

CHAPTER XXXII.

WOODSTOCK.

The history of the village of Woodstock may be traced back nearly one hundred years. During this time the village has lived a quiet and unpretentious life, never aspiring to metropolitan honors, never attempting to delude itself with the idea that it would be more than a village, never holding itself up as an example of a model community center, but during all these years living the life of the ordinary hamlet. Like all villages it has had its ups and downs, its share of lean years and its share of fat years; it has seen many worthy people go out from its precincts and many other worthy people make their homes within them; it has been proud of its school and cherished its churches; it has patronized its home industries as far as possible; in all things it has been true to the genuine village type.

It has, like unto all villages, had its "firsts" in everything. There was the first proprietor, the first settler, the first blacksmith, the first physician, the first school house, the first church, the first saloon, the first mail line, the first hotel—and the first of everything which has been part of its life. In order to give the village its proper setting it is necessary at the outset to set forth its geographical relation to the county and the state at large; how it came into existence; who was responsible for its appearance and, in short, to set forth the facts concerning its entry into the history of the county.

The land on which it is located is a part of Virginia Military Survey No. 7822, and was taken out in the name of Anthony Walke. He never lived on the land and as far as is known never knew of such a place as Woodstock. While the village itself did not have a plat recorded until March 28, 1834, yet there were settlers on its site for several years prior to that date. It seems that about 1819 this survey was purchased from the original proprietor by a number of New Englanders, mostly from Vermont and New Hampshire. The part including Woodstock and a substantial part of Rush township was bought by four Smith brothers (Sylvanus, Samuel, Lester and Dexter), David Holt, Levi Churchill, William Gifford and Benjamin D. Sibley. In 1820 this little group of settlers was augmented by Hezekiah Ripley, Joseph Meacham, James Webb, John McDonald, Harvey Cushman and James Parkhill.

Thus during 1819 and 1820 the present site of Woodstock and the immediate community received about a dozen families, which, added to a few families who a short time previously, had located to the west of the settlement, made a very respectable community. Those in addition to the families already mentioned, were the Corbets and Lanes, about a mile west of Woodstock; also Thomas Irwin and William Wright. Irwin and Wright were Virginians and did not have any particular affection for the Vermonters and consequently sold out in 1835 to Philip Smith, a brother of the Smiths who had settled in the community in 1819 and 1820. Randall Willard secured part of the tract owned by the Virginians and, as soon as they had sold, they left this section of the country for a more congenial climate.

The period from 1820 to 1834 found Woodstock gradually adding to its scattered population, but it was not until the latter year that an effort was made to have it platted. During this period of fourteen years most of the many "firsts" of the village made their appearance, and they may be noticed at this point.

THE FIRST PHYSICIAN.

Every community of several families had a physician early in its history and Woodstock was no exception. But the village had an unusual physician as its first healer; she was a woman, Mrs. Sophia Sumner Holt, not a regular practicing physician, but withal, one who traveled far and wide in response to requests for her services. She was distinctly a "yarb doctor" and many stories are told of the wonderful concoctions, decoctions, infusions, etc., which she prepared and administered. So unique was her system of therapeutics, so distinctly feminine, that an explanation of her method of procedure is worthy of record.

"Doctor" Holt must have been a sartorial curiosity; her raiment was of a piece with her other idiosyncracies. In her practice she traveled the roads astride an old white mare—that is, the old mare was white when she left the stable, but the farther her mistress traveled the less this color was evident. On the horn of her saddle the good old lady had a big pasteboard box full of roots, herbs, peppers, spices and medicinal plants of every description. Arriving at the home of her patient she proceeded to fill him full of the hottest mixture she could concoct, and, so it is recorded, internal spontaneous combustion was sometimes narrowly avoided. In modern parlance she would undoubtedly have been called a "hot" doctor. One man whom she had treated in this heated manner declared afterwards "that her stuff had made him so hot that his clothes smelled like burnt rags for a month." Following this initial pro-

cess of getting the patient to the proper temperature she put him in a sweat box "to extract all the juice out of his anatomy possible, then sponged him off with cold water, and wound him up in a woolen blanket to get well or die."

