migration from the well populated east to the newly formed states on the frontier where there was much cheap land. Many of the settlers going to the New West had to cross Ohio. Some liked the beauty, location, and soil of the state, so they settled there instead of going farther. The earliest settlement in Mercer County was made at Fort Recovery in the southwestern part of the county in 1816, the first family being that of a Mr. Simison.⁷ One author states that he settled here in 1817. William Simison, born in 1827, son of the first settler at Fort Recovery, later told of early conditions in Mercer County.

"The killing of deer was an ordinary sport, and it created no terror in him to hear the howling of wolves as he wended his way through the forests a distance of forty miles to pay a visit to his future companion for life. On one occasion he was compelled to borrow a pair of pants to go home in, his own, which had been used to fill a crack in a log cabin to keep the wolves out, having been torn to shreds."⁸

In the northern part of the county, on the St. Mary's River at Shanes crossing (Rockford), there was quite a trading post as the St. Mary's River afforded the means

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6. Ibid.
for the transportation of goods and merchandise from the settlements in the older sections of the country. No large boats were needed to bring in the supplies needed.  

The population of the county for four successive decades is as follows:  

1830----------1,110  
1840----------8,277  
1850----------7,712  
1860----------14,104  

The census of 1860 also shows that there were 606 free Negroes in the county. August Wattles, a native of Connecticut worked to improve their condition. With the help of money from the estate of Samuel Emlen of New Jersey, a Friend, he founded the Emlen Institute for the education of boys of African and Indian descent. It was located in what is now Carthagen. The Roman Catholic Church later purchased the property and enlarged it, and it is used today as a training school for men studying to be priests. By the same census, Darke County to the south had 481 free colored people.  

The table given previously shows that the greatest percentage of population growth was from 1830 to 1840. One reason why the county lost population between 1840 and 1850 was that it lost territory. Some of this territory which contained the former county seat of Mercer County—

9. Ibid., p. 87.  
St. Marys - was added to Auglaize County. The second greatest percentage of growth of population for the county was made in the decade 1850-1860. Its growth was like most new counties in the Old Northwest; pioneers came in and started farming, and they were soon followed by traders, merchants, and other townspeople who settled in small communities and advantageously located towns.

12. Ibid., p. 48.
Chapter I

MERCER COUNTY AT THE OPENING OF THE WAR

In the pages following an attempt will be made in a small way to show the part played by Mercer County in the Civil War. In a war, people are the greatest factor in either the winning or the losing of the conflict. Man is the great variable. Mercer County's population\(^1\) was not large but it consisted of sturdy agricultural people. The census gives the following classifications:\(^2\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Native born-white</td>
<td>5,896</td>
<td>5,631</td>
<td>11,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native born-black</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native born-mulatto</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign born-white</td>
<td>1,075</td>
<td>896</td>
<td>1,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign born-black</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,294</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,810</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,104</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above statistics show that more than fourteen percent of the population was foreign born, with most of these immigrants of German and Irish birth. Three townships especially had a heavy foreign population. They were as follows:

Granville --------------- 341 foreign in a total of 1,234
Marion --------------- 573 foreign in a total of 1,876
Recovery --------------- 215 foreign in a total of 1,118

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1. See p. 5.
The figures, however, are from the 1870 census and consequently would not have been as great in 1860. The colored population in Mercer County in 1860 was 606. It was located mainly in Granville, Butler, and Marion Townships.

In Mercer County at this time there were 77,600 improved and 102,624 unimproved acres in farms. The cash value of these farms was $3,263,331. The value of the farming implements and machinery was $202,431. The livestock in the county was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Horses</th>
<th>5,057</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mules</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milch Cows</td>
<td>4,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Oxen</td>
<td>607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Cattle</td>
<td>6,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>10,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swine</td>
<td>34,747</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total value of this livestock was $501,741. At present day prices (Summer of 1948) the cows alone would bring more than that amount.

The number of farms in Mercer County containing three acres or more was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Farms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three and under ten</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten and under twenty</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twenty and under fifty</td>
<td>971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifty and under one hundred</td>
<td>491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One hundred and under five hundred</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five hundred and under one thousand</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

3. This information was not given in the census of 1860, so that of 1870 was used.
This makes a total of 1830 farms. As there were 2513 families in the county, it can be easily seen that the great majority of them lived on farms.\(^8\) The value of these farms in 1860 was $3,263,331.\(^9\) Their chief products are given in the Appendix, Table I.

Transportation in Mercer County in 1861 was poor. There is mention of a plank road between Celina and St. Marys but the other highways of the county were dirt roads. In wet weather and during winter time these roads were almost impassable, especially for heavily loaded wagons.

The Miami and Erie Canal, completed in its full length from Cincinnati to Toledo in 1845, was the first important avenue of transportation within easy access from Mercer County.\(^10\) Grain, lumber, and other products of the farm could easily be shipped from Celina on this waterway. Celina had its own wharf where three canal boats could load at one time.\(^11\) The shipment of products was often made to Toledo but they could be sent south to Cincinnati. They could also be sent north to Paulding County where a branch canal was in operation from Junction west to Fort Wayne. Late in the spring of 1861, the Ohio canal system was leased to.

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a group of men for the sum of $20,075 annually. Some of the Democrats complained that the price was too low and that the General Assembly could have gotten $5,000 more had the state administration but asked for the larger amount.

There was one difficulty with the canal, however. In the summer months in times of drought, the water in the canal would become too shallow for navigation, especially on the summit level south of St. Marys. This was remedied later on. The state in connection with the lessees of the public works, at great expense to themselves, completed the Lewiston Reservoir, containing nine thousand acres of land. The flow from this artificial lake together with that from the Laramie Reservoir increased the supply of water on the Summit or Level, as it was sometimes called, so that navigation could be carried on through the dry season. The lessees also did some other good work. By 1864 they had rebuilt thirty-one of the old and dilapidated wooden locks south and west of Defiance.

Before 1861, the railroads nearest to Mercer County were the Pennsylvania Line through Lima and Van Wert and the Big Four through Sidney and Union City. There had been much agitation to get a railroad constructed from Jackson,

Michigan, to Greenville, Ohio. Grading and culvert building had been started, but no railroad had been built. Much money had been subscribed by citizens from 1853 to 1863 as is shown in the table below.\(^{14}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mercer County</td>
<td>$84,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darke County</td>
<td>$89,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Wert County</td>
<td>$30,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The amounts subscribed by Darke and Van Wert counties are also given. This shows that the people of the county were very desirous of having railroad connection with the rest of the state. Their county was not as large as Darke, yet it gave almost as much; and although only slightly larger than Van Wert County, it almost tripled the subscriptions of the latter.

The communities of Mercer County at this time numbered thirteen, according to the published delinquent tax list.\(^{15}\) Of these only two were incorporated. Fort Recovery, the oldest village corporation in the county, platted in 1836 and built on the site of the old fort, was incorporated in 1858. Celina, platted in 1834, while it was yet surrounded by woods, was incorporated as a village in 1860.\(^{16}\) It was near the center of the county and had been the county seat since 1840. It had been named for Salina, New York, which lay at the head of Lake Onondaga. The town that James W.

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15. Ibid., December 12, 1861.
Riley was founding also lay at the head of a lake but an artificial one. This similarity in location caused the founder to give to his new town the same name. But to prevent any confusion in the mails by the same spelling, he changed the first two letters of the Ohio town from Sa to Ce. In this way the name sounded same, but in Ohio it was spelled Celina.\(^\text{17}\) In 1860, the population of this village, the largest in the county, was 294 whites and thirteen colored, making a total of only 307 inhabitants.\(^\text{18}\) The town was small, but being the county-seat and centrally located, more business came to it than would have come to an ordinary village of this size.

That the founders of Celina were God fearing men is proved by what they did. When a writer examined the original plat of Celina, he found the following language used by Messrs. Aughenbaugh, Riley, and Company, proprietors of the town:

"Lots No. 23 and 29 are donated for schools; and lot No. 44 for the use of the Methodist Episcopal Church; Lot No. 100 for the Baptist Church; and lot No. 149 for the Presbyterian Church; which are to be used for no other purpose."\(^\text{19}\)

One other community in the county at this time deserves mention. It is the unincorporated village of Shanesville, which lies about eleven miles north of Celina, on the south bank of the St. Marys River. Here had been the location of

\(^{17}\) Scranton, op. cit., p. 94.
\(^{19}\) R. Sutton and Company, History of Van Wert and Mercer Counties, p. 351.
an old trading post conducted by the Indians prior to the War of 1812, and named for Anthony Shane, a half-breed Indian trader and a friend of the white man. It was here that General "Mad Anthony" Wayne's army crossed the St. Marys River on its way north to drive back the Indians. It became known as Shane's Crossing. Then Shane laid out a town here on the 23rd of June, 1820, under the name of Shanesville. However, in 1866 it was incorporated under its original name as Shane's Crossing. In 1890, its name was again changed, this time to Rockford, its present name.

The three villages that have been mentioned above were three of the largest communities in Mercer County at the time of the Civil War.

There were other communities, though that were not so large but which nevertheless became meeting centers for the surrounding country or townships. Here, often in the country stores, the people would meet and discuss the news of the day, political questions would be argued pro and con, and meetings would be held to influence or mould the martial spirit of the citizens and to secure volunteers for the armed forces. Some of these unincorporated villages were Mercer, Mendon, Chickasaw, Carthagenia, Neptune, St. John's, St. Joseph's, Monterey, Kopel, Macedon, Montpelier, Montezuma, and Coldwater.

Although the manufactures of Mercer County were only

about one-tenth of one percent of the manufactured products of Ohio in 1860 in value, yet they aided greatly in maintaining the prosperity of the county.²¹ Being an agricultural county, and not very highly developed, Mercer manufactured chiefly flour, meal, and lumber. Table II in the Appendix shows the number of establishments, capital invested, annual value of the product, etc. in the county at this time.

In 1860 the schools of the county were of both elementary and high school grade, with Celina having the best graded schools in the county. Attendance was voluntary. A county board of examiners issued teachers’ certificates to those applicants who were successful in passing the examinations. Prospective teachers of the elementary schools often prepared for their examinations by attending the higher grades of the county schools. This did not tend to create a high standard among the teachers.

Finally, and most important, were the churches of Mercer County. The two strongest groups were the Methodists with seventeen churches and the Roman Catholics with five.²² The Methodists had arrived in the county first. This probably accounted for their greater number of churches.

In 1829, Robert Finley, a superannuated Methodist minister at St. Marys, was seeking the so-called lost sheep of

²¹ Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Manufactures, p. 466.
²² Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Mortality, Property, etc., pp. 447-453. Also see Appendix, Table III.
Israel. He was soon doing some missionary work for the Methodist Church for in the same year he organized groups of this denomination at Shane's Crossing and at Willshire, just across the county line in Van Wert County. The succeeding years saw the Methodists become the strongest religious group.

The buildings of the Emlen Institute at Carthagenaa had been purchased by the Society of the Most Precious Blood of the Roman Catholic Church and changed into a theological seminary which was then opened in 1860 by the Reverend Joseph Dwenger. The location of this training school for priests in the southeastern part of the county greatly strengthened the Roman Catholic churches in this section. That the churches, and especially the Methodist, which was strongly abolitionist, were instrumental in keeping up the fighting spirit of the Mercer County people in the Civil War years can hardly be doubted. The role which they played was a vital one.

Some statements have been made of the racial composition of the people of this county in a few preceding paragraphs. Many of the native population came from the southern part of the state, or from the east. Those whose ancestors were from the South were nearly always strongly Democratic

25. Ibid., p. 310.
in politics. Those from the eastern part of the state, or whose ancestors were from the East, seemed to be more liberal in their political beliefs. But there was one belief that the majority of the people held. It was that the colored people should not vote and take part in the government. This belief was held especially against the mulattoes.

It was known that in Massachusetts, the strongest Republican state in the Union, foreign born white men were not allowed to vote until they had resided in the country seven years, while Negroes were allowed to vote after a six-months residence in the state. This fact was used as political ammunition in Mercer County.

White men, that are citizens of the United States, are not allowed to vote while black men, that are not and cannot be citizens of the United States are allowed to vote.

