

**A SKETCH**  
**OF THE**  
**SETTLEMENT AND PROGRESS**  
**OF THE**  
**TOWNSHIP OF TALLMADGE,**

**(No. 2, Range 10.) Summit Co., Ohio.**

**BY CHARLES WHITTLESEY.**

**[PROCEEDS DEVOTED TO THE TOWN LIBRARY.]**

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## P R E F A C E .

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Thirty-four years have now elapsed since the first settlement of this place, and no one has, to my knowledge, attempted to record the events of its early days. An effort is here made to recover and perpetuate some of the most important facts. To the world at large they may appear of but little consequence, or given too much in detail to be interesting. But the latter fault (if it be one) will give this sketch its greatest value in the minds of surviving settlers and their descendants; and to the general reader, if a zealous student of mankind, although it will afford none of the striking occurrences which belong to the history of nations, it may offer new views of man and character.

The early records of public affairs within the Township are not always to be found; and of the incidents of those times not a syllable has been committed to paper. It would not be very strange, therefore, if some of the information as here given, especially in regard to dates, being drawn from the uncertain memory of men now advanced in life, should be erroneous as well as defective.

Tallmadge, Jan., 1842.

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AKRON, OHIO

SETTLEMENT AND PROGRESS

OF THE

TOWNSHIP OF TALLMADGE.

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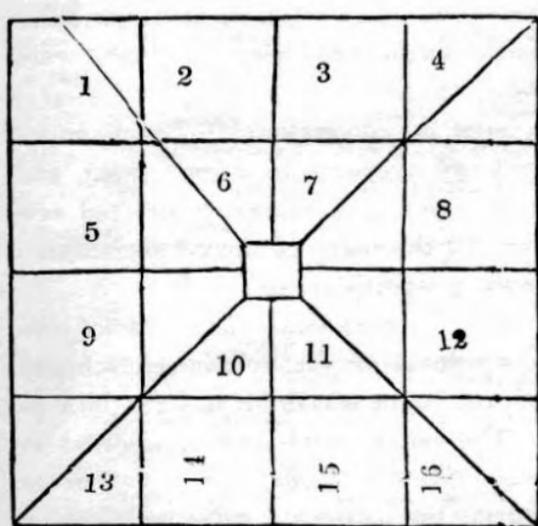
Although the surveyors gave very favorable accounts of the soil and other advantages, no permanent settlement was effected here until the fall of 1807, when the Rev. David Bacon, a Missionary in the western settlements, assisted by Justin E. Frink, erected a log house on the south line of the township, one-half mile west of the centre north and south road. The same fall George Boosinger, of Ravenna, raised a cabin and put in a piece of wheat near the south-east corner, but did not remain through the winter. He returned in the spring of 1808. The Connecticut Land Company Sept. 5th, 1795, purchased of the State of Connecticut (the original owner,) all that part of the Western Reserve east of the "Fire Lands." The Deeds of the Trustees of that Company, in the form of *Quit Claims*, are the common source of title to the lands purchased of them, amounting to about 3,000,000 of acres. In a few cases, (not in this township,) where the State had sold prior to the formation of the Company, or lands belonging to individuals and mortgaged to the State, had been forfeited, the title deeds are in the name of the State of Connecticut.

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After a portion of the Reserve was surveyed, a drawing took place among the members of the Company (Jan. 30th, 1798,) at Hartford, Connecticut. This Township was drawn by the Brace Company, Azariah Rockwell, Abram Root, Oliver Dickinson and Stephen W. James. Benjamin Tallmadge (from whom it is named,) and Ephraim Starr were assignees of Rockwell, Root, and the others.—The Brace Company consisted of Jonathan Brace, (who is still living,) Justin Ely, Roger Newberry, Elijah White and Enoch Perkins. The eastern line of the township was surveyed by Amazi Atwater (now residing in Mantua,) in the summer of 1797, being part of the meridian between ranges 9 and 10, which he ran under a variation of  $2^{\circ}$  east. The other boundary lines appear to have been established the same season, for Moses Warren, who surveyed the "Old Portage path" in 1797, started from the north-west corner stake of Tallmadge. Sometime afterwards, probably before 1803, Caleb Palmer, a surveyor, appears to have laid out the whole into twenty-five sections of a mile square each. On the 19th of May, in that year, the proprietors made partition. The Brace Company took all west of the meridian one-half mile west of the centre line; Starr had three sections on the centre line, beginning at the north line; and the balance was allotted to Mr. Tallmadge.

