IMMIGRANT GROUPS IN NORTHWESTERN OHIO TO 1860

A Thesis Presented for the Degree of Master of Arts

BY

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Approved by:

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Immigration.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. General Opinion in Later Period</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Irish</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. German</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Early Settlers</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Condition in Area</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Disease</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The Germans.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Periods of Immigration</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Characteristics as Farmer</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Other Immigrants</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Causes</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Catholicism</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Diocese of Cleveland</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Winster</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Glandorf</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Bremen</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Daughter Parishes</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Organization at Carthageana</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Story of a Parish</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Delphos</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Mennonites</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Allen County</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Reformed Church</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Heidelberg College, Founding</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Evangelical Church</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Lutherans</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Hancock County</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Crawford County</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Methodists</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Hancock County</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Chatfield Township</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Cranberry Township</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k. John Kraft</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l. Marion County</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Wyandot County</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n. Tiffin</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Heidelberg College</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o. Fremont</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p. Toledo Vicinity</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>q. Ottawa County</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r. Perrysburg</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s. Defiance</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t. Toledo</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u. Politics</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Newspapers</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The Irish</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Attracted to America</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Provisions of Catholic Church</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Port Lawrence Company</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Government Use of Canals</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Treatment of Canal Worker</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Causes of Increased Migration</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Various Irish Immigrants</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Canal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Use for Agriculture</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Boat Rates</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Cholera</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Road Conditions</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k. Aid for Ireland</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l. Newspapers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Democrats</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Whigs</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Separation of National Groups</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n. Number in Northwestern Ohio</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Other Immigrant Groups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Welsh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Gomer</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Scotch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Scotch Ridge</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Port Clinton</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. English</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Marion County</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Delta</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. French</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Ft. Stephenson</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Henry County</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Crawford County</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Constant Influx of Immigrants</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Conclusion</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

In making a study of the immigrant groups in North-western Ohio, twenty-one counties have been considered. Although some of these seem to extend into area generally included as part of central and western Ohio, the activities of one settlement was closely allied with that of another, so that it seemed advisable to take the whole general section. Particularly was this true of church activities.

As records of Allen County, not only at the Courthouse in Lima, but at the Historical Society, were available to the writer, a somewhat more extensive study has been made of that region. A similar perusal of other county records would possibly offer information not available in any other way.

If any group, in this early period, has not been mentioned, it has not come to the attention of the writer. Undoubtedly, there were other colonies of the nationalities considered, but until further research is made, their histories will remain part of the "untold stories" of their respective communities.
Chapter I

From the time of the arrival of the first white man on this continent, the so-called "foreigner" has always been a subject of interest. Every European nation contributed something in the customs of its people that has become a part of the American national heritage.

As more of one nationality came than others at particular intervals, it was not uncommon for Americans to voice their disapproval of various newcomers. Both party platforms of 1892 contained planks on the restriction of immigration. Democrats, however, favored the admission of "industrious and worthy Europeans," while the Republicans desired more restrictive legislation. Under their plan criminals, paupers, and contract laborers would not have been permitted to enter the United States. The year following the national campaign, a senatorial inquiry among the states revealed a marked preference for northern Europeans. Opinion was largely in favor of restricting immigration from southeastern Europe.

Immigration, prior to this time, was mostly from northern Europe. In the 1830's, many Irish arrived at the time that the government was endeavoring to make so many internal improvements. Being unskilled in handicrafts, they found work on turnpikes, canals, and railroads. How-

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1 Samuel P. Orth, Our Foreigners, 226-227.
ever, the Irish usually preferred to settle down in cities.

While Irish immigration was stimulated by the famine in Ireland, the Teutonic invasion, although larger at intervals, lasted over a period of years. After the political upheaval in Germany following the Napoleonic Wars and the Revolution of 1848, many Germans came to the United States. They retained their language, which was a strong bond. Likewise through their social life, churches, industry and thrift, they were to have a decided effect upon the history of the period.

There seems to be no collective work on the foreign groups in Northwestern Ohio. Material on any of the national elements that have aided in rounding out our population is scarce, thus making it difficult to secure a connected narrative. As this part of Ohio developed later than other sections of the state, its history is somewhat different.

Immigrants mingled with Americans in the westward advance in this early period, so the story of the foreigner on the frontier is similar to that of any other settler. Some helped to fight the Red Men, while others became staunch friends of the few still remaining in this section of the old Northwestern Territory. Wayne's Treaty, signed at Greenville, in 1795, had brought about an interval of peace that enabled whites to settle here. Thus, about 1808, a French settlement was made on the site of

Ibid., 113.
Manhattan, in the Toledo vicinity.

Through Major George Crohan's victory at Ft. Stephens-
son in the War of 1812, many new settlers were also to feel
an increased sense of security. Four years later, two hun-
dred settlers, many of whom were French Catholics, had en-
tered the country. The Momenay brothers, namely, Joseph,
Anthony, and Peter, made up part of this troop. John B.
Beaugrand, a merchant, came in 1822, the same year that a
band of French Canadians chose La Prairie, about eight miles
from Port Clinton, as their home. Meanwhile, sixteen fam-
ilies had located at the mouth of the Maumee. Father
Gabriel Richard, of Detroit, celebrated the first mass
on Low Sunday, at La Prairie, a year later. Eventually,
the colonists erected a log chapel, which served the com-
munity for a quarter of a century.

Early settlement is always affected by the conditions
of the region to which a person is advancing. Most of
Northwestern Ohio is part of the Lake Plains area, except
for a section of the southern counties, which extends into
the Central Plains. At a very early period, it was all
submerged in Lake Erie; consequently, drainage was a diffi-
culty to be met by prospective settlers. Extremes of tempe-

3 Nevin C. Winter, A History of Northwest Ohio: A Narrat-
ive Account Of Its Historical Progress and Development From
the First European Exploration of the Maumee and Sandusky Val-
leys and the Adjacent Shores of Lake Erie, Down to the Present
Time, p. 340.
4 Ibid., 312.
5 Ibid., 313-314.
6 Eugene H. Roseboom and Francis P. Weisenburger, A His-
tory of Ohio, 4, map 5.
ature, from oppressive heat to bitter cold, made it necessary for people to battle all discomfitures that go with such changes. However, the seasonal changes with the proper amount of rainfall in the growing season, have made it a productive section.

The Black Swamp in Northwestern Ohio proved to be the greatest obstacle to overcome, as it was a menace to the health of the citizens. No one was immune to the malarial diseases, fever and ague, that it caused. It was not uncommon to see men, on a summer day, with their overcoats buttoned up and shaking with chills that accompany a bilious fever. People seemed to get somewhat used to these attacks, as they invariably recurred. Europeans apparently suffered more than Americans. 11,056 deaths, from this alone, were reported among the foreign born population in 1850.

One writer, in Northwestern Ohio, claimed that deaths from this scourge seldom occurred. Within his observations, only one death had ever followed such an attack; that was of an old German, who resided in Tiffin, Ohio. Fall usually brought a cessation of this disease, as the air was purer. Thompson Township in Seneca County suffered less than surrounding areas, as the atmosphere was supposed to be

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7 Ibid., 5-8.
This dreaded disease continued for many years, however. As late as 1856, the Toledo Blade carried an advertisement for "Griswold's Malarian Antidote, The Great Fever and Ague Medicine Of the Age." Its merits were further extolled, as the product had originated in a great western valley amid "the misasmatic atmosphere," so that the medicine was adaptable to the constitutions of the Mississippi Valley and its tributaries. This superior product was considered a purely western remedy.

Particularly at the time of the construction of the Wabash and Erie and the Miami and Erie Canals, the Europeans felt the effects of disease. Poverty forced many to seek this work, which was then the only public project in the state. Forced at times to work in water without adequate equipment, and constantly battling the malaria carrier, the men resorted to whiskey to try and avoid the "shakes." The first canal was completed in 1843, while the Ohio section of the latter was ready for navigation, three years later.

The Black Swamp extended over an area one hundred

9 William Lang, History of Seneca County, From The Close Of The Revolutionary War To July, 1880; Embracing Many Personal Sketches of Pioneers, Anecdotes and Faithful Descriptions of Events Pertaining to the Organization of The County and Its Progress, 213-215.
10 Toledo Blade, October 27, 1856.
11 Lang, Seneca County, 215-216.
12 Ibid., 221.
and twenty miles in length, and forty miles in width. It
might be compared in size to the state of Connecticut.
The whole region has a level surface, which is fairly high.
Forest growth was abundant, so only by cutting of trees
and drainage of the land was agriculture possible.

By 1820, most of Ohio had been settled, the only ex-
ception being the Black Swamp country. In fact, by 1830,
from Hancock County to the north and west, there were
only three thousand people in the state; even a few of
the counties had not been organized. Most of the early
settlers came from New York, New England, Pennsylvania,
and southern Ohio. With these came the so-called
"foreigners." Some came directly from Europe to North-
western Ohio, while others, at first, tried to make a
living in other sections of the states. For instance,
some Germans of Frederick, Maryland, came to Tiffin and
the Sandusky river, in the 1820's. To the middle of
the nineteenth century, the Black Swamp contained few
densely settled areas.

Each immigrant group brought its own special customs
and played a different role in the community from the
others. Consequently, it is necessary to treat the Ger-

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14 Roseboom and Weisenburger, Ohio, 171.
15 Ibid.
16 Ibid., 309.
mans, the Irish, the Welsh, and the others separately, in order to get a better understanding of the part these people have had in the history of Northwestern Ohio.
Chapter II

THE GERMANS

In the decade of the twenties, all existing counties between Cincinnati and Toledo received some German immi-
lants. Before 1820, only those of foreign birth who entered through various seaports were counted, so that all figures obtainable are rather low. Increase in the numbers that came, in general, corresponded to periods of economic stress in Germany and to prosperity in the United States.

For general classification, the stream of Germans into this country can be divided into three periods. The first, which has little effect upon Ohio, dates from the signing of the Declaration of Independence to 1812. For our purposes, the second period, from 1815 to 1852, is the most important. Political refugees and intellectuals accompanied the farmers in this migration. The last period, dating from 1852, brought farmers, tradesmen, mechanics, and common laborers. Unlike some other foreign peoples, who often came to America alone for a few years, the Germans came with their families.

1 Albert Bernhardt Faust, The German Element In The United States With Special Reference To Its Political, Moral, Social, and Educational Influence, I, 428.
2 Ibid., 582-583.
When a German looked for farm land, he invariably chose that upon which there was a rich forest growth. His industry and thrift enabled him to transform a wilderness into a productive farm. This involved clearing the land of all stumps and stones, as well as practicing crop rotation, to insure a larger yield per acre. That a farmer provided well for his stock was evident from the type of barn usually erected by these people. It was not uncommon to build this shelter first; generally, it was a more pretentious structure than the family dwelling. Poverty and habits of thrift forced the farmer and his family to do most of their own work. Consequently, large families were welcomed, and only during harvest season, was outside help employed. Through strict economy, a man might accumulate a surplus to increase the size of his holdings, which often remained in the family for generations.

