EARLY HISTORY OF Hocking County

A Thesis Presented for the
Degree of Master of Arts

By

Francis Gordon, B.S.

Ohio State University

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Approved by:

Eugene H. Rozboom
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CHAPTER I

GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

AND

EARLY INHABITANTS

1. Topography

Hocking county is located entirely in the hill and valley section of the Allegheny Plateau of southeastern Ohio. Most of the territory which now comprises this county has remained materially unchanged since it emerged from the ancient waters of the carboniferous period. The receding waters brought to light a broad rolling plain the surface of which as the centuries passed was cut and carved into deep valleys by the excavating power of the river and streams. This erosive work of the streams continued until the great continental glacier sweeping slowly down from the north reached its termination in northwestern Hocking county after enveloping Perry township and the extreme northern part of Marion township. The retreating glacier left

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2Col. Chas. Whittlesey, Topographical and Historical Sketch of the State of Ohio... (Rodgers, 1872), pp.2-3.
3Ibid.
terraces and drift which had been transported from the far north. 5.

The hills which existed prior to the glacier were leveled down and the valleys filled up making the surface of part of these townships a region of rolling hills and fertile soil. However, the greater part of Hocking county was left a rough hill and valley region undisturbed by the great ice sheet, so that there the streams had a longer time to pursue their erosive course of hollowing out still deeper-cut valleys. 6

Thus the scenic wonders of southwestern Hocking county were born.

The erosive work of the streams has carved the sandstone of the western part of the county into many picturesque rock formations including caves, canyons, gorges, and cliffs. 7 The cliffs are full of caverns and grottos

5G. Frederick Wright, "Glacial Man in Ohio," cited in Henry Howe, Historical Collections of Ohio (Krehbiel, 1902), Vol.I, p.94.

6 For general discussion see - Roseboom and Weisenburger, op. cit., pp.4-6.

among which are Ash Cave, seven hundred feet long, ninety feet wide and ninety feet high.\footnote{Dr. O.C. Farquhar, "Ash Cave", cited in Howe, \textit{op. cit.}, Vol. I, p. 930.} Old Man's Cave, the Rock House, Cedar Falls and Saltpetre Cave are typical of the many lesser existing rock formations.\footnote{Ibid, pp.929-930.} In the northwestern part of the county are Cantwell Cliffs, a picturesque canyon of unusual ruggedness,\footnote{Personal observation.} and the Rock Bridge, a sandstone formation one hundred and fifty feet long, spanning a gulch about fifty feet deep.\footnote{Howe, \textit{op. cit.}, Vol. I, pp.930-932.}

2. Drainage

The unpromising hilly surface of Hocking county is somewhat mitigated by the fertile valley lowlands formed by the river and main streams which offer not only a splendid opportunity for agriculture but provide the county with an excellent drainage system.\footnote{Howe, \textit{op. cit.}, Vol. I, p.925.} The county is included in the drainage area of the Ohio river, which indicates that the waters
of the county eventually reach that river. This is accomplished within the county by means of three distinct waterway systems which divide the drainage area into as many parts: namely, the north central watershed, the southwestern, and the southeastern.

The north central section is not only the largest drainage area, but because of its extensive valley lowlands offers the greatest opportunities for agriculture as well as excellent transportation facilities. This is due especially to the rich lowland valleys formed by the Hocking river and its tributaries which form the drainage systems of the townships of Good Hope, Marion, Falls, Falls Gore, Green, Ward, and the northern part of Starr.

The southwestern watershed includes the townships of Perry, Salt Creek, Benton, and Laurel, which are drained by Salt Creek and its tributaries. Laurel Creek, Big Pine, and Queer Creek are some of the more important tributaries of Salt Creek and are noted for their picturesque scenic beauty.

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14 Observations based on Lake, op. cit., p. 7 et passim.
15 Ibid.
16 Ibid.
The southeastern watershed comprising the southern two-thirds of Washington and Starr townships is drained by Racoon Creek. Its tributaries are Honey Fork and Little Racoon in Washington township which join the main stream outside the county. 17

3. The Mound Builders

The first inhabitants of Hocking county of whom we have any evidence were the ancient Mound Builders. They left as a mute reminder of their occupation at least twenty prehistoric earth mounds and stone remains. 18 These ancient mounds are of various shapes and sizes depending on the purpose for which they were intended. Some of these mounds were used for burial purposes, some for fortifications, and some for religious ceremonies. The most common type of mound found in the county is the well known conical earth type, of which there are three each in Salt Creek, Green, and Starr townships. 19 There are four mounds of this type in Washington, two in Perry, and one each in

(Marion

17 Ibid.
19 Ibid.
and Falls townships, making a grand total of seventeen. The most interesting set of mounds are those located in Green township about five miles southeast of Logan. Two of these conical mounds have diameters of sixty feet at the base and are constructed entirely of stone which apparently was brought from a great distance to their present location. These pyramid-like structures bear witness to the fact that civilization inocking county was a going concern hundreds of years before the coming of the Indian. Salt Creek township not only has the greatest number of mounds but the largest assortment. Here are found the enclosures which are divided into three classes, ordinary enclosures, square enclosures, and circular enclosures. The ordinary enclosure consisted of a circular embankment for the purpose of fortification, the square enclosure included a square embankment surrounding an earth mound, and the circular enclosure was composed of an embankment circumscribed about an earth elevation. The enclosures are not present in any other township, which seems

20 Ibid
to indicate that the territory now comprising Salt Creek township was not only a favorite haunt but worthy of defense in that remote period. In Falls township many small mounds have been literally destroyed by the farmer's plow or suffered a fate similar to that of a large mound which was removed to provide space for the erection of the old courthouse at Logan which was begun in 1839. 23

The mound Builders, as the name indicates, were hard constructive workers, quite in contrast to the Indians who succeeded them as occupants of Hooking county. Whether the Mound Builders migrated to another part of the country, or were the ancestors of the Indians themselves, or were subdued and exterminated by the Indians, authorities are unable to determine. The last hypothesis is most probable according to the most recent study. 24

23 Mrs. Georgiana Hopey, "Hooking County Many Years Ago," The Democrat-Sentinel (Logan), October 25, 1934.

4. The Indians

Before the coming of the French, Hocking territory was the home or hunting ground of the warlike Shawnees who at that time occupied southeastern Ohio. Then groups of the Wyandots who occupied northern Ohio wandered into the south-east as Hocking territory once belonged to this tribe who had established a large village at Oldtown about one mile south-east of Logan. From 1750 to 1780 the Delawares inhabited approximately the northeastern half of Hocking territory while the southwestern half remained in possession of the Shawnees.

It is to the Delaware language that the Hocking river (and subsequently Hocking county) is indebted for its name. The name "Hook-hock-ing" was contracted to "Hocking", which in the Indian tongue signifies a bottle or jug which the river in perspective was thought to resemble.

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27 Whittlesey, op. cit., Historical Map.

Evidences of Indian occupation of this county consist of the remains of trails, villages, graves, forts, drawings, petroglyphs and other unimpeachable signs of habitation.\(^{29}\) These are found mostly in the southwestern part of the county where the caves and grottos provided the Indians a natural retreat. One of the favorite paths of the redmen was down the waters of Queer Creek which opened a direct course to the old Indian town at Chillicothe. This statement is borne out by the fact that near the mouth of this rocky creek stood a large tree on which were carved these words, "This is the road to hell, 1782." It is probable that these words were incised by some unfortunate prisoner while on his way to Chillicothe.\(^{30}\) Connections were made with this route by a trail from the north, a short cut from the Indian center in the Pickaway bottoms via western Hocking county to the Ohio river.\(^{31}\) This trail was used by the Wyandots and the Shawnees

\(^{29}\) Lewis K. Cook, "Early 'Roads' of the Redmen", The Columbus Sunday Dispatch, March 6, 1938.


\(^{31}\) Cook, loc. cit.
as a road to the salt springs located near the present site of Jackson. From the north the trail entered the county near the Perry and Good Hope township line and passed near Cantwell Cliffs, Rock House, Conkle's Hollow and the Ash Cave. Even as late as 1800 the trail between Cantwell Cliffs and the Rock House could be followed. 32

The many natural shelters afforded by the caverns and grottos along the trail were utilized by the Indians as is evinced by the signs of occupancy at the Ash Cave. Here during the lapse of the centuries several thousand bushels of ashes were deposited, and as late as 1837 an observer estimated that there were three or four hundred bushels of clean ashes as dry as they were on the day they were burned. 33

Further evidence of occupancy is supplied by the existence of two cylindrically drilled holes, commonly known as hominy holes, in the surface of a ledge of rocks adjacent to the cave. 34

32 Ibid.
34 Personal observation.
At the Rock House, where nature has generously provided a natural habitat, is an Indian's head sketched on the surface of a flat vertical rock. Perhaps this was the likeness of an eminent chief whose memory and glory merited preservation. East of the Rock House is an Indian burial pit whose location is marked by carved smoke marks on the surface of an overhanging cliff. In this vicinity also are found hominy holes and sandstone rocks whose surfaces bear strange marks resembling those that might result from their being used as rough stationary whetstone by the Indian warriors in the process of sharpening and forming their tomahawk heads.

The apparent secretive activity of the Indians under certain conditions, together with vague verbal hints, led the early settlers to believe that lead mines existed in Hocking territory. Even Cutler, writing in 1788, speaks of the rich mines of lead along the Hook-hock-ing. Before 1837 confir-

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35 Cook, loc. cit.

36 Ibid.

37 Ibid.

38 Manasseh Cutler, Ohio in 1788 (Smythe, 1868), p. 6.
mation of the tradition was sought by prospectors, resulting in many a weary day spent in its fruitless search among the grottos and cliffs. The futile search also resulted in the laborious sinking of shafts to a depth limited only by the presence of immovable rocks. The remains of one of these shafts, located in Washington township between Ilesborough and Ewing, bears evidence of the tremendous task which confronted the early lead mine prospector. It is said that this particular pit was dug at the behest of a roving Indian's Delphic statement.

In other parts of the county where nature was less lavish in the formation of natural shelters, villages were built by the Indians. Of these only four have left evidence of their existence. One such village belonging to the Shawnees was located in Good Hope township near the confluence of Clear Creek and the Hocking River. The Wyandots established a

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40 Personal observation.
41 Local tradition.
considerable village at Oldtown in Falls township at the
junction of the Hocking river and Oldtown Creek. The
remains of another village, together with a group of
stone graves, exist in Sturr township. Even in Salt
creek township, where the caverns and grottos are plentiful,
are the remains of a village which probably was the
property of the Shawnees since this section of Hocking
territory had long been in their possession. This village
was on or near the trail followed by Lord Dunmore on his
return to Virginia through the southwestern part of the
county.

5. The First White Occupants

The territory of Hocking county had always been included
in some larger political entity until the formation of the
county in 1818. Therefore an understanding of the territorial
evolution of these larger units is necessary in order to show
their influence on the social and economic history of the county.

45 Ibid.
46 Whittlesey, op. cit., Historical Map.
The territory which now comprises Hocking county was once part of Louisiana, that vast western region claimed for France by La Salle in 1682. The French built a chain of forts throughout the country for the dual purpose of holding the territory against the English, who also claimed the region, and to engage in the fur trade with the Indians. In the latter pursuit the French penetrated the Hocking valley and established an extensive fur trade, probably with the Wyandot Indians who once occupied the territory and who had established a large village at Oldtown on the Hocking river.

The English traders also were active in the fur business. They established many trading posts in the northwest, but it seems that none were located in Hocking territory as the routes followed through this region by the Indian traders, George Croghan and Christopher Gist, seem to indicate. Yet the

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48 Ibid. pp.145-146.


50 Albert T. Volwiler, George Croghan and the Westward Movement (Clark, 1926). pp.17-54.

remains of an old fur press, which was used in connection with the packing of peltries in preparation for their long journey down the Hocking river, have been found in Hocking territory. Howe definitely states that these were the ruins of a French trading post and that it gives evidence of the extensive trade which the French had built up with the Indians. If Howe’s statement is correct, the remains of this fur press bears witness to the fact that the French were not only the first white men to live in what is now Hocking county but the first to establish themselves there in a profitable business. But the strongholds of the French traders were unable to hold the territory against the united arms of the British and their colonies. Therefore in 1763 France was forced to cede her claim in North America to England, which resulted in the withdrawal of the French traders from Hocking territory.

52 Howe, op. cit., Vol.I, p.282. This fur press was located only about twenty miles south of the French town or trading post, named "French Margarets".

53 Ibid.

The English in the Proclamation of 1763 declared that the territory northwest of the Ohio river was reserved for the Indians as their hunting grounds. Furthermore, this territory could be sold only (in case the Indians should be so inclined) to the British government and not to private persons. This proclamation was confirmed by Parliament in the passage of the Quebec Act of 1774 which further provided for the annexation of the territory northwest of the Ohio to the province of Quebec, Canada. The object of this act was not only to retain the loyalty of French Canada, but to curb the westward expansion of the revolting colonies. Thus Virginia's claim as stated in her colonial charter to the northwest was nullified. However these conflicting documents led not only to friction between the white and the red men but served as an underlying motive for Lord Dunmore, Governor


56 Ibid.

of Virginia, to invade the disputed territory. The outward motive was to repress the savage activity of the Shawnees and the Delawares in the vicinity of the Scioto river but Dunmore expected simultaneously to uphold Virginia's claim as provided by her charter.\footnote{Ibid.}

Mobilizing an army of twelve hundred colonial troops under his direct command, Dunmore ascended the Hocking river and led into what is now Hocking county the first real army the region had seen.\footnote{Rand. and Ryan, \textit{op. cit.}, Vol.II, pp.84-85.} After pitching camp at the falls of the river,\footnote{Ibid.} near the present site of Logan, Dunmore continued his ascent of the Hocking to the Shawnee Indian Village located at the confluence of Clear Creek and the Hocking in what is now Good Hope township.\footnote{Whittlesey, \textit{op. cit.}, Historical Map.} The Indians no doubt fled at the approach of so formidable an army, for no encounter is mentioned. From this village Dunmore left the Hocking and followed Clear Creek west to the present county line where he struck boldly over-
land and established Camp Charlotte in what is now Pickaway county. 62

Having completed a satisfactory treaty with the Indians at the camp and having received some unneeded reinforcements, Lord Dunmore began his return march to Virginia by the way of Salt Creek in what is now Salt Creek township in southwestern Hocking county. 63 The fertility of the extensive river lowlands of the Hocking valley made such a favorable impression on these colonial troops that many later returned as squatters to the river valley of the coveted territory. 64 By the close of the American Revolution the state of Virginia, considering her land claims inherited from her original charter from the king of England as still valid, claimed all southern Ohio which of course included all of Hocking territory. Therefore from 1779 to 1785 Virginia state land warrants were issued to settlers, some of whom located north of the Ohio. 65

62 Ibid.
63 Ibid.
64 Ibid., p. 21.
At the end of the Revolutionary War the British government surrendered the land north of the Ohio, which later became known as the Northwest Territory, to the Congress of the United States. The State of Virginia was then induced in 1784 to relinquish her claims north of the Ohio to Congress. However, Virginia did reserve in southwestern Ohio a military district west of the Scioto and continued to issue state land warrants after 1784. Some of the settlers mistakenly located them in the river valley of what is now Hocking county as well as the river counties south, with the result that the valley of the Hocking was occupied as far as Logan. This was not only against the law of Virginia but contrary to the session of 1784. Therefore, there were settlers within the present limits of Hocking county who had no legal title to their land. But the tenure of most of these was short lived for in the fall of 1785, after the land had been surveyed, the occupant faced confronted by the troops of the Confederation government who forcibly removed Hocking county's first settlers from the region.

