

stroyed the Van Buskirk concern in 1887, the Richardson building in 1892, and the "Last Chance" in 1888.

Sugar Ridge Methodist Episcopal Church was organized some years ago, with Mrs. Kate Meeker, Eliza Johnson and a few others. The present church was erected in 1893. The present society came into existence in June of that year, when Rev. W. N. Spencer organized it. Bertis Urschel was appointed class-leader in 1894, and he with J. W. and Helen Urschel, Eliza Johnson, Gilbert S. Meeker, Catherine and Myrta Meeker, James and Della May, Lucy Crane and Isabell Patterson were members. In October, 1893, W. S. Brackney became pastor, and in October, 1894, Rev. C. M. Myers was appointed. The church building was practically completed, in 1893, at a cost of eleven hundred dollars. The number of members enrolled in July, 1895, including probationers, was forty-five. The trustees are J. W. Urschel, James May and F. W. Van-Fleet.

HASKINS.

The settlement of Haskins is so closely allied with that of Hull Prairie it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between their claims to institutions, incidents and old settlers. When the town was surveyed by D. D. Ames for William King, July 23, 1862—a few years after the railroad was completed it was the idea of the owner to make it the shipping point and post-office village of a growing agricultural district as well as the Mecca of church-goers for miles around. The Baptist and Methodist Societies were already organized, and commercial beginnings made, so that by the close of 1863 the village was a well-known point on the Bowling Green and Waterville road, eclipsing the older hamlet of Hull Prairie. In 1870 there were 243 inhabitants credited to Haskins, while in 1880 the enumerators found 381 persons within the village boundaries. Since that time the famous Sucker-rod oil field has been opened and the population of the village is subject to the fortunes of that narrow field. In the spring and summer of 1895 there were but few busier spots in oildom than in and around this village. Many agreeable surprises and many heavy disappointments were chronicled. The village benefited largely from the activity of the oil operators, imports and exports grew in volume, trade was prosperous, the population increased, and in every way the year was a golden one in its history.

Post Office.—Prior to 1862 or 1863 Hull

Prairie was the postal village for this part of the county. About the time the village was surveyed a petition for an office was presented at Washington, and in response thereto William King was commissioned postmaster. He was succeeded by J. M. Cuning and he by P. J. Feagles, who filled the office for twenty years, or five terms. William Cobley was appointed in 1885, and served until 1889, when Fred Peinert was appointed. On July 29, 1893, Charles S. Woodford was commissioned.

Incorporation of the Village.—The village was incorporated January 1, 1869, the petitioners being Jonathan Ames, D. D. Ames, Howard Piper, Thurstin Tibbets, William Bear, Philip Meyer, George Miller, David P. Knapp, H. C. Worley, George Pitcher, R. H. Alexander, M. G. Wetmore, G. J. Pitcher, A. Knapp, George F. Sherwood, J. M. Cuning, and others. The mayors and councilmen, elected from April 12, 1869, to April, 1879, are named as follows:

- 1869—Hezekiah N. Rush; A. V. Perry, S. F. Bridges, P. J. Feagles, J. S. Pope, Jacob Davis, D. D. Ames.
 1870—Hezekiah N. Rush; D. B. Gedney, George Pitcher, G. C. Miller, H. Halbert, P. G. Garrett, D. D. Ames.
 1871—Hezekiah N. Rush; George Pitcher, A. S. Rush, Joel Repass, W. Chandler.
 1872—A. V. Perry; George W. Yount, J. A. Wilson, D. D. Ames, Elwood Garrett, H. Halbert, P. G. Garrett.
 1874—J. A. Watts; J. B. Thomas, John Wice, John Slauson (died in 1876).
 1875—J. A. Watts; G. Chase, L. P. Chase, Jacob P. Shide, George Pitcher, C. Parker, *vice* Slauson.
 1876—J. H. Wice; G. Chase, L. P. Chase, Jacob P. Shide, George Pitcher, C. Parker, John Pope.
 1877—J. H. Wice; G. Chase, L. P. Chase, William Garrett, George Pitcher, C. Parker, John Pope.
 1878—J. H. Wice; G. Chase, L. P. Chase, William Garrett, George Pitcher, S. F. Bridges, J. Casler.
 1879—G. A. Repass; G. Chase, F. Zimmerman, J. A. Watts, G. Pitcher, S. F. Bridges, L. A. Baughman.