And here comes the strange, but true, part of the story. Her husband was the undertaker of the community, also the coffin maker, while—that nothing might escape—the good old lady herself was fully competent to preach a funeral sermon. Such another combination and co-ordination of interests it would be hard to find. So if the patient lived, she got her fee; if he died—well, he would be taken care of. According to local historians, the doctor-preacher did not hesitate in her funeral sermons to consign her subject to Heavenly bliss, if she felt that was his proper place; nor, on the other hand, if he was not a suitable subject for the heavenly kingdom "she passed him down the trail to the next station, a locality where climatic conditions are good for cold feet." The good old lady has long since dosed her last patient on this earth, but, if as some believe, we follow her earthly vocation in the world to come, the good old lady is still digging herbs, and, to quote from the local historian of her earthly home, "she will have a long time in which to pull herbs and dig roots."

THE FIRST CHURCH.

The first church was of the Christian denomination, a branch of the church of this name founded by Elias Smith; but this church, while the first of the community, was about five miles east of the village of Woodstock and about one mile west of the ancient village of Homer, in Union county. The first church in the village proper was a Universalist church and dates from about 1828. Rev. Asher A. Davis was the first minister, a lad of nineteen with a wife of fifteen, and the pair were possessed of about as much ability to run a home in the wilderness as a pair of "babes in the woods." He was, notwithstanding his youth, an eloquent preacher and his wife proved to be just as useful as ornamental. They were so genial and gentle that the rough old settlers took kindly to them and the young couple were really a wonderful blessing to the community. For four years Davis preached, and then it seemed that he began to introduce too much Universalist doctrine into his sermons. Remonstrance on the part of his parishioners did not stop him and finally the young couple were fairly driven out of the community. Strange to say they came back two years later on a visit and by this time the people seemed to have had a change of heart. He delivered a Universalist sermon in Sibley's grove, where a few years before he had preached a Christian ser-

mon—and he held the audience spellbound for two hours. The very people who drove Davis and his wife from the community on account of his espousal of Universalism were the very ones who organized the first church of this denomination in Woodstock.

THE FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE.

The first school house was built in the village in 1823 on a lot later owned by Dan Fox. The lot was a generously-sized one of an acre and was given by Samuel Smith. This first temple of learning was a log structure and about its only recommendation was its cheapness. An old citizen, Warren D. Sibley, recalled a few years ago that one of the diversions of the boys in this school house—and he was one of them—consisted in pulling out of their pants the splinters which found their way to the boys from the seats on which they had to sit. A word may be said about this first school house of Woodstock as it was described by Mr. Sibley a few years ago:

At the age of four years I was sent there to school to spend six hours each day to receive instructions about that number of minutes. The rest of the time I spent in planing slivers off a rough slab seat, without any back, and so high that my feet could not reach the floor without sliding partly off, which I occasionally did; but if discovered in this position by the teacher, I was certain to get a thump on the head, accompanied by a command to "Crawl back on your slab." There were six little human cubs on this slab and when the teacher could think of nothing meaner to do he would slide his foot along the row tipping us all over backwards. We sat facing a great yawning fireplace sufficiently large to take in one-half a cord of wood and topped out with a stick chimney large enough, if laid on the ground, for a good-sized mule to pass through. And how the wind would roar and swirl down that chimney, filling the room with smoke, fire and ashes, and then to vary the discomfort, to have a stream of melted snow spout down from the loft and strike a lad in the neck, and drift along down his spinal column, producing a sensation for which no sane boy would hanker for a second application.

The description which the foregoing writer gives of a school house in Champaign county in the twenties is typical of most of those in use at that time. The added description which Sibley gives of the management of the school by the teacher may also be taken as typical of teaching methods in the county during the twenties and thirties—and even later. To continue quoting from Sibley:

When the teacher planted himself at his desk to close the school for the day, I was so overjoyed with the prospect of being turned out of that prison that I must have been rather demonstrative and noisy, for the teacher tucked me under his desk and put his foot on me to keep me still, and when my name was called I answered "Here." "Yes, my lad," the teacher said, "You wouldn't be here if I hadn't my foot on you."

which was very true, for when a lad of my dimensions was flat on the floor with a foot on his back and that foot hung to a leg about the size of a salt barrel, his chance of being anywhere else is pretty slim. That teacher weighed three hundred and fifty-seven pounds, and it was gross in more ways than one. This, my first teacher, was David Ripley, the most popular teacher in Champaign county. As it seemed to me he was subject to fits of cyclonic wrath at the least violation of the rules of the school during school hours, yet at recess, he was a boy among boys and engaged in all boyish sports with avidity. Called the champion of the Darby plains, it was said when he got a fair whack at the ball the surest place to find it would be in the next county.

