

VOLUME 5TH
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OF
C. C. BRONSON
OF
TALLMADGE
MISCELLANIOUS

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SKETCHES OF PIONEER HISTORY

The first General Election and Township Meetings held on the Reserve

After the organization of Trumbull County in July 1800 by Governor St. Clair - the Governor by his writ dated Sept. 22nd of that year and directed to David Abbot, sheriff of said county, and commanding him, the said sheriff - "That on the second Tuesday of October, he cause an election be held for the purpose of electing one person to represent the county in the Territorial Legislature". All elections at that time by the existing laws were to be held at the respective county seats of the respective counties in the territory. Of course the election was held at Warren, the seat of Justice for Trumbull county. The manner of conducting the election was after the English mode. That is the Sheriff of the county assembled the electors by proclamation, he presiding at the election and receiving the votes electors orally, or viva voce. It will readily be conceded that in a county embracing as Trumbull then did so large a Territory that but a minority of the electors would come to the election. The number conceived at that election was small: forty two was the amount of the poll. Out of this number Gen Edward Paine received 38 votes, of course he was the member elect. Gen Paine took seat in the Territorial Legislature in 1801. Immediately after the organization of Trumbull County, at the first Court of Quarter Sessions in August, the county was organized into eight townships. The townships were named Youngstown, Warren, Hudson, Vernon, Richfield, Middlefield, Painesville and Cleveland. Before the next general election Trumbull County was divided into two elections districts. The four northern townships Richfield, Middlefield, Painesville and Cleveland constituted the north district. The place for holding the election was fixed at a place known in pioneer days as Perkins Camp. This place was considered as the most central in the newly organized district. It was in the south part of Concord, known as the Company or old Girdled Road, which was laid and partially cleared out by the Connecticut Land Company. The road was started from Cleveland and was laid on the same ground with but slight variation as that travelled from that city to Willoughby. From Willoughby, through the town of Mentor, Concord, LeRoy and Thompson across the south east corner of Madison, through Harpersfield to and crossed Grand River at what was known as Austins Mills in Austinburg. From that place the road run north easterly to Pennsylvania Line, intersecting said line at Lexington, Pa. This road when laid out was intended to constitute the great leading thoroughfare from the Reserve to the Eastern States. East of Willoughby, but a few detached parts of the road are now travelled, nor has it been for more than forty years. A short distance east of the present road leading from Painesville to Chardon where it crosses the trace of the company road in Concord the Connecticut Land Company laid and also par-