The record-books of the corporation since 1880, in possession of the village clerk, are said to be well kept, and to them the reader is referred for the names of citizens who have served as councilmen. The clerks and treasurers of the village, during the first decade of its existence, held sinecures. The officers in 1895 were W. P. Cobley, mayor; A. M. Wickham, clerk; William Cobley, treasurer; E. L. Jones, Thomas Yount, A. F. Chase, Jacob Casler, George Hoagland and C. Osterhout, councilmen; W. H. North, marshal; and J. L. Wilson, street commissioner. The clerks were A. V. Perry, 1869; S. E. Manahan, 1871; L. P. Tribble, 1873; A. Baughman, 1874 (election invalid); L. P. Tribble, 1874; L. A. Baughman, 1875; I. P. Fisk, 1877; and L. P. Tribble, 1879. The office of treasurer, for that period, was filled by S. F. Bridges, 1869; James Johnston, 1873; S. F. Bridges, 1874 (election invalid); and C. Osterhout, elected in 1874.

The members of the school board elected in 1895 were: A. F. Chase, E. L. Jones and Jacob Casler.

In January, 1870, the Good Templars petitioned the council to close saloons and tippling houses. In December, 1875, the order to build a calaboose, 16 x 24 feet, was issued. In March, 1876, it was completed. In 1876, sidewalks were constructed by order of the council. Beyond the lighting of the village, keeping sidewalks in repair, and adopting ordinances for government, the council has not gone.

No less than seventy female votes were cast in April, 1895, for school directors.

Churches. The Baptists may be said to be the first of the denominations to establish themselves at this point. On February 8, 1862, the society was organized as a branch of the Perrysburg Society. In the winter of 1863-64 Elder G. D. Ovitt received six members. In the winter of 1866 Elder A. Brown and G. N. Thornton labored here, and on May 12, 1866, the Perrysburg Society disbanded, and on that day "Haskins Church" was adopted as a name. It was subsequently called "Middleton Church." G. N. Thornton was chosen clerk, and A. Brown, pastor. The society signed articles of incorporation September 6, 1873, and elected Ellwood Garrett, Henry Bernthisel, Henry Parker, Rezin Jewell and W. Atkinson, trustees, and Amos Twining, clerk. On July 3, 1875, a building, 30 x 55, with basement, was authorized. The house was completed in February, 1876, and in May congratulations were conveyed to the Maumee Baptist Association, wherein Rev. G. N. Thornton is praised for his attention to the building and interests of the society. Rev. S. L. Gray was ordained in 1882; Elder N. Clouse was here in 1884; C. A. McManus, in 1887; J. H. Palmer, in 1889; and in March, 1890, Rev. H. D. Osborne, the present pastor, occupied the pulpit. The clerks have been: Amos Twining, who succeeded G. N. Thornton; Elam Norris, in 1874 (when steps to build a church were taken); R. Jewell, 1878; J. H. Le Gally, 1880, succeeded by A. R. Perry the same year; W. H. Garrett, 1882; William Armitage, 1888; M. Vanaken, 1889; E. Piper, 1891; Sarah Roadarmel, 1892; Carrie Thomas, 1892; Mrs. E. J. Bernthisel, 1893; and Miss Carrie Thomas, elected in 1895. There are 131 members.

German Reformed Emanuel Congregation was organized December 11, 1867, with Anthony Opperman, Jacob Dauer and Philip Meyer, trustees; and Eli Keller, clerk. Fred Brand, one of the county commissioners, is a trustee of

this Church, which to-day is one of the leading societies of the denomination in the county.