67 Ibid.
70 Ibid.
71 Ibid.
CHAPTER II

TERRITORIAL EVOLUTION

OF

HOCKING COUNTY

1. Hocking Territory,

1788 - 1818

Congress now having undisputed jurisdiction over the Northwest Territory authorized the first survey in 1786,1 and in 1787 adopted the famous plan of government known as the Northwest Ordinance.2 In this same year the Ohio Company of Associates purchased from Congress one million five hundred thousand acres of land north of the Ohio river.3 This tract of land was surveyed in 1788 and included what is now the townships of Starr, Green and Ward in Hocking county.4 The remaining portion of the territory that was eventually to be Hocking County was known as Congress Lands because they were to be sold by the immediate officers of


4 W.E. Peters, Ohio Lands and Their History (Lawhead, 1930), p. 71.

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the Federal Government. This was the situation until the necessity for establishing court districts became so great that counties had to be formed. From 1788 to 1851 the number of counties was increased by reducing the territorial limits of previously formed counties. The result was that during the thirty-year period from 1788 to 1818 parts of Hocking territory were included wholly or partly within the boundaries of Washington, Adams, Ross, Fairfield, and Athens counties.

In 1788 Governor St. Clair proclaimed the formation of Washington county which included all of Hocking territory until 1797 when Adams county was created. In that year Washington county lost the western part of Hocking territory to Adams. When Ross county was formed in 1796, Adams lost

5Ibid.


7Ibid.


9Ibid, pp.256, 351.
its share of Hocking territory to the new county. However, Hocking territory was still part of two counties, namely, Washington and Ross, which held respectively the eastern and western sections. When Fairfield county was created in 1800 it became the possessor of the northern part of Hocking territory. Thus the three counties of Washington, Ross, and Fairfield had jurisdiction over all of Hocking territory. After five years Washington county relinquished its share of Hocking territory to Athens when that county was formed. During the following thirteen years Hocking territory comprised parts of Ross, Fairfield and Athens counties.

2. The Evolution of Hocking County.

1818 - 1850

On January 3, 1818, Hocking county was formed by an act of the Ohio Legislature from parts of Ross, Fairfield and Athens counties. This act became effective March 1, 1818.

12 Ibid, pp.369.
The original boundaries of Hocking county included the following townships: Green, Falls, Falls-Gore, Good Hope, Laurel, Salt Creek, Benton, Washington, Swan, Jackson, Eagle, the western half of Starr and Brown, the southern two-seventh of Perry, and the southern two-thirds of Marion.\textsuperscript{14} The total area of the county at this time was approximately four hundred and thirty two square miles. A decade later, December, 1826, a bill was introduced in the State Legislature providing for the disorganization of Hocking county.\textsuperscript{15} The bill was immediately referred to the committee on new counties which squelched the attempted proposal almost without a hearing.\textsuperscript{16} Thus the very life of the county was saved but its extensive boundaries were due to be curtailed.

Sixteen years after the creation of the county, March 1, 1834, the first change in the boundary was made by relinquishing Eagle township to Ross county.\textsuperscript{17} However, this was not

\textsuperscript{14}\textit{Ibid.}

\textsuperscript{15} The \textit{Lancaster Gazette}, December 27, 1828.

\textsuperscript{16}\textit{Ibid.}, January 3, 1829.

quite a full township since it contained only thirty square miles, which reduced the area of the county to about four hundred and two square miles. On March 12, 1845, eleven years after the first boundary change, Hocking county received from Athens county the eastern half of both Starr and Brown townships, constituting, with the western half of each which was possessed already, two full townships of thirty-six square miles each.\(^{18}\) Hocking county now had the greatest area in its history, about four hundred and thirty-eight square miles. When Vinton county was formed in 1850 Hocking county lost Jackson, Swan, and Brown townships but at the same time received Ward township from Athens county, the remaining northern one-third of Marion township, and the whole township of Perry from Fairfield county.\(^{19}\) Since this date there have been no changes in the boundary, as the State Constitution of 1851 required that each county contain four hundred square miles.\(^{20}\)


The present area of Hocking county is four hundred and eleven square miles.\footnote{21}{Lake, op. cit... (calculations) P. 7 et passim.} Logically the area would be expected to be four hundred and eight square miles, but due to discrepancies in surveying the north line of the Ohio Company’s tract, especially between Hocking and Perry counties,\footnote{22}{Whittlesey, cited in Howe, op. cit., Vol.I, p.36.} there was found to exist an extra strip of territory one half mile wide and two miles long. This one square mile of territory was added to Falls-Gore township which gave it an area of thirteen square miles. Another discrepancy in surveying was found to exist between Fairfield and Hocking which resulted in the addition of a strip of territory one half mile wide and four miles long to Good Hope, giving this township an area of twenty-six square miles.\footnote{23}{Lake, op. cit., pp.9,11.} All other townships in Hocking county have an area of thirty-six square miles with the exception of Perry and Salt Creek which have an area of forty-two square miles each.\footnote{24}{Ibid, pp.7,41.}
3. Township Organization

Township organization began in Hocking territory in 1806 as authorized by the act of township incorporation. This was twelve years before the county was formed. Hocking territory had been the more sparsely populated and outlying districts of the other counties of which the area was then a part. Therefore, as the population became more dense in these districts, the inhabitants demanded township organization for the purpose of creating voting precincts. The center of population in one of the originally surveyed townships was the nucleus around which township organization was built. Accordingly, the immediate territory around the great falls in the Hocking river with Logan as a center became the nucleus of township organization when this territory was still part of Athens county. Starr township was organized in 1811 and named for Joseph Starr at whose suggestion the township received its organized status. The village of Starr was founded in 1815 and became the community center for the district.

26 History of Hocking Valley, Ohio (Inter-State, 1983), p.820.
27 Ibid, p.1036.
28 Ibid, p.1038.
It was from these organized units that a petition was sent to the Ohio Assembly asking that the county of Hocking be formed. The request having been granted, the township of Falls emerged as the oldest in the county, having received its name, perhaps, from the falls in the river located within its boundaries. Due to the relatively small number of inhabitants in the district it became necessary to include from two to four originally surveyed townships under the temporary organization of that one of their number which was then the most populous. Therefore Falls township, as originally organized, included not only the present township of Falls, but also Green, Falls-Gore, Good Hope, Washington, and part of Marion. When these units which were organized as Falls township became more densely populated it became apparent that the different groups would ask for separation. The first units to be cut from Falls were Falls-Gore and Green, which were both organized in 1823 under the single name, Green. The principal village is Haydenville, founded in 1852 and later named for Peter Hayden who established a clay products factory here in 1882.

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31 Ibid. pp. 1023-1026.
was about six hundred. 32 The inhabitants of Falls-Gore, after having been united with Green township for five years, petitioned the commissioners to be reunited with Falls, which was granted in 1828. 33 The villages of this township included Oreville, Old Gore, and Hamlin and Burgessville, which together are now known as New Gore. The population of the last named was about seven hundred in 1863. 34

In 1826 Falls lost another unit which was organized under the name Washington in honor of the first president. 35 One of the first villages was Brigglesburgh, located in the northern part of the township and the center of a German farming community. The first post office in the township was located here in 1850. 36 At this time the name was changed to Ewing in honor of Thomas Ewing, well known Ohio statesman, who owned a large tract of land in Hocking county. Ilsborough was laid out near the center of the township in 1836 by Henry Iles. 37

33 Hist. of Hook. V., p. 884
34 Ibid., p. 890.
35 Ibid., pp. 826, 1071.
36 The Hocking Sentinel, October 10, 1850.
37 Hist. of Hook. V., pp. 1073-1074.
A post office was established here in 1866, and the population in 1870 was sixty-two. The site of a tannery in the southern part of the township on the Rocking and Vinton county line became the nucleus around which the village of New Mt. Pleasant was built. The settlers in the center of the township cut a road through the woods to this place in 1832. In this year also Falls township lost its last unit which was organized under the name, Marion, probably in honor of General Francis Marion. Thus Falls township at last included only the township wherein the falls was located, containing the towns of Logan and Stiversville (Enterprise).

When the county commissioners met for the first time on April 25, 1818, a petition for township organization was received and granted to Salt Creek which included two units. After eighteen years one unit was cut from Salt Creek township and organized under the name, Benton, perhaps in honor of

38 Simeon D. Fess, Ohio... (Lewis, 1937), Vol. III, p. 56.
40 Hist. of Rock V., p. 1075.
41 Ibid.
42 Ibid. p. 827.
43 Ibid. p. 820.
44 Ibid. p. 827.
Thomas Hart Benton, United States Senator from Missouri, who was an ardent supporter of the popular Andrew Jackson. The village of Bloomingville is the principal town in the township, located in the Queer Creek valley near the Ash Cave. The village grew up around the cabin of the first settler, Christian Eby, and in 1889 had a population of three hundred and fifty.

Good Hope and Laurel townships have the distinction of being variations from the usual procedure of organization; that is, there is no record of the formation of Good Hope, and Laurel was organized without the necessity of having been added to or diminished by other units. Good Hope, originally a part of Falls township, was probably organized soon after the formation of the county due to its relatively dense population. It included part of Marion township and was first mentioned by name in 1821, showing that it had organized status at that time. The community center was the old German village


47 Hist of Hock. V., p. 823.
of Millville, which later took the name Rockbridge from the curious natural rock formation which is located in the vicinity. The population in 1868 was two hundred and fifty.\textsuperscript{48} Laurel township was made a voting precinct as early as 1820 and in 1824 was given complete township organization.\textsuperscript{49} The name was suggested by the abundance of the laurel shrub which grows along the banks of a stream of the same name which flows through the western part of the township. The community center of the township is Gibisonville, which was founded in 1840\textsuperscript{50} and in 1870 had a population of sixty-seven.\textsuperscript{51}

Perry and Ward townships became parts of Hocking county as a result of boundary changes occurring after Hocking county was organized. Both units were parts of township organizations of the counties of which they were then a part. They were acquired by Hocking county in 1850. The township that was added to Hocking from Fairfield county was organized under the name, Perry, probably in honor of Commodore Perry. The first village was South Perry which was founded in 1838\textsuperscript{52} and

\textsuperscript{48} Howe, op. cit., Vol. I, p. 934.

\textsuperscript{49} Hist. of Hock. V., p. 823.

\textsuperscript{50} Ibid, p. 1133.

\textsuperscript{51} Lake, op. cit., p. 1.

\textsuperscript{52} Hist. of Hock. V., p. 1105.
by 1870 had a population of one hundred and thirty-six.\textsuperscript{53} The largest town is Laurelville which was founded in 1871\textsuperscript{54} and by 1888 had a population of three hundred.\textsuperscript{56} The township received from Athens county was part of York township of that county.\textsuperscript{56} The organization name, under the jurisdiction of Hocking county, was Ward, so named in honor of Nathan Ward of Marietta who owned much land in the Hocking valley.\textsuperscript{57} The rugged surface of this township discouraged the early pioneer farmer who settled in the more favorable agricultural areas. Therefore there were no early villages as was the case in the other townships, but later when the mineral resources began to be developed, several small towns quickly sprang up and grew more rapidly than any others in the county. This statement is borne out by the fact that Murray City and Carbon Hill, which were laid out in 1873,\textsuperscript{58} had populations of five hundred each by 1888.\textsuperscript{59}

\textsuperscript{53}Lake, op. cit., p.1.
\textsuperscript{54}Hist. of Hook. V., p.1106.
\textsuperscript{55}Howe, op. cit., Vol.1, p.934.
\textsuperscript{56}The Hocking Sentinel, February 20, 1851.
\textsuperscript{57}Hist. of Hook. V., p.1013.
\textsuperscript{58}Ibid., p.1014.
\textsuperscript{59}Howe, op. cit., Vol.1, p.934.
CHAPTER III

THE PERMANENT SETTLEMENTS

1. German Origins

The permanent settlers of Hocking county came for the most part directly or indirectly from two sources, Germany and the British Isles. Their infiltration took place con-temporaneously, but for the sake of continuity it is more desirable to treat each group separately. Chronologically speaking, it is necessary to take up first the study of the German migration which came chiefly from western Pennsylvania,\footnote{Howe, op. cit., Vol. I, p. 928.} supplemented by colonies which arrived directly from the fatherland.\footnote{Hist. of Hook. V., p. 1149.}

The Germans who settled in Pennsylvania during the colonial period occupied generally the western portion of that state, for not only was the land cheap here, but unhindered they could form German communities where German customs would prevail.\footnote{Evarts Boutell Greens, The Foundations of American Nationality (New York, 1922), pp. 175-176, 288, 303, 305, 341.} As these better farm lands became occupied, the frontier began to move gradually westward. Consequently, when the Ohio territory became safe for settlement the Germans sought out...
the rich river bottoms in the cheap Congress lands. In the course of this search, it was only natural that they should find their way into Hocking territory and occupy the fertile river valley of the upper Hocking.