"That is Republicanism in Massachusetts.
"In Ohio, according to the decisions of Judge Brinkerhoff--
Mulattoes may vote.
Mulattoes may sit on juries.
Mulattoes may hold office.
This is Republicanism in Ohio. 26

During the campaign of 1860 white men were often reminded by Democrats to bear in mind that Judge Brinkerhoff, a Republican judge of the supreme court of Ohio, had decided that a Negro, less than half black, was a white man and entitled to the right of suffrage. If voters did not agree with this decision, they should vote the Democratic ticket; if they did agree with the decision, 26. The Western Standard, October 4, 1860.
they should vote the Republican ticket with their equal, the Negro. 27

The Western Standard quoted an exchange as to who was responsible for the intermixture of white and black blood. Pious abolitionists said that it was the Southern Democracy, but if one looked at the Census of 1850, he would find that the mulattoes in Republican, abolition Massachusetts numbered four to each one-hundred blacks. The conclusion was that it was natural for the Republicans who were educated in the same schools with the Negroes to mix with them as their equals. But it was different with a Democrat. To him it was abhorrent, 28 so argued the Democratic organ.

It was a lively campaign that took place in Mercer County in 1860. Pamphlets were printed and distributed, mass meetings and monster parades were held, and political speeches were made in nearly all of the communities of the county. At one of the meetings held by the Republicans on July 26, 1860, in Celina, an effort was made to establish a Republican press in the village, but not enough stock could be sold to start the business. The editor of the Western Standard thought that the Republicans could succeed but that it would be an uphill undertaking after the campaign was over. He declared that an opposition press there would cause the Democrats to make a more thorough organization of their party and thereby to secure a better turn-out at

27. Ibid.
28. Ibid., November 8, 1860.
the polls than they had had for years past.\textsuperscript{29} There was an attendance of about seventy-five at the Republican meeting, held at the courthouse, but the hostile editor charged that approximately one-third of those present were Democrats.\textsuperscript{30}

Then on October 6, 1860, at Celina, the Republicans held one of the biggest political meetings of the entire campaign. Seven counties were represented; Jay and Randolph from Indiana; and Allen, Auglaize, Van Wert, Darke, and Mercer from Ohio. It was on Saturday and many people came to the county seat also on business that day. There was a large and colorful crowd, about 350 coming from the south and southwest. Among these were many Negroes - "Brinkermhoff's White Men" - as many Democrats liked to call them. During the parade the shouts for Lincoln and Douglas were about even, according to the unfriendly Democratic paper. There were very many Democrats standing on the streets watching the parade. The hurrahs for the Republican candidate served to stir them to equal vocal activity for their own candidate. As this was the last opportunity before election for the Republicans to win votes, they made the most of it.\textsuperscript{31}

The Democrats held many more meetings. On Friday, September 21, 1860, about three thousand Democrats assembled

\textsuperscript{29} Ibid., July 26, 1860.
\textsuperscript{30} Ibid., August 2, 1860.
\textsuperscript{31} Ibid., October 11, 1860.
in Celina. One of their main speakers was William Allen, Democratic candidate for re-election to Congress from the Fourth Ohio District. There was a large procession with much accompanying enthusiasm. Another meeting was held in the community of Monterey on October 5, 1860. It was advertised that a hickory pole two hundred feet in length was going to be raised by a steam engine. Several brass bands were there, furnishing martial music. At certain intervals cannon were fired, to add enthusiasm to the meeting. The campaigning led in one case to offensive personalities. James Mackenzie of the Lima National stated that the "Lying Stone" made a speech in New Bremen on Thursday, August 16, charging that the Democrats were abolitionists. William D. Stone, the person referred to, denied saying this and also being in New Bremen on that date. He said that he could produce twenty affidavits proving that he was in Fort Recovery at the time referred to. James Mackenzie later stated that if Mr. Stone would bring his affidavits, he would look up the other side. But he advised him to let the matter slide. Another letter, following the one by Mr. Mackenzie and signed simply with the word Montezuma, made the statement that the author

32. Ibid., September 27, 1860.
33. Ibid., October 11, 1860.
34. Ibid., September 13, 1860.
35. Ibid., September 27, 1860.
36. Ibid., October 11, 1860.
heard Mr. Stone make this same speech. The matter was then dropped as no reference was made to it in the following issues.

In Mercer County in the election of 1860, or elsewhere, one of the main issues was what to do about slavery in the territories. **The Western Standard**, which was read by many persons in every community of the county contained a paragraph which informed the people of the stand taken by each candidate. This paragraph, given below, appeared in several issues of the paper.

**THE ISSUES**

Let Congress intervene to **PROTECT** Slavery in the Territories-Breckenridge.
Let Congress intervene to **PREVENT** Slavery in the Territories-Lincoln.

Many of the people of Mercer County had a strong belief in the Democratic party. One of the members of this party made the statement that if every Democratic voter would vote in the election to be held in a few days, that their majority might be over nine hundred votes. He wanted his friends to see that it was done. And he wanted them to vote solidly for Douglas. How near this strong Democrat was right is shown by the results of the presidential election in November, 1860. Only two out of the fourteen townships in the county

37. Ibid.
38. Ibid.
39. Ibid., November 1, 1860.
were carried by Lincoln. The vote in these two townships is given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Douglas</th>
<th>Lincoln</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The votes of both Mercer and Darke, adjoining counties, are given so that one can see how strongly democratic Mercer County was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CANDIDATE</th>
<th>MERCER</th>
<th>DARKE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breckinridge</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas</td>
<td>1606</td>
<td>2479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>832</td>
<td>2460</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The majority for Douglas in Darke County was only nineteen votes while in Mercer County it was seven hundred seventy-four. It did not quite reach the nine hundred predicted, but it was almost two to one in favor of Douglas. Mercer County had voted true to form.

40. Ibid., November 15, 1860.
41. Ibid., January 10, 1861.
Chapter II

THE POLITICAL LIFE OF THE PERIOD 1861-1865

In the preceding chapter a short view of the agriculture, the manufactures, the transportation, and the origins of the population was taken. Lastly - and most important - some of the political and spiritual beliefs of the people were given. The ideas and the beliefs that people have are often underestimated; they are the fountains from which spring the deeds and actions of men.

From the returns of the election of 1860, it was known that Mercer County had again gone Democratic. This party in the war years often expressed a belief in the following statement: "The constitution as it is, the Union as it was, and the negroes where they are."¹ Many Democrats of the county believed that this could be brought about, and without bloodshed. Even as late as the spring of 1861, just a short time before the Confederates fired upon Fort Sumter, they thought that a collision of arms between the administration of Mr. Lincoln and the Southern Confederacy was almost impossible; that Mr. Lincoln's policy had been even more conservative than that of Mr. Buchanan.² As an indication of their faith in the Union the following paragraph is given about Delaware, a border state remaining in the Union.

2. The Western Standard, March 28, 1861.
We are rejoiced at the position taken by Delaware. The Governor should have acted sooner; but better late than not at all. It is really the only true position. Delaware will raise her regiment. She has thrown off her Neutrality, bearded the Secessionists, and declared boldly for the Union. Delaware will not follow Virginia. Good for little Delaware!

These words are certainly plain. Supported by actions in conformity with these statements their loyalty to the Federal or Northern Government would not have been questioned. But it was a time that tried the souls of men and women, rebellion had raised its dangerous threat, the colors had been fired upon, men had been killed. The Republicans looked with much disfavor upon some of the principles and actions of the Democracy of Mercer County. They openly made statements about the disloyalty and secessionism of the Democrats. These were made so often that the accused felt compelled to answer the charges. In an editorial reply, the following was given.

The leading Republicans of our county are terribly exercised on account of what they are pleased to denominate our secession principles. That we prefer a peaceful settlement of our national difficulties to the horrors of civil war and the total destruction of our civil and religious liberties, we do not deny; but that we are secessionists, or in any way, shape, or form, disloyal to the Union and her "standard sheet" of thirty-three stars, we do deny. - We are just as much tinctured with secessionism as with Black Republicanism. - As we do not desire in any contingency 'to let the Union slide,' we shall not pin our faith to either of the damnable heresies, Secessionism or Black Republicanism. We are 'no partyites' but belong to the only Union party that has had any existence for eight or ten years, and we are not

3. Ibid., May 2, 1861.
now going to desert it to please our enemies and save us from their denunciations. They may cry 'traitors,' 'secessionists,' and 'tories,' but the greater their abuse the more we shall be convinced that we are doing our duty. Many of them are true Union men but Nego-loving, 'irrepressible' leaders pull the wool over their eyes. But there is still some hope we may remove this and enlighten them and bring them back to the ranks of Democracy— the true friends of the Union and the Constitution—and assist in driving some of the plundering and corrupt horde from out State Capitol next fall and continue true to the cause until our General Government is placed in more competent hands.  

It was evident that the Democracy of this county was not secessionist, - from what they said. But their dislike of the abolitionists and "Black Republicans" kept them from realizing that they were not taking the wisest course of action. Theirs was the best union party, they believed. They even thought that there was no hope for the country, save in the triumph of the Democratic Party; that nothing else could preserve the Constitution and the Union; that nothing else could stop the waste of treasure, and, above all, the waste of lifeblood; and that, in fact, their party was the last hope of the country. These thoughts and ideas were believed so strongly that in one township the entire vote was cast for the Democratic candidates for governor and representative respectively. Jewett for governor and Snyder for representative each received two hundred sixty votes, while their opponents tallied not a

4. Ibid., June 27, 1861.
5. Ibid., July 18, 1861.
single ballot. The Democrats voted for Jewett even though they knew that he was a staunch Union man. He had made this fact clear to them when he accepted the nomination for governor by his party. The Cincinnati Enquirer called it the banner Democratic township of the state. The county Democratic organ said:

    We feel proud of Marion township, and can say of a truth that she is the Banner Democratic Township of the State and is for the Union first, last and all the time.

In the years preceding the Civil War, this township had been the scene of some of the largest and most enthusiastic Democratic mass meetings that were held in the county. The war only strengthened its partisanship. It will be referred to again in connection with the election of 1863.

The opinion of many of the citizens of this county concerning Abraham Lincoln's message to Congress on December 3, 1861, is clearly expressed when the editor said that it had one recommendation -- brevity. In one issue of the county newspaper, the full text of the President's message was printed. Immediately following the end of the message was a short article taken from the Alton Democrat of Alton, Illinois, entitled, "Lincoln Hung in Effigy." Although the article was favorable to Lincoln, its title and its location did not tend to increase the reader's respect for the President and his message.

7. The Western Standard, October 31, 1861.
8. Ibid., December 12, 1861.
Another indication of the attitude of the Democrats was shown by an editorial written with the intent of helping to prevent Negro and mulatto immigration. It mentioned that in some of the counties of the state both the Democrats and Republicans were against their entering. They were afraid that it would take work away from the laborers already there. On another page in the same newspaper was printed a petition, which people were urged to sign, thereby showing their opposition to Negroes entering the county to settle there. Just the head of the petition was printed. It was to be cut out, blank pieces of paper pasted to these forms and then the interested readers were to obtain as many signers thereto as possible. After this was done the petitions were to be sent to the General Assembly of Ohio. With a petition in each single newspaper, it can be seen that many signers could have been obtained with only a little effort on the part of all the subscribers who agreed with the editor.

In any war there are some who want peace at almost any price. The Civil War was no exception. In Ohio the leader of the peace movement was Clement L. Vallandigham, who lived in Dayton and represented in Congress the district in which the city was located. He was an eloquent and logical man, endowed with a strong will and great courage, a man admirably fitted to lead the cause of this group of citizens, the Peace Democrats. A great number of people expressed their

9. Ibid., February 20, 1862.
hearty approval of the speeches and political ideas of this Congressman. In opposition to them, an effort was made to get some Democrats and Republicans to unite and form a Union party in the county. On Saturday, August 16, 1862, a Union convention was held at the courthouse in Celina. One Republican and two Democrats were nominated for three county offices. Democratic sources claimed that by actual count only twenty-seven persons attended the meeting. One of the Democrats nominated immediately wrote a letter in which he said that he had not been asked to be a candidate on a Union party ticket, and refused the nomination. He further stated that had he wanted to be a candidate for the office for which the Union convention had nominated him, he would have requested a place on the Democratic ticket.  

When the news reached Celina that President Lincoln had issued a proclamation which would later set free part of the slaves, the Democrats of the county were not long in expressing their opinion of it.

Let the Black and White Niggers Rejoice ! !  
'Honest Old' Abolition Abe  
HAS ISSUED AN EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION.  
On last Monday President A. Lincoln issued his Proclamation declaring that on the first day of January next, all slaves held in States, or parts of States, the 'white trash' whereof shall still be in rebellion, SHALL BE FREE.  

Democrats were bitterly against this, for they opposed any semblance of political liberty for Negroes. They also knew that the President would enforce his proclamation,  

11. The Western Standard, August 21, 1862.  
12. Ibid., September 25, 1862.
using the full power of the army and navy, should it be necessary. After this it was often said, "Negroes could vote—Soldiers cannot vote." This referred to the fact that under the Ohio constitution, mulattoes could qualify as voters, while soldiers could not until 1863.