Mr. Bacon had conceived the idea of establishing something like a religious colony, and with that view made a contract with Starr & Tallmadge for their lands, together with some of the Brace Company's tract, in all about 12,000 acres, at \$1 50 per acre—payments to be made upon time: but when payments were made for any part in full, a deed was to be given. In November, 1806, he caused a new subdivision to be made by Seth I. Ensign, upon a new plan, which has been the guide in all subsequent sales.—

Ensign followed the magnetic meridian, which varied, according to his compass,  $1^{\circ}$  from the town lines as run by the true meridian (nine years previous) at a variation of  $2^{\circ}$ . It was first laid off into sixteen square tracts of 1,000 acres each, or a mile and one-fourth on a side, called *Great Lots*. A road or highway was established 66 feet wide on each line of the *Great Lots*, except the exterior or township line, and a diagonal from each corner of the township to the geographical centre which fell in a low piece of ground with higher land on every side. The public square, of *seven and one half* acres, lay around this point, much of it swamp land, having eight roads running out at nearly equal angles of  $45^{\circ}$  with each other, thus—



The north line measures 398 chns. 65 lks.  
 " south " 405 " 10 "  
 " east " 379 " 37 "  
 " west " 374 " 3 "  
 Contents in full 15,149.02 acres.  
 Do. of public square & roads 296.26 acres.  
 Do. of surveyed lots, 14,853.76 "

At the common intersection of roads on the public ground stands a guide post, having eight fingers or hands, pointing in as many directions, with the names of two to four adjacent places painted upon each. On each of these avenues there are now planted double rows of elms from the adjoining

forests. The north-west diagonal intersects the town line about one-half mile east of the corner in order to avoid the Cuyahoga River; and the south-west diagonal has a deviation from a straight course in the village of Middlebury; otherwise all these roads, amounting to 45 miles in length, are now travelled in right lines through the town as laid out by Mr. Bacon. This leaves four points or corners, known as the north-east, north-west, south-east and south-west *six* corners—and four points, called the east, west, north and south *four* corners. An additional road in the south part gives rise to three additional four corners. The Great Lots were generally subdivided into six smaller lots—those at the centre made in smaller parcels of a few acres for the use of the mechanics and professional men who were to locate there.

It was the intention of the contractor (Mr. Bacon) to introduce a community of property to some extent, and among other things to have a large tract appropriated as a common pasture for all the sheep of the settlement, the proceeds to be drawn in proportion to the stock put in.

No emigrants were to receive land who were not professors of the congregational or presbyterian church, and two dollars for each 100 acres was to be paid for the support of the gospel. The latter provision was inserted in some of the early contracts and deeds, but in fact never went into effect. During the spring and summer following Mr. Bacon's establishment here, families came in rapidly, and as near as can be ascertained, in the following order :

DATE.	NAMES.	WHERE FROM.	WHERE LOCATED.	REMARKS.
1808.	Dr. A. C. Wright,	Ashtabula Co. O	½ mile S. of Centre, ..	now living.
April.	Joseph Hart, .....	.....	Middlebury, .....	deceased.
	Aaron Norton, ....	N. Hampton, O.	" " " " " "	"
	Chas. Chittenden, ..	.....	½ m. W. of S. W. 4 cor.	"
	Jonathan Sprague,	Canfield, Ohio,	½ m. E. of 4 corners,	dec. when old.
	Nath'l Chapman, }	" " " " " "	½ m. N. of " " "	" " " "
	Titus, his father, }	" " " " " "	" " " " " "	dec. nov. 4, 1808
	Titus & Porter & }	" " " " " "	" " " " " "	"
	others his sons, ..	" " " " " "	" " " " " "	"
	Wm. Neil, .....	" " " " " "	" " " " " "	" dec. 13, 1841
	Moses Bradford, ...	.....	1½ ms. S. of the centre,	removed.
	Ephraim Clark Jr., ..	Ashtabula Co. O	2 ms. S. of c. 4 corners,	remov'd—living
	George Kilbourne, ..	Newburg, Ohio,	½ m. S. of the centre,	remov'd—living
Aug.	Capt. John Wright,	Ashtabula Co. O	1 " " " " " "	dec. when old.
	Alpha Wright, .....	" " " " " "	No family, .....	living.
	Eli Hill, .....	Virginia, .....	S. E. four corners, .....	returned to Va.
1809.				
Feb'y.	Jotham Blakeley,	Ravenna, Ohio,	½ m. E. of 2nd 4 cor. S.	removed—dec.
	Jotham Blakelee, ..	" " " " " "	" " " " " "	living.
	Conrad Boosinger, ..	" " " " " "	S. E. corner of townsh.	"
	Edmund Strong, ...	Ashtabula Co. O	1 m. N. of centre, ....	remov'd—living
	John Wright, Jr., ...	" " " " " "	1 m. S. of centre, ....	living.
	Stephen Upson, ...	Suffield, Ohio, ..	2½ ms. S. of the centre,	"
	Theron Bradley, ...	.....	S. four corners, .....	removed soon.
	Peter Norton, .....	.....	½ m. W. of S. W. 4 cor.	deceased.
1810.				
Jun. 30	Elizur Wright, ....	Canaan, Ct. ....	½ m. S. W. of centre,	living.
	Justus Barnes, ....	.....	.....	remov'd—living
	Shubel H. Lowrey, ...	.....	No family, .....	living.
	David Preston, Sen	Connecticut, ...	S. W. six corners, ....	dec. when old.
	John Preston, .....	.....	" " " " " "	deceased.
	Sam'l, } Sons of D.	.....	Without family, ....	"
	David, } Preston,	.....	" " " " " "	living.
	Lot, } Sen.	.....	" " " " " "	"
	Drake Fellows, ....	.....	S. W. six corners, ....	"
	Samuel McCoy, ...	.....	2 ms. S. of the centre,	removed.
	Luther Chamberlin, ..	.....	1 m. N. of the centre,	living.
	Rial Mc Arthur, ..	.....	Middlebury, .....	remov'd—living
	Justus Bradley, ....	.....	S. four corners, .....	deceased.
1811.				
April.	Dea. S. Sackett,	Warren, Ct., ..	S. E. diagonal 1 mile, ..	living.
	Norman, .....	" " " " " "	Without family, .....	deceased.
	Hervey, .....	" " " " " "	" " " " " "	"
	Leander, } Sons of	" " " " " "	" " " " " "	"
	Cassander, } Dea-	" " " " " "	" " " " " "	"
	Eleazér, } con S.	" " " " " "	" " " " " "	"
	Salmon, .....	" " " " " "	" " " " " "	"
	Daniel Beach, .....	.....	S. E. diagonal ½ mile, ..	remov'd—living
	John Camthus, ...	.....	" " " " 3 miles,	living.
	Reuben Upson, ...	Suffield, Ohio, ..	Bacon place, .....	"
	Aza Gillett, .....	.....	1 mile N. of the centre,	remov'd—living