The First Presbyterian Church, as organized July 25, 1869, elected Samuel F. Bridges, W. Chandler, John Fox, William King and John Hoagland, trustees. On January 14, 1872, the church building was dedicated. The three first named, with Mrs. Emma Fox, Mrs. Chandler, Sarah Hoagland, Roxanna Perry and Lucy Chandler, were the constituent members, and Rev. Perry C. Baldwin, the pastor. The latter's successors were Revs. J. E. Vance, S. D. Taylor, A. J. Hadley, N. C. Helfrich, H. G. Demison, and Thomas J. Dague, the present pastor. Messrs. Bridges, Chamberlain and Fox, with John Taylor, Sr., and F. E. Meagley, are the elders of this small Church.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1862 by Rev. Thomas N. Barkdull. When Mr. Poucher had charge of the Bowling Green circuit, the building of a house of worship was commenced, but it was not completed until 1872. At that time, Sidney Warren was leader of the class, with David L. Knapp, George C., Elizabeth, Sarah, George G. and Lucinda Miller, James W. and Malinda Boyd, Eliza Treadwell, Caroline Seger, Sarah Knapp and Mary Hoobler, members.

The German Lutheran Church was organized by Rev. C. F. Kaeding, in 1868, and named St. Paul's. Two years prior to that date, he organized a class at Custer, and worked earnestly in the interest of Lutherism.

Fires.—The village escaped serious loss from fire down to September 25, 1895, when a blaze started in the Burleigh cottage, spread to Dr. Greenfield's office, thence to P. G. Garrett's dwelling, and westward to the meat-market, and blacksmith and wagon shops, which were destroyed. The bucket brigade, the only fire department of the town, could not prevent the progress of the fire.

Secret Societies.—Roche de Bœuf Lodge, I. O. O. F., or as it is written on the charter, "Rush-ta-boo," No. 530, was chartered May 16, and instituted November 7, 1872, with John W. Ovitt, F. Zimmerman, M. G. Wetmore, A. J. Ovitt, A. J. Orme and George Downs, members. The office of noble grand has been filled by the following named members: J. W. Ovitt, 1872; F. Zimmerman, 1873; A. J. Orme and M. G. Wetmore, 1874; Thomas Yount and Thomas Johnson*, 1875; L. A. Baughman and Jacob Dauster*, 1876; J. H. Wice* and James Johnston*, 1877; H. O. Nearing and J. Casler*, 1878; D. C. Bemis* and J. A. Wilson*, 1879;

Gurdon Pitcher*, 1880; Thomas Spiers and J. M. Daniels*, 1881; A. A. Coble* and J. F. Robertson*, 1882; J. M. Decker* and E. L. Jones*, 1883; L. P. Tribble* and A. M. Wickham*, 1884; E. L. Jones*, 1885 to 1888; A. M. Wickham*, 1885 and 1886; D. C. Bemis*, 1886; W. Frank*, 1887; G. A. Fisher*, 1888; P. J. Feagles and E. C. Thornton*, 1889; A. J. Ovitt* and W. Coble* (4), 1890; W. W. Bernthisel and J. O. Robinson*, 1891; Robert Dawson and M. K. Manley, 1892; N. A. McCombs* and Charles S. Woodford* (2), 1893; W. R. Cole and John Ollige, 1894; Joseph Wilson, 1895. The first secretary was A. J. Orme, followed, in 1873, by S. E. Manahan, and he, in 1874, by J. B. Gibbs, G. Ewing, L. Carpenter, Homer Daniels, W. Frank, A. C. Wickham, J. N. Easworthy, John Bash, E. M. Lathem, Harvey Twining and W. H. Twining, elected in January, 1895, filled the position of secretary, but not that of noble grand, while the twenty-four other incumbents, who were promoted to the grand's chair, are denoted above by the star after their names. There were fifty-eight members (of the 144 initiated) in May, 1895.

Columbia Lodge, No. 387, Daughters of Rebekah, was chartered August 6, 1893, with the following named members: William Coble*, E. C. Thornton, J. O. Robinson, Jacob Casler, A. J. Ovitt, H. P. and W. W. Bernthisel, A. M. Wickham, C. M. Keeler, M. K. Manley, Gurdon Fitcher, P. G. Garrett, Frank Coble*, Missoria Robinson, Mary Casler, Sophia Ovitt, Mrs. H. P. Barnthisel, Mrs. M. K. Manley, Electa A. Fitcher, Mary A. Yount, Katie Garrett, Jennie Woodford, Anna Smith and Anna Keeler.