In the second period of migration, previously mentioned, two revolutions, one of 1830 and the other of 1848, caused larger numbers to come to America. Those from the northern part of Germany, were usually of Nordic stock, and directed their way to lands comprising the public domain. The "forty-eighters," being ultra-radicals, denounced all types

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4 Ibid., 29-30.
5 Madison Grant, The Conquest of a Continent or The Expanding of Races in America, 161.
of monarchy. These professional men, including journalists, lawyers, and physicians, played dominant roles in the political controversies that engulfed the American public in the next two decades. The Napoleonic Wars particularly affected the Wurtemburg region. Persecution of the student societies such as the "Burschenschaften," as early as 1817, caused many to search for a homeland in which there would be freedom of thought. The principles of Jacksonian Democracy, which was then at its height appealed to this class.

Immediately preceding the revolution of 1848, the vintage crop failed in the Wurtemburg district, while the potato crop failed in the southwest, so that even the government encouraged emigration as a solution to the famine problem. Some of the people affected were members of various religious sects, which their descendants have continued to the present day in the country in which they settled.

Auglaize County, namely, at Wapakoneta, Minster, and New Bremen, became the new home of many immigrants. Putnam, Allen, Van Wert, and Seneca Counties, as well as the Toledo area, were destinations of those from across the Atlantic.

In Allen County, one of the townships received the

6 Stephenson, Immigration, 48.
7 Faust, German Element, I, 583-587.
8 Ibid., 429.
name of German. The canal building program caused a rush for land. Some Germans around Ft. Jennings, Putnam County, realized that real estate would rise in value. Consequently, in 1834, they hastened to buy land; among them was Ferdinand Bredeick, who also purchased some for his brother, as yet in Germany.

As many of these early German settlers were Catholic, a history of the activities of the Catholic Church in this section gives us a story of many of its people. In 1821, Rev. Edward Fenwick became the first bishop of the diocese of Cincinnati, which included the state of Ohio. As population increased, it was impossible for one bishop to administer to all of the people, so that, in 1847, the Pope established the diocese of Cleveland, which divided the state at north latitude, forty degrees and forty-one minutes. This line cut Mercer, Auglaize, Hardin, and Marion Counties, as well as those further east. Bishop Purcell of Cincinnati

9 William Rusler, ed., A Standard History of Allen County, Ohio: An Authentic Narrative of the Past, With Particular Attention to the Modern Era in the Commercial, Industrial, Educational, Civic and Social Development, 1, 190. In 1918, this was changed to American Township.

10 History of Allen County, Ohio: Containing a History of The County, Its Townships, Towns, Villages, Schools, Churches, Industries, etc.; Portraits of Early Settlers and Prominent Men; Biographies; History of The Northwest Territory; History of Ohio; Statistical and Miscellaneous Matter, etc., etc., 446.

included these four counties in his diocese, while the Bishop Amadeus Rappe of Cleveland administered to the other counties of Northwestern Ohio.

In 1831, Franz Joseph Stallo settled at Minster with a group of Germans from Munster, Westphalia. They had formed a stock association with Stallo as agent for the syndicate, before settling the village that carried his name until 1836. Money acquired from working on the canal, enabled these people to purchase their own farms in four years. Being a Catholic community, they welcomed the arrival, two years after settlement, of Father Horstmann, who also brought some German settlers. After a trip to Detroit, where the priest purchased land, this group settled at Glandorf in Putnam County. Missions were established at Petersburg, Wapakoneta, and Stallostown, which was later organized as the parish of St. Augustine. Father Francis Bartels, the first resident pastor, conducted services in a log church. A settlement at St. John's, Maria Stein in Mercer County, accepting an offer to contribute one-fourth of the money to be collected by the Minster congregation, likewise came under the jurisdiction of this man.

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12 Ibid., 98-100.
13 Ibid., 154.
14 Winter, Northwest Ohio, 384.
15 Lamott, Archdiocese, 154-155.
The settlement at Glandorf was the first Catholic place of worship in Putnam County. Mass was first read on Easter Sunday in 1834. Along with his church duties in the community, Father Horstmann taught in the village school. In laying out the town, the immigrants had followed their native custom of building along one main street. Father Bohne succeeded Reverend Horstmann, in 1843.

The year following the settlement at Minster, a company of thirty-three members from Cincinnati, chose German Township as a site for a town. Having purchased ten acres at one dollar per acre, the town was divided into lots, each member being entitled to one. Following a change in the name from Bremen to New Bremen, the town was incorporated. Eight votes were cast at the first election held in 1840. The cholera epidemic of 1849 proved disastrous to the citizens of this town, as one hundred and fifty of its seven hundred inhabitants succumbed to the dreaded disease.

Bad roads made it impossible for church goers to travel a great distance. Consequently, other congregations were

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17 Ibid., 557.
established, and Minster became the mother-parish for
churches at Casella, St. Rose, St. Sebastian, and St.  
Henry over a twelve year period ending in 1851.  
Henry  
Romer laid out the latter town, in 1836.  Most of the
settlers were farmers and had to face the hardships of
the frontier. Henry Greenup, an emigrant of the year 1843,
claimed that he had driven deer away from his stock at
feeding time.

Victoria and Padua were likewise filial parishes.
Father Albrecht administered to the latter congregation
in a log church, the erection of which he directed. Egypt
and St. Mary's also became Catholic parishes.

Catholics from Freyburg, Botkins, and Rhine worshiped
at the Petersburg Church, organized by Father Horstmann,
in 1840. Impassable roads also made this a mother-parish,
so that eventually each town supported a church of its own,
Freyburg being the first, in 1849. Until 1839, Catholics
at Wapakoneta were members of the Petersburg congregation,
when under the direction of Father Herzog, they erected
their own church. Strangely enough, a priest of French

20 Lamott, Archdiocese, 155.
21 H. S. Knapp, History of the Maumee Valley; Com-
mencing With Its Occupation by the French in 1680, To Which is
Added Sketches Of Some Of Its Moral and Material Resources As
They Exist in 1872, 447.
22 History of Van Wert and Mercer Counties, Ohio, With
Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of Its Prom-
inent Men and Pioneers, 481.
23 Lamott, Archdiocese, 155-156.
descent, namely, Father Navarron, proved to be a greater administrator. Sent, at first, to the French Catholic settlements near the present villages of Frenchtown, Versailles, and Russia in Darke and Shelby Counties, this man finally administered St. Valbert's erected in Darke County, when the other three found it impossible to support separate churches. Formation of so many filial-parishes, caused this one to be isolated. The Frenchman took it upon himself to serve all the parishes deprived of the services of the priest at Minster.

Priests of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood took up the church work in Mercer and Augusta Counties, in those districts bordering on Father Navarron's. Establishing a seminary at Carthagenas, Mercer County, in 1844, they have been so successful in their efforts to perpetuate the faith, that at almost any point in the territory, one can see the steeple of at least one of their churches.

This organization, made up of seven priests and six students, had started their activities in the Church of St. Alphonse, Peru near Norwalk, Ohio. The latter, proving unsuitable for a monastery, New Riegel, Seneca County, was chosen as a site for one. This structure was never occupied by the priests, but was taken over by the Sisters

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24 Ibid., 156-158.
25 Ibid., 159.
of the Most Precious Blood, who came here, in 1844. Having stopped over night in Thompson, Father Brunner decided to build a seminary here. Thus, in 1847, St. Aloysius became a center, from which parishes over northern Ohio were attended. In the Cincinnati diocese, Aуглаизе and Mercer Counties have received most of their attention.

The Catholic Sisters, mentioned above, held as the first mass at New Riegel, a midnight service, on Christmas Day, in 1844. After establishing a school for girls as well as an orphanage, Sister Maria Anna Albrecht, with her assistants, founded convents at Maria Stein, Casella, and Minster. A boarding school was added to the latter, in 1852. Father Rappе in the Cleveland diocese, saw the need of a convent in Toledo.

Logan, Hardin, and Marion Counties had the Church of Emmanuel in Dayton as their mother-parish. This church was erected not only through the efforts of the Catholics, but also many Protestants, who donated to the project. Under the jurisdiction of a church in Urbana, St. Patrick's was founded at Bellefontaine. This, in turn, made its mission the St. Mary's parish at Marion.

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26 Ibid., 235-236.
27 Ibid., 256-257.
28 Ibid., 160.
29 Ibid., 163.
The story of any one of these parishes, in general, is the story of them all. As roads, canals, and railroads increased in number, so more Germans settled along these thoroughfares. The priest first held mass in a private home. In earlier years, these Sundays were rare occurrences, but as more people arrived, definite Sundays for services were agreed upon, and the community undertook the task of erecting a church. At first, these were recognized as missions, but later they attained the status of a parish. Parochial schools often originated at the same time as the church. Thus, in 1847, there were eleven missions and fifteen stations in this part of the state. Only five towns had resident pastors, namely, Delphos, Glandorf, New Riegel, Thompson, and Toledo. Although many priests were needed to fill these posts, there were only fifty in the whole diocese by 1843. Poor Germans, Swiss, and Irish made up most of the congregations, so that the church proper could offer very little financial assistance.

Reference was made earlier to a tract of land purchased by a Mr. Bredeick for his brother in Germany. This brother was a priest, and on his arrival at the site of

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30 Ibid., 166-167.
31 Ibid., 346-349.
32 Ibid., 169.
33 Ibid., 49.
Delphos, in 1844, he erected a chapel at his own expense. It served the purpose of both a house and school as well. Delphos, when laid out, was situated in Putnam County, where John F. Kahle was the first German to receive his naturalization papers.

The history of Delphos is rather unusual. Both East and West Bredeick had been settled by Germans. Father Bredeick had laid out the settlement east of the canal, while Ferdinand Bredeick plotted the western village. Both towns united with Section Ten and Howard Town, settled by English-speaking people, to form Delphos, which was incorporated in 1851. As the land was so swampy in this area, it is believed, that settlement was made possible only through the use of the drug, quinine, which was used to combat malaria. The name, itself, was the choice of Rev. Otto Bredeick, who had suggested "Adelphus," meaning Brother-Love; Delphos is the corrupted anglicized form.

Sixteen families had settled in Section Ten on their

Rusler, Allen County, 291.
Ibid., 195.
Knapp, Maumee Valley, 608.
Winter, Northwest Ohio, 610-611.
Galbreath, Ohio, I, 286.
John H. Wahrhoff, A Retrospect: "Then and Now" of Marion Township, Allen County, Ohio, 11-12. This was a speech delivered before the Allen County Historical and Archaeological Association, April 30, 1926.
arrival in Allen County. After traveling through the Erie Canal, they embarked on a lake vessel for Toledo. From this town, a packet carried them to Defiance. Reaching this point late in November, 1842, these people walked for two days, stopping only at night to sleep in straw stacks, until they reached their destination. A Mr. Wrocklage, with money furnished by Father Bredeick, purchased the land at the government sales at Upper Sandusky. When the minister came, two years later, with forty-four German families, they were able to secure work on the canal.