The Democracy of this county had opposed the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, because they under a competent and functioning civil government. Many of the citizens believed that it was an unwarranted usurpation of their rights. The summary arrest and confinement of Dr. Edson B. Olds, a prominent Democrat of Lancaster, Fairfield County, Ohio, did not strengthen their belief that they could speak freely on political matters at this time. They were told by Democratic newspapers that one of the most corrupt and iniquitous parties that had ever cursed any country now ruled their nation and state. Election time was coming, so they were urged to use their only remedy, the ballot-box. It was by that peaceful means that the citizens were called upon to stop the infamous and destructive career of the Republican party, at least in their own state. That this political advice was taken to heart by the voters was clearly shown when the results of the election that autumn were announced. The Democrats carried the county for Armstrong, candidate for Secretary of State, by a vote of 1525 to 420. This was a clear Democratic majority of

13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
over eleven hundred votes. In the election of a Representative from the Fifth Ohio District, of which Mercer County was a part, the Democrats were also victorious. The Mercer Democrats had had a difficult time getting their favorite named as the candidate of the Democrats of the Fifth District. In the mass convention held at Lima it took one hundred forty-five ballots before F. C. LeBlond from Celina was nominated. In the election that fall, fifteen hundred eighteen votes were cast for Le Blond, while his opponent received only four hundred twenty.

When the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect, the Democrats of the county were still opposed to it. They thought that Lincoln had given in to the radicals of his party. Many Democratic leaders had warned Ohioans against the dangers of a mass migration of free negroes. William Allen declared: "Every white laboring man in the North who does not want to be swapped off for a free nigger should vote the Democratic ticket."

One would think that, with the progress of the war being more favorable to the North, with many ex-slaves fighting on the Union side, and with the Emancipation Proclamation in effect, prejudice against the Negro would materially diminish. In many counties it did, but Mercer County was not one of them. Here is an illustration. Captain

15. Ibid., October 16, 1862.
16. Ibid., November 13, 1862.
17. Roseboom, op. cit., p. 401.
18. Ibid., p. 402.
Knapp, a citizen of Fort Recovery and a combat soldier, had been aided by a former Negro slave so well and so often that many of his men owed their lives to this ex-slave. This man became sick with typhoid fever and then the regiment was ordered to move. He could not be sent with the sick and wounded soldiers as he was not an enlisted man. To have left him in the area which they were evacuating would have meant that the Confederate troops would have hung him when they returned. Before the Federal troops had left they had been approached by the Confederates and had been offered quite a large reward if they would return this ex-slave who had allegedly secured many secret plans of the Confederates -- his master was then a Colonel and later a General in the Southern Army -- and given these plans to Captain Knapp. It was one of those serious and vital problems of life and death which so often face soldiers in wartime, especially commissioned and non-commissioned officers. This officer decided that in this case he would send this contraband to his home in Fort Recovery until he recuperated from his sickness. But the people in his home town protested when they heard that he was intending to send a Negro there as they thought that he was going to do what many other officers had done -- send Negro servants home to work for them.

However, this colored man had been kept in Cincinnati for some time, waiting for an opportunity to leave
for Fort Recovery. But he recuperated so rapidly that he was soon going to be able to rejoin the company. In the meantime Captain Knapp had received word of how the people of the county felt about the Negro. He decided to write a letter and publish it in the county paper, giving the facts of the case. He closed it as follows:

The question -- did he do wrong in standing by one in his hour of need when he had done so much for him and his cause? He submits for judgment by every sensible person his actions in this case. 19

An editorial in the same issue praised Captain Knapp as an excellent citizen. And following Captain Knapp's letter in the same column was a certificate, complimenting his character, soldierly qualities, and splendid leadership, signed by the commanding officer and two other high ranking officers of the regiment. This seemed to settle all discussion of the affair for the newspaper made no more mention of it.

As the winter faded out and spring came in, political activity increased, as state nominating conventions were to meet soon. In one week, ten political meetings were advertised by the Democrats. 20 These gatherings were apparently very well attended. The people read the speeches of Vallandigham and talked about them in their own homes and small neighborhood meetings.

Meanwhile Vallandigham had been tried by a military

20. Ibid., April 2, 1863.
court and exiled to the Confederacy. Later he took refuge in Canada and, while there, was named as the Democratic candidate for governor. During the campaign a great Democratic mass meeting was announced by the Democratic State Central Committee for Thursday, September 17, 1863, at Celina. At the top of the advertisement of the meeting were the words -- "Vallandigham, Pugh and Liberty."  

21 Early in the forenoon, people began to arrive in wagons, decked with bunting and flags. Four prominent speakers were there and a letter from Vallandigham was read to the assembled citizens. They were also told that Vallandigham had voted to raise the pay of the volunteer soldiers from eleven to thirteen dollars, and had asked that they be paid in gold. 22 The village was a forest of hickories, with fifteen hundred flags flying. Celina was in a blaze of glory with every house in town decorated, with three exceptions. It was estimated that there were ten thousand people in the village, five thousand in the procession and five thousand crowded together on the street. Eight hundred wagons, filled with sturdy Democrats shouting for Vallandigham and Pugh, were in the parade. As there were present many people of German descent, Christopher Schunck -- one of the leading Democrats of the county -- spoke to them in German. Many citizens of Mercer County understood German

21. Ibid., September 17, 1863.
22. Ibid.
better than English and it was good politics for the Democrats to explain the issues to them in their native language.

The leaders of the Democrats of Mercer County gave some practical advice to their followers when they told them,

It is the duty of the Democracy of each and every township to organize themselves, promptly and thoroughly. Form clubs, hold meetings, sow the good seed, and keep the ground stirring, and you will reap an abundant harvest. 23

The next month, in October, the elections were held.

The official vote of three of the townships was as follows: 24

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Vallandigham</th>
<th>Brough</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Marion township were many foreign-born, mainly Germans, and it was predominantly Roman Catholic in religion. Dublin and Union townships contained but few foreign-born and were almost wholly Protestant in faith. The vote of Marion township done justified the shrewd forethought of the Democratic committee in having the political issues of the campaign favorably explained to the citizens of this township by a Democrat of the same racial descent and of the same faith. The total vote for the county, exclusive of the soldiers' votes, was eighteen hundred fifty-nine for Vallandigham to seven hundred fifty-eight for Brough. 25 But when the soldiers'

23. Ibid., September 24, 1863.
24. Ibid., October 22, 1863.
25. Ibid.
votes for governor came in, it was a different story. Not all of the men in the armed forces were able to vote, but when the ballots of those who did were returned and counted, it was found that only thirty-four voted for Vallandigham while one hundred ninety-five were for Brough. Only sixty-six poll books of the soldiers' votes were returned. It was found that the vote for the district and county tickets was small when compared to the vote for governor. Following are the votes for four of the county offices.

**County Civilian Vote—At Home**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Republican</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Probate Judge</td>
<td>1887</td>
<td>735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prosecuting Attorney</td>
<td>1880</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditor</td>
<td>1882</td>
<td>752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>1856</td>
<td>754</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**County Soldier Vote—Absent from Home**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Republican</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Probate Judge</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prosecuting Attorney</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditor</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Even in the soldier vote compared with the state as a whole, Mercer County was ardently Democratic. In the election of 1863, only eighteen counties went Democratic, and one of these was Mercer. In the state approximately one soldier out of seventeen voted for Vallandigham while among the soldiers of Mercer County it was about one out of six. The

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26. Ibid., November 19, 1863.
27. Ibid., October 22, 1863.
28. Ibid., November 19, 1863.
soldier vote in Ohio for Vallandigham was two thousand three hundred forty-three and for Brough it was forty thousand nine hundred twenty-one. 30

Towards the close of 1863, President Lincoln came forward with a plan to readmit the rebellious states that were reconquered. Some of the Democrats at Celina, after reading over the plan carefully, gave it as their opinion that good men in the rebellious states would not take the oath of amnesty. They thought that no honest man could take this oath. They believed that no honest man, with the conduct of the President, his advisers, and the Congress staring him in the face, could say that the war was for the restoration of the Union. 31

The unchanged Democrats of the Civil War period did not like, at least politically, the War Democrats, the Republicans, the Union Party men, or the Abolitionists. After the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect, all of these men were more often called simply Abolitionists. Especially did dyed-in-the-wool Democrats show their dislike for the War Democrats by saying that they were a few individuals who had adopted that name and then were willing to do the dirty work for the Abolition party. 32 Yet both of Ohio's war governors were War Democrats.

The Democracy of Mercer County claimed that the

30. The Western Standard, December 3, 1863.
31. Ibid., December 31, 1863.
32. Ibid., January 14, 1864.
Abolitionists rejected all offers of peace between the warring sections of the country as treasonable, even though the Confederates would lay down their arms and adhere to the Constitution in every respect. The Abolition party was for war, unending war. This party had said each year that the rebellion was about ended; that the close of the war was only a few months away. The Democrats believed that these statements were worth no more in early 1864 than what they had been in the spring of 1861.

The Democrats of Mercer arranged an acrostical treatment of the word Abolitionist so that it gave the character of the abolition party, its history, the legitimate result of its teachings, together with its final aims, and the condition in which its alleged corruption and incompetence had placed the country. The word was developed as follows:

A  narchy
B  lood letter
O  ld John Brown
L  et the Union slide
I  nsurrection
T  ear down the flaunting lie
I  mbecility
O  pposition to the Constitution
N  egro! Nigger!! Nig !!!
I  n for Miscegenation
S  hoddy
T  axes

The war had not been as successful for the North in the first part of 1864 as the Union men had hoped. And

33. The Western Standard, March 3, 1864.
34. Ibid.
35. Ibid., May 12, 1864.
then Vallandigham, Copperhead leader, had returned from exile in Canada to his home in Dayton, Ohio. The Democracy of the county believed that he should be welcomed by every true friend of constitutional liberty, because he had been a martyr for those great principles which underlie our republican form of government. His mere presence served to encourage his party to greater efforts.

The Civil War, like all wars, brought a higher cost of living. The opponents of the Union party knew that this was a weak point in the political armor of the supporters and followers of Lincoln. They said that all who were concerned about the high prices of groceries, dry goods and provisions, and who found it very difficult to live, would vote against Lincoln and the war. It was the war that caused high prices, and Lincoln was keeping up the war. They argued that Lincoln was especially the enemy of the poor man. If he were defeated, the war would cease. The Western Standard charged that Lincoln had been "the cause of more death and more misery than any man of whom modern history makes mention."

The vote in the October state elections was light. It fell at least twenty percent short of equaling the previous year's vote. In only one of the fourteen town-

37. The Western Standard, July 14, 1864.
38. Ibid., September 1, 1864.
39. Ibid., September 15, 1864.
ships of the county were there more Union Republican than Democratic votes. This was Union township which gave forty-three more votes to the war party than to the Democrats. The war was the issue. The people were told by Democratic propagandists that if they wanted four years more of war, they should vote for Lincoln. If they wanted peace, union, and prosperity, they should vote for McClellan. If they wanted to be conscripted, they should vote for Lincoln. But if they wanted the comforts and pleasures of home, then they should vote for McClellan.

Whether or not the hostile political propaganda, much of it untrue, caused President Lincoln to work harder for re-election, we do not know. But that it had an effect on his thoughts and emotions was clearly indicated.

As the Great Emancipator himself expressed it to John Hay: 'It is a little singular that I, who am not a vindictive man, should have always been before the people for election in canvasses marked for their bitterness.' But malice was foreign to his nature.

But the Democracy of Mercer County seldom read in their county newspaper anything that would show Lincoln as this type of man. The Union side of the picture was not presented.

Earlier in 1864 it appeared that Lincoln might not be re-elected. But the North had the material and human resources necessary to defeat the South. And also the North had

40. Ibid., October 13, 1864.
41. Ibid., October 20, 1864.
42. Roseboom, op. cit., p. 434.
the courageous leaders who were willing to take the responsibility of sacrificing themselves and these resources in order to win. As a result some providential victories were won. In this way, Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, and Admiral Farragut helped the Republican campaign in 1864. Yet a statement like the following might have helped to keep down the number of Republican votes in Mercer County:

"Every man that votes for Lincoln next Tuesday votes himself a coward unless he immediately enlists." The soldier vote of the county was always overwhelmingly Union Republican in the election of state and national officials. Probably statements like the above helped to change many of them from Democrats to Republicans.

