

HISTORY
OF
STARK COUNTY,

WITH AN OUTLINE SKETCH OF

OHIO.

EDITED BY WILLIAM HENRY PERRIN.

ILLUSTRATED.

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OSNABURG TOWNSHIP.

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CHAPTER XXI.*

OSNABURG TOWNSHIP—TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES—AN INCIDENT—EARLY SETTLEMENT—HARD TIMES AND ROUGH SCENES—ORGANIZATION OF THE TOWNSHIP—SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES—VILLAGES, ETC.

THIS township is one of the hilliest sections of Stark County, there being but very little land within its limits that may be termed perfectly level. Notwithstanding its rolling surface, however, the careful hands and methodical work of the Pennsylvania Dutch have reduced it to a fine state of cultivation. Indeed, through their wise husbandry, it may be said, figuratively, that

"Its rocks, and hills, and brooks, and calves,
With milk and honey flow."

The character of the land renders it a fine grazing township, though considerable corn and wheat are cultivated, and also some small grain, but stock and grazing is the main business of the farmer. The land is thoroughly drained by the Little Sandy and Indian Run, and their numerous tributaries, which, though mostly small, traverse the township in all directions, and afford ample drainage. Coal is found in many places, and that of a very good article. It is rapidly becoming an important branch of business, and one that is being largely developed, through the means of the Conotton Valley Railway, recently opened for traffic. The township also affords some very fine stone quarries, which supply quantities of good building stone. The timber consists mostly of oak, hickory, maple, beech, with some black walnut and poplar. Osnaburg is bounded on the north by Nimishillen Township, on the east by Paris, on the south by Sandy Township and Carroll County, and on the west by Canton Township.

Long ere the Pale-face dreamed of the fertile lands lying away to the west, these slopes and bluffs, and ravines, and groves of timber, were the hunting grounds of the lordly savage, and the natural birthright of his kindred. Here he roamed as undisputed master, and for years and decades, aye, for centuries, indeed, his war-whoop was the only music that broke upon

the quietude of the forest, save the song of the wild birds, and the sighing of the winds among the trees. But the rays of civilization flashed over the land, and in their effulgence, the council-fires of the Indians went out forever in this section of the country. Slowly the red man was pressed on toward the Far West, there to read his own doom in the setting sun. A sad story is told in Osnaburg Township of an old warrior, who, after the remnant of his tribe had departed for their new home beyond the great "Father of Waters," loth to leave the home of his fathers, remained behind. For hours he would sit in some lonely place, like "Patience on a monument smiling at grief," perchance, dreaming of brighter hopes of former days, when over those hills and valleys he pursued the bounding deer, or howled behind his flying prey. One day, when sitting on a log in the forest, quietly smoking his pipe, wholly unconscious of danger, a pale-face foe—ever the red man's oppressor—stole near unto him, and, without a note of warning, shot him dead, and that, too, for no other cause than that he was an Indian. The poor savage was buried in the midst of the present village of Osnaburg and the spot where he sleeps is still pointed out to the stranger, by old residents of the place. Thus the red man's title to Osnaburg Township became extinct.

The first settlement in Osnaburg Township was made in the spring of 1806—just three-quarters of a century ago. The pioneers were Jacob Kitt and John Sluss, natives of Pennsylvania. Their first visit to this section is thus told by a local correspondent of the *Canton Democrat*: "On a beautiful morning in the fall of 1805, five horsemen might have been seen emerging from New Lisbon, then a frontier settlement of less than a dozen log cabins, and wending their way westward—the horsemen, not the log cabins). They were a party made up to select land for future homes.

*Contributed by W. H. Perzin.