One essential qualification for a male teacher at that time was his physical ability to lick the biggest boy in the school. Without this qualification the applicant for a school was quite sure to be turned down. The methods in use at that time to punish refractory pupils I felt, as a youth, were an outrage to childhood; and at mature age I know that they were extremely cruel and vicious. Every device that the vile ingenuity of man could invent was adopted to enforce obedience in the school and seemingly the only object to be accomplished was to break down and destroy every particle of independence and self-respect that the pupil possessed by nature. The rod, the ferrule, the dunce block, standing on one foot with a book elevated above the head, split quill placed astride the nose and various other methods, equally as humiliating, were in vogue, none of which were calculated to give sensitive boys and girls a very exalted opinion of themselves or any too much self-respect.

Apparently the pupils had no right that the teacher was bound to respect. To pet a boy and spare the rod was considered a sure method of sending him down the broad road that leads to death, and the rougher and harder a boy was used, the better his chance of becoming a good and useful citizen here, and a winged pauper in the New Jerusalem.

The school house just described stood from 1823 to 1829, but by the latter year it was deemed necessary to provide a new building. Although Thomas Irwin got the contract for building the new brick building and agreed to have it done by the following December, there were only a few loads of brick on the ground by that time. The new building was to be on the old site and the old one was to be used for school purposes until the new structure was ready for occupancy. During the summer of 1829 the wife of W. D. Sibley taught the summer term in her own home. During the winter of 1829-30 there was no school, and it was not until the first Monday in December, 1830, that the new building was open for school purposes, with Eliphas Burnham as the first teacher. Old settlers unite in calling him a very conscientious, kind-hearted and capable teacher.

BEGINNING OF THE VILLAGE.

The history thus far recounted deals with Woodstock before it was platted in 1834. A word should be said at this point concerning the several names which have been applied to the village. The first official plat on record is dated

March 28, 1834, and bears the title of "Hartford *alias* Woodstock." This implies that both names were in current use in 1834 and by inference it would seem that Woodstock was applied to the place at a later date.

It would seem that the local historian, Sibley, would have the best information on the nomenclature of the village. Here is what he says: "An attempt was made at first to call our village Smithville; this, however, did not seem to become popular. It was called New Albany for a while, then Hartford. About 1837 or 1838, a horde of Vermonters came and called the village after the old Woodstock, Vermont. It was sometimes called by people outside the village—Mudsock."

Sibley is incorrect in stating that the name of Woodstock was not applied before 1838, since the plat of 1834 carries the name of Woodstock. Another local authority states that the town was called Woodstock because, when it applied for a postoffice, it was found that there was already a postoffice by the name of Hartford in the state and this made it necessary to select a new name—hence Woodstock became the name of the postoffice and gradually the old name of Hartford was supplanted by the name of Woodstock. Undoubtedly the name was applied because so many of the first settlers came from the vicinity of Woodstock, Vermont.

The actual platting of the town was done on March 17 and 18, 1834, by John Arrowsmith, county surveyor. The official plat states that it is the "southwest part of survey No. 7822, Anthony Walke, original proprietor, for Sylvanus Smith and Phebe Smith." There were originally forty-two lots laid out in a very irregular fashion. The platting of the town was evidently the means of stirring up considerable trouble. While it is impossible to follow the thread of events in 1834, yet the appearance of the first plat, laid out in such an irregular manner, bears witness to the fact that the owners of land adjacent to the crossroads were not working together in harmony.

There were four owners of the four respective corners: Sylvanus Smith had the northwest corner; Phoebe Smith, the northeast; B. D. Sibley, the southeast; Isaac Marsh, the southwest corner. The first plat shows that the Smiths were the only ones to have any of their land platted, and according to local authorities Sibley and Marsh refused to have anything to do with the Smiths in regard to laying out the proposed village, on the ground that the latter would not consent to have the streets straightened so they would cross at right angles. Other local authorities aver that the Smiths were responsible for the town being laid out in such an irregular manner.

Whatever the reason may be for the haphazard platting of the town, it has had no effect on its prosperity, and it may be said that it even adds a cer-

tain piquancy to the little village. Before a year had elapsed Sibley had a change of heart and decided to plat an addition and on January 28, 1835, he recorded a plat of ten lots on his corner—the southeast; then, of course, Marsh had to follow suit. On September 5, 1836, he laid out eight queerly shaped lots on his corner—the southwest. Subsequent additions have been made by Elias Smith (November 15, 1865, seven lots), and E. M. Bennett (August 5, 1867, ten lots), both being in the southwest corner.