There were doubtless other arrivals during this year, as they have now become too numerous to be traced out with certainty.

The list does not show a majority of New England people; but almost all of those from other parts of Ohio were

from the eastern states within a few years. Inducements were offered by Mr. Bacon such as to draw them away from other settlements. Those from Ravenna were driven out by the systematic oppression of a large proprietor and agent Benjamin Tappan. On the 21st of January, 1809, George Kilbourne and his wife Almira, Justin E. Frink, Alice Bacon wife of David Bacon, Hepzibah Chapman, Amos C. Wright and Lydia his wife, and Ephraim Clark, Jr. with his wife Ala A. Clark, associated themselves together as a church, named the "Church of Christ in Tallmadge," by the advice and assistance of the Rev. Jonathan Leslie, a missionary at the west. It was considered as congregational in form and discipline, but adopted the confession of faith of the "Presbyterian Church in America." In the "articles of practice" they adopted the regulations of the "General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, approved by the General Association of the State of Connecticut" June 16, 1801, "with a view to prevent alienation and promote union and harmony in these new settlements, which are composed of individuals from those bodies."—Pastors of each denomination might, by these regulations, be settled over congregations of the other, and persons belonging to both might unite in the same church. Rules of discipline were here provided for all cases of difficulty between those holding different modes of belief. Thus, in the second year of its existence, were the principles of the Bible adopted as the rule of moral government in this settlement. In June, of the same year, Nathaniel Chapman, Jonathan Sprague, Aaron Norton and John Wright, Jun. with Seloma his wife, were added to their number. In 1811 four more were received into communion; in 1812, three; in 1813, six. There were at that time twenty-seven members, embracing a large portion of the heads of fami-

lies within the township. This church now embraces 200 persons. The stern piety of these New Englanders relaxed none of its rigor in consequence of a removal from the regular administration of the gospel in the east to the depths of a western wilderness.

The usual depreciation of morals in new countries was not experienced here. To this day the good effects of this primitive establishment of religion and order, is plainly visible among this people and their posterity, and will no doubt exhibit them through all time. Individuals not professors of religion considered it a paramount duty to provide for religious services on the Sabbath. Elizur Wright, Esq., who became an extensive proprietor in the Brace Company's tract, readily adopted the plan of Mr. Bacon, and inserted it in his first conveyances. But this scheme was considered by most of the inhabitants as an encroachment upon their personal independence, and was generally resisted. Very early, however, a regular mode of contribution was established for the support of the gospel. Meetings were held regularly in houses and barns in different parts of the town until 1815, when an *Academy* building, commenced the year previous, was completed on the ground now occupied by the Presbyterian Meeting-house. After much discussion about its location, a *log Meeting-house* was commenced in 1814, which stood about one-quarter of a mile west of the first south four corners in the woods. Its position was finally determined by ascertaining the central point for all the habitations in the place. But it was abandoned by mutual consent after the body had been raised, and fell *piece-meal* to ruins. The first frame house was raised in June, 1810, by Dr. A. C. Wright. It stood on the road opposite his house, which was built in 1816, the first brick building in the place. The elegant and spacious Meet-

ing-house at the centre, was commenced in 1822 and finished in 1825.

In such a community, the subject of common school education would naturally rank in importance with that of religion. A log school-house was put up in the spring of 1810 on ground in the present door-yard of Mr. Randall, near the first south four corners, and the first school taught by Miss Lucy Foster, now Mrs. Alpha Wright. In the same season another was built and occupied on the hill at the south-west four corners. Since that day in every section of the township as it became necessary, and long before the legislature gave special attention and aid to the cause, school houses and teachers have been thoroughly provided in Tallmadge. There are now eleven brick, stone, or frame school-houses in the township. The Academy or High School was commenced in 1814-15, eight years after the first permanent location of white men, under the instruction of the Rev. Simeon Woodruff. Such an institution has been continued most of the time since, supported by the inhabitants for the purposes of domestic education. The first Academy building was consumed by fire in the night of Jan. 12th, 13th, 1820, and a new one commenced in 1821 on the south-west corner of the public square.—This was placed under the care of Dea. Elizur Wright, a man of high mathematical talents, of great piety and simplicity of character. Similar institutions have since been raised up at Middlebury and at Cuyahoga Falls, villages partly within the township limits.