Of the number were Jacob Kitt, John Sluss, John Thomas, another whose name has been forgotten, and a surveyor engaged to accompany them as guide, and who had field-notes and knew what quarter-sections were yet open to entry. The land office was then in Steubenville, called at that time *Steuben* for short, with an accent on the last syllable. As there was no settlement between New Lisbon and the Tuscarawas River, the extent of the land office district, it was necessary for the explorers to provide themselves with rations—bread and cold meat—in sufficient quantity to last several days, which could easily be packed in their saddle-bags, and a blanket strapped to the saddles constituted the outfit. The horses could obtain subsistence by feeding upon grass and the wild pea vine, a succulent growth with which the woods then abounded. The party moved along in single file, following the section line as indicated by blaze-marks on the trees, until they reached Range 7, when they turned south. Pursuing a southwesterly course they came to a spring. Here they all dismounted to take a drink (of water) and allow their horses to graze. While resting and viewing the surroundings, Kitt was the first to say, 'I'll take *this* quarter.' This was the southeast quarter of Section 18, the same now owned by David Bowman. At that day, for obvious reasons, land that had on it a good spring of water was preferred. At the time Mr. Kitt announced his decision to take the piece, the rest of the company, with the exception of one, agreed by an audible assent that he should have it, and a memorandum was made accordingly. The member of the company who interposed no objection, but was silent, was the same whose name could not be procured. Continuing their explorations, the next piece they found that had a spring, was the southwest quarter of Section 17, the same now owned by J. Cellars, and this was first claimed by John Sluss. Again the balance of the company said 'agreed,' except the one who was before silent. This strange conduct on his part excited the suspicion of Kitt. Ruminating over the matter during the night, he was satisfied the stranger intended to enter the same quarter, and to frustrate him, Mr. Kitt concluded to make an excuse in the morning and return home, which he did with all haste. Providing himself with the necessary funds to make the

first payment, he proceeded to the land office in Steubenville, secured the land, and as he was about leaving town, whom should he meet but the very man whose ominous silence had so disturbed him. His suspicions were true, as the man acknowledged that he was after the same tract Mr. Kitt had just entered.

Mr. Sluss, on his return, secured the place he had selected. Both he and Kitt were married, and were living upon land in the neighborhood of New Lisbon. They remained there during the winter of 1806, and came out together early in the following spring. Each had two horses, Mr. Kitt a wagon; so they joined teams, and in the wagon both couple packed all their worldly goods. Their route was by the 'Thomas road,' then being laid out—the same that passes through Freeburg and Louisville, the first legal highway in the county. They came to the improvement of Philip Slusser, who was then building a grist and saw mill on the Nimishillen, the same site now known as Roland's. With the help obtained here, and the assistance of James F. Leonard, a surveyor, who had a camp on the west side of the creek, the two emigrants cut a way to their new homes in Osnaburg Township. This was the actual beginning of the settlement in this township. Nearly three generations have passed away since Mr. Kitt erected his pole cabin on the southeast quarter of Section 18. He brought with him to his new possessions a hired man, and with his help logs were soon cut, or poles, rather, for help enough to handle large logs was not to be had, and a cabin was erected of sufficient magnitude to shelter the family from the inclemencies of the weather, and protect them against wild beasts. This primitive cabin was built without any iron, not even a nail was used. It was covered with clapboards or 'shakes,' which were held to their places by 'weight-poles,' and the door was hung with wooden hinges and the boards fastened to the rough battens with wooden pins. A chimney, built of 'cat and clay,' in connection with a fire-place, occupied one end of the cabin, and an opening filled with greased paper served as a window. Mother Earth formed the floor, and a rude frame in one corner constructed with a side and foot board, and a bed-tick filled with leaves and grass, was, by honest toil, rendered

"Soft as downy pillows are."

This was the rude style in which the pioneers

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of Osnaburg began life, and is not in the least exaggerated. There are those still living, who, though children then, remember much of the hardships of the pioneer days. Cooking utensils were scarce; the modern cook-stove was unknown, and tableware was of the commonest kind. Mrs. Kitt, for a time, it is said, kneaded her dough in a bucket, and afterward in a sugar-trough. The following, related of Kitt, is an apt illustration of life in the early days of the country: "A few weeks after he had settled in Osnaburg, he was in the woods one morning, when he heard some one chopping with an ax—a quite unusual sound at that day. Suspecting there were Indians in the vicinity, as he had no knowledge of a white settler so near him, he determined to investigate the phenomenon. So he returned to his cabin, procured his rifle and started in the direction of the sound. He advanced cautiously, always keeping a large tree in range between himself and the locality where the chopping was going on. Approaching nearer, he detected that it was not the work of Indians, and emboldened by the discovery, he advanced upon the choppers, when he found them to be the Latimers,—three brothers, who, with their hired men, had moved in, and were clearing, in Section 13, Canton Township, about one mile from his (Kitt's) own cabin. This was a welcome discovery, and Mr. and Mrs. Kitt were delighted to find that they had white neighbors so near to them." Some five years after Kitt's settlement in Osnaburg, his house was destroyed by fire, but his neighbors, who had increased in number, came to his assistance, and soon rebuilt his cabin, and thus repaired his loss.