There was only one house standing on the site when the plat of the village was recorded in 1834. Phoebe Smith's house happened to fall on lot 24 and must therefore be recorded for all time to come as the first house erected in Woodstock. This same house was later the property of Joseph Chamberlin and within its homelike precincts was opened the first saloon in the village. The first house erected after the platting in 1834 was erected by David H. Hall on lot No. 3 and in it he opened the first shoeshop. William B. Linell, a blacksmith, built the second house on lot No. 2 and put up his shop on lot No. 15. By 1837 houses had been erected on lots Nos. 1, 4, 5 and 16. On lot No. 1 stood a combined store and dwelling house, the property of Ira Johnson, who was also the first postmaster. The blacksmith, Linell, became converted at one of the revivals, sold his shop to Erastus Martin and became a regularly ordained minister in the Universalist church.

CHRISTENING THE FIRST HOTEL.

One other "first" remains to be noticed. In 1835 Harvey Cushman built a hotel adjoining the present new bank building and for several years conducted the only hostlery in the village. In those days the ceremony of "raising" a house was attended with the consumption of vast quantities of whiskey; in fact, few farmers would have had the courage to invite their neighbors to a house-raising or log-rolling without providing an ample supply of genuine corn whiskey. On the day that the framework of the Cushman Hotel was raised every man present, except Sylvanus Smith, was drinking and most of them were decidedly under the influence of the liquor.

When the framework was finally up it was decided to christen the future hotel in some such manner as battleships are christened. Accordingly, a bottle of whiskey was provided and the soberest man of the drunken crew was delegated the task of taking a drink and then throwing the bottle, dripping its contents enroute, over the building, and thus was christened Woodstock Hotel. The question of spelling the word hotel was the cause of considerable warm feeling; some said it should be spelled with one "l" and some insisted that two

were needed. Sylvanus Smith, being the only sober man in the crowd, was asked to decide the momentous question. Smith looked at the building and then at the motley crowd around him and then pronounced his decision: "If this day is a sample of what the hotel is to be, it should be spelled 'Hot-hell.'" And according to the best authority, "it proved to be a hell of a place for three or four years." To continue the description of this gin-shop the local historian says: "Hoodlums gathered there from various localities on Saturday afternoon and continued their bacchanalian orgies in the village, frequently until midnight, terrifying the people by their demoniacal yells, fighting, and running horses on the street."

Fortunately eggs were not as high in price then as now or the following story would not be told. The older and soberer men of the community encouraged the non-drinking young men to form a vigilance committee and rid the community of the doggery. Each young fellow gathered two or three dozen eggs of uncertain age and on the next Saturday night, following their plan of campaign, they lay in wait for the revelers. When the drunken mob emerged from the saloon and began to disport themselves on the street the egg-laden conspirators turned loose a volley of eggs. A man has to be pretty drunk not to resent an aged egg greeting him face to face and the young men in charge of the egg brigade must have engaged in practice, since it was only a matter of a few minutes before the drunken mob was ready to beat a retreat. The hotel came in for a share of the omelet and next morning presented a grotesque appearance. This charge of the egg brigade put an effective stop to these weekly orgies, and had a sobering effect on both the proprietor and his customers. The proprietor decided to confine his liquor sales to travelers, and as a result his caravansary became a very respectable tavern.

EARLY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

It is impossible to trace the growth of business enterprises of the village for the eighty years that it has been in existence, but a few of the more important merchants may be mentioned. The first storekeeper, Ira Johnson, has been mentioned. The second store was opened by the firm known as Franklin, Fairchild & Company, Samuel Franklin furnishing the capital, Deranzell Fairchild being head manager and Lockwood, a member of the company, serving as clerk. The latter withdrew in 1840 and Franklin & Fairchild continued the store until about 1850. This firm did an enormous business and of a most peculiar character. It did not matter to them whether their customers paid cash or not, all they wanted was cash in January of each year or

notes—and they got mostly notes. These notes the proprietors traded for horses and for upwards of fifteen years Fairchilds collected each spring fifty to sixty head of horses and actually drove them all the way to Connecticut, where he sold them. Then he stopped off at New York on his way back, bought his goods for the following year and came on home. Fairchilds was “Doc” to everybody and was one of those jovial fellows who make life worth living. His partner, Franklin, was also of a jovial disposition and was reputed to be able to laugh the “loudest and the longest and the most completely of any man who ever lived in the county.” He was “Uncle Sam” to the whole community.