The materials of society which Mr. Bacon had introduced, were not of the proper kind to carry out his projects. There was too much enterprise and independence of feeling among the early settlers to form a community of the character contemplated by him. Difficulties of a personal

nature soon arose between him and many of the inhabitants, both upon pecuniary and religious matters. His purchases being made on time, without means and at high prices, and the sales not being sufficient, payments were not made to the original proprietors; the expenses of survey had been considerable; interest accumulated; and the contract was finally abandoned. He left this region in the spring of 1812. The lands not sold came back to the proprietors; and some that had been sold and the payments not made to them were in the same situation. The large owners at this time were Tallmadge & Starr, as before mentioned, in the central and eastern part; Elizur Wright and Roger Newberry in the west. Mr. Newberry, by a partition with the Brace Co. May 19, 1812, received all of Great Lots Nos. 1 and 5, subdivisions 3 and 5 in lot 9, subdivision 1 of lot 13 and (parts of) 2 and 4 in lot 14. Elizur Wright had taken up all of Great Lot 2 west of the Starr line, subdivisions 1 and most of 2, 5 and 6 in lot No. 6; also, 1, 2, 5 and 6 of lots 10 and 1, and 3 in lot No. 14.

Hitherto nothing had interrupted the peaceful progress of the colony. The second war of the United States with England was declared in June of 1812, and their position was such as to involve the settlement in its duties and its dangers. The "Old Portage path" constituted, with the Cuyahoga and Tuscarawas rivers, the ancient boundary on the west between the Six Nations and the Wyandot Indians, and their confederates. The path was a neutral highway or common passage from the south bend of the Cuyahoga at Old Portage, to the Tuscarawas at New Portage, a distance of about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles, over which the Indian tribes passed on their way from Lake Erie to the Ohio and the interior.\* When the Land Company extinguished the title of the

\*Another trail joined this at the Cuyahoga from the south east, passing through Tallmadge, and is still visible. It probably came from the mouth of Little Beaver, on the Ohio, and entered the township near the south east corner, passed near the south-west six corners, and coming down to Camp Brook at the third lock above the Middlebury level of the Pennsylvania and Ohio Canal, led on across the Portage plains.

Six Nations in a council held at Buffalo, in 1796, they could of course grant possession no farther west than the Cuyahoga River and Portage Path. The pretensions of the Western Indians east of this boundary were settled by Wayne's treaty at Grenville, in 1794: thus constituting these lines the frontier of civilization until a farther acquisition was made July 4th, 1805. An instance of the scrupulous regard shown to this compact is given by Amzi Atwater, Esq., one of the first surveyors. In running some of the northern range lines westward, they intersected a river which had not been discovered, and which some of the party supposed to be the Cuyahoga—others thought it must be an unknown stream, as it proved to be, (the Chagriu River,) and desired to cross it, and continue the township lines, expecting to strike the Cuyahoga. But the surveyors would not suffer a bush to be cut, or any stakes driven, or other marks to be made, on the west bank, till all doubts were removed. This was not effected till the stream had been followed to the mouth, where not finding the expected camp, some of the men proceeded to Conneaut before the doubt was finally explained. Since the introduction of the whites, and it is reasonable to suppose that at *no former period* had this region, lying as it did on the confines of powerful and warlike tribes, contained many Indians of either nation. And the strict equity and good faith observed in all official matters towards those who remained, prevented difficulties of a general or public nature. The peaceable and temperate character of the early white inhabitants in immediate contact with the red man, led to a friendly private intercourse seldom disturbed by quarrels between individuals of the two races. Although the Indian title to the Reserve had been extinguished west of the Cuyahoga River prior to the war, the settlements had not crossed the old Indian boundary.

Judge Harris had commenced a clearing and house at Harrisville, in Medina Co., which was temporarily abandoned on account of its exposure soon after the declaration of war. A Mr. Vanhyning had established himself on Wolf Creek; and a family of hunters by the name of Cahoes, between him and Middlebury. With these exceptions the country west was an uninhabited forest to the line of the State, and probably to the Mississippi.

The margin of the Lake presented a mere line of settlements from Cleveland to Detroit; but, with the exception of a few inefficient friendly Indians, (Delawares,) who were soon removed to the more central parts of the state for safety, there was no obstruction on the west to secret expeditions against the border settlers. In this situation they stood when the surrender of Hull took place at Detroit, Aug. 16, 1812. This event determined many of the western Indians to favor the British cause; a course to which they had evidently been inclined ever since the affairs of the two nations assumed a belligerent aspect. They now mingled with the English forces and became the most dreaded enemy of the pioneers. These unpleasant events developed a new trait in the moral composition of the stout hearted, but hitherto peaceful, backwoodsmen.