When Kitt and Sluss moved into Osnaburg Township they brought some stock with them, besides the horses that drew their wagou, among which were a cow, and a hog of the female species. Soon after their arrival, the cow brought forth a calf, and the sow a litter of eight pigs. This welcome addition to their "families," notwithstanding it was a matter of considerable rejoicing, but increased the troubles and perplexities of the owners. The wolves, which were exceedingly plenty and very troublesome, were attracted to the vicinity of the cabins by the smell of cooking meats, and in order to save their young calf and pigs, they found it necessary to take them into the cabins during the night. Mr. Kitt lived many years a

respected citizen of Osnaburg, and finally removed to Huntington County, Indiana, where he was still living a year ago, at the advanced age of 101 years, in good health. A daughter—Mrs. Joseph Doll, of the village of Osnaburg, now nearing her fourscore years, is still living, and in good health for one of her years. Her mother, Mrs. Jacob Kitt, was the first pale-face woman to tread the soil of Osnaburg, and Mrs. John Sluss the next. They accompanied their husbands to the township in 1806, and bore their part in all the privations of making a home in the wilderness. Referring to old age in Osnaburg Township, a correspondent gives the following to the *Canton Repository* in March, 1880: "There are three families very near each other in the village of Osnaburg, and in the three families can be found three of the oldest couples living in the county to-day. First, there is Jacob Marcker, aged 86, and his wife, aged 87; this couple has lived together as man and wife for 63 years. Next comes Joseph Doll, aged 78, and his wife, aged 75; they have been married for 55 years. The third couple is Anthony Rabenstein, aged 75, and his wife, aged 71 years; they have lived together for 53 years. And these remarkably old people are enjoying good health, and to all appearances will enjoy life for many years to come."

Mr. Sluss, who came to Osnaburg with Kitt, was a man who was held in high esteem among his neighbors, and somewhat above the average in education and intelligence. He was elected Justice of the Peace at an early day, an office which he held for many successive terms, as well as that of County Commissioner. He raised a family of children, all of whom became highly respected men and women. His sons are all dead; his daughters married and moved West. Mr. Sluss and his wife both lived to a good old age. When she died, he ordered a coffin for himself at the same time he did hers, remarking to the undertaker, that he should soon need it. He ordered the two, and paid the price—\$6 apiece—the price, at that day, for the best walnut coffin made. He died in a few years afterward, lamented by a large circle of friends.

Other pioneers of Osnaburg Township, in addition to Kitt and Sluss, and who came in prior to the war of 1812, were Frank Ake, Douglas Wilson, Peter Moretz, Michael Engle, James Leeper, William Nailor, John Studebecker, Ja-

cob Troxell, David Edwards, James Price, Jacob Bowers, Peter McCabe, the Bairs, Alex Cameron, Henry and Adam Shull, George Poe, B. Augustine, John and George McEnterfer, the Latimers, Daniel Graybill, Henry Bowman, John Crisswell, the Shearers—four brothers—Jacob, John, Adam and Henry, Daniel and John Lichtenwaller, the Floreys and the Camps, Samuel White, Casper Gephart, and others, whose names have passed from the recollection of the few older inhabitants now living. Most, if not all of these, came from Pennsylvania, and were thrifty, hard-working tillers of the soil. The neat and well-kept farms of the township, the comfortable, and even elegant residences, and the spacious barns, plainly denote their energy and industry. Alex. Cameron, who was of Scotch origin, settled near the present village of Mapleton in 1807, and Augustine and Poe settled on farms adjoining. Douglas Wilson and Frank Ake settled on Section 32 in 1811, and opened up farms. Studebecker was a Dunkard preacher, and brought to his new home his earthly all packed on a horse and a cow. The Floreys and the Camps enjoyed quite a reputation as fighters, and the state of society and of morals, at that early period, afforded them ample opportunities of gratifying their tastes in that direction. Casper Gephart is said to have been a Hessian soldier who was captured at the battle of Trenton, and decided to throw off the yoke of his former master and become an American citizen.