Section Ten became a commercial center in the canal era, as it was chosen for a collection port. Canal boats and packets cleared here, so that people from London, Berlin, and Paris, came directly to the town. Some remained here, while others took the State Military Public Highway to the west. Rails for the Ohio and Indiana Railroad, later to be part of the Pennsylvania system, were shipped from England, and reached their destination through the Miami and Erie Canal.

These Germans engaged in both political and commercial activities in this community. In 1854, J. Ostendorf was elected to the Council in Delphos. For three succes-

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40 Ibid., 9.
41 Ibid., 10-11.
42 Ibid., 12.
five years his name appears, in this manner, on the lists of councilmen. Theodore Wrocklage, mentioned before, operated a store in partnership with B. Esch. As well as being a manufacturer, he served on the first council and school board in Delphos. In 1855, he formed a partnership with F. H. Stalkamp, a hostler at the American House; together they engaged in several business enterprises.

German Catholics were not the only ones to settle in this part of the country. Christ Stukey was responsible for a Mennonite settlement on Hoey Run in Marion Township, Allen County. This was first known as Dutch Hollow. Surveys of the Ohio Canals caused those from more distant points to realize the value that land along the route would attain. Thus, an eastern Jew, after the survey of the Miami and Erie Canal was made, plotted a site for a city, and placed lots on the market valued at over thirty thousand ($30,000) dollars. Changing of the proposed route, caused his plans to be another vision that never materialized.

The route traveled by the people, whose destination was Section Ten, was one followed by many other immigrants. Some, however, came by another route, as did one Anton

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43 History of Allen County, 400.
44 History of Van Wert and Mercer Counties, 285.
45 Wahmoff, loc. cit., 8.
46 Ibid., 8-9.
Fortman with his family. Having lost its course, his ship landed at New Orleans. Working their way up to Dayton, the family plodded through unbroken forest to Scott's Crossing on the Auglaize. Scott helped them to reach their destination, which was Ft. Jennings in Putnam County, where a German settler cared for them.

Some of these Germans had a tendency to remain apart from the rest of the settlers. They intermarried among their own people, and even to the present day, not much information of them is available. For instance, Michael Newschwander came to Richland Township, Allen County, in 1833. On first coming to this country, the family had settled in Wayne County, Ohio. Their early days in Allen County, forced upon them the conditions that many other pioneers had to face. For three weeks, until a cabin was erected, the family camped out. At night, it was necessary to kindle a fire to frighten away wolves. The few Indians remaining in the country were friendly. To procure flour, in the earlier days, it was necessary for the family to go to Sandusky over a road that was a mere cowpath. When a mill was established at Lima, the people felt that much progress was being made. Michael married into the Geiger

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47 Ibid., 10.
48 History of Allen County, 773.
49 Van Tassel, Maumee Valley, II, 1959.
family, who were natives of Switzerland and pioneers in Putnam County. The son, like the father, remained on the soil.

Early records were not so carefully preserved as records of the present day. In the list of land buyers in Township 1 South, Range 8 East of Richland Township, the name of Michael Neiswander appears, as having purchased land in Section 34, during the year 1833. A map of Townships 1 and 2 South, Range 8 East, bears the name of Michael Neuenschwander as holding two hundred and forty acres in Section 34. There is little doubt that all of these names refer to the same man, although various accounts spell the name differently.

Similarly in the list of land buyers in Township 2 South, Range 8 East, Section 3, the names of John Luzibihi, Ullery Basinger, Christian Neiswander, John Shoemaker, and Ulrick Neiswander appear. On a map of this section, we find the names of John Luzibihi, David Basinger, John Schumaker, C. V. Amstutz, and J. B. Augsburger. Such comparisons reveal that many of the farms have remained

50 History of Allen County, 772-774.
51 Ibid., 525.
52 R. H. Harrison, comp., Atlas of Allen County, Ohio; From Records and Original Surveys, map, p. 47.
53 History of Allen County, 526.
54 Harrison, Atlas of Allen County, map, p. 47.
in the same family for a period of years.

John Thut, a native of Switzerland, was the founder of
the American Mennonite Society, in 1848. He was the first
pastor, as well as the first bishop in Richland County.
Swiss Mennonites as well as the Reformed members of this faith
had churches here, the latter being located in Section 34 of
North Richland. This was on the land held by Michael
Neuenschwander. J. B. Augsburger's holding was the site of
the church used by the Swiss Society.

In various county records, we find the names of Peter
Amstutz and Catherine Basinger; the former was a farmer,
while the latter is listed as a housekeeper, the date of
her death being 1871. Both are classed as French. Evi-
dently some of these settlers came from Alsace, which was
in French possession for a time.

One branch of the Basinger family had settled in Wayne
County, before coming to Allen. Large families were common;
in this instance, fifteen children were born to the parents,
Christian and Catherine Basinger. Another branch of this
same family had originally settled in Virginia. One son of
this part of the family became a minister, while another was
a teacher in both Allen and Putnam Counties. The latter was

55  History of Allen County, 531-532.
56  Harrison, Atlas of Allen County, map, p. 47.
57  Record of Deaths, No. 1, Allen Probate Court, Lima,
    Allen County, Ohio.
married to Barbara Amstutz.

As mentioned before, all of these people were not born in Germany proper. Besides those listed as natives of France, some were born in Switzerland. As many were of the same religious sects and often related, we shall consider them all as the same group.

One of the Amstutz family, a farmer and carpenter by trade, married Fannie Neuschwander, a niece of the first German settler in Putnam County. Like others of the faith, a branch of this family had settled earlier in Wayne County. After a few had advanced as far west as Allen County, others came until there was quite a colony of Mennonites, who usually were adherents of the Democratic party.

Religious services of the Mennonites were usually conducted in German. Preachers were selected by lot, the number varying from two to four. Four divisions of the faith were eventually formed, each one differing only in minor practices and belief. The church forbid quarrels and law suits, so that we seldom find the names of these people in legal records.

Other Germans in this section belonged to the Reformed

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58 History of Allen County, 754-756.
59 Ibid., 751-753.
60 Winter, Northwest Ohio, 545.
61 Ibid., 556.
Church. In 1842, the Emmanuel German Reformed Church was organized in Richland Township, Allen County. It continued with both a Reformed and Lutheran Congregation until 1861, when the Germans organized their own church. In 1850, the Reformed Church, German of the Ohio Synod helped to establish Heidelberg College at Tiffin. To aid in preaching to the foreign population, a professorship in German was created at the school. The society founded the Western Missionary at Tiffin, in 1848; later known as the Christian World.

The Evangelical Church attracted other members of this national group. Jacob Altstetter helped to organize this society, in 1856, in Monroe Township, Allen County. This man, originally a cabinet-maker, paid the government fifty dollars for a patent, and then tried to make his living by farming. Too poor to purchase a horse, he exchanged work with his neighbors, that he might get his team work done. His corn only brought ten cents per bushel and oats, six cents, at Delphos, as late as 1846. Later he entered the nursery business, and was one of the first to import fruit trees, hedges, and seed from Germany.

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63 Joseph Henry Dubbs, "History of The Reformed Church, German," in The American Church History, VIII, 386.
64 Ibid., 391.
65 History of Allen County, 662.
Previous to the formation of the Evangelical Church in Allen County, one was formed in Van Wert. This was known as the Evangelical Association of North America. Rev. A. Nicholai, and Rev. J. Fox, in 1852, founded three new preaching posts on the St. Mary's Circuit of the Ohio Conference, namely, at Van Wert, the Hertel settlement, and the Mohr settlement, six miles north of Van Wert. The North and South Germann settlements in Harrison Township of this county were named after the Germann family, who arrived in 1839.

German Lutherans formed a large part of the inhabitants of Hancock County. In 1831, they erected the first log church, as well as a school, in Amanda Township. Probably the largest German congregation was in Van Buren Township. The Lutherans, both Reformed and German, erected a church on the farm of Jacob Trancht. Disagreement caused the two to separate in 1855. These people were home lovers and spent the money, which they had accumulated, on their property. The first log cabins gave way to frame houses, and these, in turn, were replaced by brick structures, as

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66 History of Van Wert and Mercer Counties, 181.
67 Ibid., 235.
68 Jacob A. Spayth, History of Hancock County, Ohio, Geographical and Statistical, 193.
soon as finances permitted. Along with the Lutherans, some Baptists chose this part of the country as their home; particularly around Rodabaugh, they were numerous enough to form a society, probably as early as 1835-36.

Another large German element chose Crawford County as its home. No one religious group predominated, as Lutherans and Methodists both were members of the Bucyrus community. Prior to 1832, most services for the former had been conducted in the German language. Until 1856, though, both Germans and English made up the congregation, when the Germans sold their interest in the building. In 1838, the Evangelical branch of the Lutheran Church organized a Sabbath School. A disruption of the Society, in 1835, brought Dr. Frederick Gottlieb Maschop to preach for the Reformed branch. A House of Worship erected by them, in 1858, carries the name of Evangelical Church of Good Hope.

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History of Hancock County, Ohio: Containing a History of The County, Its Townships, Towns, Villages, Schools, Churches, Industries, etc.; Portraits of Early Settlers and Prominent Men; Biographies, History of The Northwest Territory; History of Ohio; Statistical and Miscellaneous Matter, Etc., Etc., 500-501.

70 Ibid., 448.

71 History of Crawford County and Ohio. Containing a History of the State of Ohio, from its earliest settlement to the present time, embracing its topography, geological, physical and climatic features; its agricultural, stock-growing, railroad interests, etc.; a History of Crawford County, giving an account of its aboriginal inhabitants, early settlement by the whites, pioneer incidents, its growth, its improvements, organization of the county, its judicial and political history, its business and industries, churches, schools, etc.; Biographical Sketches, Portraits of some of the Early Settlers and Prominent Men, etc., etc., 385-389.
Dr. William Nast, the first German Methodist pioneer in the west, was the first member of this faith to preach to these Germans at Bucyrus. Having to cover such a large area, he visited the town only once in five weeks. Like the Lutherans, the Methodists had first used the English Church, and did not erect one of their own until 1853. Rev. Gahn, pastor at the time of dedication, had Herman Zur Jacobs- muhlen, a German noble, as his assistant. Rev. Reimsneider, who succeeded Nast, was able to deliver a sermon to these people only once in four weeks.