The Germans generally did not purchase land from the Ohio Company but chose to buy the land directly from the Federal Government. This is borne out by the fact that the very first permanent settler, Christian Westenhaver, who was of German descent, passed through the land of the Ohio Company and settled near the present site of Logan in 1798.4 By 1808 the German settlements had spread to Rush Creek and within the next three years many families had arrived in the vicinity of what is now known as Marion township.5 During 1815 and 1816 the Germans made a settlement at Millville (Rockbridge) on the Hocking in what is now Good Hope township.6

As the river valley in and around Logan was gradually occupied the Germans began to ascend Scott’s Creek, and in 1822

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5Hist. of Hook. V., pp.816,1148.
6Ibid.
made settlements along that stream which finally penetrated to the very center of Washington township. At Briggleburgh (Ewing) in the northern part of the township the Germans built their first Lutheran church. Others pushed southward, following Scott's Creek to its source where one their number, Henry Iles, a descendent of a Hessian soldier, laid out the village of Ilesborough, which is located in the center of the township. Here the monuments in the cemetery bear witness to the fact that the Germans were the dominant nationality in the community. The grave stone of one George Nimon, the oldest man buried in the cemetery, states that he was born in Germany in 1763. The surnames of Nimon and Bainter, which are Americanized forms of genuinely German family names, appear on more tombstones than any others. In fact there is hardly a surname which does not suggest German origin.

The founding of German colonies in Hocking county by those who came directly from the fatherland began in 1825 when a

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7 Ibid. p.1071.
8 Ibid. pp.1074-1075.
9 Family tradition.
10 Hist. of Hook. V., p.1073.
11 Personal observation.
colony under the leadership of Rudolph Scherchel made a settlement in German-settled Marion township. 12 This colony was followed twelve years later by one from the Department of Zaarbruck, Alsace, France. 13 Many of the men who formed this colony had been Napoleonic soldiers who were then smarting under the rule of the reinstated reactionary Bourbons. Soldiers who had followed Napoleon were not content to spend humdrum lives under a despotic king, so they looked toward America as an outlet for their restless energy. Therefore they selected one of their number, John Schoor, to come to the new world to select a site for a settlement. It was only natural that he should seek out a spot where land was cheap and where other Germans lived. Thus about three miles north of Logan on the highest wooded hill overlooking the Rhine-like Hocking, a site was chosen for a church, around which the settlement was to be made. 14

12 Hist. of Hocking, Y., p. 1148.
13 *The Democrat Sentinel*, October 25, 1934.
14 Ibid.
Having marked the location with a cross-inscribed stone, Shoor returned to Europe and in the summer of 1837 brought into Hocking county twenty-six families who purchased the land previously selected. Although these colonists came from a province in eastern France, they had distinctively German surnames and referred to their leaders as "Herr". This province had formerly been a part of the Holy Roman Empire, but was ceded to France in the Peace of Westphalia in 1648 at the close of the Thirty Years' War. While these German colonies were being founded, a far greater number of German families were continuing their migration into Hocking county from Pennsylvania. These families settled generally along the upper Hocking river and its tributaries on land adjacent to the other German farms. Howe, when he visited Logan in 1846, gave two reasons why he thought the region was settled by the Germans. One reason was the extensive use of the word "warmus" to describe a heavy working garment that was common to the vicinity. This term, he believed, was little known except to the Pennsylvania Germans. The

15 Ibid.

second reason was the physique of the inhabitants, whom he called "lobster-backed" people. Their appearance was distinctly German. Howe's conclusions were justified but they applied only to that part of Hocking county included in the vicinity of the Hocking river.

2. Older States and British Isles

Contemporaneously with the German settlements, people who originated in the British Isles made settlements generally in that part of Hocking county controlled by the Ohio Company: that is, Ward, Falls-Gore, Green and Starr townships. Many of these early permanent settlers came from the older states which border Ohio but not a few came from New England and the Middle Atlantic States. Perhaps some of the earliest settlers were encouraged to locate in this territory because of advertisements placed in the newspapers by the representatives of the Ohio Company who were attempting to popularize their large purchase in order to facilitate quick settlement.


18 Hist. of Hock. V., p.49

Settlement from Virginia was encouraged no doubt by the favorable impressions of the country acquired by Virginia soldiers in the Indian war. From Pennsylvania came, in addition to the Germans, many Scotch-Irish. Some migrated directly while others settled in the older counties of Ohio and then later filtered into Hocking county.

The settlers from the older states, with the exception of Pennsylvania, were for the most part descendants of people who had their origin in the British Isles. This included the Scotch-Irish, Welsh, and the English, as the biographies of the most prominent seem to indicate. Yet some of these people themselves were born in the British Isles but settled in the older states or older counties of Ohio before locating in Hocking county. This is borne out by the fact that the proprietor of one of the first general stores in Logan had been born in England and had previously settled in Athens county. There were a few people of French blood among the early settlers of the county, but they are not be confused

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21 Hist. of Hock. V., p. 992.

22 Ibid., p. 816.
with the German emigrants from Alsace, France. Even though immigration into this county was from northern Europe, there is nothing to indicate the presence of any Scandinavians. In contrast to the German, the settlers from the older states came not in colonies but in a steady and constant stream.

Later in the same year in which the first German family made its appearance in Hocking county, some Scotch-Irish families from western Virginia settled near the present site of Logan on land adjacent to the German family. The children brought into the county by one of these Scotch-Irish families were the first white children to live in the county. Shortly afterward the lands of the Ohio Company began to be occupied. By 1810 an Irish family, which was soon followed by several families from New England, settled in Starr township. The name New Plymouth was later given to a small village in memory of the town from whose vicinity many had migrated.


24 A monument in the Old Cemetery in Logan contains the following inscription: "Rebecca Pence - First born white child in Hocking County. O. Died May 25, 1836, aged 94 y."


26 Now located in Vinton county.
In the meantime settlements had been made on Laurel Creek in Perry township and by 1812 several families were living in Laurel and Salt Creek townships.\textsuperscript{27} Settlements were made in Ward township as early as 1814 while by 1823 there were fifty families living in the valleys of the creeks of Green township.\textsuperscript{28} In what was then the townships of Starr, Ward, and Green were found generally the emigrants of New England, the Middle Atlantic States, and the British Isles. The Scotch-Irish of western Pennsylvania had a tendency to settle either among or around the German settlers who had been their former neighbors. When this territory had been occupied, they began to spread to the other townships of the county, occupying the rough lands that they found available. This emigration continued to be interspersed with the German until the Civil War which virtually brought migration into the county to a close.

3. Proportions of Nationalities Represented

A study of the family surnames of the different localities in Hocking county,\textsuperscript{29} together with Howe's list of the different

\textsuperscript{27} \textit{Hist. of Hock.} V., P.816.
\textsuperscript{28} \textit{Ibid.}, p.1025.
\textsuperscript{29} \textit{Hist. of Hock.} V., pp.914-1157.
nationalities represented,\textsuperscript{30} forms the basis on which conclusions have been reached as to the relative percentages of the nationalities represented, and the states of the union or foreign countries from which they migrated. The population of Hocking county in 1820 was two thousand and eighty,\textsuperscript{31} which may be considered as representing the true pioneer families. A study of the available surnames\textsuperscript{32} of these families shows that approximately thirty-six per cent had their origin in Germany while the rest were other nationalities, chiefly from the older states and the British Isles.\textsuperscript{33}

The population in the decade between 1820 and 1830 increased over ninety-two per cent, but the greatest increase came between 1830 and 1840 when the population rose to nine thousand seven hundred and forty-one,\textsuperscript{34} an increase of over

\textsuperscript{30} Howe, op. cit., Vol. I, p. 927.

\textsuperscript{31} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{32} Hist. of Hock. V., pp. 814-816.


\textsuperscript{34} Statistical View of the United States...Compendium of the Seventh Census... (Washington, 1854) p. 290. Referred to hereafter as Seventh Census.
one hundred and forty three per cent, probably in anticipation of the opening of the Hocking canal. The completion of the canal provided transportation facilities for the many settlers who now began to arrive, especially from the surrounding counties. The Sentinel, commenting on the situation, suggested that the neighboring counties had begun to see the great advantages the Hocking hills possessed and were determined to get a portion of them.35 This observation is borne out by the fact that the census of 1850 showed that seventy-four per cent of the people of Hocking county had been born within the state.36 This seems to suggest that many settlers came from the surrounding counties since only twenty per cent had been born outside the state, while less than six per cent had been born in foreign countries.37 However, these years marked the high tide of immigration into Hocking county, for from this time on there was a gradual decrease until the Civil War brought it suddenly to a close. Yet, when the war ended, there was

35 The Hocking Sentinel, August 22, 1850.


37 Ibid.
a gradual but modest revival of immigration so that by 1880
Hocking county had a population of twenty-one thousand one
hundred and twenty-six.\textsuperscript{38}

A study of the origin of the family names of those who
apparently were the most prominent,\textsuperscript{39} as their biographies
seem to indicate, shows that approximately forty-one per
cent originated in Germany, while the remaining were non-
German, being chiefly Anglo-Saxon. The percentages based on
the study of these surnames give only an approximate picture
of the situation, but they show rather definitely that German
immigration had kept up sufficiently to increase that elements
share of the total.

Of the total population of Hocking county in 1880, about
eighty-seven per cent had been born within the state. The
remaining thirteen per cent was divided between the surround-
ing states and foreign countries.\textsuperscript{40} Of the states, it is inter-
esting to note that Pennsylvania, in keeping with earlier tra-
dition, ranked far ahead of any other state in the number of

\textsuperscript{38} Clarence J. Brown, \textit{Ohio Fifteenth Federal Census} (Heer, 1931),
p. 10.

\textsuperscript{39} \textit{Hist. of Hock. V.}, pp. 918-1157.

\textsuperscript{40} \textit{Seventh Census}, p. 291.
emigrants to Hocking county. Pennsylvania was followed by Virginia, Kentucky, New York, and Indiana in the order named. Of the foreign countries, Germany ranked first with more than twice as many as its nearest rival, Ireland. Ireland was followed respectively by England and Wales, Scotland, France and Canada. 41

Thus the majority of both the Germans and the Scotch-Irish came to Hocking county by way of Pennsylvania or sections of Virginia. 42 These sturdy, liberty-loving people came to this country not only because they enjoyed the freedom of the frontier, but because they wished to improve their economic position. The earlier German and Scotch-Irish immigrants, who first settled in western Pennsylvania, did not fit in politically or socially with the polished and refined eastern aristocracy. During the struggle that ensued there grew up an estrangement between the frontier people and the wealthy merchant-landowner class of the east. 43 This feud, although later losing its concrete aspect, became traditional. Perhaps

41 Calculated from list - Howe, op. cit., Vol. I, p.927.
43 Greene, op. cit., pp.286,303,305,341.
this explains why would-be settlers were warned, as they passed through eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware, never to locate in the vicinity of Logan as the place was inhabited by the "worst of God's race."44 The Germans and Scotch-Irish of Hocking county likewise always retained a deep hatred of aristocracy. As late as the fifties a traveler, commenting on the people of Hocking county, stated that they were clever and friendly, but that they had no use for "three-cent aristocrats".45 This attitude was always reflected in politics and accounts in a large measure for the early success of the Democratic party.46

44 Editorial in The Hocking Sentinel, May 26, 1853.


46 Hist. of Hock. V., pp. 852-856.
CHAPTER IV

LIFE IN EARLY HOCKING COUNTY

1. The Arrival

The early settlers of Hocking county were hardy self-reliant men who solved their problems without outside help. After the pioneer had purchased his land, the next problem was the task of moving to his new home by an overland journey in a covered wagon. If he were a very early settler coming before the crude roads were made, he must bring his goods in a canoe up the Hocking, running the risk of losing or damaging his belongings by accidents so common to this method of transportation. In one case the settler’s only sack of corn meal became wet and consequently moldy, but it had to be eaten, since no more could be had until the next harvest. Having arrived at his destination, he sometimes found that his land was already occupied by a squatter who refused to leave. In those days the might of the law was far away and as a result justice was administered so slowly that differences had to be settled by the contestants in a manner in keeping with the circumstances. Therefore they usually resorted to a duel in the pugilistic ring. If the settler won the fight, the squatter would agree to leave the premises; but if the settler lost the fight, he must await the slow process of the law. The pioneer

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2Ibid.

3Local tradition, Washington twp.
settlement was fortunate indeed who could occupy the cabin of a squatter, for this meant that he could devote a greater amount of his time to the planting of crops.

When the situation required that the settler build his own cabin, his first thought was to locate it near water, preferably near a spring. His cabin contained one large room, which was heated by an open fireplace provided with a trammel on which the pots for cooking were hung. Sometimes ovens were built in the side of the fireplace or were built outside and later covered with a shed.4

The cabin having been completed, the settler was now ready to plant his corn in the clearing. While the crop was growing, he spent his time in hunting bears, the meat of which sometimes served as bread until the corn was harvested. The corn was ground either in Indian fashion in a hominy mortar or the pioneer had to leave his family to subsist on wild meat while he made the long wearisome journey of thirty miles over an Indian trail to Chillicothe where the nearest mill was located.5

4 Mrs. Georgiana Hoppley,"Hocking County Many Years Ago", The Democrat-Sentinel (Logan), October 25, 1934.
2. Hunting and Trading

Hocking county, because of its many grottos and caves, was the home of many kinds of wild animals. The bear, deer, wildcat and smaller game, were everywhere abundant. Many of the pioneer settlers were noted for their prowess in hunting the bear which served as the chief meat supply for many years. Bears were known to make raids on the settler's domestic animals, which in Laurel township necessitated the adjournment of a religious meeting until a bear which had attacked the pioneers' hogs had been killed. Thus the meat value, together with the boldness and potential destructiveness of the bear, resulted in its being among the first of the larger animals to be completely exterminated in the county. The deer was very valuable both for meat and leather, but being rather elusive and swift it required, perhaps, more skill of the hunter than did the bear. One method of hunting deer was for the hunter to lie in wait at a deer lick, which was usually located at the head of a hollow. At such a lick in Washington township a hunter had concealed himself when he noticed a small piece of bark fall near. Looking up, he saw a

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6Ibid.

7Hist. of Hock. V., pp.1104-1105.

8Section twenty.
panther about to spring upon him. It too had come to await the deer, but seeing the hunter apparently decided to have a change of diet. Before it could spring, the hunter's gun brought it tumbling to the ground. This incident shows the danger encountered on a hunting trip in early Hocking county. The wild cat inhabited the more rugged parts of the county, especially in Benton township, where the caves and grottos provided them with natural dens which sheltered them long after the passing of the bear and deer.