The Bairs figured prominently among the early settlers of the township. They were men of considerable intelligence, and became, by natural right as it were, local leaders in the affairs of the time. There were Abraham, Stophel and Rudolph Bair; the latter, who was commonly called "Rudy," was a member of the convention that formed the first State Constitution, and afterward represented Columbiana County—then including Stark—in the Legislature. Rudy and Stophel were brothers, and both entered land in Osnaburg Township, but Rudy settled in what is now Paris Township, though at that time it was embraced in Osnaburg. He was an early Justice of the Peace, and it is said that the first law suit in what is now Stark County was tried before him. The particulars of this pioneer trial, as handed down through a long sweep of years, are thus detailed by a local writer: "Thomas and

Bosserman, two early settlers of the neighborhood, had traded horses, and as Thomas considered himself cheated in the swap, he brought suit against Bosserman for damages. A man named Hockingsmith, of Pike Township, was Constable, and subpoenaed three witnesses. The parties and the witnesses were present on the day set for trial. When the parties met, Rudy brought out a jug of whisky and proposed a drink all around. At the close of this preliminary indulgence, he suggested that they settle the case without going to trial; that each one make his statement, and he would give judgment. To this Thomas objected, but after considerable talk, and another horn, he agreed. Each told his story, and the Court, after due deliberation, decided that Bosserman should pay Thomas \$3 and the Constable's fees, whereupon all drank again and expressed themselves satisfied. The Squire was rejoiced at his success in settling the case, as his docket, which he kept between the rafters of his cabin, had been carried away by the squirrels, and he had nothing in which to make the entry." This was an easy way of dispensing justice, and altogether different from that of the present day, when representatives of the law too often assist in stirring up bad blood, merely for the sake of litigation, instead of trying to nip little disputes in the bud, as Rudy did with his jug of whisky. A son of Stophel Bair, named Adam, had the reputation of being the stoutest man in the township. This championship was contested by one Jacob Shirley, a native of Bedford County, Pennsylvania, and an early settler in Osnaburg. The following incident is related of Shirley: "He was a large man, and of great muscular power. He was a Dunkard, and was once beset by a crowd of seven men, who slapped his face, when he turned the other cheek and was again struck. This, he said, was according to Scripture, and he would now defend himself. He accordingly turned upon the crowd and vanquished the seven, literally piling them up on top of each other." These little exhibitions of manly strength were quite frequent in the early days of the country, and although considered highly degrading, in this enlightened age, as they truly are, yet it was deemed quite an honor, fifty or seventy-five years ago, to be known as the stoutest man and best fighter in the neighborhood. A story is told of a fight that occurred once at Osnaburg,

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at "muster," between Jacob Sherrick and Richard Elson, in which they fought, and scratched, and gouged, and pounded each other almost beyond recognition, and in a manner that would scarcely be creditable at the present day, even among prize-fighters. But this mode of settling old grudges has given place to the more refined way of unceremoniously pulling out a little gun, and shooting off the top of an enemy's head.

Osnaburg is an old township, and was organized before Stark County was created. It was part of Columbiana County, and its jurisdiction extended over all that part of Stark County now lying east of Canton Township, and to the present western boundary of Columbiana County. Indeed, it is said of Rudolph Bair, who was the first Justice of the Peace, and was commissioned in 1808, that his jurisdiction as such extended from the Ohio River to Lake Erie. The township was first surveyed in 1801, by John Bever, in sections of four miles square, and in 1806 it was subdivided, by James C. McFarland. Says a local writer upon the subject: "As near as can be ascertained from contemporaneous events, the township was organized in 1806. The records of Columbiana County, however, of that date are lost or destroyed, and nothing has been discovered that would enlighten us, from any researches made among the archives of that county." At a meeting of the Commissioners, held in March, 1809, the township was named Osnaburg, but why it was so called, or from what source the name was obtained, we are not informed. The next Justice of the Peace, after Bair, was William Nailor, who was commissioned May 1, 1809. The next was Jacob Fulton, whose commission was dated a few days later. John Augustine and John Sluss succeeded them some years afterward. James Price was Collector of the township in 1809, and the amount of tax collected amounted to the enormous sum of \$19.50.