Probably Crawford County was the pioneer in this part of the country for issuing a German newspaper. Most other counties did not bring out such a publication until some years later, but on September 15, 1855, the Crawford County Democrat first appeared. Mordecai P. Bean, proprietor of the Forum, was responsible for the newspaper. Bernhardt Roch later took it over; publication was discontinued only after his death, in 1863.

Two townships in Hancock County, namely, Chatfield and Cranberry, were settled largely by Germans. Such a large community was formed in the thirties, that both public and private business was carried on in the German tongue. Tickets for the national and state elections were printed in

\[\text{Ibid.}, 390-391.\]
\[\text{Ibid.}, 265.\]
both German and English.

It was necessary for them to clear the land and reclaim marshes in order to farm. While doing this, many, also, tried to secure cash by working on the turnpike. During the summer months, the building of the Miami Canal gave employment to others. Money received was invariably used to purchase more land. Jacob Shaffer took forty acres of land upon his arrival, in 1835. The first year, he was able to clear only three acres to plant wheat. Still intent upon securing more money to buy land, he walked over sixty miles to Paulding County, where he obtained work on the canal.

William Kalb, another farmer, who did not have adequate equipment for his work, was forced to harvest his crops with a butcher knife. A few of this community turned to other tasks than farming. For instance, Frederick Hipp, a wagon maker in Bucyrus, also filled the offices of postmaster and justice of the peace.

Even some of the schools in the township were taught in the mother tongue. As early as 1832, German Lutheran and Reformed Churches had been organized. For almost five years, settlers' cabins were used for religious services, until one cabin was fitted out as a church. This, in turn, was used as a schoolhouse.

Ibid., 222-223.
A group in Cranberry Township came directly from Germany in 1833. Several, willing to risk the danger of contracting malaria to secure land, chose the ridges that projected into the swamps. These cranberry marshes proved to be a source of income to many of these people. Some later arrivals turned to other occupations however, two of whom operated a tannery in New Washington.

Eagerness to obtain land, had caused some to purchase it without inspecting the site. Consequently, it was not unusual for the buyer to find his tract under water; this occurred in Lykens Township. Here, August Jacobs, a carpenter by day, cleared his land at night. Other arrivals started work in their new homes with only meager supplies. For instance, Henry Geiger and his wife, who walked from Stark County, had an axe, fifty pounds of flour, and one dollar in cash, as their only possessions. The people were so desirous for a meeting house that they met, at first, in the schoolhouse, and then at the farm of John Klaes.

The Rev. Maschop, mentioned in connection with the Reformed Church in Hancock County, preached to a combined congregation of Lutherans and Reformed here. He followed Rev. Stanch, the organizer. By 1853, the German Lutherans

76 Ibid., 226-228.
77 Ibid., 291-297.
were numerous enough to form their own congregation.

John Kraft, Sr., settled with other Germans at Galion in the period from 1832 to 1835. To reach this part of the country, he walked from Baltimore in the east, to Gambier, Ohio. In his one room cooper shop, which was also a residence, he made buckets, barrels, and butter tubs. The following items taken from some receipt books are an index to the prices of those early days.

"Sept. 3, 1835—Received of John Kraft
"Six Wooden buckets at 62½ c  $ 3.75
Two wooden buckets at 50 c  1.00
"To be sold or returned & paid for when sold  $ 4.75

"Michael Ruhl."

As elsewhere in this part of the country, the German and English Lutherans, at first, worshiped together. In 1843, the German Reformed and Evangelical Lutherans erected a church. John Rier was the first regular minister of the German M. E. Church, which was the result of Nast's early efforts of preparation for such an organization. Meanwhile, Ludwig Gerth conducted a German school in Galion.

German Methodists maintained organizations in both Richland and Marion Townships of Marion County. The latter

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Ibid., 231.
Ibid., 425.
Ibid., 426-428.
met in the Court House. In Marion, the First Reformed
Church (German) united with the English and German Evangelical Lutheran Churches for four years. Also, in
Pleasant Township, the German Reformed and Lutherans formed a society under the name of the "United Dutch
Evangelical Dreiseinigkeits Kirche."

About 1832, some Germans settled in Green Camp Township, where they operated a corn mill by hand. Milk sickness, in 1833, resulted in the death of several of the immigrants. A few years later, in Marion, Philip Dombaugh, also a German by birth, helped to publish the Democratic Mirror. Previously, he had helped to print the Peoples' Forum, in Bucyrus. After serving a short period as postmaster, he held other public offices.

Within the limits of Antrim Township, Wyandot County, as early as 1819, some squatters of German nationality settled on the Delaware Reserve. The inhabitants of Germantown were probably the first residents in the county.

The History of Marion County, Ohio, Containing a History of the County, Its Townships, Towns, Churches, Schools, etc.; General and Local Statistics; Military Record; Portraits of Early Settlers and Prominent Men, History of the Northwest Territory, History of Ohio; Miscellanea, etc., etc., 519-522.

Ibid., 874.
Ibid., 780.
Ibid., 426.

Van Tassel, Maumee Valley, II, 1910.
Nine years passed, however, before a regular settler arrived in Marseilles Township.

In Crane Township, the congregation under the direction of the Sanguist Fathers of New Riegel, maintained a parochial school from the time of the establishment of the church. Only twelve families formed the original congregation at St. Peter's, just three years before the Civil War. Priests conducted services in English and German on alternate Sundays.

As in the Catholic Churches, the German Lutherans conducted their religious gatherings in both languages. In Salem Township, they were able to build a church, in 1855, at a cost of two hundred dollars. Prior to this, Nicholas Baumgartner offered his home for services. Severe winters forced members of the German Reformed Church in Pitt Township to study the spaces of the frame work of their church with clay. Only twenty-five members comprised the first organization. 1834 marked the occasion of the first wedding among the whites here. This was

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86 The History of Wyandot County, Ohio; Containing a History of The County; Its Townships, Towns, Churches, Schools, etc.; General and Local Statistics; Military Record, Portraits of Early Settlers and Prominent Men; History of The Northwest Territory, History of Ohio; Miscellaneous Matters, etc., etc., 303.
87 Ibid., 539-541.
88 Ibid., 979-980.
89 Ibid., 902.
the marriage of a daughter of Conrad Wickiser, a resident of Richland Township, to John Roberts.

The settlement of New Riegel, mentioned earlier in connection with the Catholic Church Fathers, was laid out by Anthony Schindler. In Tiffin, however, a large enough German population settled, to enable them to organize a singing society, known as "Der Bruderbund," in 1853. Kunold, a German music teacher, was the director, while Christian Mueller was president. Three years later, it had become so proficient, that it joined the "North American Saengerbund," and participated in musical festivals at Cincinnati, Detroit, and other large cities. As no distinction was made in politics or religion, membership could be extended to all Germans. The stage was not entirely forgotten by the new settlers, who gave several amateur productions, after forming the "Die Deutsche Theatergesellschaft," probably the first German society in Tiffin.

Catholic, Lutheran, and Reformed Churches all counted a large German element in their congregations. Almost every township of Seneca County had a Reformed Church.

90 A. J. Baughman, ed., Past and Present of Wyandot County, Ohio; A Record of Settlement, Organization, Progress and Achievement, I, 367.
91 Van Tassel, Maumee Valley, II, 1828.
92 Lang, Seneca County, 419.
93 Winter, Northwest Ohio, 588-590.
However, the German Evangelical St. John's Congregation of Tiffin, was the only one modeled after the union of Lutheran and Reformed Churches in Germany. This was incorporated in 1836, with Adam Adolph Conrad as the first pastor; similarly he held eight other charges. Most of the members in these Reformed Churches had come from Maryland, Pennsylvania, or the Palatinate in the old country. The provinces of Bavaria, Westphalia, Nassau, and Hessen contributed the most. Many of those from the eastern states originally came from the Fatherland. Zion's Church in Thompson Township is the oldest Reformed Church in the county, having been incorporated in 1830. Twenty-five years later, the number mounted to eleven.

The membership list of the Seneca County Pioneer Association includes the names of Jacob M. Zahn, Lewis Seewald, Henry Geiger, and William Lang, all arrivals from Germany in the years 1832-1835. The latter first entered a carpenter's shop, but, in 1840, started to read law. After being admitted to the bar at Upper Sandusky, he was elected prosecuting attorney in Seneca County, and later, a probate judge. The Know-Nothings prevented his election, in 1854, while five years later, he was defeated.

94 Lang, Seneca County, 278-279.
95 Ibid., 282.
96 Knapp, Maumee Valley, 493-495.
for the state legislature.

His father was one of the most interesting characters in the county. He always retained his native garb, which was that of a forester. His occupation had been that of an officer in this department that superintended the King's forest. The costume, itself, was of dark green broadcloth with a hat to match. The eldest Lang girl was married to Philip Seewald, a jeweler. Although a business man, Seewald always spoke the English tongue in a broken manner.

Anxious to rally the support of these citizens, the Democratic party decided a German newspaper was the best method of securing it. Consequently, in 1848, the Advertiser undertook the task of publishing one. In an address the following appeal was made:

"The necessity of a German Democratic paper in this section of the state--located, too, in the banner district of Ohio--will be apparent to you, when we state that there are in this (Seneca) county about eight hundred German Democratic voters--at least twenty-five hundred in this Congressional district--and doubtless from fifteen to twenty thousand in northwestern Ohio--among whom we can number some of the most unyielding Democrats in the State--yet are comparatively destitute of the means of acquiring political information."  

The Seneca Adler appeared, as a weekly for six months with William Lang, as editor, and John G. Breslin, as pub-
lisher, in April, 1848. *Unsere Flagge*, the second German paper in the county with Democratic views, appeared in 1854, under the direction of J. M. Zahn as both publisher and editor.

Jacob Staib and his brother, who planted the first evergreen trees in Seneca County, had the first grafted fruits such as cherries, plums, and apricots. This was evidence of the progress the region was making, as provisions were so scarce in early years, that grated unripe corn was used to make bread. As everyone in the community was poor, there were no thieves. All shared in any community undertaking; as a result, the log school in Seneca Township was ready for occupancy within a few days.

Miss E. Augspurger, who was hired for the German school in Tiffin, received a salary of twenty dollars a month and furnished her own room. William Lang was chosen as the first president of the school board, in 1850. This same year, seven students started to attend classes at the previously mentioned Heidelberg College, the oldest educational institution in Northwestern Ohio. The Goethean Literary Society conducted all its meetings in German. As this school aimed to train young men for service in the

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100 Ibid., 410-411.
101 Ibid., 597-598.
102 Ibid., 331.
Réformed Churches in the middle west, where many congregations could not understand English, most of the earlier students came from German and Swiss homes. Within four years, the student body, including men and women in the academy and college, had attained a size of two hundred and twenty-two members. The school was a co-educational institution from the time of its opening.