The prisoners taken at Detroit, were generally dismissed on parol, and a large portion proceeded in transports to Cleveland, on the way to their respective homes in Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Virginia. When these vessels hove in sight off the mouth of the river, they were supposed to contain British and Indian troops, meditating an attack upon the place, and the capture of its military stores. This information reached Tallmadge by express while the citizens were engaged in divine service on the Sabbath, at the barn of Dea. Elizur Wright. This little band of wor-

shippers was instantly dispersed, and before night most of the able-bodied men would have been armed after the guerilla fashion, with knives, tomahawks, pistols, guns and ammunition, and ready to move to the defence of Cleveland. A second despatch arrived in the latter part of the same day, with the comfortable news that there was no enemy to be met, but only a few brave and betrayed soldiers who required sympathy and subsistence. The disaster at Detroit rendered it necessary for self-protection to make a general levy of the 4th Division, commanded by General Wadsworth. The militia of Portage county consisted of one Regiment under Col. Campbell, of Ravenna, and a Battalion, situated on the western side of the county, (now in Summit,) commanded by Major Darrow, of Hudson. In this Battalion there was an independent Rifle company, headed by Captain Riall McArthur, Wiley Hamilton, of North Hampton, 1st Lieutenant, and Charles Powers, 2d Lieutenant. The Division was ordered to rendezvous at different places in mass, and drafts were made for three months service.

McArthur's company, the pride and reliance of the settlement, volunteered in a body, and were ordered first to Cleveland, shortly afterwards to "Old Portage," and finally to the Huron River, to a camp on the west branch, about six miles from the mouth. General Wadsworth established his head quarters at Old Portage, with Col. Roger's regiment from Trumbull county, and a portion of the drafts from Portage. Another portion were ordered to the camp on the Huron, under Gen. Perkins, who had command at that temporary post. The Rifle company set out on the 1st of October for Perkins' camp, across the country, then an almost impenetrable wilderness. Eight of them were despatched at the same time on horses with ammunition for

the same place. These left the encampment at Old Portage late in the afternoon and arrived at Huron on the evening of the third day, by way of Cleveland—performing a march of more than 90 miles, with heavy loads, in a little over two days. This company remained there until the winter set in. This, with a short tour of duty in the spring of 1813, completed their services in the field. The following persons, and perhaps others, belonged to the Rifle company from Tallmadge:

Riall McArthur, Capt.	Charles Powers, 2d Lieut.
and Privates	
Almon Norton,	Samuel Preston,
Alpha Wright,	Lot Preston,
Justus Barnes,	Liberton Dickson,
Justin E. Frink,	Joseph Towsley,
Shubel H. Lowrey,	Edmund Strong,
Titus Chapman,	Samuel Fogger.

Among the drafts who served at Old Portage and elsewhere, were Reuben Upson, John Camthus, Norman Sackett, Moses Bradford, Aza Gillett, Jotham Blakelee, and others. No fighting occurred at either of the above points. But the most unpleasant part of the life of a soldier, want, sickness, and duty as scouts, fell largely upon them all.

The township of Hudson, at one time, embraced most of the territory which afterwards became the county of Portage. Subsequently Randolph was erected as a township for civil purposes, including by that name Tallmadge, Springfield, Suffield, Brimfield, and others. Afterwards Tallmadge and Springfield formed one, from which Tallmadge was taken and organized Nov. 11th, 1812. The south-west quarter of the public square was chopped in the spring of this year. A Township Library was formed Sept. 27th, 1813, containing about 70 volumes of solid

reading, drawn and returned quarterly. By its constitution no plays, and in practice no novels, found a place on its shelves. Sometime afterwards a Debating Society was formed, which continued to hold regular discussions through the winter months for many years. This Association embraced most of the substantial citizens within a convenient distance of the centre, a majority of them farmers, possessing inquisitive minds, then in the ripeness of manhood.— Their education had been merely of the common school-house kind, improved by hard thinking and good reading. If scholastic elegance was a stranger to this forum, good reasoning and correct information were not wanting. Bombast and pretension, being speedily detected, seldom made their appearance.

The Middlebury Lodge of Free Masons, No. 34, was constituted some time in 1816. The Rev. Simeon Woodruff was the first settled minister in this place. His installation took place on a rainy day in May, 1814, at the barn of Ephraim Clark, Jun., then living on the present Parsonage lot, half a mile south of the centre. His connexion with this people ceased in Sept. 1823, in consequence of deep-rooted difficulties between himself and the Society for the support of the gospel. The records of the last named association extend no farther back than May, 1814.— But it had existed, or something similar to it, from the time of the failure of Mr. Bacon's scheme for the same purpose, to which it bore a great resemblance. It was separate from the church, and the first constitution extant bears the name of the "First Congregational Society of Tallmadge," organized under a law of the state respecting ecclesiastical societies, contained in the 15th volume of the Ohio Statutes. A system of voluntary taxation is here introduced, the amount to be determined by the society at its annual

meetings in May. In the constitution of June 25, 1819, the value of property is fixed as follows, viz :

Cleared land,	- - -	\$15 00	per acre.
Land underbrushed and girdled,	- - -	10 00	" "
Timber land,	- - -	4 00	" "
Horses three years old and upwards,		30 00	
Oxen four	" " " "	20 00	
Steers of 3 and cows of 3 and over,		15 00	
Steers and heifers two years old,		8 00	
Buildings (excepting log,) valued by listers.			