The pioneer hunted primarily for food and clothing, but when markets became available, many settlers turned to hunting principally for the hide or fur. This soon brought about the extermination of the larger animals and greatly limited the supply of smaller game. Logan became the trading center for the county where the pioneer brought his furs and skins and received credit accordingly. Since there was little money in circulation nearly all business was carried on by the barter system. The records of the general store at Logan for 1827 show that one John Smith received credit for 698 deer skins at an average price of twelve cents each. If however, a skin was tanned it brought seventy-five cents.  

9 Local tradition, Washington Twp.

All the large game soon disappeared and the small game was rapidly being depleted when most of the settlers found that by devoting more time to farming they were able to make a better living than by depending so much on hunting. The establishment of a general store at Logan encouraged the pioneer farmer to raise more grain, live stock, and poultry, since it gave him an outlet for his farm products. Previously to get to the nearest market necessitated a thirty miles journey over nearly impassable roads. Now, the distance being much shorter, the pioneer farmers built roads to the county seat where they could take their produce and receive in exchange manufactured goods.

In 1827 the farmer received credit for eggs at the rate of three cents a dozen; eight cents a pound for home made cheese; and one dollar for an ox yoke. Other articles acceptable in trade were flax seed, flint, bee's wax, antlers, brooms, lumber and live stock. They received in exchange such manufactured necessities as gun powder, shot, cutlery, salt, spiders, candles and whisky. The last item seems to have occupied a prominent place in exchange, for the demand for whisky was so great that one family alone bargained for two barrels within a period of four months, while others were satisfied with lesser quantities only because of the lack of
credit. Emergency supplies were high in proportion to the local rate of exchange, for the farmer received only three cents a dozen for eggs, yet he paid fifty cents a yard for muslin to make a shroud for a deceased member of his family. He was careful to purchase only six screws for the coffin lid and added the same number of boll bosses to mitigate the box like appearance of the coffin.\textsuperscript{11} Thus most of the people bought only those necessities that could not be produced on the farm.

The pioneer farmer and his family made on the farm such things as candles, soap, lye, hominy, clothing and blankets. The candles were made by melting a large kettle of candle tallow and dipping twisted wicks attached to sticks into the tallow. The wicks were quickly drawn out leaving a coating of tallow on them. When the tallow on the wick hardened, the process was repeated until a candle of the desired size was made.\textsuperscript{12} This process was very slow, which accounts for the fact that some people were buying factory made candles in 1827. Later, candle molds were placed on the market which made it possible to make them easily and quickly at home. Soap was a product always made in the home from rancid fats and lye made from wood ashes. Hominy was made by soaking

\textsuperscript{11}Ibid.

\textsuperscript{12}Hopley, loc. cit.
corn in home-made lye until the hull sloughed off. The lye was then washed out of the hominy which was then ready for cooking. The clothing for the entire family was made by the farmer's wife from the wool of the sheep which were raised on the farm. The farmer always kept at least two black sheep in his flock so that the blankets might be striped.\textsuperscript{13}

3. Farm Progress

The farmer of Hocking county was preceded by the French and English traders and the pioneer settlers. The French and English established fur trading posts and carried on a profitable trade with the Indians. The traders were followed by the pioneer settlers who divided their time between hunting and farming. Many of the pioneer settlers remained on the clearing only a few years and then moved further westward.\textsuperscript{14} Their clearings were taken over by the farmers who expected not only to make them their permanent homes, but desired to depend entirely on farming for a livelihood. The pioneer settler who remained gradually became a farmer as the price of farm products increased and the profits from hunting diminished. The transition came about more quickly to those of the pioneer settlers who found themselves on land suitable

\textsuperscript{13} Local tradition, Washington twp.

\textsuperscript{14} Hist. of Hook. V., p. 815.
for agriculture. The settler who located in Falls township found that the soil was more fertile here than at any other place in the county. This was especially true of the alluvial bottom land formed by the Eocking and its tributaries, Clear Fork and Scott's Creek. Since there was an abundance of water, this was an excellent stock growing district. Perry, Laurel, and the eastern part of Good Hope were other townships where agriculture could be carried on in all its phases. The settler who found himself in the townships which have very rough surfaces specialized in a crop that was more suitable to his land. Fruit raising and grazing were carried on extensively in most of these but since in all the rougher townships there was much fertile land along the small streams, general farming occupied a prominent place even here.

For years the progress of the farmer was very slow due to the lack of available markets. The cities of the Ohio and Mississippi could be reached only by a long journey on a flatboat down these rivers. The overland routes to Zanesville or Chillicothe were long and difficult and in bad

15 Ibid., pp.884-885.
16 Ibid., pp.1036,1072.
17 Hopley, loc. cit.
weather long hauls were nearly impossible due to the bad roads. Thus the prices paid for farm products were low, and since little outside trade was carried on, money was scarce, and so most of the business was carried on by the barter system. The local barter price for a bushel of wheat was thirty-seven and one-half cents; corn was twelve and one-half cents a bushel. Horses sold at prices ranging from twenty to forty dollars, cows from seven dollars and fifty cents to twelve dollars and fifty cents, and a yoke of oxen from twenty to twenty-five dollars. This condition existed for twenty-two years after the county was formed or until the Rocking canal gave an outlet to the agricultural products of the county.

The canal marked the beginning of a new era for the farmer of Hocking county. Before this time he could expect only a bare living; now in addition to a living he could make a profit. Information on all phases of agriculture began to appear in the local paper under the caption, "Agricultural." Such topics as "How to Raise Fruit Trees Every Year", "Staggers in Horses", "Young Pigs", "Crafting", and the "Destruction of Weeds" appeared every week in the Sentinel, and continued for many years, which seems to

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18 Hist. of Hock. V., pp. 816-817.

19 The Rocking Sentinel, March 10, 1851; May 12, 1853.
indicate that the farmers were eager to learn the more progressive methods of agriculture rather than to rely on the old methods of "signs" and the changes of the moon. On August 1, 1850, farmers were receiving sixty-five cents a bushel for wheat and thirty cents a bushel for corn, which was an average increase of fifty-two and one-half per cent over the earlier period on these two products alone. The percentage of increase in other farm products was in similar proportion, which helps to explain the fact that the population of the county increased nearly fifty per cent over that of 1840. The year 1853 seems to have been an encouraging one for the farmers. The price of wheat was seventy-eight cents a bushel. This was an increase of thirteen cents on the bushel over a three year period. Other farm products were nearly as high in proportion. This prosperity accounts for the formation on March 25, 1853, of "The Hocking County Agricultural Society" for the purpose of holding a fair and

20 Ibid, August 1850.


22 The Hocking Sentinel, March 17, 1853.
awarding premiums. 23 Two months later the managers of the society, which consisted of representatives from each township, met in Logan to select certain members of their organization to solicit additional memberships in the townships in order to raise funds for the society. The solicitors were urged to get as large a number of memberships as possible so that the managers would be able to determine the number of premiums to be awarded at the approaching fair. An initiation fee of one dollar annually was required of each member, which automatically made him eligible to receive a cash premium at the fair. 24 The quota was fixed at three hundred members. 25 The solicitors seem to have been successful, for within six weeks a long list of premiums was published, which was added to in the subsequent weeks as more memberships were reported. The final premium list was divided into nine major classifications as follows: horses, cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, domestic manufacturing, which included specimens of iron ore and stone coal, agricultural implements, mechanical

23 Ibid.

24 Ibid. June 30, 1853.

25 Ibid. June 16, 1853.
arts, and the sweepstakes. The last named classification consisted of live stock competition from other counties, the winner of which received a diploma. The cash premiums awarded to members of the society ranged from fifty cents to three dollars. 26 The fair was held October 18, 19, 1853, and was acclaimed by everyone to have surpassed expectations. The crowds were large, including many people from the surrounding counties, some of whom were quoted to the effect that it was the best agricultural fair that they had ever attended. 27 Its success is evidenced by the fact that the managers of the Agricultural Society purchased eight acres of land to be used as a permanent fair ground for the future. 28

The profits of the farmer were rapidly increasing and even greater profits were anticipated, for the railroad fever had struck Hocking county. The railroad idea found the farmer especially in a receptive mood. The benefits of the railroad, as it was pointed out by promoters, would increase the value of the farmer's property to such an extent

26 Ibid, July 7, 1853.

27 Ibid. October 20, 27, 1853.

28 Ibid. November 17, 1853.
that he could afford to buy stock at the rate of a fifty dollar share for each forty acres of land owned. Each fifty dollar share was to be worth $150 at the end of a two-year period, according to the promoters.\textsuperscript{29} These sales talks were repeated at the railroad meetings in each township of the county,\textsuperscript{30} with the result that the farmers became the owners of the major part of the railroad stock. The hard-earned, and even borrowed, money that the farmers put into this questionable stock proved to be not only a bad investment, but resulted in many cases in the complete financial ruin of the farmer. This was brought about by the great financial crisis of 1857 which resulted in the complete collapse of the railroad scheme and left the farmer with only the forfeited railroad bed as compensation for his investment.\textsuperscript{31} The farmers did not completely recover from this financial shock until after the Civil War.

\textsuperscript{29}\textit{Ibid}, August 19, 1861.

\textsuperscript{30}\textit{Ibid}, May 19, 1863.

\textsuperscript{31}\textit{Hist. of Hook}, I., p.141.
4. The Care of the Indigent Persons

The settlers of Rocking county were early faced with the problem of caring for their poor. This is borne out by the fact that the first tax levied by the trustees of Washington township was for the relief of indigent persons. Furthermore the first line of entry in the earliest records available for this township shows that $125.80 was the amount of money transferred from the 'Old Book' to the 'New Book' for the relief of the needy.\textsuperscript{32} The problem not only involved the expenditure of a major part of the township funds but it also occupied the major part of the business transacted by the trustees.

The procedure employed by the trustees in the care of the poor began when they were notified that a certain person who was a \textit{bona fide} resident of the township was unable to provide for himself. Thereupon the trustees posted notices stating that the indigent person was to be sold to the highest bidder. The man whose bid was accepted met with the trustees, who drew up a contract which was secured by the bond of the bidder consisting either of an amount of money greater than the bidder was to receive for his services to the indigent person or a bond guaranteed by an acceptable

\textsuperscript{32} "Records of the Proceeding of the Trustees of Washington Township," April 6, 1857.
person who would vouch for the bidder.

The first contract in the "New Book" stated that a certain bidder had put up a bond of fifty dollars in cash and had agreed to keep and maintain an indigent person for a period of one year. During this time the pauper was to receive sufficient meat, drink, clothing, and care in sickness, which, if necessitating the services of a physician, was to be paid by the trustees. In return for this service the bidder was to receive the sum of seventeen dollars when the contract was fulfilled.\(^3\) This particular bidder could not write his name, so, according to the customary practice, he made his mark. Perhaps his lack of ability to write indicated his lack of ability to drive a good bargain, for within a month the trustees agreed that he had forfeited his bond and nullified his contract by his failure to provide for the indigent person. Thereupon a new contract was entered into between the trustees and a new bidder who received seventy-five dollars a year for the care of the pauper.\(^4\) This incident proves that the trustees took every precaution necessary to secure the proper treatment of the poor and were ever on the alert to see that the contracts were executed in the proper spirit.

\(^{3}\) Ibid., May 1, 1857
In 1866 the trustees were unable to contract for the keep of a helpless and infirm old lady who had already been on the township for more than a decade. It seems that the poor fund was nearly exhausted and consequently the trustees were unable to pay an amount sufficient to compensate a bidder for the care of one so infirm. But pure charity was not wanting among Hocking county's early settlers. One of the trustees, Robert Gordon, agreed to keep the old lady until sufficient funds were available to make a bidder a profitable contract. In order to make the agreement legal Gordon contracted for the pauper's keep for the sum of one dollar a year.\footnote{Ibid, April 7, 1866.} After caring for the old lady for two years the trustees were again able to contract her keep for the sum of forty-nine dollars a year.\footnote{Ibid, March 2, 1866.} The last service rendered a pauper by the trustees was after his death when a coffin was made to order by the local carpenter at a cost of seven to fifteen dollars.

The burden of caring for the poor was cut to a minimum by the trustees by keeping close watch on all new arrivals in the township. The people of the township were quite willing to bear the expenses necessary to care for the aged bona fide residents who had become wards of the township.
either through their own mismanagement or by other unfortunate circumstances. But they were just as determined not to aid those who had drifted into the township and were potential wards. Thus persons who had recently moved into the township and who, it was thought, would soon be on the township were "warned out." This consisted of a writ issued by the trustees and served on the defendant by the constable. The writ simply stated that the defendant must leave the township as he could expect no support from the trustees. The constable served the writ by reading it to the defendant. 37 With the serving of the writ the trustees thereby released themselves from all obligations to aid the unfortunate newcomer. The total cost of serving the writ was about sixty cents, which included twenty-five cents for the reading and thirty-five cents for milage, which was paid to the constable. 38 Thus the trustees found an economical way of relieving the township tax situation. Incidentally a suspected drifter sometimes made good, as did the man on whom the above writ was served. He not only became a township trustee but became one of the wealthiest and most respected citizens of Hooking county. 39

37 Ibid., March 23, 1858.
38 Ibid.
39 An observation.
In 1859 Washington township was paying $260 for poor relief while other township expenses were only $100. 40 This burden was not removed from the shoulders of the township tax-payers until 1868 when the county assumed the obligation by establishing a county poor farm. 41 The county was much better equipped to handle the situation, and it relieved the township trustees of many lawsuits with the trustees of other townships to determine just who was compelled to support a certain indigent person. 42 This phase of poor relief alone necessitated the expenditure of much of the township's poor fund. However, the transition of the care of the poor and infirm from the township to the country occupied a period of three years. In the meantime the county, under the poor farm system, purchased two hundred and eighteen acres of land on which was erected an infirmary building which was ready for occupancy in the spring of 1871. In the fall of this year Washington township sent its last indigent person to the infirmary, thus ending a long period of hardship both for the paupers and the township. 43

40 Ibid. May 1859.
41 Hist.of Hock. V., p. 840.
42 "Records of Trustees of Wash. Twp.," March 4, 1872.
43 Ibid. October 10, 1871.
A poor child even as late as 1866, was sometimes apprenticed to some well-to-do family who would rear the child according to the articles of an Indenture of Apprenticeship drawn up by the trustees of the township and signed in their presence by the heads of both families. For example, a little girl seven years old was apprenticed to a certain family to learn the "trade or occupation" of general housekeeping. The master agreed, in addition, to teach or have taught reading, writing, and arithmetic "as would include the Single Rule of Three". He was to provide the child during her apprenticeship with board, washing, medicine, lodging, clothing, and all other things suitable and necessary for an apprentice. The child was to conduct herself properly and to serve her master faithfully until she was eighteen years of age. At the expiration of the term of service her master was to furnish her with a new Bible, two new suits of common wearing apparel, a bedstead and bedding.\footnote{Ibid. November 16, 1866.} Apparently the terms of this contract were carried out by both parties for there is no record of its being broken. This particular Indenture of Apprenticeship marks the end of such practices in Washington township, and perhaps in the county, for a children's home was soon established by the county to care for unfortunate children.\footnote{Hist. of Hook, V., p. 840.}
CHAPTER V
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

1. The River

The first means of transportation in Hocking county was afforded by the Hocking river, for it was this river that the first settlers followed to get to this county\(^1\) and for many years depended upon as the only practical outlet to the outside world. The local store-keepers purchased large quantities of butter, eggs, pork, lard, poultry, nuts, and dried apples and exported them to the river towns of the Ohio and even to New Orleans.\(^2\) This was accomplished by the use of large flatboats which had been built at the falls where the workman's ox-drawn carts had previously brought lumber and tools. The boats when completed were carefully loaded with the collected products; but since they drew so much water, it required a freshet which had to be patiently awaited to carry them off. When the boats reached their destination and their products were sold, the owners, leaving the boats behind, returned to Logan sometimes covering the last lap of the journey from Cincinnati on foot.\(^3\) This laborious and hazardous method of transportation was a serious hindrance to the rapid

\(^1\)Howe, op. cit., Vol.I, p.927.