Fremont was also a center for German immigrants. Although some Catholics came here, most of the people belonged to the Lutheran or Reformed Churches. In 1843, the societies together purchased the old Courthouse for their services. Rev. Henry Lang, the Lutheran minister, who lived in the Courthouse, preached in both German and English to a congregation that he had charge of for forty-six years. Although the Reformed Church did not have a minister in the earlier days, Rev. Jeremiah Heller was able to form a German congregation, by 1857. Two years later, the German population was sufficient to warrant the issue of the *Fremont Courier*, which was a German newspaper.

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103 Winter, Northwest Ohio, 321-322.
105 Winter, Northwest Ohio, 569.
106 Van Tassel, *Maumee Valley, 1747-1750*.
107 Winter, Northwest Ohio, 568.
The Catholics of Woodville Township and the Toledo area, in 1841, were hosts to Father Cronnenwett of Ann Arbor, Michigan. His own words best explain conditions in that part of the country:

"...I preached at Woodville but hesitated to accept a call from them until they came after me to Michigan with teams. I had at first very poor lodging. It was a sort of porch on one side of a wagon shop, another family occupying the opposite porch. We had a stove and two beds in one small room. When it rained we had to place an umbrella over us when sleeping. The roads through the woods were very bad and often hard to find. I often missed my way in going to preach to the settlers at a distance. Sometimes I had to follow marks blazed on the trees through the woods." 108

Few people settled within the limits of Ottawa prior to 1830. About eighteen years later, many arrivals from Wurtemberg purchased land near Oak Harbor for five dollars an acre. Sandusky, the nearest market, was reached by canoe, while people traveled a distance of twelve miles, 109 to have their flour ground at Woodville. The next decade witnessed the arrival of many more Germans, who settled around Salem and Oak Harbor. Although farmers made up most of this German population, some were surveyors, attorneys, and merchants. Adolphus Kraemer 110

108 Van Tassel, Maumee Valley, 1702.


110 Ibid., 29.
and Ernst Franch, with others, had to cut timber, which was used for lumber and barrel staves. The latter German, known as "Squire Franch," was county engineer and surveyor. Most of the roads, townships, and ditches of that period were laid out by him, or under his supervision.

Somewhat later, he was justice of the peace. The former individual, after serving as county surveyor, read law, and was elected probate judge. Likewise, he was to be a member of the State Constitutional Convention.

For nine years, following their arrival in 1852, the Germans in Perrysburg and Hull Prairie had to cross the river to Maumee to attend church. As early as 1829 however, a German had cleared about twenty acres of land in Henry Township, Wood County. Before leaving the country, he deadened a large timber area, which has since been known as "The Dutchman's Deadening."

German settlers intermingled with New Yorkers, New

111 Commemorative and Biographical Record of the Counties of Sandusky and Ottawa, Ohio, Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent Men and Representative Citizens, And of Many of The Early Settled Families, 521.
112 Ibid., 386.
113 Ibid., Historical, and Biographical Record of Wood County, Ohio; Its Past and Present, Early Settlement and Development; Aboriginal History, Pioneer History, Political Organization; Agricultural, Manufacturing, Commercial Interests Including Oil and Gas; History of The County, Townships, Towns, and Villages; Religious, Educational, Social, Political and Military History, Including Roster by Townships; Statistical and Miscellaneous Matter; Representative Citizens, Etc., 377.
114 Ibid., 281.
Englanders, and immigrants from other parts of Ohio, in settling Williams County. In fact, few residents of any nationality came before 1835. Defiance was the county seat of Williams County at the time of its organization, in 1824. Dissatisfaction in later years, led to the creation of a new county, in 1845, with Defiance as the county seat, and Bryan, the government center of Williams County.

Defiance had a large German population, many of whom worked as day laborers on the canal. After its completion, they entered business in Defiance and surrounding towns. G. M. Weisenburger and his brother Francis both operated stores here; the former was a provision merchant, and then operated a dry goods establishment, while the latter was a grocer and baker. The first mentioned helped to lay the route for the Mad River Railroad, the first one in northern Ohio.

Most of the inhabitants of German Township, Fulton County, came from Millhauser, a small town in Switzerland. Unused to pioneering, they suffered greatly from the hardships of frontier life.

115 Galbreath, History of Ohio, I, 448.
116 Ibid., 324-325.
117 History of Defiance County, Ohio. Containing a History of The County; Its Townships, Towns, etc.; Military Record; Portraits of Early Settlers and Prominent Men; Farm Views, Personal Reminiscences, etc., 215-216.
118 Winter, Northwest Ohio, 418.
Toledo, the most important city in this section, had a large German population. Its church history is similar to that of the other early settled areas. The first Catholic work was sponsored by a mission in Spencer Township under the direction of Father Amadeus Rappe. In fact, it was 1851, before even a log church was erected, while the Reformed Congregation was not founded until a year later.

Prior to the incorporation of Toledo, Vistula tried to become an important port. Effort was made to have at least one boat a week, en route from Buffalo to Detroit, enter at the docks. As the plan failed, the steamer "Pioneer" was engaged to go to Sandusky to meet the regular boats. Two Stickney went to Buffalo to encourage immigrant travel to the Maumee country by the way of Vistula. Although the "Pioneer" venture failed, a schooner, known as the "Eagle," captained by David Wilkinson, made regular trips between Perrysburg and Buffalo. The "General Gratiot," with Arthur Edwards as Captain, stopped at Vistula in its weekly trips from Detroit to Maumee.

Although not an immigrant, Mr. Jesup W. Scott should be mentioned, as he was a contributor to the "Emigrants' Van Tassel, Maumee Valley, 1663."

Letter of Sanford L. Collins to H. S. Knapp in Knapp, Maumee Valley, 617-618. These facts are Mr. Collins' recollection of the early settlement of Toledo.
Guide, and various other periodicals. He was both owner and editor of the Toledo Blade for several years. His faith in the growth of a metropolis at the western end of Lake Erie, led him to publish a monthly known as The Ohio And Michigan Register And Emigrant's Guide at Norwalk, Ohio, in 1832. This set forth the view that one of the great valley cities would be larger than New York by 1900; by 2000 A. D., it would be the largest city in the world.

Sickness at this western lake port caused other cities to have more business. Business concerns in Buffalo and Oswego attempted to carry both passengers and freight as far as possible in lake steamers. Speculators in prairie lands working with these companies gave information to these emigrating families in the homeland; consequently, about 1844, many foreigners merely passed through this area en route to some more distant point.

One of the large Toledo papers, in 1837, carried an advertisement for the Erie and Kalamazoo Railroad Company organized in 1835. The article reads:

"To Immigrants and Travelers: The Erie and Kalamazoo railroad is now in full operation between Toledo and Adrian. During the ensuing season trains of cars will run daily to Adrian, there connecting with a line of stages for the west, Michigan City, Chicago

Knapp, Maumee Valley, 574.
Ibid., 538.
Ibid., 543.
and Wisconsin Territory. Emigrants and others destined for Indiana, Illinois and Western Michigan will save two days and the corresponding expense by taking this route in preference to the more lengthened, tedious and expensive route heretofore traveled. All baggage at the risk of the owners.\footnote{124}

Most of the Germans voted the Democratic ticket upon their arrival in this country. As a result, nativists were driven into the rival party, which in the two decades preceding the Civil War, was really the Whig organization. It was a golden opportunity for the Democrats to secure more of the foreign vote, as they were able to prove Whigs were unfriendly to immigrants. Many of them opposed slavery, some even to the extent of wishing to abolish the institution, while the German-language newspapers strongly denounced the Kansas-Nebraska Act.\footnote{125}

The newspapers did not hesitate to expose attempts of political parties to secure the immigrant vote. In the election of 1854, the Clerk of the Common Pleas Court in Wood County opened the naturalization office and issued papers to nearly one hundred applicants, although the court was adjourned. As the granting of naturalization papers was an act of the court that could not be delegated, and, 

\footnote{124 Toledo Blade, May 16, 1837, cited by John H. Doyle,} \footnote{125 Stephenson, Immigration, 104-110.} \footnote{A Story of Early Toledo: Historical Facts and Incidents of the Early Day of the City and Environ, 62.}
in this instance, it had not taken such action, the newspapers declared these papers void.

Prior to the election of 1856, one paper exposed the method employed by the Buchanan faction to retain the support of the Germans, who were leaving the party. The Free Soil Party attracted many of these stragglers with its slogan of "Free Soil and free farms." By 1860, the foreigner held the balance of power, so that the new Republican Party attempted to secure the support of the German element. They were rather successful, as the slavery issue attracted this part of the voters. However, before this, leaders in the Buchanan party had declared themselves as protectors of the foreigners' rights. Failure to show gratitude for this protection by supporting this presidential candidate, would cause a fusion of the Democrats and Know-Nothings, resulting in the stamping out of franchises and equal rights granted to American citizens.

Mr. Commager made a decided effort to convert the Catholics, when nominated to Congress on the Democratic ticket, at Napoleon. After denouncing the Know-Nothings,

126 Toledo Blade, November 3, 1854.
127 Stephenson, Immigration, 119.
128 Ibid., 125-132.
129 Cincinnati Commercial, cited by Toledo Blade, October 31, 1856.
the article made a final plea for the immigrant's support by saying: "... now Foreigners! it is such a party encouraging such views and such intolerance, that you vote for, when you perpetuate the Pierce party and its supporters."

By 1859, the Know-Nothing Party had apparently died out in Toledo. A leading newspaper believed that the foreigners were returning to their former party when it printed "German fellow citizens" "are" returning to reason, after a few years wandering!"

Feeling that his uncle might not be elected as candidate for Senator to the State Legislature on the Democratic ticket, James B. Steedman, a convention delegate from Lucas County, sent three wagons to get "Dutch," Irish, and Swiss immigrants, then at work on a state project. As only one of the group could speak English, Steedman, himself, declared them to be true Democrats and Delegates for Wood County. In reality, most of them had not voted, taken out naturalization papers, or even lived in Wood County. Nevertheless, such action secured Steedman's nomination.

The Ohio Staatszeitung, published in 1854, was later known as the Toledo Express. Catholics received much of

130 Editorial, Ibid., September 28, 1854.
131 Ibid., August 9, 1859.
132 Editorial, Ibid., September 28, 1854.
133 Winter, Northwest Ohio, 487.
their outside information from the Catholic Telegraph, which appeared in 1831. Increase in the Catholic German population created a need for a periodical of this faith in the mother tongue. Thus, the Wahrheistsfreund, the first of its kind in the United States, brought the immigrant news of events at home and in other European countries. It appeared in 1837.

In 1838, the state legislature passed an act permitting German to be taught in the schools, if there were a large German population, and the people requested such action be taken. This act of the legislature, even at this early date, shows that American citizens were conscious of the large part Germans played in the political life of the state.