In the natural course of human events, all things must have a beginning, and the continuation of the human race in Osnaburg Township began in the family of Jacob Kitt. Not only the first white child born in the township, but the first in the present County of Stark, was a daughter, "born," as it is reported, "to Jacob and Barbara Kitt." She is still living, and is the wife of Squire Doll, of Osnaburg village, and is still, as her friends say,

as "pert as a cricket." She was born September 7, 1806, and is now, 1881, seventy-five years old. The next birth in the township, and which proved to be the first male child born, was George Latimer, son of Robert Latimer, and was born a few months after Mary Kitt. He died in 1873, in Ashland County, from injuries sustained in falling from a load of straw. The first death was that of a Mrs. Milligan, and occurred in 1811. Her coffin was a rough box, and as there was no minister present at the funeral, a Mr. Hutchinson, a school teacher, sang a few verses of a hymn, and offered prayer, which comprised the funeral ceremonies. Since that first funeral, the "pale horse and his rider" have made numerous visits to the township, as the several graveyards will attest. The first marriage is thus described by a local historian of the township, in the columns of the *Canton Democrat*: "The first marriage of which we have any account was mixed with a bit of romance. There were a Mr. and Mrs. Anderson living in Osnaburg, who had two children. Anderson was a drunken loafer, who would do nothing for the support of his family, and, as a consequence, Mrs. Anderson had to work out. She was a good spinner, and went from house to house, taking her children with her, earning about a \$1 a week, beside their board. A man by the name of Ihry, a German, proposed to marry her, and was accepted, although she was not divorced from Anderson. Mr. Kitt brought the couple to Canton, and they were married by Squire Coulter. They lived together for three years, when Ihry died, leaving his wife a comfortable homestead. This pioneer wedding was followed by many others, as the present population of the township clearly indicates."

In the early days of Osnaburg, the people went to Steubenville to mill. This was a great inconvenience, and took up considerable of their time. This difficulty was, to some extent, obviated by Mr. Kitt, who built a little mill, a few years after his settlement. It was what was known as a "tread wheel mill," and oxen were used to furnish power. This was a great improvement on grinding corn in a coffee-mill, or of spending a week going away to Steubenville. Peter Boyer built a grist-mill in 1814, and shortly after Daniel Laird built one on the Little Sandy. Abraham Bair built a saw-mill about this time, which was the first in the

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neighborhood; and previous to its erection, the people used puncheon floors in their cabins, if they had any floors at all. Christian Harshbarger built a grist-mill on Little Sandy, south of where Mapleton now stands. John Newman also built a mill on Little Sandy, two miles northeast of Mapleton. There are no grist-mills now outside of the village. The first goods were sold in the village of Osnaburg, which is one of the oldest towns in the county. The first tavern was also kept there, and the first blacksmith shop, etc. In fact all of the interests of the township, in early times, centered in the little village.

The early settlers of Osnaburg were a God-fearing people, and at an early day religious societies were organized in the township, and religious services held at the people's cabins. Among the early messengers of glad tidings was Rev. William Mitchell, a Methodist circuit rider, who preached in the neighborhood as early as 1812. Rev. Edward Otis was a Baptist minister, and preached once a month at Michael Engle's cabin. A church society was organized in 1820 by Rev. Mr. Weir, a Lutheran minister, and Rev. Mr. Faust, a German Reformed minister, with about twenty-five members. The first sermon by either of these denominations was preached in 1814, by Rev. Mr. Lambrick, a Lutheran, at the house of Mr. Minnieh. As early as 1827 a Sunday school was organized in the neighborhood of Mapleton. Alexander Cameron was the first Methodist class-leader, and his class comprised four families. There are three church edifices in this township outside the villages. On Section 36 a German Lutheran and German Reformed Church are located, not half a dozen rods apart. The two denominations originally occupied the same church, but could not agree very well, and finally the German Reformed congregation sold their interest to the Lutherans and built a new church in the immediate vicinity. It is a frame building and quite a tasty edifice, while the old building is a substantial brick. The Disciples have a church on Section 28, which was built some twenty or twenty-five years ago, and is a handsome frame, beautifully located on the brow of a hill, even as Solomon's Temple adorned the brow of Mount Moriah.