\(^2\)Hopley, loc. cit.

\(^3\)Ibid.

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development of the county. However, it was continued even after the completion of the more adequate Bocking canal. The last recorded instance of a flatboat on the Hocking river was in 1843 when a boat which was built at Wolf's mill stuck on a dam near Nelsonville due to the fall of the river. The boat, after being partially unloaded, was drawn off the dam by oxen and continued on its journey to the Ohio.  

When the county was organized, the problems of transportation fell to the commissioners who at their first meeting, April 23, 1818, found it necessary to fix the price of ferriage across the river. The following prices were finally decided upon: for a man and horse, twelve and one-half cents; footman, six and one-fourth cents; four horse wagon not loaded, twenty-five cents; and a one horse cart or wagon loaded, eighteen and three-fourths cents. The use of a ferry as a method of crossing the river continued until a bridge was built across it at the Falls in 1829.

2. The First Roads

The desire for a permanent overland means of transportation to supplant the packhorse ushered in a great era of county road

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4 C.W.L. Wiseman, Centennial History of Lancaster, Ohio (Wiseman, 1898), pp. 8-9.

5 Hist. of Hock. V., p. 821.

6 The Democrat-Sentinel, October 23, 1934.
building in 1819. In June of that year the commissioners ordered a road thirty-three feet wide to be opened to the Jackson county line. The next year two main roads, each forty feet wide, were opened: one to Sunday Creek toward Marietta, and the other to the county line toward Chillicothe. Between 1823 and 1826 two more roads were opened. One of these was built along the river to the Fairfield county line and the other was made toward McConnelsville. Seven years later the state opened a road from Logan to Thornville. Thus Hocking county in this early period had six main roads all leading to the principal towns in the surrounding counties. A lull in road building followed until the spring of 1863 when petitions for seven new roads and one alteration were received by the commissioners. The trustees of each township ordered roads built in their townships to connect the county roads. As early as 1832 the trustees of Washington township ordered a road cut through the woods from a point near Ilesborough to the McArthur road. Thus after a quarter

7*Hist. of Hock. V.,* p.822.
11*The Hocking Sentinel,* May 12, 1853.
12*Hist. of Hock. V.,* p.1075.
of a century of road-building the county commissioners and
the township trustees had finally completed an adequate
network of roads which provided access for every resident
to the outside world.

As the Hocking river in the early days was the only
practical means of exporting farm products, the covered
wagon now became the only practical means of importing
manufactured goods, which were brought from Zanesville to
Logan, the distributing center of the community. These
covered wagons were drawn by horses which announced their
approach by the bells that were hung around their necks.
When the goods were unloaded, the owner of the wagon drove
to the commons where he tied the horses to his wagon, and
then crawling into it himself, he lay down to sleep knowing
that his large dog would keep the watch. Perhaps sufficient
manufactured goods could be imported in this primitive
manner, but as an outlet for the farm products of the county
this method proved inadequate, for the mud roads in winter
became nearly impassable while in the summer farmers were
too busy in the fields to make long hauls. Therefore a
good profitable method of exporting their produce was still
wanting. Neither the river nor the roads were the complete

13 Hopley, loc. cit.

14 Ibid.

15 Hist. of Hock. V., p. 816.
answer to the prosperity of the community, although certainly a step forward.

3. The Canal

In 1830 the main line of the Ohio Canal was completed through Carroll, Fairfield county. From this point a short lateral canal, known as the "side cut", was constructed to Lancaster. This extension became known as the Hocking Canal. In 1835 came the welcome news that this "side cut" was to be extended into Hocking county. In July of the next year a sixteen-and-one-half-mile portion of the canal was put under contract from Lancaster to Bower's lock in Hocking county. In 1837 the contract was let from Bower's lock to Nelsonville, which would bring the canal past Logan. While the first portion was under construction the "side cut" proved to be such a public necessity that the Board of Public Works decided to purchase if for the state. This became a fact by an act of the legislature authorizing the canal commissioners to purchase the "side cut", which was effected December 12, 1838, much to the joy of the people of Hocking county. In the meantime work on the first part

of the canal was pushed rapidly forward and completed in 1839. The other portion, however, was not completed until 1840, one year later than per contract. In September of this year the canal was opened for business by the passing of the first boat up the canal loaded with coal. The spectacle not only aroused great interest but brought a concrete realization that the much wanted canal was now an accomplished fact.\textsuperscript{17}

In October, 1840, the boat A. McGaw brought a large number of visitors to Logan to hear a political speech in the log-cabin hard-cider campaign of that year.\textsuperscript{18} This marked the beginning of regular canal boat transportation. By 1853 boats were making tri-weekly trips through Hocking county. The first of the tri-weekly boats was the luxurious packet, Athens, which carried passenger, mail, and goods between Lancaster and Athens. The first captain, Jim Reed, did much to popularize this mode of travel in Hocking county, for it is said that he exerted every effort to make comfortable all those who chose this manner of transportation.\textsuperscript{19}

\textsuperscript{17} Hist. of Hocking, Vol. 1, p. 131.

\textsuperscript{18} Ibid., p. 897.

\textsuperscript{19} The Hocking Sentinel, May 26, 1853.
The canal was the first public improvement which really opened up the rich resources of the county and provided an outlet for the produce of the valley.\textsuperscript{20} From this time the county seat, Logan, began to show such remarkable signs of progress that the editor of the \textit{Sentinel} could write that evidences of prosperity presented themselves to every observer.\textsuperscript{21}

4. The Stage and The Mail

The stage coach made its appearance in Hocking county sometime previous to 1850, for by this time overland stage mail routes had been established between Logan, McArthur, Chillicothe, and New Lexington.\textsuperscript{22} Since these were relatively less important routes, it is safe to conjecture that lines were established down the Hocking valley some years earlier. These early lines carried the mail tri-weekly from Lancaster through Logan to Athens and Pomeroy. Later this stage line made daily runs and was extended to Columbus.\textsuperscript{23} Advertisements in the local paper show that a stage line between Logan and Zanesville was a going concern in 1852,\textsuperscript{24} and a similar

\textsuperscript{20} Howes, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 928.

\textsuperscript{21} The \textit{Hocking Sentinel}, April 24, 1851.

\textsuperscript{22} \textit{Hist. of Hock. V.}, pp. 805-851, 1073.

\textsuperscript{23} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{24} The \textit{Hocking Sentinel}, July 20, 1852.
advertisement shows that a new stage line between Logan and Newark was ready for business in the spring of 1853. In 1856 business on the valley line increased to such an extent that two daily stages were placed on the line between Logan and Lancaster, while only one daily continued to Columbus and Pomeroy. Stage transportation reached its zenith in Hocking county when the valley line began to run three or four extras, in addition to those trips made by the regularly scheduled stages. It is said that at this time there were ninety-eight horses and twelve drivers kept in constant service. The large number of horses in contrast to the relatively small number of drivers bears out the fact that the roads were extremely bad and necessitated the use of many horses. The roads were full of deep ruts which, when filled with mud and water, often caused the stage to stick fast. It then became the prerogative of the male passengers aboard to alight and help pry up the wheels, with the aid of a fence rail, so that the stage might continue. Many passengers found that time could be gained by walking up the long hills, which not only lightened the stage's load but gave the passengers time to stretch.

25 Ibid. April 21, 1853.

26 Hist. of Hocking. V., pp. 850-851.

27 Ibid.
their legs, for the cramped and crowded stage with accommodations both within and on top was at best rough riding.28

Stage accidents were quite common at this time due to the overloading of the coaches by the management in order to save the added expense of running extras. It was customary to pile in passengers and baggage as long as there was any space left inside or on top. One such coach which upset and seriously injured two passengers, carried fifteen persons, including five or six men riding on top with the baggage. This rendered the stage top-heavy, so that a trifling jolt had caused it to turn over. An increasing number of these accidents apparently prompted the editor of the Sentinel to call attention to the cause of the accidents and to place the blame justly on the management,29 who having now been exposed, hastened to place additional extras on the line.

In 1855 appeared another grievance against the stage lines and the mail contractors, namely, the irregular arrival of the mail during the previous two years, for the so called daily mail was now arriving tri-weekly. The editor of the Sentinel announced that this was an outrage to which the people of the

28 Hopley, loc. cit.

29 The Hoising Sentinel, September 15, 1853.
county would no longer submit. No doubt outbursts of this sort spurred the citizens to exert so much pressure on the profit seeking contractors that they were forced to comply with the demands of the public, for in April, 1856, the word, "regular," was added to all advertisements of mail coach lines. Three months later mail schedules began to appear in the local paper announcing the arrival and departure of the mails. Apparently the matter had now taken a satisfactory turn in the interests of the people.

5. The Railroad

Sometime previous to March 1834, the iron horse, the newest and fastest method of transportation of the times, was rumored to be on its way to Fauquier county, for on that date the State Legislature passed an act authorizing the construction of a railroad from Lancaster to the Ohio river. But nothing was done under this act for the more tangible and less expensive prospects of the Fauquier canal supplanted the railroad idea. It was not until 1850, sixteen years later that the prospects of building a railroad again caused a

30 Ibid., December 6, 1855; December 12, 1856.
31 Ibid., April 24, 1856.
32 Ibid., July 10, 1856.
33 Hist. of Hook. V., p.138.
34 Ibid.
great fever in Hocking county. The local paper expounded its advantages to the community in opening up the vast stores of mineral wealth in the county, consisting of almost inexhaustible quantities of iron and immense quantities of coal. It was pointed out that the development of these rich resources would be of incalculable benefit to the citizens of the county. Therefore, it was urged that the people act speedily and energetically in the matter in order to get the railroad to pass through Hocking county. The cause of this outburst of persuasive eloquence was the information received from an article in the Lancaster Gazette that the Scioto and Hocking Valley Railroad had completed a survey to Jackson and wished to continue it to Logan if the people of Hocking county desired it.

The county took no active steps until June, 1852, when a meeting was called at Logan to consider the feasibility and importance of the railroad. The consensus of opinion of this meeting seems to have been favorable, for a committee was appointed whose sole duty was to further the interests

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35 The Hocking Sentinel, November 21, 1850.

36 Ibid.

37 The Lancaster Gazette, cited in the Hocking Sentinel, November 21, 1850.
of the railroad. The committee performed its mission so well that the railroad movement gained in momentum until it culminated in the greatest railroad meeting ever held in the Hocking valley. This meeting was held at Logan, September 2, 1852. It began at daybreak when amid the booming of cannons the citizens of Logan greeted five thousand visitors from the surrounding counties. When General Worthington had finished addressing the multitude, a procession was formed, and headed by a band, proceeded to a grove outside the town where a great barbecue was held. When the oratory and merrymaking had ceased, it was decided that eighty thousand dollars would be Hocking county's share in building the railroad from Portsmouth through Logan to Newark.

The excitement and interest of the people were further stimulated by a series of township meetings held at stated places which were announced in the local paper under the heading, "Railroad Meeting ---- Turn Out." The Hocking Sentinel showed its enthusiasm by sketching a picture of

38 The Hocking Sentinel, July 1, 1852.

39 Ibid, September 9, 1852.

40 Ibid, September 23, 1852.

41 Ibid, May 19, 1852.
a train on the front page between the title words Hooking and Sentinel.\textsuperscript{42} Articles on the progress of the railroad appeared weekly under the caption, "Railroad Intelligence."\textsuperscript{43} The citizens were so eager for such news that the local business men took advantage of their interest by calling attention to advertisements by first stating in large type, "The Iron Horse is Coming."\textsuperscript{44}

In 1853 the line was completed to Jackson but during the next two years the difficulties attending a financial crisis delayed operations.\textsuperscript{45} For a time the work on the Maxwell tunnel was entirely suspended but it was resumed in the fall of 1855. It was stated at this time that the remainder of the line was nearly graded and could be completed in a very short time. But a complete recovery from the financial crisis was not enjoyed for a total collapse followed in the money panic of 1857.\textsuperscript{46} Consequently, the mortgaged road bed and the right of way were foreclosed upon and both were forfeited to the land owners who held most of the stock.\textsuperscript{47} Thus the

\textsuperscript{42} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{43} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{44} Ibid, October 7, 1852.

\textsuperscript{45} Ibid, September 13, 1855.

\textsuperscript{46} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{47} Hist. of Hook, V., p.139-140.
projected Scioto and Hocking Valley Railroad ended in failure and as a result a calm settled over Hocking county.