The official vote of Mercer County in this presidential election was along the usual pattern. Two township and the total county vote were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>McClellan</th>
<th>Lincoln</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marion Township</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Township</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercer County</td>
<td>1818</td>
<td>601</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The soldier vote of the county was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>For</th>
<th>Against</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LeBlond</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

43. Ibid.
44. The Western Standard, November 3, 1864.
45. Ibid., November 17, 1864.
46. Ibid., November 24 and December 1, 1864.
(Soldier vote of the county continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>For</th>
<th>Against</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armstrong</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timmonds</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touvell</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LeBlond was the Democratic candidate for member of Congress, Armstrong for secretary of state of Ohio, Timmonds for county sheriff, and Touvell for county recorder. The soldier vote in the November election was decidedly larger than that of October.

Even after Lincoln's election, the talk of a peace by negotiation was heard. Some thought that the subjugation of the South was an utter impossibility. But the steady advance of Grant, the tightening of the naval blockade, and the march of Sherman through Georgia gave the lie to such beliefs and statements. It became more evident as the weeks went by that the resistance of the South would not last much longer. When the correspondence which had taken place between Grant and Lee at Appomattox was published, some Democrats of the county openly expressed praise for its moderation and good judgment. They wanted the Southern states to return to the Union and hoped that Lincoln would bring this about in a gracious manner. But the assassination of Lincoln prevented this.

47. Ibid., January 5, 1865. From a speech by the Honorable James Brooks, member of Congress, from New York.  
48. Ibid., April 13, 1865.
The close of the Civil War and the death of Lincoln brought a change in the political life of this period. The Republicans had started a newspaper in Celina in the spring of 1865. They called it the *Union Banner*. In a short time *The Western Standard* and *The Union Banner* were publishing criticisms of each other and politics sometimes degenerated into personalities. 49 The Democratic county convention held in Celina in June was much smaller in attendance than the previous ones, and very quiet. The combats of the Civil War were over, many men had returned home, old friendships were renewed, and many new adjustments had to be made. With peace came a happy, new life and people wanted to enjoy it fully. Consequently, political matters were relegated somewhat into the background.

49. *Ibid.*, June 1, 1865.
Chapter III

THE WAR SPIRIT OF MERCER COUNTY IN ACTION

By the time Governor Chase was elected for a second term in 1857, he felt that war between the North and South was sure to come, and soon. In 1858 he pushed through the legislature a bill to strengthen the militia. Later, at a review of the troops, a set of new regulations was passed out to the soldiers. It increased their loyalty and determination to protect the state, and by the time Chase left the governor's office, the spirit and fighting ability of the few companies were high, but their numbers were all too few. Governor Dennison declared when the war broke out:

    I will defend Ohio where it costs less and accomplishes the most—above all, I will defend Ohio beyond, rather than upon, her own border.2

Actually the deeds did not bear out the words. In Mercer County no real militia company was organized. But the spirits of many courageous and energetic men were awakened to and prepared for, the trial by combat. No sooner had the call come for volunteers, after Fort Sumter had been fired upon, than many men began to enlist. At Fort Recovery men quickly came forward and volunteered. Led by William B.

1. David W. Bowman, Pathway of Progress, A Short History of Ohio, p. 263.
2. Ibid., p. 265.
Stone as their captain, they were soon organized. The other two officers chosen were Preston R. Galloway for First Lieutenant and David J. Roop for Second Lieutenant. Alexander A. Knapp was chosen as the first sergeant. Within less than a week, after Fort Sumter had been fired upon, this company was enlisted, was organized, and was mustered into service. It was designated Company I, Seventeenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. The date of its mustering-in was April 17, 1861. An interesting account of the men who composed this company is given:

This company was composed of as large men as any company in the service. Of the ninety men, rank and file, thirty-six were six feet and upward in height, while the average weight throughout the company was one hundred and sixty-one and a half pounds. Fifty one of the men were violinists, and the captain was a minister of the gospel. This company enjoys the distinction of being the first body of men to enter the service from Mercer County.

The Seventeenth Regiment was composed of volunteers for three months. On the twentieth of April the regiment left Zanesville for service in that part of Virginia which later was formed into the state of West Virginia. Their first duty was to guard trains. Later they operated against guerrillas.

The rest of Mercer County was not idle. On Monday evening, April 28, 1861, a meeting was held at Shanesville for

the purpose of forming a militia company which was to be subject to the call of the governor. The meeting was well attended and before it was adjourned there were over fifty names enrolled. And Celina was wanting volunteers. Through the columns of The Western Standard, Doctor J. N. Hetzler stated that he had a roll of enlistment and was ready to receive names until the company roll was complete. Then the company would be organized and held in readiness for service. Doctor Hetzler was mayor of the village of Celina at this time. He was its first mayor.

The editor of The Western Standard had occasion to visit one of the hastily constructed camps for the newly enlisted men. There he saw an incident of camp life which he related in his paper for the benefit of the people of his county. The incident referred to was the drumming out of camp of two deserters from one of the Warren County companies. He said that their heads were shaved with about as much regularity and neatness as a farmer shears his sheep. After this was done the letter D was then branded on the left side, just above the ear. Then, handcuffed and bareheaded, they were marched around their tent. They were then marched between two files of citizens and soldiers to the gate, to the tune of the Rogues March, amid the groans and the kicks of the soldiers. It was somewhat

5. The Western Standard, May 2, 1861.
6. Ibid., May 9, 1861.
like running the gauntlet. This was considered the greatest
degradation that could befall a soldier. The editor doubted
very much the justness of the punishment meted out to the
two men as neither one had been regularly sworn into the
service.7

The men of Mercer County were quick to answer the
call for volunteers. Many of them were convinced of the
justness of the war. It was hardly money that caused most
of them to risk life and limb. The table of wages under
which they enlisted is given below. Part of it was in
cash and the rest in rations, etc., at a fixed value.8

Soldiers' Pay -- Per Month

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Pay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musicians</td>
<td>21.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporals</td>
<td>22.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergeant</td>
<td>27.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First, or Orderly Sergeant</td>
<td>29.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brevet Second Lieutenant</td>
<td>103.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Lieutenant</td>
<td>103.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain</td>
<td>118.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>175.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant Colonel</td>
<td>194.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonel</td>
<td>218.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A letter from Camp Anderson, near Lancaster, Ohio,
gave a picture of camp routine. It was written to the
editor of The Western Standard and thanked him very much
for the extra issues of his newspaper which the men had
received. It mentioned that all of the men were well, and
now in good spirits; that yesterday they had messed off,
had drawn rations, and were now doing their own cooking;

7. Ibid., May 16, 1861.
8. Ibid., May 16, 1861.
that they were fat, ragged, and saucy; and that they expected
to get uniforms -- sometime. A huge pound cake made by
Mrs. Knapp of Fort Recovery had been received in their
company the day before and the men all prayed to the good
Lord to bless the generous-hearted giver. Religious meetings
were held every night and morning in the camp. Several of
the captains and other officers were church-going men; and
there was no small religious element in the regiment.
Very little insubordination had appeared. The officers
stayed in the camp and ate the same rations that the
privates did. Drilling and camp routine kept their time
closely filled. The letter closed with a wish that all
of the friends of the men back home would write to them. 9

In some companies, conditions were quite different.
One of the volunteers, when he wrote home, commenced his
letter in this manner: "Headquarters O. V. Paupers." 10
It meant "Ohio Volunteer Paupers." Another soldier on
being asked if he would re-enlist, this time for three
years, replied, 11 "Lord no; three months will break me
and I should like to know how I should buy provisions
for three years."

Many of the men had not been paid for some time and
often provisions were slow in reaching the companies.

9. Ibid., May 30, 1861. This letter was written by Cap-
tain Stone, Company commander, Company I, Seventeenth
Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Militia.
10. Ibid., June 20, 1861.
11. Ibid.
Frequently the soldiers bought food to supplement their own rations.

Meetings were held at many places in the county to secure volunteers. Prominent citizens, very often those who desired to become officers, would enlist men for certain organizations. Recruiting was pushed energetically along these lines. When a large meeting was held on the Fourth of July, and address was given by E. S. Williams in which he quoted the following stanzas:

```
God bless the good old thirteen States
God bless the new ones too,
Who cares for musty birth-day dates,
God bless them, old and new.

And may the wretch whose hand shall strive,
To cut their vital thread,
Be scorned, while in this world alive,
And scorned when he is dead.\(^{12}\)
```

This kind of sentiment was designed to make men volunteer and fight for the Union, even though many in the county belonged to the Democratic Party and were opposed to the Republicans who were in power. An exchange article from the *Columbus Fact* stated that many of the men at Camp Dennison had been attacked with the scurvy. The editor of *The Western Standard* commented that Dennison and his ilk attacked them frequently with scurvy tricks.\(^{13}\)

The term of enlistment for the first volunteers had been set at only three months. Consequently it was not long before the earliest recruits began to return home. These

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patriotic men had performed an excellent service for their state and nation. They had done most of the campaigning and fighting that was necessary to conquer the western part of Virginia, the present state of West Virginia, and to secure the southeastern boundary of their own state of Ohio. Captain Stone of Fort Recovery arrived home with his company on Thursday, August 15, 1861 -- without the loss of a man.\textsuperscript{14} They had had several little skirmishes with the Confederates and always had come out successfully. Their return brought much joy and happiness to their home folks and well deserved honor to them.

In more ways than one was the return of the three months volunteers a happy event. Many of them had families, and with the low pay in the service, they found it impossible to provide for their dependents in a decent manner. Already there was some suffering. Early in November the county commissioners met and levied a tax of one-fourth of a will for the relief of such families of their county's volunteers as needed assistance. A relief committee of fourteen members, one from each township, was selected. It was the duty of this committee, when the necessities of any family required it, to certify to the commissioners, in the care of the auditor, the names of the parents, the number and ages of their children, their existing means of support, and such other facts as would give the board a full understanding.

\textsuperscript{14} Ibid., August 22, 1861.
of their conditions and wants. It was requested that each committeeman turn in a report from his township by the first of December. Conditions like these would seem to have been detrimental to the enlistment of volunteers.

The recruiting officer for the 15th U. S. Infantry, a regular army regiment, was in Celina for several days in the fall of 1861 trying to secure enlistments for his organization. He desired men from eighteen to thirty-five years of age. The pay offered was from thirteen to twenty-three dollars per month and found. A grand war meeting was called for Thursday, December 5, 1861, at one o'clock in the afternoon at Celina. Men were urged, in big print and on the front page of the county paper, to rally and join the fight. Especially were the young men urged to come. Major G. W. Andrews of the 71st Regiment was to be present and address the meeting. He would give his listeners the opportunity to join an organization in which many Celina men were already enrolled. A little verse, used to whip up their enthusiasm and courage, is given below:

To Arms! and
Go forth, then, boldly to the strife---
It is your bleeding countries call;
Give her your arm, perchance your life,
And heroes live, or heroes fall!

It was presumed that some volunteers who had been discharged after three months service were there, and that their

15. Ibid., November 14, 1861.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid., November 28, 1861.
presence increased the patriotic fervor of the gathering.

That the common people were in deadly earnest about the war was shown by the fact that they translated the high pitch of their enthusiastic patriotism into action. The three companies which were being organized at this same time had their quotas almost filled by late November and were assigned to regiments, two of them later helping to form the 71st Ohio Volunteer Infantry.\textsuperscript{18} Mass meetings in different sections of the county were held for the purpose of securing enlistments and keeping up the war spirit. News from the fighting men was always desired, and at these meetings the most interesting reports from the front would often be given.

But every once in a while a letter would be sent to the editor giving the adverse conditions of their army life. One of the men in the Sixth Cavalry complained of the treatment received by the men from their officers at Camp Crittenden. It was reported that they had been brought to this camp because the colonel commanding the regiment had a large amount of potatoes which were in such bad condition that they could not be sold on the market but which could be fed to the cavalrymen. The colonel also had a fine flock of chickens, including some Brahmas of which he was very proud. Unfortunately nearly all of these disappeared one night. The colonel came to camp the following morning.

\textsuperscript{18} Ibid.
in a rage. He called his staff together, and with most of the captains started to inspect the kitchens. They found chicken still cooking in the pots. Upon being questioned, the "innocent" cooks said they believed the men would be very appreciative of this new addition to the potato ration. About twenty-five had deserted a few days previously and as many more were reported ready to leave the next morning. 19 In the next week's edition of The Western Standard appeared an advertisement from a soldier in this regiment asking for a substitute for himself. One of the rewards promised was ten dollars cash which the substitute would receive before he enlisted. The soldier would also sign over to him his three-months back pay. 20 In all the issues of this county paper for the war period, no other similar advertisement was found.