Lucrative employments,(excepting farming,) listed by the profits compared with the profits of farms. It is not known that legal steps were required at any time to enforce the payment of this tax, varying from \$225 to \$420, divided among about seventy persons, who paid one dollar per head in addition to the tax upon their property.

Mr. Woodruff appears to have become obnoxious to this society while he still retained the confidence of a majority of the church. In March, 1822, the church had formed a partial connexion with the Presbytery of Portage, pursuant to the regulations of 1801, which rendered the Presbytery a party to be consulted in the dismissal of a Pastor. The church had no formal charges to present, though a mutual desire had arisen for a separation. On the 26th of June, 1820, the society voted "That it is not the desire of this society that Mr. Woodruff continue as our minister," and that they did not feel under obligation to pay him after that year. The obstacles to a separation having prolonged the matter till the annual meeting in May, 1822, it was voted "that there be no money raised for the support of the gospel ministry," and none was levied until the annual meeting for 1824. From this time gospel support has been regular. In 1833 a modified form of the constitution was adopted, dispensing with listers, and disposing the tax over

the entire valuation of the county duplicate. In May, 1840, the church and society were merged for the purpose of the support of the gospel, under an act of incorporation for that purpose. Mr. Newberry and Mr. Tallmadge gave the society 100 acres of land each, for the maintenance of religion. The Rev. John Keys succeeded Mr. Woodruff in Dec. 1823, and was installed Sept. 9th, 1824. The party who had opposed the dismissal of Mr. Woodruff, eventually expressed strong objections to the administration of Mr. Keys. The question of a discharge was seriously agitated in 1831, and his connexion with them was finally dissolved April 16, 1832.

The Rev. J. C. Parmalce was engaged in 1834, and continued to serve by contract with general satisfaction until the winter of 1839-40, when a disease, that terminated his life in a few months, put an end to his relation as Pastor.

Many members of the "First Congregational Church" have, at different times, joined the church at Middlebury. A church of the same order exists at Cuyahoga Falls, which includes many inhabitants of the township. A "Methodist Episcopal Church" was formed at the centre March 11, 1827, consisting of seven members. In 1832-3 they built a plain meeting-house, and the church has now increased to 59 persons, noted for their piety and harmony.

The political feelings, like the religious principles of the inhabitants, lost none of their force by a translation to the western world. These were, of course, of the anti-democratic stamp, as the vote for Governor in the fall of 1840, which exhibits about the relation of parties for many years, will show. There were cast for Corwin (whig) 319—Shannon (democratic) 71.

A great number of benevolent objects received attention here at a very early period. Societies for the support of

Missions, distribution of Bibles and Tracts, and like purposes, were in existence and punctually sustained. At length, in Dec. 1834, all these associations were consolidated into one system, called the "Tallmadge Benevolent Association," which is not confined to any sect. The township is divided into four collection districts, with a collector for each object in each. There are at present six such objects, requiring contributions every second month. 1st, The American Bible Society; 2d, The Education Society; 3d, American Tract Society; 4th, Seamen's Friend Society; 5th, Domestic Missions; 6th, Foreign Missions.

The charities contributed for all purposes in the year 1835, amounted to \$536 29, viz: by the males, \$369 13—by the females, \$167 16. In 1836, \$596 29, viz: by the males, \$402 77; by the females, \$193 52.

A striking equality has always been observed in the pecuniary condition of the members of this community. Their farms are small, from 100 to 200 acres, such being the limit of the means brought with them. The severe labor of clearing away a heavy growth of timber, and of bringing a stubborn, though fertile soil into cultivation, has been mostly performed by the owners themselves. There are at this time few wealthy men, and still fewer in a state of penury. Neat and comfortable houses are every where seen, the abodes of contentment and competence. Considerable manufacturing enterprise has been thrown into the villages before mentioned, both of which possess superior water privileges. The village at Cuyahoga Falls, situated on the river and canal, began in 1824, and is now a place of importance. It has 2 oil mills, 4 paper mills, a large flouring establishment, a machine shop and 2 cupolas, 2 saw mills, with an unoccupied power exceeding that in use.

A furnace was erected near Middlebury in 1816, by

Messrs. Laird & Norton, and continued in operation several years. In 1817, Asaph Whittlesey, in connexion with Laird & Norton, built a forge or refinery on the Little Cuyahoga,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles below the furnace. At the village, a mill, on the site occupied by Hart & Norton, has been in operation since 1808, with many other important works.

At a very early day stone coal was discovered near the south-east corner of the township, and afterwards 1 mile west of the centre, where there is supposed to be a bed of 500 acres in extent, of 3 to 5 feet in thickness. The mines west of the centre have been extensively worked since the construction of the Pennsylvania and Ohio Canal, yielding in 1841, 250,000 bushels.

According to the census of the United States taken in 1840, there were in the township at that time 2,134 inhabitants. No. of horses, 384; cattle, 1,371; sheep, 4,345; hogs, 1,470. Flour manufactured, 17,000 bbls.; wheat, (growth of 1839,) 38,190 bush.; oats, (growth of 1839,) 20,204 bush.; potatoes, (growth of same year,) 14,559 bush.; wool, 7,307 lbs. Seven stores with a capital of \$32,500. Manufactured articles, in value, \$87,000.