So far as reliable information could be obtained, John Augustine was the pioneer school

teacher of Osnaburg, and "taught the young idea how to shoot" as early as the winter of 1818. Previous to that year, the few children in the township went to school on the Aultman place, in Canton Township. During the winter of Augustine's school, snow fell to the depth of three feet and lay on the ground for several weeks. A few days later, it rained and froze, forming a hard crust on the snow that would bear up a man. Many deer were caught by the school boys which were unable to make their way through the deep snow with much speed. Among their captives was a large buck, which they kept in a pen at the school house, but as he refused to eat they turned him loose again. William Hutchinson was an early school teacher. Abraham Bair also taught as early as 1822. These were followed by teachers in different parts of the township, and as the country settled up schoolhouses were built in each neighborhood until the final development of the present school system. From the last report of the Board of Education we extract the following statistics for Osnaburg, which are of interest:

Balance on hand September 1, 1879.....	\$3,366 85
State tax.....	955 50
Irreducible fund.....	144 00
Total.....	\$4,466 44
Amount paid teachers.....	\$1,794 16
Fuel and other contingent ex- penses.....	201 31
Total.....	\$1,995 37
Balance on hand September 1, 1880.....	\$2,471 07
Number of schoolhouses in the township.....	10
Value of school property.....	\$12,000 00
Teachers employed—males.....	14
Teachers employed—females.....	8
Total.....	22
Number of pupils enrolled—males.....	291
Number of pupils enrolled—females.....	216
Total.....	507
Average daily attendance—males.....	199
Average daily attendance—females.....	150
Total.....	349

Almost the entire township of Osnaburg seems to be underlaid with coal, and a large number of mines opened, but hitherto, for the lack of facilities for transportation, they have not been developed to any great extent. Now, however, with a railroad passing through the

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township, a full development of this interest may be looked for. Samuel Montgomery has recently sold his land at \$200 an acre, and measures are being taken for mining coal on it. Several mines are already opened on this land, and every means will be used to facilitate the work of mining and shipping.

For the war of 1812, a little unpleasantness that took place some thirty years after the close of the Revolution, between the United States and England, this township furnished a number of men, some of them volunteers, and some drafted men. The names of many of these old heroes have passed away with the heroes themselves. Among the few still remembered, however, are the names of Peter McCune, Peter Moretz, Edward Strickland, Adam and Jacob Anderson, and Richard Byles, who went as a substitute of Jacob Kitt, the latter having been drafted. In the Indian wars of the early period many of them also participated. Joseph Anderson, a brother to Adam and Jacob, mentioned above, fell at the battle of Tippecanoe, in 1811. Indeed, Osnaburg has ever been patriotic and true to the Government. In the war of the Rebellion, she did her duty, and turned out volunteers by the score, as will be seen in another chapter on the war history of the county. After the close of the war of 1812, under the old militia law of the State, which continued in force for a number of years, all the able-bodied men between eighteen and forty-five years of age were compelled to attend the regular military trainings, or general muster, as more commonly called, where they had to undergo military drill and inspection. The usual places of meeting of these troops of the "peace establishment," were at Canton, Kendal (now a part of Massillon), Loutzenheiser's (where Louisville now stands), and Osnaburg. These occasions drew out large crowds of the young and old, male and female, for many miles around, and the scenes and incidents of the day—the parade, the sham battle, the personal encounters—were long afterward the subject of fireside gossip. As if by common consent, all sectional disputes and neighborhood quarrels were "readjusted" on these training days. Each party to a feud had their friends and backers, who were particularly careful to so engineer matters as to end the business with a fight. If the question was one of great importance (!), others became involved, and more

fight followed, to the great delectation of the crowd. It was on an occasion of this kind, that the fight occurred already alluded to in this chapter. But we will not dwell further upon this subject.