A story was related about the coolness and bravery of a soldier in a fight near Prestonburg, Kentucky. This soldier, while in the act of tearing the paper of a cartridge, had it knocked from his fingers. He turned coolly in the direction from which the shot came, and said, "Old fellow, you can't do that again." 21 The man was from Company K, 40th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. This company had been recruited in Mercer County and many of the men were from Fort Recovery. The organization of this regiment had

19. Ibid., January 16, 1862.
20. Ibid., January 23, 1862.
21. Ibid., February 20, 1862.
only been completed at Camp Chase, Ohio, December 7, 1861. Yet on the 10th of January, 1862, the regiment participated in the battle of Middle Creek in eastern Kentucky. 22

In a letter to some friends back home, a Mercer County soldier wrote that he had had the pleasure of talking with a "Secesh" who had been at Fort Donelson. The Confederate said that the battle was so awful that no pen could describe it; that when the Northerners scaled the walls of the fort, they looked like wild men; and that when he was led out of the fort over the battle-field, it was enough to make his hair stand on end, for the hogs had commenced eating the dead. He said that he did not ever wish to witness the like again. 23

In the spring of 1862 the question of relief for the families of volunteers again came up for attention. The commissioners, in compliance with a recent act of the legislature for the relief of families of volunteers, had appropriated two hundred twenty dollars for the current quarter for that purpose, and had appointed a committee to deal with the cases. It was the duty of each committeeman, when the volunteers' families were in need, to furnish them with provisions, clothing, or other necessaries, but the total amount thus expended by the committeeman was not to exceed an average of six dollars per month to each township. The allotment

for each family must be certified by the committeeman to the commissioner of his bridge district on or before the twentieth day of each month. Then the commissioner would, upon the receipt of such certificate, issue an order on the county treasurer in favor of the person or persons to whom the funds might be due.\textsuperscript{24} It would be interesting to know what would have been done had the six wives and eighteen children of six volunteers from one township come to a committeeman in destitute circumstances and asked for relief. A dollar to each family for a month would not have gone very far towards satisfying their needs. \textit{The Western Standard},\textsuperscript{25} shortly after carrying the above news, mentioned in an article that the state was making arrangements to pay soldiers whom it owed. It was thought that the debts could be paid in two or three weeks.

In May the question of relief was again pressing. The want of some of the families was beginning to arouse the sympathy of their neighbors. An editorial commented that there were some families in the county who had not received any assistance whatsoever since the husbands and fathers had left for the war.\textsuperscript{26} They were away, risking sickness, wounds, and death for their neighbors. For this reason the editor thought that the citizens should see to it that means were provided for their aid. He invited them all to a

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{24} \textit{Ibid.}, March 13, 1862.
\item \textsuperscript{25} \textit{Ibid.}, April 3, 1862.
\item \textsuperscript{26} \textit{Ibid.}, May 1, 1862.
\end{itemize}
meeting and suggested that each one should bring a dime. He wanted all of them to throw in their mites in the cause of humanity in order that suffering and want would cease in their village. It had been known before this meeting was called that some soldiers had come home from the battle of Shiloh without having been paid. 27 A few soldiers had already received some indirect relief. They had bought school lands and were paying for them by installments. The payments coming due were now to be deferred. 28

News came over the telegraph that a great and very bloody battle had been fought at Pittsburg Landing, in northeastern Mississippi, on Sunday and Monday, April 6 and 7, 1862. Mercer County had raised and enlisted three full companies of the 71st Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and it was known that they were with Grant's army. Besides these companies there were many men in the 31st and 46th Regiments, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and several in the 5th Ohio Artillery. Each of these organizations was also with Grant. No definite news had yet come through, but rumors had reached the county that the 71st Infantry and the 5th Artillery had been hit hard. Nearly every house was anxious, nearly every countenance fearful, for the number of men from the county in this battle was about four hundred. 29

To sorrow it seemed that humiliation was to be added.

27. Ibid.
28. Ibid., May 8, 1862.
29. Ibid., April 17, 1862.
Some Chicago newspapers published charges of cowardice and misconduct on the part of certain Ohio regiments on the field. There were especially three Ohio regiments against whom charges were made and the 71st was one of them. On May 9, 1862, about thirty days after the battle, Senator John Sherman reviewed in the Senate, the conduct of the Ohio troops at the battle of Pittsburg Landing, or Shiloh, as it is sometimes called. He had reviewed the reports from the commanders in the field. He took up in detail the movements and operations of the different Ohio Regiments and conclusively proved that the charges of cowardice and misconduct were malignant, false, and without any substance or foundation. 30 However, the 71st Regiment was badly beaten. The colonel commanding was not with it the second day of the battle and the lieutenant colonel, the second in command, had been killed on the first day of the fight. According to a letter from Captain Le Blond, he and Adjutant Hart commanded the remnants of the 71st on Monday and led them to the end of the battle. 31 Later an article was published which stated that the 71st Regiment suffered one hundred thirty-seven casualties out of five hundred ten men, and that many of these were still in the hospital. 32

A story was told of what one Mercer County soldier did at the battle of Pittsburg Landing. Lieutenant Simmons was

31. The Western Standard, April 24, 1862.
32. Ibid., August 28, 1862.
Lieutenant Simmons was near Alexander Wilson of Washington Township during a period of hard fighting on Sunday, April 6. The latter told the Lieutenant to watch the nearest Confederate colors, after he had loaded his rifle. He fired and the Lieutenant saw the colors fall. This occurred a second, and a third time. After the colors had figurally "bit the dust" three times, the adjoining Confederate regiments changed their targets and poured a murderous fire upon the 71st for several minutes. The losses to the Union regiment were no doubt greater from this concentrated fire than the losses suffered by the Confederates from Wilson's firing on the three color bearers.

After the battle of Shiloh, one of the soldiers who had taken part in it wrote a letter back to his father in Mercer County. He had been in the thickest of the battle, yet he had not been wounded. He had helped some of the wounded. It had been said that the Confederates were not good soldiers, but he declared that he had found them good, hard fighters and not cowardly. He then stated his intentions:

Pap, I intend to stand to my post in all emergencies; if it is my lot to be crippled or killed, it will not dishonor me, but I hope to see you and the rest of my friends again. We have been considerably exposed to rain and mud since the battle. We laid out in the rain Sunday and Monday night, he was wounded he promised me to write immediately after he landed. Tell her not to try to find him until she gets a letter from him.

33. Ibid., May 1, 1862.
34. Ibid., May 8, 1862.
The rest of the letter was about his friends and much like the last part just given. Here was shown the real spirit of a soldier and his interested, unselfish, helpful neighborliness under the fiery test of battle. It was many unheralded patriots like this man who finally brought victory to the North.

Some of the news reaching Celina was very depressing. There was much sickness in the 71st Regiment. Men came back from the hospitals looking like skeletons. Deaths were numerous. From the regiment's arrival at Fort Donelson to May 18th, there had been five deaths, all believed to have been the result of typhoid fever. Charles Behm, from Company C., 37th Regiment, was killed just the previous week in an engagement at Flat Top Mountain, Virginia. 35

But there was a small ray of brightness through the gloom at this time. Word was received that the men at the front had sent back a considerable sum of money by express. G. W. Radabaugh published a list of names of the soldiers with the amounts and the names of the recipients. Each could call and get his share of the money less the express charges. The individual amounts ran from ten to fifty dollars, while the total amount sent back was one thousand two hundred fifty-one dollars. 36

The military leaders had let it be known for some time that they needed more men to prosecute the war vigorously.

35. The Western Standard, May 29, 1862.  
36. Ibid., June 19, 1862.
Since not enough men were volunteering, it was decided in the summer of 1862 to use a draft law to secure more men. The number of volunteers from Mercer County is given after each date.

May 29 489 volunteers
June 5 501 volunteers.
June 26 555 volunteers.

Dublin on each date had furnished more volunteers than any of the other townships. In the summer, when it became more certain that the draft would be used, more men volunteered. If a man was drafted, it was regarded as a blot on his patriotism. Governor Tod had ordered the enrolling of the militia of the state between eighteen and forty-five years of age, preparatory to drafting. The probability was that to comply with the first call would not require much if any drafting in Mercer County or Ohio.\(^{37}\)

The record of Ohio in numbers of volunteers to population was the best of the three largest states. The table is given below.\(^{38}\)

Ohio had 1 volunteer to every 18 people.
Pennsylvania had 1 volunteer to every 22 people.
New York had 1 volunteer to every 32 people.
District of Columbia had 1 volunteer to every 19 people.

But there was a big difference in the volunteers from...

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\(^{37}\) Ibid., July 31, 1861.
\(^{38}\) The Western Standard, August 7, 1862. Figures were taken from Lloyds Military Compendium, New York.
Ohio and those from the District of Columbia. The majority of the men from Ohio were three-year volunteers, whereas the great majority of those from the District of Columbia were three-months volunteers. And Mercer County had done very much to get a large number of three-year volunteers.

An exchange article was printed from the Western Christian Advocate, a Methodist paper, mentioning the fact that the draft in Ohio was going to take preachers just the same as it took others. The editors would be obliged to any one of the ministers who should be so fortunate as to secure the grade of private, if he would notify their paper of that fact. They would be pleased to print the list. The editors themselves were among the enrolled and might be drafted and thus their own names could head the list. The comment on this article by the editor of The Western Standard was as follows:

Yes, your labors have been to destroy our Government, and we trust the list may reach thousands. You and every other Abolitionist should be made privates, and placed where you would be destroyed first. The Union might then be saved.39

The Methodist ministers had for years preached against slavery. Their church had even been torn into two parts by it. And the Protestant clergy were so strongly Unionist in their political sentiments that many of them even prayed for a Brough victory when he ran for governor. Often they

39. Ibid., August 28, 1862.
were then only voicing the feelings of their congregations. The effects of such sentiments on Editor S. S. Snyder are quite evident.

It had been rumored that the draft was going to start in August, with three hundred thousand men to be raised by that method. The drafted men were to serve for a period of nine months and would receive no bounty. Also, the private's rate of pay was to be only eleven dollars per month. For about two months N. L. Hibbard had been recruiting a company of infrantrymen. He was assisted by First Lieutenant Harrison Guy of Dublin Township and Second Lieutenant Absalom Wallisford of Washington township. A bounty of one hundred dollars was promised each man who enlisted. He was given twenty-five dollars soon after enlisting. If he lived to be discharged he received the remaining seventy-five dollars. If he was killed, it went to his heirs. He also received two dollars recruiting pay. This made the volunteer's pay thirteen dollars per month plus his clothing, subsistence, and medical care.

Recruiting proceeded so well that Captain Hibbard's company, about one hundred five strong, was able to leave for Camp Lima, on Saturday, August 16, 1862. The rush to Camp Lima had been so great that the governor had ordered

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the raising of another regiment of infantry, the 118th, in this district, and it was rumored that the organization was about full. Captain William D. Stone, of Montezuma, who had taken the first cohort of troops from the county to the war, was raising a company for this regiment with some success. It was reported that it would not be long before his company could leave for camp.

Many men were thinking of ways to get out of the draft. One wrote a parody of Poe's "Raven". He closed his article with the sentence, "To beat the draft, I am an invalid forevermore." Quite a few soldiers had one thing in common with the above writer. They hated the draft. But, instead of becoming invalids, they became soldiers. A private in Grant's army said that the men wanted to go home, but that they would stay and fight. He also said that he had been looking for an abolitionist but had been unable to find one.

Fighting with words up North was very different from following a soldier's life. Campaigning where they were surely made one a rational man in a hurry. No doubt this letter pleased many Democrats in Mercer County. They related that the Abolitionists were going into what was called "white slavery". Any white slave could buy his

44. See supra, p. 39.
45. The Western Standard, August 21, 1862.
46. Ibid., October 9, 1862.
47. The Western Standard, February 5, 1863. From a letter by W. J. Sawyer.
free papers of Lincoln—if he could raise three hundred dollars, 48 the amount for exemption from the draft.