134 Lamott, Archdiocese, 295-297.
135 Faust, German Element, II, 151.
Chapter III

THE IRISH

Only second in importance to the Germans in Northwestern Ohio, the Irish play a part that cannot remain untold in a history of early settlement. Newspaper advertisements were used in northern Ireland to attract prospective emigrants; at the same time, handbills were issued by ship companies. The laboring class that came were usually Catholics, while those a little higher in the social scale, adhered to the Protestant faith.

Even by 1818, three thousand Irishmen were employed in construction work on the Erie Canal. This was only the beginning of their participation in the work on these internal improvements. In 1837, when canal construction was getting under way on a larger scale, contractors urged many Irish to come to Toledo.

Many of these Catholic laborers were among the first settlers of this future city. Bishop Purcell, on hearing that a fair sized colony had been made at this section of

1 William Forbes Adams, Ireland and Irish Emigration to the New World from 1815 to the Famine (Yale Historical Publications, XXIII), 76-77.

2 Ibid., 117.

3 Ibid., 151.

4 Winter, Northwest Ohio, 316.
the state, sent Rev. Emanuel Thienpont of Dayton, Ohio, to minister to them. Thus, in 1837, the first Church Father visited Toledo. The following year, Father Edward Collins traversed the same territory from Toledo to Indiana. As the area was so vast, a permanent organization of the region soon followed these expeditions. Late in November, 1839, Father Machebeuf visited the laborers on the national macadamized road, then being built between Fremont and Perrysburg, as well as attending the canal workers. This highway, although considered a step toward progress, was so rough, that the French priest, who worked with Father McNamee of Tiffin in this diocese, could travel only a few miles a day on his sturdy pony.

Five years previous to Father Thienpont's visit, a group, who settled within the limits of Lucas County, at the Indian village of Providence, had come under the jurisdiction of the Fathers at St. Mary's, in Tiffin.

Practically all reference of religious affiliations of the Irish has been to the Catholic. However, a Mr. Wilson, of the Shamrock Country, was a traveling preacher for the Methodist Episcopal Church, after the arrival of

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5 Harvey Scribner, ed., Memoirs of Lucas County and the City of Toledo From the Earliest Historical Times Down To The Present, Including a Genealogical and Biographical Record of Representative Families, 1, 305-306.

6 Winter, Northwest Ohio, 313-314.
his family in 1834. In fact, his death occurred, while he was covering his circuit route. One of his sons taught school in Seneca County, when only twelve years of age; another member of the same family practiced law and served as justice of the peace in the same locality.

In Toledo proper, where, as yet, there were only a few frame houses and log cabins, the first "church" was a single room with a rude altar made of boxes, and decorated with a colored cloth. Here, Father Rappe, later Bishop of Cleveland, was the first to conduct services. After purchasing a building from the Presbyterians, he dedicated the parish to the Patron Saint Francis de Sales.

Toledo was made up of several towns, among them being Port Lawrence. At a meeting held in May, 1836, members of this landholding company decided to terminate its former business enterprises. Plans, however, were made to erect a hotel and grade various streets. The committee in charge of part of the latter work, let a contract to a Mr. Hall, who with his Irish employees, was closely allied with other improvements of a similar nature in Toledo.

Although the beginning of the canal building program occurred in the 1820's in Ohio, the first boat to make the

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7 Lang, Seneca County, 502.
8 Scribner, Lucas County, I, 306.
9 Ibid., 214.
full trip between Cincinnati and Toledo, arrived at the latter port, June 27, 1845. This same year, the United States Government used the canals, for the first time, to transport soldiers from Toledo to the south for service in the Mexican War. Commissioned officers were carried on the packet boats, while non-commissioned officers and privates boarded the freighters. Use of these canals as part of the national military highway between New York and New Orleans continued until 1856.

During the first years of canal construction, laborers received thirty cents per day with plain board, and lodging in a mere shanty. At the time of excavation, from Manhattan to Maumee, about four or five hundred laborers, mostly Irish, stayed in these temporary shelters. Others did not even have shanties, but lodged in bowers formed with green limbs of trees.

For the first four months of employment, each worker was to get a "jiggerful" of whiskey. This probably did not help these individuals, when they were victims of the dreaded fever. Although they suf-

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10 Ibid., 102.
12 Scribner, Lucas County, I, 497.
13 Huntington, Ohio Canals, 26.
fered no more than the local residents, a greater number succumbed. Mortality was very high among the employees and their families of one contractor, who maintained a liquor store. In contrast to this, another contractor lodged his men in the upper room of a large frame house, where they had straw beds. Whether his orders of "early to bed" and "total abstinence" were responsible or not, few of his men suffered from the disease, which only frost and rain alleviated.

The love of liquor led at least one Irishman into such a predicament, that he signed a pledge vowing not to touch the beverage again. James Calhoon, after partaking of the customary drink a little too freely, decided to nap on an ice cake in the dock at the Railway in Findlay. As the tide rose, James had to rise with it or be drowned. Being under the wharf, it was necessary for rescuers to take up the floor of the shed to release the trapped man. Whether or not he kept his pledge is a matter of conjecture.

As adjoining states needed labor, prices advanced, so that the Board of Public Works, in a report of January 9, 1844, claimed that the high prices of labor

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Dr. Daniel Drake on conditions of 1838 in Northwestern Ohio in Scribner, Lucas County, I, 497.

Democratic Courier (Findlay, Ohio), February 14, 1846.
and provisions increased construction costs in the years 16
1837-40.

About this time various incidents in Ireland caused
a more numerous invasion of this nationality into the
United States. The Irish Poor Law of 1838 placed such a
burden on farmers and landlords, that many were forced
to abandon their property. Heavy rainfalls, from 1839
to the year previous to the famine, ruined many crops,
so that even before the blight, many faced starvation.
Conditions were so bad following the failure of the po-
tato crop in 1845, that emigration was practically the
only solution to the problem. Many of the women, who
came to America at this interval, entered domestic
service.

Hugh W. McIlroy, evidently, felt greatly relieved
from the oppression of the land of Erin. His feeling
of freedom caused him to suggest the term Liberty for
one of the townships of Hardin County.

Earlier than the invasion of the 1830's, William
McCloud, an Associate Judge, lived, with his family, in

16
Huntington, Ohio Canals, 26.
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18
Grant, Conquest of a Continent, 160.
19
Herbert T. O. Blue, Centennial History of Hardin
County, Ohio, Including Centennial Celebration Program,
May 28, 29, 30, 1933, 115.
old Fort McArthur for thirteen years. The primitive conditions enabled him to develop his ability as a marksman, so that tales of his deeds were related over the countryside. A person of the same name came to Zanesfield, about 1806. During the war with the English, he served as a scout under Captain McCollock. He, too, served as an Associate Judge, but in Logan County.

In Wyandot County, Samuel Harper, the first white man to settle within the limits of Scyamore Township, came as early as 1821, accompanied by Alexander Morrow.

The general tendency of the Irish to congregate in cities was not always followed, and some purchased land or entered business in the counties adjoining the water highways. Lyal Tate, a contractor on the Wabash and Erie Canal, settled in Paulding County, where he became a

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20 Ibid., 340.
21 Ibid., 340.
22 History of Logan County and Ohio. Containing a History of the State of Ohio, from its earliest settlement to the present time, embracing its topography, geological, physical and climatic features; its agricultural stock-growing, railroad interests, etc.; a History of Logan County, giving an account of its aboriginal inhabitants, early settlement by the whites, pioneer incidents, its growth, its improvements, organization of the county, its judicial and political history, its business and industries, churches, schools, etc.; Biographical sketches; Portraits of some of the Early Settlers and Prominent Men, etc., 326.
23 History of Wyandot County, 993.
merchant.

Similarly, David Kaley, a resident of Waterville, after six years' work on the Miami and Erie Canal, purchased a farm in Troy Township, Wood County. His brother-in-law had been one of the contractors on this piece of work, which undoubtedly brought the remainder of this family to this area. Fate smiled on two fortune seekers of this family, who were attracted by the Gold Rush of 1849. After accumulating over $10,000, they returned to Northwestern Ohio, in 1853. Following his marriage to Ellen Carey, also a native of Ireland, Kaley settled in Lucas County, where he held several local offices.

According to the contract for part of the construction of the Wabash and Erie waterway, it was to be ready for navigation by October 1, 1839. Ohio should actively promote this project, as the territory could not prove useful without an outlet to Lake Erie. That this water route, and others, were beneficial was evident, as seven counties, formerly without a market for their

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24  Scribner, Lucas County, 200-201.

25  Toledo Blade, cited by State Journal and Political Register (Columbus, Ohio), November 17, 1837.
products, had an outlet. This tended to raise the price of farm produce, as well as the price of land.

Agriculture, in turn, promoted other industries. Sawing and flour mills, operated by power obtained by the flow of water through the locks, were located at various intervals along the route. Only eight cents a bushel was charged to carry corn a medium distance, while the price of wheat was slightly higher. In later years, prices varied according to the freight.

In the previously mentioned packets, the rate was three cents per mile, while on the freighters, it was two and one-half cents. Thirty-five to forty passengers was usually considered a good load, but boats had carried twice that number at various times.

By 1842, the packet dock at this lake port was an active center. Lines of both canals were boarded at this point. William J. Finlay, later founder of the Finlay Brewing Company, was the solicitor for the packet lines at this steamship dock. At the same time, he served as porter at the American House, operated by Col. John McKinstier. In 1846, a firm running passenger boats

26 Huntington, Ohio Canals, 128-131.
27 Scribner, Lucas County, I, 103-104.
28 Ibid., 103.
29 Ibid., 224.
on the Wabash and Erie Canal chose Finlay as the Toledo agent. He held this position for nine years, when the completion of the Wabash railroad almost terminated the canal trade.

All through this active canal building period, there was constant suffering from the dreaded "Maumee fever." A drought, claimed by some to have extended over a period of four months, further intensified the suffering in 1838. Dr. Daniel Drake, a Cincinnati physician, who had spent some time in the drought area, wrote that conditions were so bad that wild animals approached the towns. Likewise, frogs migrated in countless numbers, from the dry bed of Swan Creek, through the Toledo streets to the Maumee river. In fact, even the marsh beds and pool bottoms of the Black Swamp, from the Maumee to the Sandusky rivers, cracked open.

Once these people made their way into the interior of the section, it was almost impossible to leave. Few railroads and bad wagon roads prohibited a return to the old home. The Black Swamp road was renowned for its wretched condition. Six horses were scarcely able to draw a two-wheeled vehicle fifteen miles in three days. Even mail was sometimes detained more than a week. Other

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30 Ibid., II, 131-132.
31 Ibid., 496-497.
sections of the country deplored the condition of this road, which was considered the greatest thoroughfare, by land, between the east and the west. Only labor was lacking to macadamize this route, as material was at hand, and Congress had made liberal grants of land for the project. Travelers' health and property was endangered on this route, which was a disgrace to the state of Ohio.