Harry Carter Post, No. 56, G. A. R., was chartered April 16, 1881, and named in honor of Harry Carter, who volunteered in the first Wood county company, served with the 21st O. V. I., and afterward in the 67th O. V. I. until his death. The original members of this command are named, as follows: Wilber A. Williams, W. T. Barr, David Bash, Shepard Bemis, John Current, James Carter, Clark Cummings, James M. Cuning, Lewis Downs, Perkins G. Garrett, Moses S. Graves, Ephraim Johnson, Alonzo Keeler, Clark M. Keeler, Mahlon K. Manley, William H. North, Robert Pargellis, Andrew Pargellis, Napoleon B. Plotner, Gurdon Pitcher, Girard A. Repass, Reuben Stevens, George C. Stevenson, Valentine Schwind, F. Joseph Shepard, Amos Twining, Robert Wallace, McDowell Wilson and Lyman C. Wilson. The commanders, since 1881, are named as follows: W. A. Williams, 1881; J. M. Cuning, 1882; G. C. Stevenson, 1883; W.

A. Williams, 1884; L. C. Wilson, 1885; Alonzo Keeler, 1886; N. S. Jones, 1887; G. I. Cooper, 1888; Gurdon Pitcher, 1889, and 1891-92; Amos Twining, 1890; Robert Wallace, 1892; Jacob Casler, 1893; J. O. Robinson, 1894; and Clark Cummings, 1895. The adjutants in order of appointment, are named as follows: M. K. Manley, 1881; G. A. Repass, 1882; J. M. Cuning, 1883; A. Twining, 1884; G. C. Stevenson, 1885; McDowell Wilson, 1886-87; J. M. Cuning, 1888; Alonzo Keeler, 1889; H. B. Apger, 1890; J. O. Robinson, 1891; W. H. Garrett, 1892-96. The number of members in May, 1895, was eighteen of the eighty-two mustered in since the Post was established. David Bash died in 1883, and William Wickham in 1889. The Waterville and the Dunbridge Posts are detachments from this organization.

Harry Carter Relief Corps was chartered November 20, 1889, with twenty-seven ladies, of whom Electa Pitcher was chosen president.

Wickham Camp, No. 188, Sons of Veterans, was chartered June 4, 1887, with fifteen charter members.

Wickham Camp, No. 188, Ladies' Aid, was chartered August 10, 1891, with seventeen ladies. This organization is in active work.

The Tent of the Order of Maccabees is a recent organization, being No. 149 in the order of charters. It was instituted with twenty-two members, of whom N. A. McCombs was elected first commander. William Coble was elected in 1895. F. W. Peinert, the first record-keeper, was succeeded by Thomas F. Enright, in 1895.

Excelsior Hive, No. 123, L. O. T. M., was organized in February, 1893, with Amy Cummings, Jennie Woodford, Carrie Bridges, Susie Rupp, May Daniels, Martha Enright, Nettie Decker, Emma Tibbits, Mina Peinert, Alice Decker, Emma Ousterhout, Frank Coble, Artemesia Bemis, Virginia Greenfield and Clara Bowers. Mrs. Greenfield was past commander; Mrs. Cummings and Mrs. Woodford, the commander and lieutenant-commander, and Mrs. Rupp, record-keeper. The hive, not having the twenty-five members, has not yet received a charter.

CONCLUSION.

The township is one of the richest agricultural districts of the county, and its inhabitants are among the most progressive agriculturists in Ohio. The development of the oil field was conceived in 1861, after the Ballou well, at Turkey Foot, was drilled one thousand feet to rock. The Waterville well was drilled 1,125 feet, and forty feet deeper into the Trenton, in 1889. It

was then that the Sucker-rod belt was explored, and shortly after developed. The field has added largely to the wealth of the township and county, and has given to Middleton first-class oil opera-

tors in addition to her first-class farmers. Most of the northern part of Middleton lies within the U. S. Reserve of twelve miles square, ceded to the United States at Wayne's Treaty, 1795.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

MILTON TOWNSHIP.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS—POPULATION—FIRST ELECTIONS—TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS—PIONEER LAND BUYERS—A REMINISCENCE—PIONEER ARCHITECTURE—HUNTERS—MEN OF 1839—NAMES AND INCIDENTS—FIRST WHITE CHILD—SCHOOLS; MILTON CENTER—CUSTAR—OFFICIALS—SCHOOLS—CHURCHES SOCIETIES, ETC.