When the enrollment of those fit for the draft was completed, it was found that Mercer County had one thousand nine hundred fifty-seven names. 49 But recruiting was pushed so vigorously that when Ohio's quota under the first call had been published, Governor Tod announced to the public that it had been made up by volunteers. Consequently there would be no draft at this time. The quota assigned to Ohio for the future January draft was approximately thirty-three thousand. As Mercer County contained about one-half of one percent of the people in the state, it was not difficult to compute her quota. 50

Many soldiers were coming home at this time, as their term of service had expired. If these men did not volunteer again, either new recruits or drafted men had to take their places to fill up the depleted ranks. Only about one-fourth of the counties of the state exceeded Mercer in the number of veteran soldiers re-enlisted. Nevertheless, a great effort was made to secure more recruits. Lieutenant John D. Marshall was in Celina in March, 1864, recruiting for the 57th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Four hundred two dollars was offered to each veteran, three hundred two dollars to each recruit, and in addition to one of the above amounts of government bounty, each volun-

48. Ibid., March 19, 1863.
49. Ibid., July 23, 1863.
50. Ibid., October 29, 1863.
was to receive one hundred dollars local bounty paid by the townships. The recruiting officer offered this advice:

Now is the time to avoid the coming Lottery and receive large pay. 'Rally round the Flag, boys!' and do not have it said of Mercer County that she had to stand the draft... 51

Many unscrupulous men became bounty jumpers and deserters. They would enlist, collect the bounty, desert and go to another place and do the same, until the law caught up with them. An advertisement stated that those enlisting after April 15th would receive only the one hundred dollar bounty. 52

It was brought to the attention of the home guards in March that the organized militia of the North was to be called out, probably for six months, to hold certain points. 53 This would release many veteran troops to Grant's army. John Brough, Governor of Ohio, was credited with this idea. It was thought the war might then be brought to an end in one hundred days. 54 On Monday, May 2, 1864, the home guards left for Wapakoneta. Here they were to receive orders. 55 Most of the men from Mercer County were in Company I, 156th Regiment, Ohio National Guard. Its officers were:

Captain C. B. Collins.
First Lieutenant, Daniel Brockhart.
Second Lieutenant, Thomas Spangler.

51. The Western Standard; March 10, 1864.
52. Ibid., March 17, 1864.
53. Ibid., March 31, 1864.
55. The Western Standard, May 5, 1864.
The names of Brookhart, Murlin, Buxton, and Younger appear more than once on the company roster. There were some deaths while in the service, most of which was performed in Ohio, Kentucky, and Maryland, one engagement taking place in the last named state.56

The draft had been criticized very much, so on Monday, May 23, 1864, a group of men went from Celina to Lima, the county seat of Allen County, for the purpose of witnessing the draft in their district. Van Wert was the first county drafted, and Mercer came next. To all appearances and as far as they could determine, the draft was as honestly and as honorably conducted as a lottery possibly could be. The tickets were placed in the wheel by T. E. Cunningham, Esquire, a small boy turned the crank, and at every second or third turn of the wheel, a name was drawn out by the sheriff of Allen County. He was blindfolded for that purpose. Mr. Cunningham then read the name, age, occupation, nativity, and color of the unfortunate individual. Five townships in the county were drafted as follows:

Blackcreek --- nine drafted out of one hundred ten names.

Liberty --- two drafted out of seventy names.

Granville --- nineteen drafted out of one hundred eighty-four names.

Recovery ---nineteen drafted out of one hundred thirty-one names.

56. Scranton, History of Mercer County, Ohio, pp. 265-266.
Gibson --- fourteen drafted out of one hundred sixteen names. 57

Little or no news came back to Mercer County from General Sherman's army, with which a very great number of men from Celina and vicinity were present. But the draft caused anxiety. Many of the townships had not filled their quotas, and this had to be done. 58

The draft continued to cause trouble in 1865. An article entitled, "Blood or Greenbacks," was as follows: 59

All persons in Jefferson township that are liable to the draft, are requested to meet at the Court House on Thursday evening, January 19 for the purpose of making arrangements to pay the township out of the impending Draft. Turn out! Turn out!

The meeting appears to have been successful. When the draft quota for Mercer County was announced early in February, Jefferson township had already filled her quota by voluntary enlistments. Hope was expressed that somehow all the townships would be able to prevent the "Death Wheel" from selecting citizens of the county for its victims. 60 If a man volunteered he did his duty, but if a man was drafted then he was a victim.

On the last draft, sixteen counties in Ohio more than filled their quotas. Mercer County was one of them, and the big majority of the men who made up the quota were volunteers. Only 19 were draftees. 61

57. The Western Standard, May 26, 1864.
58. Ibid., December 29, 1864.
59. Ibid., January 19, 1865.
60. Ibid., February 9, 1865.
It was interesting to note that only one county of the entire eighty-eight had its last quota filled entirely by volunteers. That county was Preble.

Soon came the news of Lee's surrender. The people knew the war was almost over. It was only a question of time before General and the rest of the Confederate leaders would have to surrender or flee the country. Then came the news of the assassination of President Lincoln. One column on the editorial page of the county paper was given to this calamity and some grief was expressed. There was much concern whether or not Andrew Johnson could serve competently as president. The burst of joy resulting from the surrender of Lee was dampened by the gloom springing from the death of Lincoln.

The passage of the Lincoln funeral train through Ohio was a memorable event in the history of the state...More than fifty thousand in six and one-half hours passing in procession gazed at Lincoln's remains in the rotunda of the state house.

There was grief in Mercer County, but the people there did not have a similar opportunity of expressing it. But their sorrow and grief were assuaged by the certain knowledge that, when this martyred president had called for help to save the Republic, they had willingly stepped forward in those dark, dangerous times and given freely of their service and their blood.

62. The Western Standard, April 20, 1865.
The record of Mercer County soldiers in the Civil War was one mainly of combat. Eight hundred fifteen men had volunteered into the army by September 4, 1862. In the spring of 1864 the eighth and last organized company left for the front. All of these units belonged to the infantry, which even then had the hardest fighting and suffered the greatest casualties of any arm of service in battle. Hundreds, who volunteered either singly or in small groups, were generally used as replacements for the combat branches, especially the infantry and artillery. One of the fiercest fights in which men from Mercer County were engaged took place on the afternoon of May 14, 1864 at Resaca. The 118th Regiment participated in a charge on the enemy's works and lost one hundred sixteen men in less than ten minutes out of three hundred actually engaged. It was here that Captain Stone who commanded Company C, was wounded. He had organized this company in Mercer County and it was assigned to the 118th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. The record made by all of these men mentioned and many others unnamed has shown that Mercer County's war spirit in action helped greatly in the winning of the Civil War.

64. See Appendix, Table IV.
65. Scranton, History of Mercer County, p. 263.
66. Ibid., p. 264.
Chapter IV

THE WAR ON THE HOME FRONT

At the outbreak of the war the excitement was so great, the feelings of people were so mixed, and the departure of men for the battlefield was so imminent that little thought was given to what might happen at home. That seemed to be of small consequence. Yet what did take place there was of the utmost importance to the troops at the front. When abundant supplies and munitions were produced at home and then forwarded rapidly to the troops in service, they were pleased and fought well. And then when letters came from the folks back home telling the soldiers of their increased belief in the justness of the cause for which they were fighting, the morale of the troops was nearly always increased. It was fortunate for the soldiers from Mercer County that the great majority of the people back at their homes loyally supported the troops in the field.

A certain number of people in the county were against the war. These were the Peace Democrats. It was rumored quite frequently that several members of an organization called The Knights of the Golden Circle lived in the county. Meetings were reputed to have been held after dark in barns. An article was printed in the Celina paper denying that such
an organization existed in the county, and asserting that it was scoundrelism to report it and idiotic to believe such a report. 1 But there were quite a few "Butternuts"—persons tinged with Copperhead sentiments—in the county, even towards the end of the war. *The Western Standard* carried a store's advertisement in which "The Conscription Act About to be Enforced!!!!" was carried in large type letters. Another part of the advertisement follows:

This Last Item Of News is Of particular interest to the "Butternuts" of Mercer County, for if you are to be ruthlessly torn from the society of your friends and loved ones at home, and hurried away to the "land of cotton" to fight for the abolition of nigger slavery "in your usual ability," then it behooves you to be prepared for the emergency by being WELL CLOTHED. 2

This advertisement would lead a reader to believe that there were Butternuts in the county and that conscription and abolitionism were hated.

The people of Shanesville, especially the ladies, were talking about another subject also in the fall and early winter of 1861. They wanted to help the men in the camps. After talking it over, they organized a society under the direction of the Sanitary Commission at Washington, D. C. A request had gone out from the president and the postmaster general for the formation of branches all over the North to aid the main commission at the capital city. Its purpose was to furnish clothing, mittens, bandages, and

such other articles as were necessary to the comfort of
the soldiers. Mittens and gloves were not furnished by
the army. The ladies met once a week at one of their
homes to devote a day to the work and to report on their
progress. Soon they had sent off a large box of articles
the receipt of which would cause more than one gallant
soldier to say, "God bless the ladies of Shanesville."³
During the war no other society was reported in existence
in the county.

Many men in the state kept from being drafted. The
following story of how one Mercer County man evaded the
draft has been told for decades around Burkettsville.
Bill Simison was one of the men who opposed conscription.
He was notified by the officials of the draft that they
wanted him to go to war. He replied that he did not see
any reason why he should go. He was not mad at anybody
down South. If he was going to do any fighting he was
going to do it right there at home where he was acquainted.
When some cavalry soldiers came to get him, he could not
be found. He had hid in the cranberry swamp northeast
of Burkettsville. Men with bood hounds went after him.
They went as far as they could go in the swamp and then
loosed the dogs believing that they would bring him out.
But the men were mistaken for Simison made friends with
the dogs and kept them for some time. He was so clever

³. Ibid., December 26, 1861.
at eluding the officials that he remained home all during the war. After the conflict was over, no charges were preferred against him and he went unpunished for his evasion of the draft.

4

An incident happened near Macedon which showed one of the effects of the conflict on the home front. During the war it was a custom for the women of the neighborhood now and then to have a quilting party or a carpet rag sewing. This helped many lonely and worried women to pass the time as so many of their men folks were in the army.

A young man of the community heard about one of these meetings. He told three of his companions and they decided to attend it. They came and proceeded to misbehave. A young girl about twelve years of age who was present said that she thought all four of them ought to be compelled to leave for the war and help their friends win it instead of loafing around home. One of the young men then pulled from a pocket an old-fashioned five-shot pistol and, swinging it around his head, said that the gun would keep him out of the war. They then left.

A few days later this patriotic young girl met these same four young men at a store in Fort Recovery. She knew that they were evading the draft. While standing close to them, she heard a remark to the effect that the soldiers from the 4th Ohio Cavalry, stationed at Columbus, Ohio,

would be there tomorrow looking for them. The girl, listening carefully, heard that the soldiers were expected at about four o'clock in the afternoon.

Not giving any sign that she had heard this, she made her plans. Knowing by which road the soldiers would come, she waited for them and told them where the four young men could be found husking corn. The latter had planned that, when the soldiers came, they would break for the woods. But the officers came sooner than expected and surprised them. The officer called out for them to halt as they started running for the woods. When they did not halt, the soldiers fired. The men halted and were then arrested. As they were coming out of the cornfield one of the officers said for them to wait a minute as he wanted to see what one of the young men had hid in the cornshock. The officer found the pistol which the young man had said would keep him out of the war. The four draft evaders were then taken to Coldwater and lodged in the town jail until morning, when they were taken to Columbus, still under "official escort."

While they were in jail some of the young women of Coldwater came to talk with them. The window was too high, so the young women rolled a block of wood next to the building, stood on it and twitted the young conscripts, asking them if they were going on a vacation. They became very angry but finally persuaded the young women to leave.
The men went into the army, where they saw some hard service, part of it being with Sherman on his march to the sea. There was a happy ending, however, as all four of them were able to return to their homes after the war was over.5

There was one instance of serious resistance to the draft in Mercer County. Robert Stewart was the acting deputy provost marshal for the county. One of his duties was the arrest of delinquent drafted men. An exchange article from The Auglaize Ohio Democrat stated that he had arrested a man named Thompson in the eastern part of Mercer County. He and a couple of soldiers with the conscript were riding in a two-horse spring wagon on the plank road about a mile and a half east of St. Marys when they were suddenly attacked. The horses were shot and the soldiers were wounded. It was thought that while the marshal and his men stopped in St. Marys, some men who might have been following them went on through the village and hid in a woods close to the road, waiting to rescue the conscripted man when the marshal drove by with him. No blame was placed on any one living in St. Marys.6

An editorial in The Western Standard written about a week later, referring to the same incident, said that the drafted man in Center township had been arrested by several soldiers who had shot at him five or six times. They then

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5. Statement by I. J. Ransbottom, M. D., Coldwater, Ohio, October 2, 1948.
handcuffed him and started for headquarters, probably at Wapakoneta. In the melee east of St. Marys, Robert Stewart, the marshal, received three small shots from a shot gun, while the two soldiers with him were severely wounded. Immediately some forty soldiers were brought to the scene of the trouble and some five or six men arrested, charged with being implicated in some way in the affair. The writer of the article did not know who had attempted the rescue, but there was evidence that some of the arrested were not away from their usual business on that day (Wednesday), November 2, 1864.