Even if the roads had permitted, the earlier mentioned fever and obstacles of winter prevented a return to the old places. In these early days, people did not know what caused the disease, for which quinine (Peruvian bark) and calomel were the main remedies. In the epidemic that recurred in 1852, one hundred and thirty deaths occurred between June 1 and July 6, in the Toledo area alone, taking in its destruction mostly the foreign element.

Western cities were not always friendly to those Irish invaders, who entered their regions, and sometimes took steps to prevent their coming. Consequently, it was not unusual for frontier railroad stations and New York newspapers to post the words "no Irish need

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33 *Scribner, Lucas County*, I, 498-499.
apply." Nevertheless, the Irish continued to come to regions, sometimes unattractive in much they had to offer. As late as 1850, a traveler wrote of the largest city in Northwestern Ohio:

"... Toledo is built upon the junction of the Miami and Mad River Canal with Lake Erie. This canal gathers an immense country of agricultural produce in its winding journeys and junctions from the interior of Indiana down to the lake. Good farms may be got in this region, at twenty-five dollars an acre. Toledo is not a very healthy place. Fevers and ague prevail; and even the most careful of the inhabitants cannot avoid these maladies. The population is about five thousand. Many good Irishmen are thriving here in business; the canal packet arrives every day in time for the steam boats. Rev. Mr. Foley and Mr. Kelley will give the stranger information." 35

When the Irish settled on farms, their lives, in many respects, were similar to those of the Germans. In and around Findlay, there must have been a large enough group to attract some attention. A part of the population, which met at the Courthouse, worked up a subscription paper for sending relief to Ireland. Residents of Big Lick Township, had already sent one hundred and two bushels of corn and a large amount of wheat to Carey, from which point it would be shipped to Ireland. General opinion held that other townships would not be negligent in supporting a worthy cause.

34 Grant, Conquest of a Continent, 160.
35 Letter of Mr. Mooney to his cousin, March, 1850, in Thomas Mooney, Nine Years in America, 107-108.
36 Democratic Courier (Findlay, Ohio), May 15, 1847. This paper was always sympathetic with the Irish situation.
More than a year after the potato crop failure, the foreign news items of the local papers related that famine was still spreading and disease was prevalent. Hoping to secure relief for their privations, peasants were showing signs of rebellion.

That this help from America was greatly appreciated was evident in a letter written by Father Matthew. He stated:

"We are, thank God, in common with your country, cheered by the prospect of an abundant harvest, and though poverty still broods over our afflicted country, thanks to your magnificent gifts of food and money, comparative plenty gladdens the laborer's cottage. Next spring, God permitting I shall proceed to your glorious republic, to give expression in person to that gratitude that swells my bosom."

Probably, this was the same Father Matthew, the great Irish Temperance Apostle, who was expected to arrive in this country at the same time as Biliver, the novelist. This was May, 1844.

In Findlay proper, we find several Irish who became prominent in public life. William L. Henderson served as deputy, justice of the peace, clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, notary public, and auditor. Joseph C. Shannon, likewise, filled the latter post. One of the

37 Ibid., November 21, 1846.
38 Albany Journal, cited by Democratic Courier, October 9, 1847.
39 Buckeye Eagle (Marion, Ohio), May 29, 1844.
40 History of Hancock County, 546-548.
local newspaper editors was descended from Irish parents, so it was quite natural that his publication should favor the party to which this nationality usually adhered. So much parleying among the Native Americans against the foreigners, particularly the Irish and the Germans, caused a thrust at them in practically every Herald. A Native American, however, was angling for the support of the Irish and "Dutch" Whigs in Hancock County. The Democrats, though, were not injured by his denunciations, rather, the editor felt it an honor to be classed with as good citizens, as these foreigners generally made.

Similarly, in Marion County, the Whigs endeavored to secure the support of the foreign element, both Irish and German. They voiced the sentiments of the universal Whig party by expressing some of their resolutions. Claiming the Irish name of Montgomery and the German name of Steuben, as well as others, were cherished in our history, the Whigs determined to view the services of the naturalized citizens in past wars with pride, to hold efforts to get up a party hostile to the foreigner in contempt, and to make no distinction, either social or political, between citizens, regardless of place of birth.

41 Democratic Courier, February 28, 1846.
The Irish in eastern cities were supposedly taking part in demonstrations, that usually resulted in riots. Those in Philadelphia had received the most publicity. G. C. Collins, a native Irishman, in his address to the German Clay Club, on July 9, 1844, mentioned these riots and attempted to prove the Whigs, as a party, had taken no part in them. This gathering in the city of Marion was a meeting for adopted citizens, mostly German and Irish.

Mr. Duncan, a supporter of Locofoocism, denounced the Germans, French, and Irish in one of his speeches. The Whigs did not hesitate to call the foreigners attention to this denunciation. Claiming the "Locos" were silent as one of their own party had been the ridiculer, the Whigs also maintained that such a statement by them would have been noticed immediately.

Still trying to persuade the foreigners that the Locofo party was only using them for a purpose, a Marion paper mentioned a Patrick Collins, employed by this party at Columbus, who denounced the Whig conduct to foreigners, both before and after election. This voice of the Whigs claimed that the "Locos" always hired an Irishman to perform their dirty work; immediately fol-

43 Ibid., July 10, 1844.
44 Canton Repository, cited by Ibid., May 29, 1844.
lowing the election, they would turn a cold shoulder. Collins, as the tool for the Ohio Locofoco leaders, had better save him money, in view of the general manner of handling such workers.

About the middle of the century, the national groups apparently had accumulated enough of a reserve to sever their connection with organizations of joint nationalities. Thus, in Toledo, late in 1853, over two hundred Germans signed a petition to erect their own church, where they could worship in their mother tongue. It was 1862, however, before the Rev. Edward Hannin was authorized to form St. Patrick's parish in South Toledo.

Similarly, in Tiffin, combined religious services proved unsatisfactory. Following separation, the Irish formed a congregation in Ft. Ball.

Through the forties, the Germans outnumbered the Irish at Marion. However, in the decade preceding the Civil War, the Irish invasion accounted for the greatest increase in population. This was possibly characteristic of other areas, where both groups settled. In a

45 Ibid., June 12, 1844.
47 Van Tassel, Maumee Valley, 1823.
48 Wilbur A. Jacoby, "Marion Centennial Celebration," in Ohio Archaeological and Historical Publications, XXVI (1922), 381.
report on the census of 1850, only one million of this
country's population was listed with Ireland, as the
land of their nativity. A local editor believed that
the census takers had failed to get complete lists of
the foreign born. He would list at least three million,
or one-eighth of the total population among the foreign
born. Similarly, others of his acquaintance would esti-
mate the Irish element alone at a much higher figure.

25,165 were listed as foreign born in this section of
the state in 1850. If a percentage based upon a mil-
lion Irish in a total foreign born population of two
and one-quarter million, were used, the Irish in these
Northwestern counties would number approximately 11,072
for the year 1850. This amounted to more than one-
fifth of the Irish in the state in that year.

49 Mr. J. C. G. Kennedy, Report, cited by The Western Standard (Celina, Ohio), January 27, 1853.

50 J. D. B. DeBow, Sup't., Statistical View of the United States, embracing its Territory, Population—White, Free Colored, and Slave—Moral and Social Conditions, Industry, Property and Revenue; The Detached Statistics of Cities, Towns and Counties; Being a Compendium, of the Seventh Census, To which are Added the Results of Every Census, Beginning with 1790, in Comparative Tables, with Explanatory and Illustrative Notes, Based Upon the Schedules and Other Official Sources of Information, 284-291. These figures are taken for twenty-one Northwestern Ohio counties.

51 Kennedy, loc. cit.

52 The Seventh Census. Report of the Superintendent of the Census for December 1, 1852, To which is appended the Report for December 1, 1851, 18.
Many of the Irish being attracted elsewhere by public works that offered them a livelihood, the number, who remained in Northwestern Ohio, could not have as much influence upon community life, as the Germans, who usually remained in the same location for years. However, enough remained that they are second only to the Germans in importance.
Chapter IV

OTHER IMMIGRANT GROUPS

Having considered those national groups with the largest numbers in Northwestern Ohio before 1860, there still remain a few others that contributed something to our national heritage. The Welsh, although not so numerous, had several settlements that have been distinct communities. Gomer, in Allen County, is one of these.

A love of liberty is deeply rooted in the hearts of the Welsh people. Similarly, they are a clannish nation, so that a group who had settled earlier in America, was a nucleus for later migrations. A religious dissension, that swept over Europe toward the close of the eighteenth century, brought the Welsh into conflict with the government. Up until 1820, this was one of the main reasons of European migrations, not only of the Welsh, but of other nationalities. Welsh settlements at Beulah and Ebensburg in western Pennsylvania proved to be the nuclei for the Ohio communities. Those coming directly from Wales made these towns a temporary home.

Gomer is in Sugar Creek Township, which was named for the trees and camps that were in the locality. Some of the more prominent members of the colony, namely, the Nicholas', Watkins', and Roberts' families,

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the Welsh settlement of Paddy's Run, in Butler County, in 1835. At least seventy-five percent of the township were of Welsh extraction.

Primitive conditions were met without a complaint by these people. To sell their products, or to obtain needed supplies, they had to travel eighty miles to the nearest market, which was Sandusky. Lacking funds to build a church, services were held, for a period of four years, in the cabins of two of the members, namely, Thomas Watkins and Rowland Jones. In 1839, they erected a log church, where John Thomas, of Lima, occasionally delivered a sermon in the Welsh language. Likewise, children, in the Sunday School, studied the Welsh Bible.

As many Catholic Churches had proved to be mother-parishes, so the Gomer Church was the organizer of various congregations in surrounding towns. One of these was at Leatherwood, three and one-half miles distant. Most of them conducted services in the mother tongue for a number of years; all of them were noted for their singing.

Invariably, the Welsh were farmers, usually choosing tracts of land ranging in size from fifty to one hundred and sixty acres. Thomas Breese, a stock-breeder paid

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2 Rusler, Allen County, 211-212.
3 Jones, loc. cit., 223.
4 Ibid., 224-226.
one hundred dollars for his one hundred and sixty acre tract. In 1826, Thomas Watkins, sometimes called the "Father of the Gomer Settlement," had purchased land for one dollar and a quarter per acre.

Love of music led these people to have an organ in the Calvanistic Congregational Church in Cambria, as early as 1857, although the building proper was only a log structure. People sat on benches made of split logs to hear the services, while their coats hung on pegs driven in the walls. Communion was offered to the members from a brown earthen jug and two tin cups, while bread was passed on two queensware plates.

One member of the community, namely, Josiah Jones, was a writer and poet. His best known work is The History of the Welsh Church and Settlement.