The Scioto and Hocking Valley Railroad was not the only one projected during the great fever. On May 21, 1853, representatives of the citizens of Logan held a meeting at Nelsonville where it was decided that it was imperative that a railroad should be constructed from Parkersburg through Logan to Columbus. Authority was given to a committee to organize a company for the construction of the road. The people of Logan were not surprised when within three months a company was organized with a capital of two million dollars for the construction of the project. Immediate steps were taken to requisition the amount of stock subscribed, to survey the road, and to place it under contract as soon as possible. However, the prospects of a rapidly constructed railroad were soon shattered by the first financial crisis which had proved so disastrous to the Scioto and Hocking Valley Railroad. As a result, the project had to be abandoned. During the years that followed, another company was formed but it also was rendered inactive by the Panic of 1857. Then came the Civil

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48 *The Hocking Sentinel*, June 2, 1853.


50 *Hist. of Hock*. V., pp. 138-139.

War which absorbed the attention and energies of the people and prevented any further consideration of the railroad.

When the long uncertain period of the Civil War had ended, the people of the community, notwithstanding the misfortunes attending the earlier projects, were determined to realize their ambition. Thus in 1865 the Mineral Railroad Company was organized and at the very first public meeting on February 16, 1866, steps were taken which resulted in the free acquisition in most cases of a right of way through Hocking county. By December 19, 1866, the total contributions and subscriptions had exceeded by four thousand dollars the seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars required of Hocking county. J.C. Garrett of this county was elected to the board of directors, under whose guidance the first railroad was actually completed through Hocking county to the Athens county line, June 29, 1869. The first locomotive, attached to a construction train, entered Hocking county during the second week of June, 1869, and created such excitement as to be comparable only to that which existed among the people when the war ended.

52 Ibid., p.142.
53 Ibid.
54 The Hocking Sentinel, June 17, 1869.
The first through freight train from Nelsonville passed through Logan August 24, 1869, carrying in the caboose the officials of the road who in passing saluted the citizens of Logan by firing a cannon. Thus thirty-five years after the people's first dream of the iron horse, they awoke to find the railroad an accomplished fact. The tremendous welcome acclamining this iron benefactor attests the importance of this method of transportation to the varied interests of Hocking county.

6. Communication

The mail provided an early means of communication with the outside world. The first post office to be established within the present limits of Hocking county was at Starr in Starr township in 1815 with Henry O'Neill as postmaster. Two years later in 1817 a post office was established at Logan. President Monroe appointed Dutton Lane postmaster. Lancaster seems to have been the distributing center for the mail for this area, for in 1827 proposals for carrying the mail were received at the general post office in that town.

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55Ibid., August 26, 1869.
56Hist. of Hock. V., p.1038.
57Ibid., p.899.
58The Gazette, Lancaster, August 21, 1827.
The route passed once a week from Lancaster through Logan to Gallipolis, a distance of sixty-two miles. The post office at Logan served as the distributing center for the mail of the county. Citizens in the vicinity of Logan who failed to call for their mail after thirty days found their names appearing in the local paper as a reminder under the heading, "List of Letters." As the population of the county grew, post offices were established gradually in all the townships, usually at the village store. The Sentinel announced in 1850 that a new post office had been established at Chapman's store in Washington township in the village of Swine, and in 1856 a new post office was announced at Black Jack in Laurel township. The announcements were always accompanied by the statement that the citizens of that particular community had no excuse for not receiving the Rocking Sentinel.

59 Ibid.
60 The Rocking Sentinel, October 24, 1850.
61 Ibid, October 10, 1850.
62 Ibid, August 4, 1856.
63 Ibid.
In 1851 the telegraph, the instantaneous means of communication, had reached Hocking county which tends to show the progressive tendency of the community in the early acceptance of this new instrument. The telegraphic extension was made from Lancaster to Logan on December 8, 1851. Thus the news of the world was brought to Hocking county, reaching the citizens via the local paper under the title, "Telegraphia."

64 Ibid., December 11, 1851.

65 Ibid., September 13, 1855.
CHAPTER VI

RELIGION AND EDUCATION

1. The Ministerial Lands

The religious history of Hocking county begins with the acquisition of the eastern part of Hocking territory by the Ohio Company. The members of this company, being from Puritan New England, believed that the church should be endowed with land for its support and that the state should be the trustee of the endowment. Acting on this principle a resolution was passed by Congress, July 23, 1807, providing that lot number twenty-nine in each township be given perpetually for the purpose of religion. This arrangement applied only to Ward township, for it was in a second grant to the Ohio Company that the townships of Green and Starr were included. The agreement made in the second grant differed slightly from the first but worked toward the same end. The difference lies in the fact that Congress reserved nothing for the purpose of religion in the second purchase, but the

\[\text{\textsuperscript{1}}\text{W.E. Peters, Ohio Lands and Their History (Lawhead, 1930), p.71.}\]
\[\text{\textsuperscript{2}}\text{Ibid, p.387-390.}\]
\[\text{\textsuperscript{3}}\text{Ibid, p.391.}\]
\[\text{\textsuperscript{4}}\text{Ibid, p.71.}\]

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trustees of the company did what Congress refused to do a second time and resolved on January 7, 1796, to set aside section twenty-nine in each township for the purpose of religion within the township and provided that the land should be leased by the inhabitants for a term not exceeding seven years at any one time. The state legislature was designed as the trustee of these ministerial lands. However, the legislature generally delegated the power of the execution of the leases to three trustees of the original surveyed township to which the land belonged. For many years the ministerial lands of Hocking county were leased for farming purposes by the trustees, who divided section twenty-nine into lots varying from eighty acres to one quarter section. Only one lot was leased to each person and the leases were for a term of ninety-nine years renewable forever, for six


7 Apparently the resolution of 1796 by the trustees of the Ohio Company was amended by acts of the legislature. *Ohio Laws*, XXIX, p.490, LIV, p.66, LXXXII, p.256, cited in W.E. Peters, "Abstract of The Legal Title of The Ohio Company to Land in Southeastern Ohio", Section 30.
per cent of the land appraised value. This agreement was subject to change every fifteen years, at which time the original lessee was always given preference. Rents were due on the first Monday of December annually. Perhaps this encouragement to religion caused the General Assembly to send missionaries to establish preaching places in Hocking county.9

2. The Establishment of Churches

The early settlers, before the coming of the missionaries and the building of churches, showed their devotion to the principles of religion through family worship or family prayer which was held once or twice a day. The head of the house conducted the services, which were begun by calling the family to order, after which a chapter from the Bible was read. Then followed the singing of a hymn whose title and tune were announced by the leader by commencing to sing it. The services were brought to a close by a most fervent prayer.10 Occasionally and later, regularly, itinerant preachers visited the homes of pious families, whose neighbors joined them in worship. The pioneer ministers were noted for their elocutionary and

8 Ibid.


10 Hist. of Hocking Co., pp. 55-56.
persuasive oratory, 11 which was the source of a philosophy of life for the pioneer and inspired the erection of places of worship whose civilizing influence was widespread.

The first of the pioneer preachers to hold a religious meeting in Hocking county was the Reverend James Quinn, a Methodist, who stopped at the great falls in 1799 to preach to the three families who resided in that neighborhood. 12 The first preacher associated strictly with Hocking county was David Drather, who began preaching in 1808 or 1809, holding religious meetings in all parts of the county, especially in the southeastern section. 13 The Reverend Benjamin Webb, another pioneer preacher, who settled in Falls-Gore township in 1816, was the founder of Webb’s Chapel, the first Methodist church and the oldest place of worship in the county. 14 In about 1817 Governor Worthington dedicated the first Methodist log church in Logan. In his dedicatory address he expressed his sympathy with the movement and warmly commended the new enterprise, saying that it spoke

11 Ibid.
12 Wiseman, op. cit., p. 15.
13 Hist. of Hock., V., p. 616.
14 Ibid., p. 1040.
well for the community to start a church. About a decade later Woodard's Chapel of the same denomination was organized in Starr township and in 1832 the first branch of the church was established in South Perry in Laurel township. In 1842 a Methodist church was founded at Ilesborough, Washington township. Because of its early start, the Methodist Episcopal became the most popular church in the county. In the eighties there were approximately forty-nine churches of some ten different denominations, of which about one-third of the entire number were Methodist.

The United Brethren Church, ranking second in popularity, was first represented in the county by pioneer preachers who established preaching places in the homes of the members shortly after 1800. This denomination was represented in all the townships and remained entirely a rural church until 1891.


16 "South Perry M.E. Church", Ibid.

17 Hist. of Hook. V., p.1073.

18 Ibid. pp.888-1148, (about the year 1883).

19 "A Brief History of the United Brethren Church of Logan, Ohio", The Democrat-Sentinel, October 25, 1934.
This church comprised approximately one-fourth of the total number of churches in the county. 20

The Presbyterian church was founded in Starr township in 1821 by John A. Butin, an emigrant from New York state, whose cabin became a place for his neighbors to hold religious meetings. In 1829 the Reverend George W. Warner, a young missionary, established a preaching place at the Butin cabin, and in 1833 a church was built in Logan. 21

Another was located in Perry township, 22 making a total of three in the county. The small number of Presbyterian churches was compensated for by the large and influential church in Logan, which was the center of Presbyterianism in Hocking county.

Lutheranism was brought to the county by the German settlers between 1822 and 1833. The first meetings were held in the Scott's Creek school house probably by an itinerant pastor. The church's earliest records show that a baptism took place April 20, 1836. In 1844 a church was

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20 Hist. of Hocking, V., pp. 866-1146.


22 Hist. of Hocking, V., p. 1107.
built at Ewing and in 1852 one was organized in Logan.\textsuperscript{23} Lutherans and Dunkards each built two churches in Marion township, making a total of six non-Catholic German churches, or about one-eighth of the total number of churches in the county.\textsuperscript{24}

Catholicism was brought to the county in 1837 by a colony of Germans from Alsace, France, who settled on the hills surrounding Logan. Services were held from house to house in 1839 by R. Rokel. In 1841 and 1842 a log church was built which served as a place of worship until a church was organized at Logan in 1859.\textsuperscript{25} A German Catholic church was also established in Good Hope township,\textsuperscript{26} making a total of two such churches in the county.

The Baptists, a popular denomination among the earliest settlers, built their first church in Perry township in 1820.\textsuperscript{27}

\textsuperscript{23} "Scott's Creek School House was Meeting Place of Lutherans," \textit{The Democrat-Sentinel}, October 25, 1934.

\textsuperscript{24} \textit{Hist. of Hook. V.}, p.1148. (about the year 1883).

\textsuperscript{25} "St. John's Catholic Church," \textit{The Democrat-Sentinel}, October 25, 1934.

\textsuperscript{26} \textit{Hist. of Hook. V.}, p.1142.

\textsuperscript{27} \textit{Ibid.}, p.1104.
Later, churches were erected in Benton, Laurel and Falls townships. Before 1863 the church in Perry township had been abandoned, and in the other townships meetings were held irregularly, indicating that this early denomination was on the decline in this county. But this church, as well as many other lesser denominations, served its purpose in raising the standards of morality in Hocking county.

3. The Influence of the Church

The establishment of churches in all parts of the county was sorely needed, for the notorious reputation of Logan, the county seat, had traveled as far east as Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware, where as late as 1840 prospective settlers were given the following advice: "never come to Logan, as it was infested with robbers, horse thieves, and the vilest of all God's race,---that it was unsafe for a civilized person to live there in peace." By 1853 the editor of the Sentinel could boast that the vicinity had "been rid of its pests" and that the community was as quiet and peaceable as any in the state. Certainly the civilizing

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28 Ibid p.888,1092,1131.


30 An editorial, The Hocking Sentinel, May 26, 1853.

31 Ibid.
influence of the church played no small part in this transition. Even as early as 1832 the whole community was becoming impressed with the splendid work of the church, for in that year Reverend McBay, a Presbyterian minister, held a protracted meeting of sixteen days duration in a new unoccupied store room in Logan. It is said that people came in torch-lighted covered wagons for miles around to attend these meetings, and that the impression made on the citizens of Hocking county were never forgotten.32

Perhaps the greatest direct service rendered by the church of Logan was breaking the domination of the liquor element which controlled the city. At one time, it is said that the groups who frequented the saloons had become so powerful that no candidate for public office could hope to be elected without their support. Apparently the women of the different churches in Logan organized a crusade against this evil usurpation, and finally smashed that influence even though it necessitated praying before the very doors of the saloons.33 This typical example of the increasing power and

32 Hopley, loc. cit.

influence of the church manifested itself in the stabilization of society within the county and the creation of an atmosphere where only the good could prevail.

4. The Effects of Educational Legislation on the Early Schools of Hocking County

The foundation for education in what is now Hocking county was laid thirteen years before the first permanent settler arrived. In 1785 an ordinance was passed by Congress which provided that section sixteen in each township should be reserved from sale for the maintenance of the public schools of the township. Then followed the famous ordinance of 1787 for the government of the Northwest Territory, which stated that "schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged." This idea was specifically applied in Hocking county to the townships of Starr, Green, and Ward, which were directly under the control of the Ohio Company, whose contract with the government declared that one section in each township should be reserved for common schools. The


35 Ibid.

36 Ibid.
remaining townships in Hocking county were included in the Congress lands, which also had section sixteen set aside for the support of the schools.\textsuperscript{37} Thus a foundation was laid on which schools might be organized.