THIS division of the county was almost a *terra incognita* a half century ago. In 1850, there were only 244 inhabitants, or less than seven to the square mile, while in 1890 there were 2,287 inhabitants, or 63.5 persons to the square mile. In 1860, the population was 675; by 1870, it increased to 1,464, and by 1880, to 2,181. The lumberman and stove manufacturer stripped the rich land of its forest covering. After the close of the Civil war settlers were attracted; then the drainage system was extended, and a township, which for over thirty years was the home of a few pioneers and their children, became one of the richest and most populous districts of Wood county. The surveys of Milton were made in 1819 and 1821, as shown in the chapter on "Land Titles."

First Elections.—Milton township was established June 11, 1835, embraced Tps. 3 and 4, in R. 9, the voters of which were to assemble at Morrison McMillan's house on the second Saturday in July, of that year. At the first meeting there was not a sufficient number of voters present to hold a legal election, and among the number borrowed from the parent, Weston township, were Samuel Dull and Joseph Ward, who received seventy-five cents each for their vote. There were two others brought in, making four imported voters, who represented four sick and absent ones. At the State election, held in October, 1836, there were only six votes cast for Joseph Vance, and seven for Eli Baldwin, candidates for governor. The names of the thirteen voters are: Morrison and Daniel McMillan, Alvin Clark, Samuel, Daniel and John Barton, Samuel Clark, Abraham and Jonathan Crom, James and Andrew Hutchinson, Thomas Taylor and William

Hill. The justices of the peace of Weston township appear to have administered justice in Milton, until her own justices-elect qualified in 1837.

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS.

Justices.—The justices of the peace, elected since 1837, were Daniel Barton and Morrison McMillan, who qualified in February, 1837, re-appointed in 1839; Alex. Morehead, 1841; Morrison McMillan, 1842; Isaac Van Tassel, 1847 to 1859; Rudd McMillan, 1850; Ezra Morgan, 1854; Morris Brown, 1856 and 1859 (did not qualify in 1859); George W. Hill, 1862, 1865, 1874; Daniel Barton, 1862 to 1868; F. C. Taft, 1868, 1871; B. E. Sheldon, 1871; J. B. Hill, 1874; O. H. Jones, 1877, 1880; Peter Lane, 1877, 1880, 1886; George W. Downs, 1883, 1886; C. M. Walling, 1889, 1892, 1895; Orson H. Jones, for the same terms, and H. Mannhardt, 1896. The dates given are those of election.

Trustees. The records of this township are in a condition similar, in many respects, to those of Liberty, Portage, Jackson and Henry. Little or nothing of the trustees' journal prior to 1879 could be learned; but, more fortunate in the county auditor's office, the searcher was enabled to compile a list of trustees from 1842 to 1878.

1842—Ephraim Lewis, William Hill, Jr., Thomas Taylor.
 1844—Alvin Clark, Samuel Barton, Thomas Taylor.
 1845—Alvin Clark, Thomas Buck, Thomas Taylor.
 1848—Alvin Clark, Thomas Buck, Andrew Hutchinson.
 1849—Andrew Hutchinson, Andrew Morehouse, Thomas Buck.
 1853—Daniel Barton, Thomas Taylor, Andrew Morehouse.
 1856—Edward Campbell, Samuel S. Clark, Joseph Kieffer.
 1859—A. L. Hutchinson, Joseph Henning, W. Kirk.
 1860—Jacob Harts, Joseph Henning, Joseph Kieffer.
 1861—George Dague, J. B. Kieffer, the third not named.
 1862-63—J. C. Simmons, M. S. Harrod, George Dague.