This affray was then compared to one staged at Greenville, Ohio, about thirty-five miles south of Celina on the following night. A group of alleged Abolitionists and their followers armed with national guard muskets and led by a former colonel marched to the Democratic Hotel. Here they fired through the windows and doors with one and one-half ounce balls, wounding one man. The leader wanted to enter the building, but the group would not follow him. The article added this comment:

While we do pretend to uphold the conduct of those engaged in the first affray, we ask the abolitionists while denouncing it, to remember the latter as the most infamous of the two transactions.\(^7\)

This opinion was wrong. In the affray east of St. Marys federal soldiers were fired upon and wounded. This

\(^7\) Ibid.
was incipient rebellion.

When Cincinnati was in danger of being captured by General Kirby Smith in 1862, the governor called for volunteers with their own arms and ammunition who would come to the defense of the city and southern Ohio. None went from Darke or Mercer Counties but Van Wert County, farther north than either of the other two, sent men, the "Squirrel Hunters", as they were called. There were at least ninety-five of these volunteers, for "Squirrel Hunter" discharges were issued to that number from Van Wert County in 1864.8

One occasion during the war, it was rumored that a group of ardent Union men at St. Marys had met and decided that The Western Standard at Celina was a newspaper devoted too much to the interests of the Peace Democrats. They planned, with the aid of some soldiers at home on furlough, to wreck the printing establishment. News of their projected enterprise reached the editor, Mr. S. S. Snyder, who immediately sent word to the men that he and his friends were well supplied with rifles and ammunition. Any time that the men from St. Marys attempted to destroy his printing office, they would be fiercely resisted.9 The office was not attacked.

By the militia law which Governor Tod had secured from the legislature after considerable partisan opposition, 10 Mercer County had organized her companies into two regiments

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9. Story related by a descendant.
10. Reid, op. cit., p. 130.
regiments and ordered the election of regimental officers. The colonels were A. Davis and Christopher Schunck. A notice appeared that a general muster of the two militia regiments would be held in Celina, on Tuesday, September 29, 1863. Even many Peace Democrats came and drilled for future service.

Vallandigham held a warm spot in the hearts of many Mercer County people. A committee was formed to help him and his family during his exile. Each Democratic voter was asked to give a dime. Some did not, yet the sum of thirteen dollars and twenty-five cents was collected in Washington township and cheerfully forwarded, with the following comment:

The proud consciousness that ours is the first township of 'Old Mercer' to 'aid and comfort' the afflicted family of the best and noblest man in all America, fully satisfying us.--Rie L. Timmonds

The next month the Celina group collected thirty-eight dollars and forty-five cents to aid their illustrious exile and his family. Mrs. G. LeBlond was president, Mrs. R. G. Blake the treasurer, and Miss Olive Lacy the secretary of this group.

When veterans visited their homes on furlough or returned to their former places of abode after discharge, a celebration or some little honor was always pleasing to them. Consequently the ladies of Celina and vicinity arranged

12. Ibid., March 24, 1864.
a large public dinner on March 24, 1864 in Ross' Store
Room, Celina, for the returned veterans of the 71st Infantry
Regiment and all other veterans. They wanted to show real
appreciation to the men home from the war. But they also
has some other ideas which are quoted from the announcement
of the dinner:

Last but not least is the conviction that
the Liberties of the Great People depend upon the
purity of our Religion and the strength of our
Patriot Army; therefore, while we cheer the
soldier, donations of Good Will,'The Staff of
Life,' and money are on this occasion earnestly
solicited for the resident Minister of Celina.

Ladies of Celina and Vicinity

At this dinner, a new flag was presented to the 71st by
the ladies. It was to take the place of the old one presented
to the regiment over two years previously. The old flag,
torn, and with many bullet holes through it was brought to
the meeting. The mere presence of this flag was mute evidence
of the dangerous battles through which these veterans had
come. Hundreds were present and the dinner was pronounced
a grand success.14

Taxes generally are not liked by those who are taxed.
The income tax imposed during the Civil War was no exception.
Its collection gave the federal tax officials much labor
and trouble. To many people in Mercer County, especially
the Peace Democrats, it was a most odious and oppressive
tax which never would have made its appearance under a

Democratic administration. They thought of it as one of those monstrous creations to which Abolitionism had given birth. 15

One subject discussed very much during Civil War days was currency inflation. A soldier received little more than "spending money" and this was paid to him in greenbacks worth fifty cents in specie on the dollar. A small capitalist, farmer or merchant could lend his money to the government and receive interest and later the principal in gold, which was worth twice as much as the paper money the soldier received. Yet he stayed at home and ran no risks. Many concluded that the money of the capitalist was considered by the government as more precious than the time and blood of the soldier. The officer's income, which he had earned by putting his life in peril, was taxed. The capitalist, who derived income from his money loaned to the federal government, was tax-exempt. Many, especially of Democratic persuasion, were critical of this disparity. 16

Near the close of the war another newspaper appeared in Celina. The Republicans inaugurated The Union Banner on March 29, 1865. The Western Standard stated that the first number made a very creditable appearance—mechanically. 17 But the old newspaper soon went further in expressing its opinion of the new one. Its editor had "belched forth any

15. Ibid., April 14, 1864.
16. Ibid., March 16, 1865.
17. Ibid., April 6, 1865.
amount of personal vituperation and filthy slang against the Democratic citizens of the town and county. 18 These personal attacks had come with very bad grace from a stranger, but perhaps his masters, "Dickman, Hankins, and Company" had required them of him. 19 He had even gone further:

In his issue of last week he goes a step farther in Abolition respectability and honor, and gives several garbled extracts from the Standard and Cincinnati Enquirer, and then uses language as base and false toward us as only a man steeped in dishonor could invent. We might fill a column of our paper with similar extracts from his five issues, making him appear far more traitorous to his county than he has endeavored to show us to be, but we despise such small potato business, and shall not stoop so low as to infringe on his copy right to extreme baseness. 20

It would appear that many of the pro-slavery, Butternut, and Copperhead utterances of The Western Standard, a newspaper of the Peace Democrats, were being hurled back at it with biting, Republican "embellishments". It was evident that a battle of words was in the making and that politics was not to be dismissed with the coming of peace. The Western Standard survived the battle. It has come down to the present day as The Daily Standard, after a hundred years of existence. Practically all this time it has been in the hands of one family, the Snyders, with Parker R. Snyder as its present managing editor.

On the home front there was considerable hatred between the pro-slavery Peace Democrats, often called Copperheads

18. Ibid., May 4, 1865.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid.
or Butternuts, and the Abolitionists. When some soldiers were home on furlough in the first part of 1864, some ardent Unionists informed them that Joseph May, justice of the peace, was a very active Copperhead. The men on furlough then rode him on a rail and otherwise abused him.²¹ The Union men apparently thought that this would extinguish politically the "vile Copperhead."²² But to their surprise at the next election, he was re-elected as justice of the peace in Union township, which generally voted Republican.²³ The soldiers' rough handling of May probably brought him some votes.

²¹. Ibid., April 13, 1865.
²². Ibid.
²³. Ibid.
Chapter V

SOME SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CONDITIONS OF MERCER COUNTY

The factors which helped to make the social life of Mercer County during the Civil War period were largely economic. An abstract of personal property in the county as assessed for the year 1860 gave the following: 1

7 pianos valued at $485
350 watches valued at 3,252
1,490 carriages valued at 45,531

This abstract showed there was one piano to approximately two thousand people, one watch to forty people, and one carriage to ten people. In personal property, the people were poor. In the last three months of 1860, the sheriff held twelve separate sales of real estate. 2 Eighty acres in Franklin Township sold for eighteen hundred dollars in 1864, but it was necessary to make a payment of twelve hundred dollars before the deed was transferred. 3 In the last three months of 1865, the sheriff held no sales of real estate. 4 Property delinquent on the tax duplicate in the fall of 1860 filled thirteen columns, six columns to a page, in the Celina newspaper. 5 Delinquent tax property

1. The Western Standard, June 14, 1860.
2. Information compiled from The Western Standard for those months.
3. The Western Standard, March 31, 1864.
4. Information from The Western Standard, for those months.
5. The Western Standard, November 29, 1860.
filled only two columns in the early winter of 1865. A little more than one column was made up of farms while the rest was of lots. 6

In 1864 rumors circulated that oil existed in the north-eastern part of the county. Early in 1865 quite a few people were smitten with "oil fever", believing that they were walking over vast reservoirs of that liquid. Boring was being done in Findlay and efforts were being made to form a company in Lima to bore some wells in that locality. Some even put their last dollars into these ventures, but others, having had their fingers burned before, did not speculate. 7 Another venture seemed to be making headway. It was the railroad from Greenville to Van Wert. Late in 1864 it was reported that nearly all the roadbed had been graded and bridged. 8 The people were asked to help it with subscriptions and thus make it possible for Celina to have railroad communications with the outside world. It was difficult to get subscriptions, for prices of some commodities had advanced as much as three hundred per cent. And if a person wanted gold he paid two dollars and forty cents in greenbacks for a gold dollar. 9 Another obstacle to the securing of venture capital at this time was the government loan. Money was needed badly for carrying on the war, and the federal government was offering its notes

6. Ibid., December 28, 1865.
7. Ibid., February 16, 1865.
8. Ibid., December 15, 1864.
9. Ibid., September 22, 1864.
for three years at seven and three tenths per cent payable in lawful money. The yield at the market rate was not less than ten per cent a year. The smallest note, one of fifty dollars, paid one cent of interest each day, a five hundred dollar note paid ten cents, while a five thousand dollar note paid one dollar a day interest. When due they were exchangeable at par for the famous and popular five-twenty gold-bearing, six per cent bonds.\(^\text{10}\) It was hard for promoters to compete for capital when the federal government was offering such attractive terms for it.

Some idea of economic conditions in Mercer County during the Civil War period can be gained from the amount of taxes then paid. The amounts following were the total taxes collected for all purposes during each of the war years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>$45,164.38</td>
<td>November 7, 1861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>29,739.57</td>
<td>October 30, 1862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1863</td>
<td>24,210.41</td>
<td>October 22, 1863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1864</td>
<td>54,669.97</td>
<td>October 27, 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>64,971.56</td>
<td>October 5, 1865</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The increased cost of the war, including soldiers' and sailors' relief, helped to account for higher taxes in 1864 and 1865. The people were prosperous or they could not have paid the higher totals.

Mercer County's educational system was very average.

\(^{10}\) Ibid., September 1, 1864 and March 9, 1865.
In 1860 there were one hundred sixty-one high schools in the state, with twenty-two counties having none.\textsuperscript{11} Mercer County was ahead of these twenty-two as there was a high school at Celina. There was a board of school examiners who certified applicants as teachers. An announcement was made that the board of examiners was recommending persons with one year, eighteen months, and two year certificates for the best positions. Some had been told not to come back to take the examinations until they had improved their education. Others seemed to know less when they came back.

Following is part of the announcement:

Teachers have our best wishes, and for them we will do all that we consistently can, but in justice to the people who pay them for their services, we must say to all those who have received two or more certificates for less than six months, that they need not apply again until they have made such improvement as to entitle them to certificates for at least six months.\textsuperscript{12}

The Examiners.

Examinations were held each month at Celina.\textsuperscript{13} Within three years the standards were being raised again. Another announcement follows:

As the time is near when those who intend to engage in teaching for the fall and winter should be making preparation for their duties, we would take this method to inform them that a better grade of qualifications will, hereafter, be required, especially of those who hold six months certificates.\textsuperscript{14}

\textsuperscript{12} \textit{The Western Standard}, March 6, 1862.
\textsuperscript{13} \textit{Ibid.}, March 24, 1864.
\textsuperscript{14} \textit{Ibid.}, July 21, 1864.
Examiners
(Signature for announcement
at bottom of page 85)

The salaries paid were rather low. The average salary
per month of teachers in the Ohio schools in 1865 was
as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>$36.25</td>
<td>$21.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>73.31</td>
<td>41.97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The financial inducement to secure a higher grade certi-
cicate was not great enough for most teachers.

In the Celina Union School one could prepare for
teaching. If he came from outside the district he had
to pay tuition. In the high school it was fifty cents
per week. For the younger ones the charge was thirty
cents in the primary and forty cents in the secondary
school each week.

Even before the Civil War began, a teachers insti-
tute had been started in Mercer County. Part of the
funds for its support were secured from the fees paid
by applicants who tried the county teachers' examinations.
The fifth annual institute commenced on Monday, December
26, 1864, and continued for four days. The state com-
missoner of education was present, which greatly encouraged

15. The board of examiners consisted of J. W. DeFord,
    E. F. Suwalde, and M. C. Culver.
18. Ibid., September 15, 1864.
19. Ibid., December 15, 1864.
the teachers. The funds from the teachers examinations made possible a better institute.