The earliest state legislation that had any bearing on the organization of the schools was the Act of January 2, 1806, which established the method of incorporating the township. This act provided that when there were twenty qualified voters in any originally surveyed township, they were authorized to elect three trustees and one treasurer to care for the school land in the township. The trustees were authorized to lay out school districts and use the funds from the school lands to support the schools.\textsuperscript{38} However, in 1814 this law was amended so as to make it easier for a school district to be established. The amendment provided that any six householders could apply to the trustees of the township to establish a school district and that those applying could choose three school trustees who were to get from the teacher a certified list of the number of pupils and the length of

\textsuperscript{37}Ibid.

time each had been taught. The list was presented to the township trustees who were to use it as a basis for the distribution of the funds received from the school lands.\footnote{Ibid., pp. 26–27.}

Under the law of 1814 the primitive schools of Hocking county had their beginning. However, these foundation laws were not compulsory, which left education entirely in the hands of the community. There was no state school law to guide the people, so they had to rely upon the ideas that they had brought with them from the state from which they had migrated. Those settlers from New England brought with them the traditional Puritan idea of the importance of education. The German settlers were less interested in schools and gave little attention to the matter in the beginning. Thus the education of the children depended entirely on the previous environment and background of the parents. Moreover, the first schools of Hocking county were not free schools and, strictly speaking, not public schools, for the income from the land granted for this purpose was not yet available and school taxes were unknown. Thus the full responsibility of education rested on the parents, who could either teach their children themselves or pay a qualified neighbor for this service, which was performed only during his spare time.
The first tangible signs of education in Hocking county manifested themselves when Henry O'Neill, the first school teacher to live in the county, made his appearance in Starr township in 1810. Whether he taught in the township is not definitely known but the simple fact that he was known as a "highly educated school teacher" supports the conclusion that he gave instruction in his home to his own as well as to the neighbor's children, who came from families recently arrived from New England. Later a log school house was built on the O'Neill homestead where formal school was held by Hannah Clapp, the school's first teacher, who came to Starr township from Maryland in 1816. In the meantime the people of Perry township, which was noted throughout the county for its men of education and prominence, had built a log school building by 1820. These were subscription schools with the teacher boarding around at the homes of the pupils. Only those pupils whose parents were able to pay tuition were permitted to attend. However, this particular feature was

40 *Hist. of Hock.* V., p.1037.


changed in 1821 when the first general school law was enacted.

The law of 1821 provided that the township be divided into school districts, each district to elect annually a school committee of three directors and a collector who collected fees from those parents who sent children to the school. Then followed the most revolutionary provision of the act, namely, that the trustees should have the power to levy a small tax for the purpose of paying the tuition of the poor children in the district and of erecting school houses.\(^4\)

The real significance of this provision was that it was the forerunner of free schools in Hocking county, which however, did not make their appearance until 1826. In this year the subscription school came to an end, for a law was enacted which provided that the property of all the people should be taxed for the support of schools.\(^5\) Thus Hocking county's first free schools came into being. But this general taxing idea for the support of free schools seems to have had little encouragement at first, for the county treasurer's report

\(^{44}\) Miller, loc. cit., p. 31

\(^{45}\) Ibid.
for the year 1827 shows that on each hundred dollar valuation of property only five cents was allocated for the support of schools, while of the remaining ninety-five cents, sixty-five cents was designated for other county purposes, and thirty cents was turned over to the state.46

The School Law of 1825 marks the beginning of county supervision over all the schools of the townships. The law not only made the county authorities responsible for the collection and distribution of school tax but it provided that the Court of Common Pleas appoint a Board of School Examiners who were to examine teachers in reading, writing, and arithmetic and issue certificates.47 The examiners at first posted and later published notices in the local paper giving the time and place in each township where the teacher's examinations were to be given. The examiners added the warning that at no other time would teacher's certificates be granted.48 Later the examiners held all their meetings at the courthouse at Logan instead of holding them in each township.49

46 The Lancaster Gazette, August 28, 1827.
47 Miller, loc. cit., p.31.
48 The Hocking Sentinel, June 2, 1853.
49 Ibid., January 31, 1856.
In 1829 a law was passed which required a minimum of three months of school a year for schools receiving funds raised by taxation. Later an amendment to this law in 1836 provided that additional taxes should be levied to provide six months of schooling to all white children. The clerks of the townships were to supervise the school districts and make estimates of the amount needed to make it possible to have six months of school. These estimates were submitted to the auditor, who was made supervisor of all the schools in Hocking county. This law was not compulsory but it did encourage a longer school term, which was decided by the voters by simply voting "yes" or "no". It seems that in Hocking county most of the votes were in the negative, for in 1841 the average length of the school term was still three months. At this time there were ninety-four school districts in the county with ninety-four teachers, of whom two thirds were male. The average teacher's salary per term was about twenty dollars, or about six dollars and sixty cents per month.

50 Miller, loc. cit., p. 56.
51 Ibid.
52 Ibid.
53 Report of The Secretary of State on The Condition of the Common Schools...Ohio, (1841, 1842, 1854) p. 44 et passim.
Thus the citizens of Hocking county were spending only thirty-six cents a pupil per year for education at this time.

The school houses of this period were built of rough logs and were very poorly equipped. In the year 1841 the county built four new log school buildings at a cost of sixty-eight dollars and seventy-five cents each. 54 These buildings were later described as small, primitive, homely and furnished in the most frugal style. 55 The writing desk was made of heavy oak plank supported by heavy pins that had been driven into one side of the wall. The floor was made of heavy slabs laid upon sleepers. There were no bells in the buildings, as in later years, so the children were called to their lessons by the teacher who called, "books! books!" at the door. 56 These log school buildings were built in more or less modified form up to and through the sixties. It is said that as late as 1862 nearly all the school buildings in Hocking county were built of logs. 57

54 Ibid.
55 Hist. of Hock. V., p. 1149.
56 Ibid. pp. 64-65.
57 Ibid. p. 837.
In 1853 a new school law was enacted which provided for the levying of a state school tax guaranteeing free education, which included a tax for furnishing libraries to the schools of the counties. The law further provided that every township constituted a school district, which must be divided into three sub-districts, each to send a representative to a body known as the Board of Education. Each sub-district must elect three Directors who were to hold office for three year, two year, and one year according to the number of votes each received. The Directors must employ the teachers for the sub-districts and control school affairs. The law also extended the school term to seven months and limited the validity of teacher's certificates to two years. The requirements of teachers were raised by this law which required examinations in orthography, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography and English grammar. The examiners' fees were fixed at one dollar and fifty cents a day while on duty. This law became the basic law on which the schools of the county operated for years and was a great victory for the friends of public schools in Hocking county.56 The law bore its first fruit in the fall of 1854 when the county received its first school library which

perhaps was due to a relatively unimportant provision of the school code, but which was nevertheless, a concrete indication of the aid the law was to bring in the future. The Board of Education immediately made rather strict rules governing the use of the books. One rule provided a fine of ten cents a day for those who kept a book longer than a week. 59

The people of the county had become somewhat book conscious since 1853 when Pinneo's new series of English text books were introduced to the teachers and Boards of Education of the county. The series consisted of a "Primary Grammar", "Analytical Grammar", and the "English Teacher", which were represented as a complete, natural, and easy system of graduated instruction in grammar and analysis. The closely related subject of spelling was given impetus at this time by the introduction of McGuffey's "Newly Revised Selectic Spelling Book" to the schools of Hocking county. 60

5. The Public Versus the Select Schools

The advent of the free public school in Hocking county was not welcomed by all the people, for the subscription school had tended to draw a well-to-do or select class of

59 The Hocking Sentinel, November 15, 1854.

60 Ibid, May 26, 1853.
children. Such a school, to those who could afford it, was quite satisfactory. However, the parents of these children were now taxed to support the free public schools, which brought a poorer group of children to school and which not only made larger classes but, due to inadequate funds, lowered the school standards. To these schools then, many people were reluctant to send their children, especially those parents who thought they had already something better. Thus for many years there existed the greatest rivalry, especially in Logan, between the established select schools and the free public schools.

Naturally the select schools were supported and promoted by some of the leading families of Logan who were not yet convinced of the great possibilities of the free school, since it had none of the polish nor formalities found in the select schools. One of these niceties required the boys to bow and the girls to curtay when they entered the classroom. This emphasis on manners seems to indicate that many people wished to overcome the crude frontier manners and ungrammatical speech of the earlier period and give their children the type of training offered the eastern seminaries. The most obvious prerequisite for good manners and grammatical

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61 Hopley, loc. cit.
speech was the study of English which had been accelerated in Hocking county by the recent introduction of Pinneo's new English series. Therefore, on June 14, 1852, an English Select School was opened in Logan which was advertised to give instruction in all English subjects. The tuition fee was fixed at two dollars and twenty-five cents per student per quarter and an additional twenty-five cent fee was required for each course in orthography or other higher subjects.\textsuperscript{62} In addition to the select schools there were the well known singing schools where a course in this cultural art could be had for a small fee.\textsuperscript{63}

The passage of the school law of 1853 was a great victory for the friends of the public schools in Hocking county. In August of this year a scholarly appeal was made to the supporters of the select schools to reconsider their decision and support the public schools, which were now promoted by the Board of Education. It was admitted that this was the only question on which the citizens of the county were not united. It was also pointed out that the chaotic conditions in California at this time were due to the lack of support given the public schools, wherein the masses of the people

\textsuperscript{62} The Hocking Sentinel, June 3, 1852.

\textsuperscript{63} Ibid, May 26, 1853.
might be educated. It was declared that education was more important than religion, for without education religion degenerates into bigotry, intolerance, and fanaticism. These arguments were augmented by the fact that the new school law provided much more money for the operation of the public schools which needed only to be properly supported to be made superior to any other type of school.\footnote{Ibid.}

In September following the enactment of the new school law a public school official announced that the new law was working well and that this fact alone would sell the people on collective instruction;\footnote{Ibid.} that is, the class reciting as a unit rather than each pupil individually, as was customary in the select schools. To prove this point the superintendent of schools invited the parents to visit the public schools so that they might judge for themselves and not condemn the new system without investigation.\footnote{Ibid.}

Nevertheless, much of the public school official's time seems to have been occupied in assembling arguments for the new system. The public school officials pointed out that the old system of individual instruction worked well when

\footnote{Ibid. August 25, 1853.}
\footnote{Ibid. September 15, 1853.}
\footnote{Ibid.}
the classes of select pupils were small, but with the coming of the public school, when forty pupils to a room were common, it was impractical to conduct class on such a plan, for each pupil would receive one fortieth of the time allotted the class. Consequently the new system of collective instruction attempted to alleviate this condition by providing that the whole class act as a unit in chanting arithmetic tables and counting collectively. Furthermore, the entire class would participate in the making of outline maps and in learning the alphabet without the use of books, a method which not only saved the wear and tear on books but which enabled each member of the class to learn more rapidly than when reciting along.\(^{67}\)

This was the system of education the public school officials were selling the people of Monroe county and Logan in particular. Its acceptance was due in no small measure to the Board of Education, whose members worked diligently to make a success of the new plan. They visited the schools, regulated the grading of classes, and gave valuable aid and support to the teachers,\(^{68}\) who occasionally were hauled into court for flogging some

\(^{67}\) *Ibid.*

\(^{68}\) *Ibid.*
recalcitrant pupil. However, there were certain pro-
visions of the recent school law that many people wished
to have modified or repealed,\(^6^9\) which created so much
interest that a review of the law was printed in in-
stallments in the Sentinel for many weeks. These re-
views were in the form of questions and answers which
helped the laymen to understand the much discussed pro-
visions of the law, thereby clearing up unfavorable
rumors always prevalent on a controversial subject of
this nature.\(^7^0\) The general public not only had a better
understanding of the law but they saw a concrete result
of its enactment when in the fall of 1854 the county re-
ceived its first school library.

When the school term was ended for the year 1855, it
was declared that this had been the most successful school
year in the history of Logan. The pupils, after celebrat-
ing with a march through the town, returned to their
classes and took their final examinations, which were given
at the three overcrowded public school buildings then in
Logan.\(^7^1\) In fact the building situation had become so acute

\(^6^9\) Ibid. March 2, 1854.

\(^7^0\) Ibid. March 30, 1854.

\(^7^1\) Ibid. March 15, 1855.
that many people were demanding that the dilapidated structures then housing the children be replaced by new buildings. Unfortunately it had been the custom to find some building which could be used for nothing else and convert it into a schoolhouse.

This deplorable policy of providing hovels to be used as school rooms was now condemned as intolerable by the editor of the Sentinel who demanded better buildings at once. However, it seems that as yet the public school officials and the press were unable to obtain the support necessary to construct new buildings at this time or even to move the classes into more desirable quarters, for the controversy over the new buildings which ensued only renewed the struggle for supremacy between the public and the select schools. Thus on July 27, 1855, two new select schools were opened in Logan in which were taught, in addition to the common subjects, natural philosophy and algebra. Furthermore it was promised that no pains would be spared in advancing the pupil's moral culture. These

72 Ibid.
73 Ibid., July 19, 1855.
newly opened select schools were a blow to the friends of the public school, who apparently now became reconciled to the fact that both systems must exist side by side until such time as the select school, as they rightly believed, would die naturally due to the gradually increasing public school funds and the slow but certain support accorded it by the general public. From this time on, the two systems continued to exist with little or no comment from the public school officials, which seems to indicate that the public school had become so firmly intrenched and so generally supported that further appeals to the public were unnecessary.

6. Teacher Training

The School Law of 1853 created a demand for better trained teachers in Hocking county. Fortunately the ambitious among them could acquire the necessary schooling at Ohio University at Athens. At this time Ohio University advertised for students through the Sentinel stating that scholarships, securing full tuition in every department of the university for a three-year term, could be had for fifteen dollars. It was pointed out also that board could be had for one dollar and twenty-five cents to one dollar and seventy-five cents a week. The further suggestion that the student could board himself for fifty
to seventy-five cents a week was enough to cause the Sentinel to urge the young people of the county to attend the university not only because of its proximity but because of the low cost made possible by boarding one's self.\textsuperscript{74} The fact that the university continued to advertise regularly in the Sentinel seems to indicate that there were enough students enrolling from Hocking county to warrant the continuance of this advertising.

In the summer of 1855 the teachers of Hocking county met at the Central School House at Logan to organize a teacher's institute for the purpose of providing for the general improvement of teachers and furthering the advancement of educational standards.\textsuperscript{75} The teacher's institute was made possible by a law which was passed in 1848 providing for the appropriation of money in each county for the purpose of conducting teacher's institutes.\textsuperscript{76}

The teachers of Hocking county were given another opportunity to advance in their profession when in the summer of 1855 Mr. John Hopley, superintendent of Logan public schools, announced that he was beginning a course

\textsuperscript{74}Ibid., March 17, 1853.
\textsuperscript{75}Ibid., June 14, 1855.
\textsuperscript{76}Knight, cited in Howe, \textit{op. cit.}, p.142.
of instruction for teachers of the county and other advanced students. The superintendent promised that he would give a through review of the common school subjects for the purpose of better qualifying teachers for their schools. Thus those who were teachers or prospective teachers had the opportunity of receiving advanced instruction in the county without necessarily having to attend the university. This school of higher instruction tends to show the great demand for education of a higher nature and the desire of the local school authorities to meet this demand by providing local facilities at a reasonable cost to the student.