There stands upon the duplicate for 1841, for the township of Tallmadge, as follows: Lands other than town lots, \$128,380; Town lots, \$55,168; personal property, \$37,796; total, \$221,342. The valuation of farming lots is at least  $\frac{50}{100}$  per acre below value. For this add \$128,380; making \$349,722. Deduct from this estimate the price of 14,853 acres of land at \$3 50 per acre, \$50,985, and we should have an apparent increase of real property, caused mostly by labor, of \$298,737. But the cash and cash value of property would be nearer half a million of dollars than the amount shown by the Auditor's books, which, dis-

tributed by an agrarian rule among the 390 voters of 1840, would give to each the sum of \$1,282.

A school for the education of the deaf and dumb of the vicinity, was at one time a prominent object with the citizens. At a meeting in the spring of 1827, a committee, consisting of the Rev. John Keys, Dea Elizur Wright, Dr. Amos C. Wright, Alpha Wright and Garry Treat, was appointed to secure to them the benefits of instruction. A school was soon established, under the care of Mr. Colonel Smith, a deaf mute, with 12 scholars. It was kept one season at the house of Alpha Wright, and one at the residence of Dr. A. C. Wright. In the year 1828, the legislature appropriated \$100 towards its support—the remainder being supplied by charitable persons. When the State Asylum went into operation, Oct. 16, 1829, the pupils were transferred to Columbus. This was the first deaf and dumb school in Ohio.

The first burials in the centre burying-ground—at first located on the east side of the south-west diagonal, about 20 rods from the south-west corner of the square, but now changed to the north and south road opposite—were two infant children of Dr. A. C. Wright, one in Oct., another in Nov., 1812. The next was a stranger, Mr. Zephaniah Pritchard, a soldier of the war, who died of consumption on his journey south. An infant child of Dea. Elizur Wright, and Leander, a young son of Mr. Edmund Strong's, were added in the spring of 1813. In 1816, Mr. Deming Whittlesey, killed by the fall of a tree, (March 16)—Mr. Morse, who died of intemperance, (April 23)—and Mr. John Upson, in advanced life, of a cancer, (May 19)—were deposited in the same grounds. The summer of this year was marked by a great mortality among females and children. The records show 13 such deaths in the centre con-

gregation that season. As yet, however, none of the first male settlers had been carried off by ordinary causes, though they were not free from the diseases of the west.

The increase of population has been very uniform, if we except the years 1819 and 20, when a reinforcement of 10 families from Middlebury and its vicinity, and 13 from Old Milford, Conn., and that neighborhood, emigrated almost in a body. Those from Waterbury and Middlebury took up the unoccupied lands in the north-east part of the township, while the new comers from Milford generally purchased in the south-east quarter, still remaining neighbors and friends.

This region was originally very well stocked with bear, wolves, deer and turkies. The flesh of the two last was not only a luxury, but a necessary article of food. Deer skin breeches, and deer skin facings to woolen pantaloons, (after one season's service,) were the height of fashion.— Red foxes were not common. The wolf made great havoc with the few sheep introduced here; committing depredations at the same time upon the wild deer. He has been known to attack cows. The bear confined himself to hogs; and many instances are given of his boldness in capturing and carrying away provisions of this kind. He springs suddenly upon his victim, grasps him in his arms or fore legs with a force which is irresistible, erects himself upon his hind legs like a man, and makes off in an instant with his load. The piercing squeal of the hog is the first warning of his presence to the owner. A large bear, who meets with no obstruction, will make his way through a thick wood in this manner, with a hog of good size, faster than a man on foot can follow. The groans and struggles of the animal in his embrace become weaker and weaker and soon cease entirely. One of these creatures took a shoit

from a drive belonging to Capt. J. Hart, of Middlebury, in his presence. The Capt. followed him closely, but the bear evidently gained in the race till he came to a brush fence, and not being able to climb it with sufficient expedition, dropped the dying pig in order to secure himself. Mr. Edmund Strong was chopping on his land, when one of his hogs was taken near by. After a severe contest with clubs, Mr. Strong recovered the body of his hog, and, using it as a bait, afterwards caught the offender in a trap. Another seized a full grown hog belonging to A. Whittlesey, near the centre, and notwithstanding men were near by and made close pursuit, he carried it off without difficulty.

When Mr. Ephraim Clark lived in a log house, a few rods north of the Parsonage, on the same side, his hogs were fed across the road at a trough in the field. One morning, as he returned from feeding them, a large bear fell upon the hogs before he had reached the house. By the time he had seized his rifle and re-crossed the road, the bear had secured one, and as he rose, preparatory to a retreat, received a bullet in the chest. He then let the hog fall and made fiercely at Mr. Clark, but in making an effort to scale the bars fell backward and died.