A report of the autumn term of the Celina Union School published in the town paper and signed by Samuel F. DeFord, Superintendent, stated that the term lasted for thirteen weeks, beginning September 26, 1864, and ending on December 23, 1864. There were eighty-five males and one hundred six females enrolled, making a total of one hundred ninety-one pupils. The males averaged fifty-two and the females fifty-four days attendance. As a sample of the work done, eight hundred sixty problems in algebra were given to Class A, and all but twelve were solved. This was done probably by the highest class in school.

The autumn term at Fort Recovery started September 5 and ended on December 23, 1864, sixteen weeks in all. The average membership was forty-seven males and fifty-six females, making a total of one hundred three. The average daily attendance of both sexes was ninety, which was eighty-eight percent of the membership. In another report, the superintendent, J. W. DeFord, made mention of the interest manifested for the improvement of the minds of the rising generation. The following is quoted from this report:

20. Ibid., January 12, 1865.
21. Ibid., February 2, 1865.
The aged regard the development and correct discipline of the mind of their children as the greatest boon they are capable of bequeathing to them, and their children generally appreciate the correctness and value of their decision. I admire the harmonious action in striving to elevate that which is to live forever. Harmony in every undertaking is necessary to success, but much more so where the end is desirable. Surely that which is calculated to elevate men from the low, ignorant, and uncultivated animal as found in many parts of the globe, to the high position of an intelligent American citizen, is desirable.  

The reports of these two schools only have been given. There were no reports from other schools in the county published in The Western Standard during these years. There are a few miscellaneous items not carried in the other chapters that are placed here and which relate to Mercer County in general. The first is a weather report of the year 1863.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Number of Rainy Days</th>
<th>Number of Snowy Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>it rained 10 days</td>
<td>snowed 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>it rained 6 days</td>
<td>snowed 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>it rained 8 days</td>
<td>snowed 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>it rained 12 days</td>
<td>snowed 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>it rained 11 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>it rained 8 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>it rained 8 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>it rained 14 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>it rained 5 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>it rained 8 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>it rained 11 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>it rained 6 days</td>
<td>snowed 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>rained 109 days</td>
<td>snowed 25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

That made about one wet day in four. Equally distributed it was sufficient moisture for crops in this latitude.  

It was in 1863 that the lodge of Masons in Celina

22. Ibid., June 2, 1865.  
23. Ibid., January 28, 1864.
held a splendid, public installation of officers. The town at this time was predominantly Protestant. Some of the well known and prominent citizens, including F. C. LeBlond, Member of Congress, aided in the new organization of the lodge.

Quaint sayings and bits of advice regularly appeared in the Celina newspaper. That they were liked by the readers was evident from their frequent publication. Some examples follow:

Wisdom is acquired by meditation. The Road ambition travels is too narrow for friendship, too crooked for love, too rugged for honesty, and too dark for science. Women should set good examples for the men are always following them.

Hope--A lone star beaming over a lonely heath. Faith--An anchor dropped beyond the vale of death.

Sir William Temple said: "The greatest pleasure is love; the greatest ease is sleep; the greatest medicine is a true friend."

Eat, digest; read, remember; earn, save; love, and be loved. If these four rules be strictly followed, health, wealth, intelligence, and happiness will be the result. Try it during the new year.

Some examples of editorial humor follow. An exchange from The American Agriculturist gave the following valuable recipe for the cure of dyspepsia:

24. Ibid., December 10, 1863.
25. Ibid., June 21, 1860.
26. Ibid., December 26, 1861.
27. Ibid., March 6, 1862.
28. Ibid., April 24, 1862.
29. Ibid.
30. Ibid., June 9, 1864.
31. Ibid., February 9, 1865.
Take a new ax, put a white hickory handle in it, bore a hole in the top of the handle, fill the hole with gum camphor, and seal it up. Then take the ax, cut cord wood at fifty cents a cord, until the heat of the hand dissolves the camphor. 32

It is said that the reason why the Republicans call Lincoln 'Honest Abe' is to distinguish him from the rest of their party. 33

Why are young ladies at the breaking up of a party like arrows? Because they can't go off without a beau, and are in a quiver until they get one. 34

Early in 1861 small pox had broken out in Celina. The disease became serious and claimed the life of one child. Many people would not visit the town, while the village council passed an ordinance to aid in the control of the epidemic. 35

The doctors during these years were apparently quite busy. The rates of charges by the village physicians follow:

We, The Undersigned Physicians of Celina, establish the following rules and bills of prices for professional services:

- Prescriptions and medicine, $1.00
- Medical advice from 50 cents to $2.00
- Ordinary cases in daytime, for the first mile $2.00. Each additional mile 50 cents -- extra medicine an additional charge.
- Night rides when roads are good, 50 per cent added -- when roads are bad, 100 percent added.
- Visit and medicine in town, in daytime, $1.50; night after 9 o'clock, percent as above.
- Obstetrical attendance $5.00 and the usual mileage of travel; and extra charge for more than six hours detention.
- Consultation fee $5.00 and mileage.
- Extracting tooth, with no pain narcotic, 50 cents.
- Reducing dislocation, $10.00.

32. Ibid., December 12, 1861.
33. Ibid., June 21, 1860.
34. Ibid., October 10, 1861.
35. Ibid., May 23, 1861.
Adjusting simple fracture of bone, above or below elbow, $10.00.
Compound fracture, $20.00.
Leg below the knee, $15.00.
Femoral bone $25.00
Compound fracture of the femora, $35.00.

M. M. Miller.
James Taylor.
J. N. Hammond.

A comment appeared in another column on the opposite page entitled "The Doctors",

They publish their list of prices in today's paper. God help the sick and afflicted, and may they all have plenty of the needful to pay them when called on.36

There were not many ministers in Mercer County at this time. The Methodists had two assigned to the Celina circuit from 1860 to 1865.37 Earlier the Presbyterians, Baptists, and Methodists had all worshipped together in a frame building. The Methodists' second church burned down in March, 1861. The third Methodist Church was erected in 1862 under the labors of Reverend P. A. Browne. It was a frame building, forty by fifty feet, with steeple and bell. It had a membership of eighty-two.38

A notice appeared in The Western Standard as follows:

A new M. E. church, placed upon a lot north of the court house, donated by Judge Broadwell, is in the course of erection, with Mr. John DeFord as the contractor. If the subscribers will come to the rescue the house will be ready for dedication during the fall months.39

Trustees

36. Ibid., October 27, 1864.
38. Sutton, op. cit., p. 309.
As was noted previously the church was not completed in 1861. The Methodist churches in the southern part of the county were much of the time in another district. 40

The German population started a Union Sabbath School with about forty pupils enrolled and sufficient persons to serve as teachers. The school was conducted in the German language. 41

To aid in arousing interest in the Sunday schools, a large celebration was held for all of them in the county at Celina on July 4th, 1862. Readers and speakers of both English and German were to be there and all the pupils and teachers of the Sunday schools were especially requested to attend. 42

During the winters it was customary to hold "Big Meetings" or "Religious Revivals" in the Protestant churches.

A comment from the Celina paper follows:

For some time a revival at the M.E. church, under the auspices of Reverend D. Bulle, had been in progress in this village. As the Reverend gentleman seems to think that editors and printers are the last class to be saved, we have thought it not worth while to attend his meetings and cannot therefore say how many are "seeking the Lord" through his ministration. 43

It was very probable that the minister was anti-slavery and did not hesitate to put some of his views into his sermons.

41. The Western Standard, May 29, 1862.
42. Ibid., July 3, 1862.
43. Ibid., March 2, 1864.
The first Catholic resident in Celina was Owen Gallagher. He was alone in his religion until 1860. Daniel Mahoney settled there in 1861 and Celestine Garnier, Joseph Briggs, and John Hess in 1862. The first Catholic service ever held in Celina was performed at the house of Joseph Zenders in 1864, Reverend Bernard Dickman, C.P.P.S. presiding. The first organization as a society took place at that time. Services were then held every two weeks. The society increased, some of the newer members being Christopher, Jacob, and Peter Schunck. Desiring a place to worship, the members decided to build a church. Work proceeded and on August 3, 1864, the cornerstone was laid by Archbishop John B. Purcell of Cincinnati. He was the leading figure of the Roman Catholic Church in Ohio for many years. The building originally was forty by sixty feet and cost seven thousand dollars. It was completed, December 8, 1865. The rapidity with which this society grew proved that Catholicism was strong in Mercer County, especially in the southern part. The central and northern parts of the county were predominantly Protestant.

The Civil War times were trying years for the people of Mercer County. It was a typical Ohio rural county, except that it probably contained a larger number of Peace Democrats than the average county. These Democrats also wanted the Union preserved. The anti-draft, Butternut, and Copperhead sentiments expressed by The Western Standard were somewhat

44. Scranton, op. cit., p. 233.
45. Roseboom, op. cit., p. 216.
counteracted by its own advocacy of 'The Union as it was', and the opinions expressed by other newspapers which were brought into the county. There was too much opposition to recruiting and the draft at home, even though Mercer County more than met the quotas allotted. Yet many saw clearly that the problem facing them had two answers: 1 - Prosecute the war and preserve the Union; 2 - Make peace and dissolve the Union. Many, most of them willingly, decided on the first answer, took up arms and left for the war. The majority could not do this, but remained at home and in many cases furthered the cause of victory as best as they could. Those with pronounced Copperhead sentiments did not make a good record even on the home front. It was well that the men in the armed forces 'carried on' so courageously, for otherwise the record of Mercer County would shine with less glory.
TABLE I

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OF MERCER COUNTY, OHIO, 1860

CENSUS OF 1860—MORTALITY, PROPERTY, ETC., PP. 116-119

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>136,034 bushels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rye</td>
<td>23,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn, Indian</td>
<td>494,958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats</td>
<td>83,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>19,002 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool</td>
<td>26,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peas and beans</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish Potatoes</td>
<td>10,289 bushels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Potatoes</td>
<td>672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>22,347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckwheat</td>
<td>14,622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine</td>
<td>50 gallons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter</td>
<td>386,955 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheese</td>
<td>9,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay</td>
<td>10,146 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flaxseed</td>
<td>13,990 bushels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maple Sugar</td>
<td>9,603 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maple Molasses</td>
<td>627 gallons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorghum Molasses</td>
<td>36,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beeswax</td>
<td>737 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honey</td>
<td>22,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufactures, Value of Homemade</td>
<td>6,682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Animals Slaughtered</td>
<td>130,707.54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TABLE II

**MANUFACTURES OF MERCER COUNTY, OHIO, 1860. TAKEN FROM THE CENSUS OF 1860,**

**MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED STATES, P. 466**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Establishments</th>
<th>Capital Invested</th>
<th>Cost of Raw Material</th>
<th>Number of hands Employed</th>
<th>Annual Cost of Labor</th>
<th>Annual Value of Products</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ashes, pot and pearl</td>
<td>$800</td>
<td>$235</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$144</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacksmithing</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boots and Shoes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>3,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copperage</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1,312</td>
<td>1,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flour and Meal</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>19,200</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3,540</td>
<td>56,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquors, malt</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumber, planed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>4,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumber, sawed</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>25,660</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>8,340</td>
<td>39,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>1,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saddlery and Harness</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tin, Copper, and Sheet-iron ware</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>1,413</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total for Mercer County</strong></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>53,425</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>18,432</td>
<td>117,964</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ohio Total p. 484 11,123 $67,295,303 $69,800,270 65,749 9,853 $22,302,989 $121,691,148
### TABLE III

**CHURCHES IN MERCER COUNTY, OHIO IN 1860**

TAKEN FROM THE CENSUS OF 1860 - MORTALITY, PROPERTY, ETC. 
PP. 447-453

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Accommodations</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baptist</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptist,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnebrenner</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>1,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodist</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3,175</td>
<td>5,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reformed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman Catholic</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1,700</td>
<td>22,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6,475</td>
<td>$31,050</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHURCHES OF MERCER COUNTY COMPARED WITH CHURCHES IN NEIGHBORING COUNTIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Accommodations</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Darke</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>55,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Wert</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4,350</td>
<td>7,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auglaize</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>9,600</td>
<td>91,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>5,210</td>
<td>1,966,678</td>
<td>$12,988,312</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TABLE IV

VOLUNTEERS IN THE ARMED FORCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number on July 2</th>
<th>Since July</th>
<th>On September 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackcreek</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granville</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butler</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hopewell</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibson</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Volunteers from Mercer County, Ohio, as of September 4, 1862. Taken from lists published in the Western Standard, September 4, 1862. This table showed that the coming enforcement of the draft produced many more volunteers in a short time.
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V

WORKS ON MERCER COUNTY