77 The Hocking Sentinel, August 16, 1855.
CHAPTER VII

LOGAN, THE COUNTY SEAT

1. Thomas Worthington's Proprietorship

Logan, the county seat of Hocking county, named in honor of the famous Mingo Indian chief,\(^1\) is located on the Hocking river about one mile below the great falls. Logan's early history is closely connected with the activity of Thomas Worthington, a resident of Ross county and one of the early governors of Ohio.\(^2\) He no doubt became interested in this territory when it was still part of Ross county, for shortly after 1796, he purchased eighty acres of land from Conrad Brian, who had settled here in that year.\(^3\) Worthington was so pleased by the possibilities suggested by this land that he purchased it for one thousand dollars,\(^4\) which represents an enormous price, considering the original cost. Perhaps the site of the old Wyandot Indian village at Oldtown, which was included in this tract, kindled his imagination with a vision of a new city of the white man.

\(^{1}\textit{Hist. of Hook.} \text{ V.}, \text{ p.894.}\)
\(^{2}\textit{Howe, op. cit.}, \text{ Vol.I, p.502.}\)
\(^{3}\textit{Hist. of Hook.} \text{ V.}, \text{ p.814.}\)
\(^{4}\textit{Ibid.}\)
This supposition is strengthened by the fact that this purchase was but the beginning of the acquisition of 1,860 acres of land in what is now Falls township, valued at $15,900 and including all the territory later to be occupied by the city of Logan.  

The land having been secured, Worthington's next step was to lay out the town of Logan, which was accomplished in 1816. Yet a plat alone was not enough to stimulate the resale and occupation of his land, for perhaps he saw that the pioneer's covered wagons were always headed in the opposite direction from his holdings, especially toward the gristmills of Chillicothe and Zanesville. Worthington soon realized that the great falls of the Hocking could be utilized to turn the wagon of the farmers toward his newly platted town. He also foresaw the time when log cabins would yield their places to frame buildings. Two things then were necessary to insure the future prosperity of his proprietorship, a gristmill and a saw-mill. Both were completed in 1818.  

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7 Ibid.
In the meantime Mr. Worthington had been elected governor of Ohio and it may be assumed that he played a prominent part in the creation of Hocking county. The formation of a new county usually raises the question of the location of the county seat, but Thomas Worthington had foreseen the situation. He offered to give to the town of Logan nineteen lots which were to be sold and the proceeds to be used to build a courthouse, if Logan became the county seat. \(^8\) Needless to say, the proposition was accepted.

Since the county had now been formed and the county seat located, the next step was the establishment of law courts to supplant the crude forms of justice dealt out to culprits by the vigilantes, or better known in this county as "regulators." Thieves' Cave, located just north of Logan in Marion township, was the early hideout of bands of horse thieves who stole horses from the poor pioneers and even committed murder. When the desperadoes were caught, they were shot or hanged with but little formality. \(^9\)

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\(^8\) The Logan Daily News, March 4, 1939.

Furthermore, the early pioneers settled differences among themselves by fisticuffs. Order at public meetings was kept by some man known for his physical strength and dubbed justice of the peace. Naturally people from conservative communities of the east were shocked at the lack of law and order.¹⁰ Hence, the bad reputation that the vicinity acquired needed to be removed.

Perhaps it was to erase this bad reputation and to encourage a respect for law and order that Governor Worthington asked permission of the county commissioners to erect a jail in Logan at his own expense. When the commissioners met for the first time June 1, 1818, they decided to accept the governor's proposition.¹¹ The jail was designed to care for two general classes of offenders, the hardened criminals and the unfortunate debtors, for at this time in Hocking county men were imprisoned for debt. Accordingly, the jail had two compartments constructed of closely fitted logs. The only difference in the two rooms was that the one occupied by the vicious criminals had a double log wall.¹²


Thomas Worthington gave special attention to Logan not only because the prosperity of the town would secure his investment, but because he had a genuine interest in the welfare of the community. For this the people were deeply grateful, for without his direction and influence the history of Logan might have been less significant.

2. General Progress, 1820 - 1850

The population of the village of Logan in 1820 was only one hundred. The business establishments consisted of a tavern, which had been built in 1816, a post office, a church, and perhaps one or two small general stores. In 1824 a young physician stopped at the tavern in Logan only to hear that there was a plague raging among the children of the town. Answering their plea for aid, he stayed to stamp out the disease. In the meantime the bright eyed daughter of the judge had consented to be his wife, so he decided to make Logan his home. Thus Logan was early blessed with the services of a good doctor, which was a valuable asset to a backwoods town.

13 *Hist. of Enoch, V.*, p. 899.

In 1825 the population was 250, which was an increase of one hundred and fifty per cent during a five-year period. In this year the first manufacturing establishment, a carding machine propelled by oxen, made its appearance in Logan. This machine was designed for combing, breaking, and cleaning wool, and forming it into a roll. The process was brought about by cylinders, thick set with teeth, between which the wool was passed. In 1832 Logan was a town of about eighteen families and a population of over 322. The town contained at this time a Methodist church, tavern, post office, two general stores, doctor's office, saddle shop, hatter, cabinet shop, jail, and an improvised courthouse. The population showed an increase of two hundred and twenty-two per cent over that of 1820, yet general progress would have been much greater had an adequate means of transportation been available.

Shortly after 1830 the rumor that a railroad was to be built from Lancaster to the Ohio river must have brought intense joy to the people of Logan. This rumor was confirmed

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15 Hist. of Hook. V., p.895.
16 Ibid.
in 1834 by an act of the Legislature authorizing the building of the road. But this newest and somewhat questionable means of transportation was at least temporarily abandoned to give way to the more conservative Hocking canal. When it was found that the canal would pass through the Methodist cemetery, the citizens of Logan, including the merchants who closed their shops, moved all the bodies to a new burial ground on the hill, now known as the Old Cemetery. Before the canal was completed the citizens of Logan found themselves faced with the great financial panic of 1837. As a result of the depression even the markets made available by the Hocking river had become paralyzed. To add to the dejection of some of the people at this time, a new jail erected at a cost of $2,118 to replace the old log structure, which had become insecure and dilapidated. Perhaps it was too small to accommodate the large number of poor debtors who were now being rushed to prison.

Possibly serving as a means to lift the gloom that had settled over the village and point the way to better times was the publication of the News in 1838. This was Logan's

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22 Hist. of Hock. V., p.827.
first newspaper but it was short lived, for its publication ceased with the election of Harrison.\textsuperscript{23}

Apparently by 1839 the depression had abated somewhat, for the county commissioners contracted with William Montgomery to build a courthouse, for the sum of $8,800, which was completed in 1841.\textsuperscript{24} Previously, court had been held in a large frame building which had once been occupied by the carding machine factory. This building had been purchased by the county sometime before 1832.\textsuperscript{25}

The very next day after the contract for the courthouse was let, the state legislature passed an act, March 1, 1839, incorporating the town of Logan.\textsuperscript{26} The first mayor was C.W. James.\textsuperscript{27} At this time Logan contained about fifty houses, of which twenty-three were frame, twelve log, and five brick.\textsuperscript{28}

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{23} \textit{Ibid.}, p.896.
\item \textsuperscript{24} \textit{Ibid.}, p.828.
\item \textsuperscript{25} \textit{The Logan Daily News}, March 4, 1939.
\item \textsuperscript{26}"An Act to Incorporate the Town of Logan", cited in \textit{Hist. of Hook. V.}, pp.896-897.
\item \textsuperscript{27} \textit{Hist. of Hook. V.}, p.899.
\item \textsuperscript{28} \textit{Ibid.}, p.897.
\end{itemize}
The population in 1840 was five hundred. The professional classes consisted of two lawyers and seven physicians. The business establishments included three general stores, three dry goods stores, two hotels and three saloons. Thus the stage was set for the complete opening of the canal which was accomplished the following September.

The next decade brought the long-wished-for prosperity. Farmers, now that they could get their produce to market, enlarged their farming operations, raising a surplus above home consumption. The increased buying power of the farmer stimulated trade in Logan to such an extent that the merchants had to increase their stock to meet the demand and in many cases new businesses were opened. In 1846 a large warehouse was erected on the banks of the canal in Logan where farmers might sell their grain and produce, thus creating a home market for their surplus products. In order to further accelerate business and facilitate access

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29 The Hocking Sentinel, August 8, 1850.

30 Hist. of Hook. V., p. 897.

31 Ibid.

32 Ibid.
to the town from the south, a bridge was built across the canal in 1848. The bridge was built through the combined efforts of the county and the people in the vicinity of Logan. The county appropriated three hundred dollars, and the balance was raised by subscription which in a large part was paid in labor on the bridge. The prosperity of the place is indicated by the census of 1850 which showed a population of 791. This was an increase of over fifty-eight per cent during the past decade.

3. Manufacturing and the Iron Industry

Logan by the middle of the nineteenth century was on its way to becoming a first rate industrial city. Many of the early factories sold directly to the consumer for either cash or farm produce. For example, a furniture factory advertised in 1850 that it was now manufacturing the best and cheapest assortment of furniture ever offered west of the mountains and wished to exchange for cash or other commodities. The Logan foundry was another important establishment which advertised in 1851 that it had on hand or was

33 Ibid.
34 Ibid., pp.897-898.
35 The Hooking Sentinel, August 8, 1850.
36 The Hooking Sentinel, September 12, 1850.
prepared to make all kinds of castings which were generally used in that part of the country. Stoves and plows, it was added, would always be kept on hand. In September, 1852, a large warehouse was leased by a Chillicothe firm and was fitted for a steam flour mill. The following February the mill was in operation, announcing that the people of the community would have no more black flour, but that from now on it would be superfine with no grit and fit for the president.

Iron manufacturing was the most important industry from 1861 to 1870. Iron had been discovered in 1848 in the hills of Falls township just north of Logan. Shortly afterward one thousand tons of ore were shipped by canal to a furnace in Muskingum county. But manufacturing interests soon saw that the abundance of coal, iron and lime available in Hocking county could be more profitable utilized by erecting furnaces in the county itself. This idea was realized in the building of the Hocking furnace which was erected in west Logan in 1851. By 1852 it was running at full blast.

37 Ibid. January 2, 1861.
38 Ibid. September 30, 1852.
39 Ibid. February 24, 1853.
41 Hist. of Hocking, V., p. 835.
turning out pig iron of material heretofore thought worthless.  

The people of Logan hailed this as the beginning of a new era in the "Huckleberry Knobs" of Hocking county. Their experimental furnace was turning out six tons of iron daily and around it had sprung up twenty substantial dwellings. Since this furnace had proved to be a success, a second, known as the Logan furnace, had been placed under contract, and an early completion was eagerly expected. The Sentinel stated in 1853 that several new additions had been laid out to the town, but even though many new buildings had been constructed, there were not yet enough houses to accommodate the people who wished to locate in Logan. A citizen who had been absent about five years was quoted as saying that he could hardly recognize a single location in the entire town, although he had been quite familiar with it. It was generally agreed that this great prosperity was due to the vast mineral wealth surrounding the town, which promised a large remuneration to those who engaged in its develop-

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42* The Hocking Sentinel, October 14, 1852.  
43 Ibid.  
44 Ibid, June 16, 1853.  
45 Ibid.
ment. It was predicted that Logan in a few years would be "the" city of the Hocking valley. 46

The Logan furnace which was begun in 1853 announced in the spring of 1854 that it was installing a one hundred horse power engine weighing five tons. 47 Within a few days the plant was in full operation, averaging eight tons of metal daily. The ore used was said to be of the best quality, yielding sixty-six per cent iron. 48 Since this ore existed in unlimited quantities, capital was urged to invest in more furnaces as there was room for a dozen. 49 Three months later the people of Logan learned that another new furnace company had been organized in Hocking county. It was to be located in Starr township, on Five Mile Creek, just east of Logan, where the ore was known to be excellent. 50 The Logan furnace made pig metal at a cost of thirteen dollars a ton and sold it for sixty, 51 which was certainly a wide enough margin to

46 An editorial, Ibid., May 26, 1853.

47 Ibid., March 16, 1854.

48 Ibid., March 30, 1854.

49 Ibid.

50 Ibid., May 25, 1854.

51 Lewis Green, "Logan Forty Years Ago", The Democratic-Sentinel, October 25, 1934.
insure a large net profit. Soon the number of furnaces in the vicinity of Logan reached thirteen, although only six were actually located in Hocking county. Yet Logan was the headquarters for all the "iron men" and business boomed. Thus the people of Logan prospered and the town grew even beyond expectations.

But unfortunately the zenith of the iron industry had been reached, for richer ore had been found in the Mahoning valley. Thus slowly but surely the center of the industry was shifting. The big wagons with their high cribbed beds, loaded with charcoal for the furnaces, were seen on the streets of Logan less often, as one by one the fires of the furnaces began to die out. The ore of Hocking had now become inferior, for they had to be combined with ores of other localities in order to make satisfactory iron.

This was profitable only because of the existence of coal and lime in the same hill, which made smelting yield a profit long after the center of the iron industry had shifted elsewhere.

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52 Ibid.
54 Ibid., op. cit., Vol.III, pp.54-55
55 Ibid.
56 Ibid.
first notice of an iron furnace discontinuing business appeared in the Sentinel November 2, 1876, when it was announced that the management of the Logan furnace was starting a new one near the Hocking-Perry county line. The reason given was that fuel there was more convenient and cheaper. In 1883 there were still six furnaces in the county, but little smelting was done after this date.

In the meantime, the people of Logan had turned their attention to their other resources, oil and coal. The discovery of oil in Hocking county caused such a fervor in 1861 that a company was immediately formed with a capital of twenty-one thousand dollars and preparations were made to begin drilling at once. The coal mines which had previously supplied the iron furnaces now began to ship their coal by canal to more distant markets. However, this method of marketing coal was not entirely satisfactory, and while the operators were awaiting the completion of the railroad, the approaching calamity of the Civil War was

57 The Hocking Sentinel, November 2, 1876.
59 The Hocking Sentinel, April 11, 1861.
beginning to throw its shadow over the county. Consequently, further development of the mineral resources at this time came to an end. The year the war ended, the first oil well was drilled in the county, but a further adventure into the oil industry proved to be too great a task to be profitable during this century. 60 However, the advent of the railroad in 1870 marked the real beginning of the coal industry in Hocking county. 61

60 Hist. of Hock. V., p. 850.
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