The first roads in Osnaburg Township were the Indian trails. These were cut out by the settlers to suit their convenience, until public highways began to be ordered by the County Commissioners. The first of these was a road from Pekin to Congress Furnace, and was granted by the Commissioners in response to a petition of Samuel Mobley, in 1815. Other roads were made soon after, from different points, as necessity demanded them for the benefit of the people. The roads of the township at the present day, while as good, in a general way, as those of any part of the county, yet, owing to the hilly nature of the country, are extremely crooked and zigzag in their course. After the settlement of the township by white people, Indians frequently made excursions into the neighborhood, hunting, but were friendly, and never known to do any harm to their white friends. They would often beg for something to eat, and what was given them they would either eat or carry away. Their village, or camping grounds, were west of the Tuscarawas River.

Osnaburg Township has two villages, viz., the village of Osnaburg and the village of Mapleton. Osnaburg is an old place, and started out in its career with the laudable intention of becoming a great city, and with hopes shining brightly through the expectation of finally winning the seat of justice of the new county all knew must soon be formed. It was supposed that the county would be formed around it as a natural consequence, and from the incipient city rays of wisdom would diverge and penetrate to the uttermost parts of the new district. Unburdened with the weight of its lofty aspirations, for a time after its birth, it stood proud as Rome upon her seven hills, and serenely awaited its coming greatness. But at length the new county was created, and Osnaburg failed to be made its seat of justice. This was a severe blow to her anticipated greatness. Her aspirations withered prematurely, and her

"Hopes departed forever."

Like the Eternal City, even down to the present day, "The spider weaves his web in her palaces."

the owl sings his watch-song in her towers." After three-quarters of a century, she is an insignificant village of a few hundred inhabitants, while Canton, "the beautiful city of the plain," wears the glory Osnaburg once fondly dreamed would be her own.

The village of Osnaburg was laid out in the latter part of 1806, by James Leeper, a native of Washington County, Pennsylvania, and one of the early settlers of the township. It is located on Section 8, and is about six miles east of Canton. Leeper erected a one-story log cabin, and in this limited edifice opened a hotel. His mode of keeping a tavern may be gathered from the personal experience of one John Larwell, as he told it to a correspondent of the *Canton Democrat*: "Larwell's house was at Fawcettstown (now East Liverpool), on the Ohio River. In March, 1807, he was sent with provisions to his brother, Joseph Larwell, then in Government employ, surveying lands west of the Tuscarawas River. He went by an Indian trail leading from the Ohio River, crossing Sandy Creek near the mouth. Having heard of Osnaburg, he concluded to return that way, as the distance was about the same. Leaving the camp of his brother in the morning, he reached Osnaburg in the evening of the same day. Riding up to the most pretentious house of the village, Mr. Larwell halloed, and out came Leeper, the landlord. He inquired if he could stop with him overnight, and receiving an affirmative answer, he wished to know what accommodations he had for his horse. Leeper pointed to a beech tree that had just been cut down, saying that the horse could be tied to a top limb and feed upon the twigs. As there was not a stable in town, Mr. Larwell had no alternative but to submit to such accommodations for his jaded horse. The tavern was a log structure, the whole constituting a single room, which was made to answer the purpose of kitchen, dining-room, bed-room and sitting-room. The floor was of puncheons, and the chimney of sticks and mud. It had evidently been on fire at some time, as there was a considerable hole burnt through, near the ground. The supper consisted of a 'pone' and fresh pork. While the pone was baking on the hearth, a pig came through the hole in the chimney, snatched up the pone and carried it out the same way he

came in. Mrs. Leeper gave chase, recovered the pone, replaced it upon the griddle and watched it until the baking was completed. Mr. Larwell remarked that he enjoyed the supper, as it was seasoned with hunger. For a bed, he had his choice of the floor below, or on the loft. As the night was growing cold, he preferred the former, and with his feet toward the fire, his clothes on, and a blanket, he had a tolerably comfortable night. His breakfast was the same as his supper. Over a foot of snow fell during the night, to which his horse was exposed. For these limited accommodations, his bill was 75 cents."

