

Pioneers and Early Settlers

A Sketch of the Western Reserve in the Early Days---The Great Changes Which Have Taken Place---Recalled by Recent Deaths.

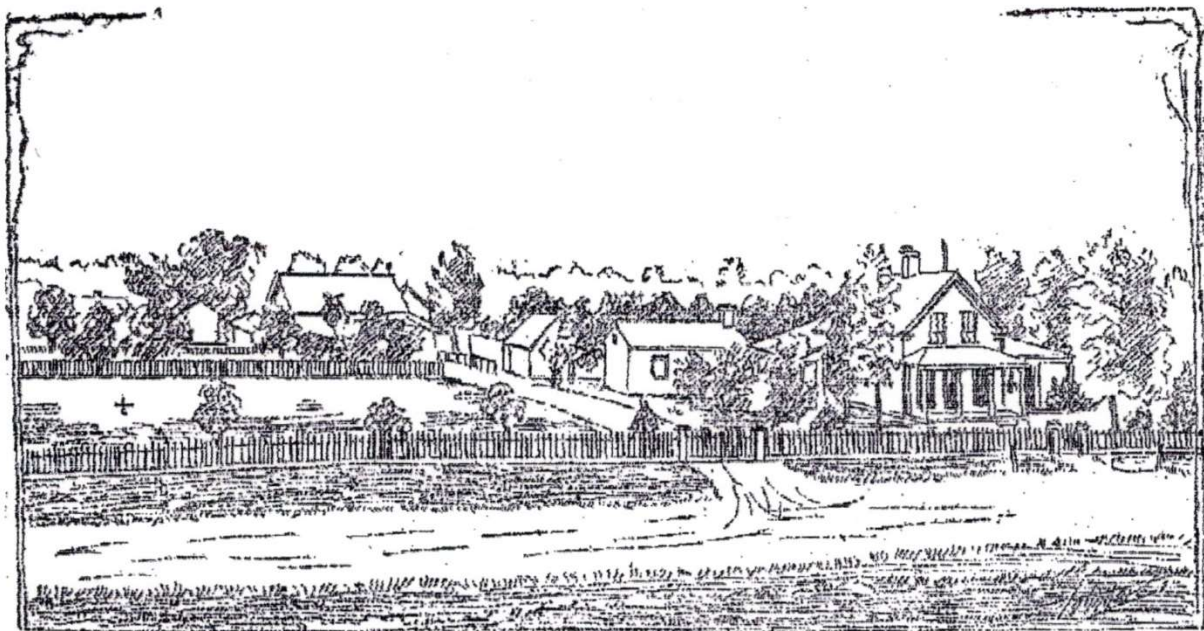
The recent deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Baldwin and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wick remind us of how few are left who are familiar with Cleveland in its early days, of its changes and of its gradual increase in territory, population, wealth and power as a great commercial and manufacturing center. Henrietta Hine Baldwin was born in Youngstown, then in Trumbell county, O., Oct. 11, 1810, in one of the first (if not the first) frame houses erected in that then primitive village. Her father, Homer Hine, was a son of Col. Noble Hine of New Milford, Ct., one of those officers of that state during the Revolution. And at his home were then stored large quantities of powder and other army supplies. Mr. Hine graduated at Yale in the class of 1797. Dr. Lyman Beecher and Horatio Seymour, who was United States senator for twelve years from Vermont, and many other men of note were his classmates. After studying law and being admitted to the bar in Litchfield, Ct., in 1801 he, in company with Benjamin Tappan (afterwards a judge and United States senator in Ohio), came to Ohio, journeying on horseback through the forests and over the mountains of Pennsylvania, and their few goods and law books were brought on by an ox team. He was for several terms a member from Trumbell county of the Ohio legislature. On Oct. 5, 1807, Homer Hine was married to Mary Skinner; oldest daughter of Capt. Abraham Skinner of New Market, Geauga county, O. New Market was the then county seat of Geauga county, which then embraced all the territory now known as Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake and Cuyahoga counties. At the sessions of the early courts at New Market jurors were drawn and attended court from Cleveland on the west and from Austinburg and Conneaut on the east.

Capt. Skinner came up the Paines to Painesville township in the then territory of Ohio, and was so well pleased with the country and its prospects that on his return to Connecticut he purchased several hundred acres in that township on or in the vicinity of Grand river. In 1803 he returned to his Ohio lands in company with the family of Col. Eleazer Paine, another soldier of the revolution, and grandfather of Gen. Halbert E. Paine of the late rebellion and congressman from Milwaukee. They brought with them horses, cattle, implements of husbandry and some young fruit trees. They erected log cabins to shelter the Paine family and one to be ready to shelter the Skinner family when they came in March, 1805. Col Paine and Capt. Skinner in 1803 plotted and laid out a town embracing the sites of their improvements located southwest of Grand river about two and a half miles up the river, at the head of navigation, for small vessels then navigating the lake.

The town they named New Market, in part imitation of the old Indian town that formerly stood there, called Nemaw-Wetaw. A log warehouse was erected at the New Market landing on the river and a public square or park was part of the plot. Their waterworks were gushing springs. The first court in

the now county seat was held under a tree. The next two or three courts were held in a spacious frame barn, still standing, just where it did ninety-one years ago, still useful and in good repair. A spacious two-story house was then completed by Capt. Skinner from black walnut logs, and also a log jail. Here for six or seven years law and justice were dispensed to the citizens all over the territory now embraced in Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties, even to the whipping post for stealing.