Mr. John Caruthers and his dogs fell in with one of a moderate size, while traversing the woods near the east line of the township, in search of horses. An engagement followed in which the bear had apparently the advantage. To an early settler, the loss of a dog, his companion and faithful sentinel, was a misfortune that effected, not only his interest, but the best feelings of his heart. Mr. Caruthers had nothing in hand but a bridle, and could therefore bring no weapons to the assistance of his friends but such dry clubs as lay about him. The animal paid very little attention to these, but at length finding a young sapling, he broke it into

a good stick, and managed to give several hard knocks repeatedly on the same spot just behind the ear. By this means he was killed, and the dog released.

By the assistance of a large and valuable wolf dog, Mr. D. Preston and Mr. Drake Fellows killed one with clubs and stones at the south end of "Stony Hill."

If the body of a hog was recovered partly eaten, the same bear could generally be taken in a trap within the next twenty-four hours. He invariably returned for the remainder, and showed little or no sagacity in avoiding his fate. For this purpose a heavy steel trap was used, with smooth jaws, and a long drag chain, with iron claws at the extremity. It was not fastened to the spot, because the great strength of the animal would enable him to free himself, but as he ran, after being caught, the claws would catch upon the brush, retarding his flight, and leaving a distinct trail. He was generally overtaken within two miles, exhausted of strength. Here the dogs were first allowed an opportunity to exhibit their courage and natural animosity, before the rifle put an end to his degradation and sufferings. In these conflicts, if the shackles were upon his hind legs, leaving the fore paws free, there were but few dogs desirous of a close combat the second time.

In the winter of 1824-5, the inhabitants of this and the adjoining townships, determined to make an effort to clear the country of the bear, and of the wolf at the same time. There were four *drives*, or large hunts, organized during the winter; *two* in Brimfield, one in Springfield, and one in Portage. They were frequently got up in the new country by those who were not professed hunters, for the purpose of taking a few deer and turkies, then so common. A large tract of wild land, the half or fourth of a township, was surrounded by lines of men, with such intervals that

each person could see or hear those next him, right and left. The whole acted under the command of a captain, and at least four subordinates, who were generally mounted. At a signal of tin horns, or trumpets, every man advanced in line towards the centre preserving an equal distance from those on either hand, and making as much noise as practicable. From the middle of each side of the exterior line, a blazed line of trees was previously marked to the centre as a guide, and one of the sub-officers proceeded along each as the march progressed. About a half or three-fourths of a mile from the central point, a ring of blazed trees was made, and a similar one at the ground of meeting, with a diameter at least equal to the greatest rifle range. On arriving at the first ring, the advancing lines halted till the commandant made a circuit and saw the men equally distributed and all gaps closed. By this time a herd of deer might be occasionally seen driving in affright from one line to another. At the signal, the ranks move forward to the second ring, which is drawn around the foot of an eminence, or the margin of an open swamp or lake. Here, if the drive has been a successful one, great numbers of turkies may be seen flying among the trees away from the spot. Deer, in flocks, sweeping around the ring, under an incessant fire, panting and exhausted. When thus pressed, it is difficult to detain them long within the ring. They become desperate, and make for the line at full speed. If the men are too numerous and resolute to give way, they leap over their heads, and all the sticks, pitchforks and guns raised to oppose them. By a concert of the regular hunters, gaps are sometimes made purposely to allow them to escape.—The wolf is now seen skulking through the bushes, hoping to escape observation by concealment. If bear are driven in, they dash through the brush in a rage from one part of

the field to another, regardless of the shower of bullets playing upon them. After the game appears to be mostly killed, a few good marksmen and dogs scour the ground within the circle to stir up what may be concealed or wounded. This over, they advance again to the centre with a shout, dragging along the carcasses which have fallen, for the purpose of making a count.

It was at the hunt in Portage that the bear were either exterminated, or driven away from this vicinity. It embraced the "Perkins' Swamp," and several smaller ones, rendered passable by ice. At the close of this "drive," twenty-six were brought to the centre ground, and others reported.

Wolves were taken with difficulty in steel traps, but more readily in log pens, prepared like the roof of a house, shelving inwards on all sides, and containing the half devoured carcass of a sheep, upon which they had made a previous meal. The wolf easily clambered up the exterior side of the cabin, and entered at the top, which was left open; but once fairly within it, he could neither escape or throw it down.

Turkies were taken in square pens, made of lighter timber, and covered at the top. They entered at an open door in the side, which was suspended by a string that led to a catch within. This string and catch were covered with chaff, which induced them to enter, and while engaged in scratching about the chaff to get at the grain mingled with it, some unlucky companion would strike the catch and let the door down behind them all.

This town was much infested with rattlesnakes during the first ten years of its settlement, though but one instance is known of a bite among the inhabitants. There were two kinds, the large yellow, (*Crotalus durissus* of nat-

uralists,) and the small venomous black rattlesnake, (*crotalus miliarius*,) or massassauga. The massassauga frequented the low grounds, to the terror of all cranberry hunters. The yellow rattlesnake, which was very large and more numerous, kept the open dry ground, particularly fields of standing grown wheat. It is said that eleven were killed in one day in a wheat field one mile north of the centre.— They resorted in the winter to a den in the rocks at the south-west part of the Stony Hill. On the approach of spring, attracted by the warmth of the atmosphere, they would come out in a half torpid state, and were killed by the inhabitants by scores. At this day, a rattlesnake, a bear, or a wolf, would be equally an object of curiosity.