Leeper is represented by those who knew him as a man of considerable energy and enterprise, and who worked industriously to build up his town. He was a good talker, and as he kept the only tavern for many miles around, his house was the general stopping-place of those who came west in search of land, and he induced many to select homes in the vicinity of Osnaburg. He also induced many mechanics to settle in the village, and used every exertion to promote the prosperity of the place. But the great evil that has wrecked so many lives was stealing upon him, as a thief in the night. He was of a social disposition, and in his zeal to build up a town, contracted the habit of drinking. His dissipation grew upon him, until in a case of *delirium tremens* he escaped from his house in the night, and was found the next morning in a pond, where he had drowned himself. But for his dissipated habits, which made an unfavorable impression upon strangers, it is still believed by many that Osnaburg would have acquired such a start over Canton, which was not laid out until sometime after, as to have eventually made Osnaburg, and not Canton, the county seat of Stark County upon its organization. But the character of Mr. Wells, the original proprietor of Canton, and the influence he exerted in behalf of his town, more than overbalanced the start Osnaburg had in the race for the seat of justice.

The first store in Osnaburg was kept by one John McConnell, who opened a small stock of goods in 1807. He kept but a few articles, and these were such as were mostly in demand in a new country. McConnell, according to the gossips of the town, was a man not of the highest moral rectitude. Some little indiscretions on his part excited such strong feelings of

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indignation against him as to necessitate his abrupt departure from the town, between the setting of the sun and the rising of that luminary. The next tavern in Osnaburg after Leeper's was kept by William Nailor. Jacob Kepingler is noted in both town and township as a model landlord. The village at present contains two hotels, presenting to the traveling public good accommodations for a town of its size. An early institution in Osnaburg was a hatter shop, kept by Updegraff & McGuggin, who manufactured headpieces for the neighboring gentry. The present business of the village is as follows: Two general stores; two grocery stores; two blacksmith and wagon shops; one harness-shop; one mill; two hotels; three churches, and an excellent school building. The mill was built about four years ago by Sheatsley & Stump, and is now owned by Sheatsley & Miller. They have an excellent building, containing four run of buhrs, and do a large business. The mill originally cost about \$15,000, and is still in a good state of preservation. The Connotton Valley Railroad passes through the village, and has a comfortable depot and freight buildings. The churches are German Lutheran and Reformed, Albrights, or Evangelical, and Methodist. All have good church edifices and are well supported. The schoolhouse is a spacious building, well furnished and adapted to school purposes. Osnaburg forms a special district, and the school is divided into three departments, but is ungraded. Prof. G. A. Wise is Principal; Mr. DeHoff, teacher of the intermediate department, and Miss Joetta Whiteleather, teacher of the primary department. The average attendance is about 150 pupils.

One of the most prominent business men ever connected with the history of Osnaburg village was Christian Kountz. He was for many years a successful merchant of the place, and an enterprising gentleman, who fostered every good work, and supported every enter-

prise for the benefit of the town. The following extract from a publication concerning him is appropriate in this connection: "Mr. Kountz was born in Saxony, where he learned the trade of a lace weaver. He came to this country when a young man, and on landing in New York, all the money he had was three kreutzers, about two cents of our money. He immediately sought work, but, unable to obtain employment at his trade, he engaged in anything that offered. Having accumulated a few dollars, he was induced, by a fellow-countryman, to engage in peddling. With his limited means he commenced with a small bundle of notions; then, with a pack which he carried upon his back, and finally he made a raise of a horse and wagon. He prospered, and in the course of time was advised, by a Pittsburgh merchant, to settle in some town and open a store. He located in Osnaburg about the year 1825. He was a man of strict integrity, would never himself, nor permit an employe to, take advantage of or deceive a customer. His word was as good as his bond, and he raised his family to the same principles of integrity, and to industry and economy. He accumulated a handsome fortune, and died in 1866, at the age of about seventy years. His sons have added to their inheritance, and are successful business men."

Mapleton is a small place, and is located on Section 27, about a mile from the Connotton Valley Railroad. Its business consists of one store, one hotel, one grocery store, two shoe-shops, two carpenter-shops, one blacksmith and one wagon shop, one post-office with daily mails by Connotton Valley Railroad at "Mapleton Crossing," one physician, a schoolhouse built in the summer of 1880, and two churches, viz.: Lutheran and Immanuel's Church of the Evangelical Association. The latter was built in 1867, and the former in 1855. Both are in a flourishing condition, with Sunday schools and good membership.