Here in 1806 was built the first frame dwelling house in this new town and county seat, erected for a home for the family of Capt. Skinner by Gen. Eli Bond. The lumber was rafted down the river from Austinburg and the nails made by a blacksmith in Rochester, N. Y., for this building and transported to their destination in saddlebags. This building, too, is in a good state of repair, with some additions and alterations, and is now occupied by a great grandson of its original owner. Here in the early days of the country's history were entertained with the free hospitality of those pioneer days the lawyers, judges, members of congress and early governors. When for five or six years Cuyahoga and Ashtabula counties were a part of Geauga county, with the county seat at New Market, they had their choice when they wished to attend their court of taking a vessel at Cleveland or Ashtabula or Conneaut, sailing to Grand river and up the river to New Market landing, or taking the now cut roads or bridle paths through the majestic forests to the same point, New Market, their county seat. In 1810 Cuyahoga and Ashtabula counties were taken from Geauga. New Market as a county seat losing two-thirds of its judicial territory, and two years later the blow came that shifted the county seat to Chardon and the present port of Fairport was laid out by Capt. Skinner in 1812, diverting soon considerable of the business from the warehouses at New Market. A frame addition for the kitchen and dining room was made to the house and it became a spacious dwelling house and the jail a storeroom for the family.



THE RESIDENCE OF HOMER H. HINE IN PAINESVILLE TOWNSHIP. THE CROSS MARK SHOWS WHERE THE FIRST COURT HOUSE STOOD.

At this pioneer homestead, from which her mother had made her wedding journey to Youngstown, and a few years later her Aunt Pauline Skinner, married to Nathan Perry, made their start for their future Cleveland home. Henrietta Hine made in her girlhood many pleasant visits, rowing on the river and at Fairport seeing the first lake steamboat, the Walk in the Water, make her landing. On Nov. 27, 1833, she was married to Dudley Baldwin of Cleveland, to which city of the future they made their journey to their prospective home by stage coach by way of Poland and Ravenna. Their Cleveland home was a pleasant one and one-half-story frame cottage with its well of water, little garden and arbor on Bank street on ground now occupied by the Weddell house. The store of P. M. Weddell & Co. in which Mr. Baldwin was a partner, was a two-story brick at the southwest corner of Bank street. Two-stories were as high as brick buildings grew in Cleveland those days, and not many of them at that. The town limit on the west was the Cuyahoga river and on the east the line ran north and south about the line of south Perry street and directly through the hall of Nathan Perry's Euclid Ave residence. In those days it was not unusual for the young men to have a game of ball or pitching quirts on Bank or Seneca streets, just off Superior. For about ten years the hospitable home of the Baldwins at this cottage was always made pleasant by their cheerful greetings of their friends and their noble deeds of charity and active work in the church.

In 1843 they purchased and removed to their late home, with its ample grounds and pleasant views, on North Perry street. Near Euclid avenue, which for the remaining fifty-three years of their united and useful lives was their loved and happy home, where they delighted most hospitably to entertain their many friends, where they were ever ready, ungrudgingly, to join in doing their full part in all good works of charity and active benevolence, or the advancing improvement of their city and its society. Mrs. Baldwin was always a great and active worker, both mental and physical, and to the very last had almost the interest in her surroundings and vivacity of a young lady. Her happiness and the completeness of the new home were greatly increased a few years later by her loved cousin, Mary Perry Payne building her home on the east side of the street from them, where the intimate friendship of their girlhood were continued to the close of their lives.

Mr. Baldwin in early life was a Jackson Democrat, but later on the fugitive slave law and the Dread Scott decision placed him in the Free Soil ranks, and later the Republican party. His wife was in full and active sympathy with him. In the war of the rebellion, three of their sons and a son-in-law, following the example of their revolutionary ancestry, were in their country's service. Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin were cultured in literature, she numbering among her relatives such authoresses as Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward and Emily Huntington Miller. Nearly sixty-three years was the length of their married life and their mental activity and their interest in the welfare of their many friends and the world's progressive history continued undiminished to the end. Of them can it truly be said, "Lovely and united were they in life, and scarcely by death were they divided."

Of her father's family two survive her, Augustus Hine of Los Angeles, Cal., and Homer H. Hine of Painesville, whose pleasant house occupies precisely the spot on which was erected in 1803 the first log cabin for the residence of the family of his grandfather at New Market, from its location on Grand river and the fine river views now generally called Riverside.

It is wonderful the transformation and changes witnessed by these two pioneers in their lifetime, in which changes they were active, efficient, valued factors. The hewn log court house at New Market, where first the early citizens went to attend the administration of justice, had given way to the great court house in Cleveland, and the commodious ones of Chardon, Jefferson and Painesville.

The town of Cleveland, of which Dudley Baldwin had been town cleric and Henrietta Hine had visited at the home of her Uncle Nathan Perry, the Indian trader and early merchant, had become the great city of Ohio, extending the limits east, south and west into and absorbing much of the adjoining townships. The humble cottages and scrub oaks on the sandy Euclid road had been transformed into the towering sky scraping business blocks of Euclid avenue, with its miles of grand mansions, broad streets, well paved, and sidewalks and green shaded lawns to match. The forests along the lake front had changed into numbers of great factories, and workshops, with towering chimneys, and all thronged like bee hives with their thousands of wage earners. The stage coaches of their youth had passed away because of the advent of the railway lines. The one or two-roomed school houses are also gone, and in their place are the fine school buildings of today. All of these and scores of other equally great changes have occurred during their lives, and in many of which they actively participated.

Now, like tired children, who at the close of the day, fold their hands, saying, "Now we lay us down to sleep, we pray our Lord our souls to keep," they have passed into the hands of that Eternal Father, Who knows when His children have well and faithfully done the work He has given them to do.