Venedocia, in Van Wert County, settled shortly after Gomer, is second in importance of the Welsh towns. These, probably, are the two wealthiest communities of this nationality in Ohio. William Bebb, who made the first improvements near Venedocia, was the leader in the Salem

5 History of Allen County, 621.
6 Jones, loc. cit., 222, f.n.
7 Rusler, Allen County, 287.
8 Jones, loc. cit., 224.
9 Ibid., 226-227.
Welsh Presbyterian Church, of which he was one of the organizers. Most of the inhabitants of Jennings and many in York Township, in Van Wert County, are of Welsh extraction, settlement being made about the middle forties.

One of the subdivisions in the eastern part of Wood County is called Freedom Township, because it expressed what the people felt their new home would give them. Many of this community came from Wales to avoid the exactions of landlords and manufacturers in their own country. An organization, known as the Harvest Home was founded in 1857, the same year that the settlers in Madison organized the Baptist Church. Nineteen members signed the Articles of Association of this group, of which Rev. David Campbell was moderator. These individuals made up the Rees Settlement.

In 1834, some emigrants from Scotland, destined to be the first permanent settlers near Scotch Ridge, came to Webster Township, Wood County, by way of Buffalo, Cleveland, and Toledo. A calm made it necessary for them to make oars to propel the boats up the river. The men in the party found work at James Stafford's brickyard in Perrysburg. As many young people lived in the community,

10 History of Van Wert and Mercer Counties, 273-274.
11 Commemorative Record of Wood County, 260.
there was much social activity. Even the older people, though, participated in the shindigs, four of which, sometimes, occurred in one week.

These people retained their own customs in performing the marriage ceremony. Their ritual demanded that the prospective bridegroom go to the girl's home, where the service was read. Following this, the couple always walked to their new home; in one instance, this proved to be a distance of twelve miles. Such an occasion was always a time for merrymaking, so that liquor and dancing usually prevailed until the following morning.

One of the greatest hardships to be experienced by these sturdy pioneers, was the task of reaching the mill with their oxen over the icy paths. As they were unable to make the journey at all during one winter, potatoes constituted the sole article of diet. At another time, corn meal ground from frost-bitten corn enabled the people to ward off hunger, until one member of the community purchased a hand mill.

Captain David Wilkinson, of Perrysburg, persuaded the first groups of Scotch immigrants, when he met them in Buffalo, to go to the Maumee country. Finding the new area had much to offer, they wrote favorable accounts of it to friends and relatives in Scotland, so that new arrivals came within the next two years. In fact, the community, situated a little to the north of the main town,
was known as the Perrysburg Scotch Settlement.

As David Wilkinson captained so many boats bringing immigrants to the Maumee Valley, something more should be given of his life history. His first trip to the Black Swamp country was in May, 1816, when he arrived on the schooner Black Snake, owned by his father and uncle. Passengers on board this vessel were immigrants, whose destination was either the Maumee or Raisin river valleys. Perrysburg, at this early date, was still forest land.

Having to meet all the hardships of the frontier, such as killing wild animals and fighting the fever common to this area, many were not physically able to endure such strain, and soon passed away. Coffins used were those of the most primitive type, as they were made by splitting slabs of newly felled trees. A great number of these people were members of the United Presbyterian Church at Scotch Ridge, which was organized in 1841.

Margaret Frazier taught in the log school, which also served as a place for religious and social gatherings.

12 Robert Fenton, Address to an assembly of pioneers, September, 1838, at Bowling Green, in Commemorative Record of Wood County, 417-419.
13 Knapp, Maumee Valley, 435.
14 Fenton, Address, in Commemorative Record of Wood County, 419-421.
15 Commemorative Record of Wood County, 313.
About this same time, 1844, Alexander Thompson was the first postmaster at Kenton. Similarly, he was chosen as Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas and Associate Judge.

A group of the same nationality settled in and near Port Clinton, Ottawa County, through a trick of fortune. The boat carrying these immigrants to Chicago was wrecked and cast ashore near this town. Immediately adjusting themselves to the circumstances, the people purchased land at this point. One of the pioneer women of this community has gone down in history as "Grandma McRitchie," by which name she was known to all the people of the surrounding country.

Very little has been said of immigrants from England in this early period. There were many of them, however, scattered through this part of the state. In Claridon Township, Marion County, most of the early settlers came from this part of the United Kingdom. Joseph Hornby came in 1820, while William Thew and others soon followed. One year after Hornby's arrival, the people laid out a town, which they hoped would be the county seat. A killing frost in the neighborhood brought this dream to an abrupt end. The choice of Marion, as the seat of government, caused immigration to Claridon to

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16 Blue, Centennial History, 30.
17 Winter, Northwest Ohio, 522-523.
cease temporarily. About five years elapsed before another migration of any size occurred.

Obadiah Miller, one of the later arrivals, was one of the contractors, who built the Marion jail. He married Martha Thew, whose family had come to Claridon Township during the earlier influx of immigrants. Most of the English were followers of the Republican party, after its organization in the fifties. Itinerant ministers preached to the English, who were members of the Methodist Church. When in Hancock County, one rider of the circuit made his home with James Vickers, whose house was used for religious services.

Although earlier arrivals in Wyandot County, came from both England and Germany, the former were probably greater in number. In 1858, two Englishmen were examiners for the teachers applying for certificates in the districts near the present Delta, Ohio. So many qualified teachers were rejected, that a number of districts were without schools during the winter of

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18 History of Marion County, 694-696.
19 History of Seneca County, 749.
21 Baughman, Wyandot County, I, 172.
1857-58.

About two miles south of the present Tontogany in Wood County, a place called Gwynndale was settled by a man, whose exact nationality is not known, although it is believed, he came from Ireland or England. He arrived after the panic of 1837, and attempted to build a corduroy road from his home to Otsego; the project failed, and Gwynn left his property to any adventurer that might come to that section. After its purchase by Dr. Nieblüng, in 1845, other Germans came to Gwynndale, causing its name to be changed to Germany.

Undoubtedly, a number of these settlers traveled over the Western Reserve Road, a thirty-one mile mud pike from Lower Sandusky to Perrysburg. Built in 1825, it was regarded as a great improvement, as western settlers found traveling over the road much easier than some other routes.

English settlers, in this country in the forties, probably remembered the trip of Charles Dickens through this section, in 1842, as an outstanding event. En route

Letter of Harriet M. Howe to O. B. Gould, February 28, 1858. Letters to Ozro Barnes Gould from his Ohio Relatives. (Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society, Columbus). Most of these letters are written just previous to and during the Civil War by these people living near Ai City, which was in the region of the present Delta, Ohio.

Commemorative Record of Wood County, 411.

Ibid., 402.
he stopped for a night at the log cabin inn at Upper Sandusky.

Usually the French found in this part of the country had arrived during the War of 1812. They were invariably French Canadians, and often the descendants of hunters and trappers. Big Spring Township, Seneca County, though, in the period from 1833 to 1844, had many French invaders, as well as German.

More important, though, was a group of refugee families, possibly twenty in all, who came from Monroe, Michigan, when Hull surrendered at Detroit. During the winter of 1813, the garrison at Ft. Stephenson provided for them. After the war, they comprised the French Settlement in Rice Township, Sandusky County.

Visited by a priest from Detroit, in 1823, it was three years before they were again ministered to by a Church Father. Twenty-one years later, a church, known as St. Ann’s, was dedicated. Some of the people were squatters, as they were too poor to purchase farms. Land sales of this area, in 1821, caused so much confusion,

26 Lang, Seneca County, 486.
27 Winter, Northwest Ohio, 563.
28 Ibid., 569.
that some of the French families were forced to leave.

The earliest French settlement, though, was the one mentioned before, opposite the town site of Manhattan, later part of Toledo. This was probably laid out about 1807 or 1808. As there is no authentic record of the names of the inhabitants, the Navarre family is the only one of which we have any assurance of belonging to the community.

French Catholics in Henry County were so destitute, that they were not able to support a church, until 1856. Augustine Pilliod organized this congregation of St. Augustine with a membership of approximately ten families. Rev. Westerholt of Defiance had charge of the church.

Six years previous, when Napoleon was to be incorporated, much discussion over the name ensued, possibly, because of the great number of Germans in the community. Henry was a proposed name, but was rejected by the French, under the leadership of Augustine Pilliod. Opposition resulted in demonstrations, that were practically riots. This necessitated deferring the election until the next year, when a petition for incorporating retained the name of Napoleon.

29 Van Tassel, Maumee Valley, 1711.
30 Doyle, Early Toledo, 47.
John Adrian, the first Frenchman to settle in Crawford County, began the operation of a distillery in 1818. According to reports of the period, his strength in picking up the kegs was so great, that it might have accounted for his being the best customer. Regardless of the reason, he was forced to discontinue the business. Some years later, in 1832, Marturen Latimbra laid out the town of Letimberville in Scott Township, Marion County. Although his was the only effort to establish a town in this locality, the village grew very slowly, to the great disappointment of its founder.

From this information, it is readily seen that the Germans were the most numerous foreign element in the Maumee country before the Civil War. Any political organizations desirous of obtaining the immigrant's vote usually catered to this nationality. Second in importance were the Irish, who usually remained in the cities, the largest one, in this instance, being Toledo. Small congregations of immigrants, such as the English, Welsh, Scotch, and French have not greatly affected the history of the whole area, but rather each one has a distinct local history in its own community.

33 Hopley, Crawford County, 71-72.
34 History of Marion County, 974.
Even these inland areas worried over the vast numbers of immigrants coming to America; correspondence of readers in the newspapers of that day reveal their uneasiness in the situation. In a paper of October 28, 1856, five thousand immigrants were recorded as entering the country the previous week. Strikes caused work to stop, at least temporarily, so that foreigners, as a last resort, became street peddlars to get money for food. On October 23, the skirt weavers had struck, because they considered eighty-seven cents a day too low a wage for a "man of family." As naturalization papers were so cheap to obtain, over 15,000 Irish and Germans had become citizens of the United States that fall season.

Future generations that became leading citizens were strongly influenced by the efforts of these people to make a home in what was still a frontier section. To the Germans, we owe much in the fields of music, fine arts, and festival celebrations, as well as good schools; from the Welsh, also, we have had some musical contributions. However, to every nationality, including the Scotch and the Irish, in this area before 1860, the people of Northwestern Ohio are probably more grateful for the part they had in making a swampy, unhealthy, forest area, a region in which it was fit to live. It has become a leading farming country with its own markets.

Toledo Blade.
The early canals, the railroads, and later the improved highways, were all facilities, that they worked with the native Americans to obtain.

One author, in speaking of the Germans, has so completely compared them with others of the foreign population, that it shows what each, in one way at least, has contributed to the American national culture. He states:

"In common with the English stock of New England, the German is inspired with idealism, the origin of education, music, and art; he shares with the Scot a stern conscience and a keen sense of duty; he touches the Irish with his emotional nature, his joy of living, and his sense of humor...."36

With such a background, the American of today may well believe he has a rich inheritance.

36 Faust, German Element, II, 475.
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