ERASTUS MARTIN.

There is usually in each community, and especially in the community the size of Woodstock, one man who may be said to be responsible for its prosperity during a long period of years. Such a man in Woodstock was Erastus Martin. Born in Randolph, Vermont, in 1811, he learned the blacksmith trade in New York City when a young man and drifted West, eventually finding himself in Mexico, where he accumulated a goodly sized fortune in a short time. Martin came to Woodstock about 1840, being drawn thither by the fact that many of his neighbors in Vermont had located there. He continued to make Woodstock his home until his death in 1891, and in the course of more than half a century in this community it is not too much to say that for many years of the time he was the most influential factor in its industrial life. He was a natural financier, and anything to which he turned his hand proved successful. At one time or another he actually owned every lot in Woodstock and North Lewisburg, securing them in the course of his many business transactions. He engaged in farming, blacksmithing, real-estate business, dealt in imported Norman horses and French sheep, and for many years engaged extensively in the slaughtering business. He slaughtered thousands of hogs and sheep annually and hauled his pork and mutton overland to Toledo. He was responsible, more than any other man, for the Pennsylvania railroad going through Woodstock rather than through Mechanicsburg. In short, he was the moving spirit in Woodstock as long as he was active in business affairs.

WOODSTOCK'S SERVICE DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

In the decade before the Civil War, the village boasted of two general stores, a grocery store, drug store, wagon shop and two blacksmith shops.

Smith & Sprague were the proprietors of the general store which stood on the southeast corner of the square, while a man by the name of Harback occupied the southwest corner with his store. Edward Clark was on the northeast corner with a grocery and T. Burnham had his drug store on the northwest corner. The blacksmith shops were owned by Elder Marsh and James Conner, while the wagon shop was located over the blacksmith shop of Elder Marsh, and was run by Charles Marsh and N. P. Hewitt. Joseph Chamberlin operated the village hotel in the brick building built by a man by the name of Ganter.

The Civil War came on apace and the business industries of the town suffered as a result. The part Woodstock and Rush township took in the Civil War is told in the military chapter, and need not be treated here in detail. Woodstock claimed to have furnished more men for service, according to its population, than any other village or city in the state. On the day the first call was made, eight young men enlisted; fifteen answered the second call; five went at the next; and others from time to time until the close of the war. The complete summary of Woodstock's service will be seen in the chapter above mentioned. At the opening of the war the village had a fine brass band, most of its members being married, and when the war opened nine members at once enlisted. More than fifty soldiers are buried in the local cemetery.

Upon the breaking out of the Spanish-American War the following young men enlisted from Woodstock: W. C. Gifford, Charles Bailey, Daniel Poling, Charles and Arthur Cushman, Guy Clark, John Overfield, Guy Weatherhead, Perry Sessions, David Hanley and Simeon Martin. Two other young men, William Griswold and Thomas Linchan, both of whom were former residents of Woodstock, served in the war and reached the front. The nine young men from Woodstock got no farther than Florida before they were called back. The present European War finds one young man at the front in June, 1917. Vivian Crawford, who is with an ambulance corps.

FACTORIES, MILLS AND SHOPS.

There have been blacksmith shops in Woodstock since its earliest history, and the followers of Tubal Cain have usually been woodworkers as well. W. B. Linell, the first blacksmith, was followed by Erastus Martin, the latter subsequently becoming the wealthiest man in the township and one of the wealthiest in the county. Elder Marsh and James Conner came in as blacksmiths in the forties and continued for a number of years. Philander Geer

came in the fifties and Miles Standish and Ancil Mechaum came in still later. The firm of Morrissey and Fox followed in the nineties and both are still in business, although not in partnership.

Another group of shops which have existed in the past include shoe-shops and tailor shops, not to mention barber shops and harness shops. David Hall appears to have been the first shoemaker, closely followed by Simon Chapman. Later shoe repairers have been Dan Poling and O. B. Summers. The first tailor shop was in charge of William Riddle and his successors were Patrick Connolly and Staley Shepherd. In the beginning the harness shops were identical with the shoe shops. In the early history a shoeshop meant a shoe factory, since all the shoes then were handmade and usually made in the community where they were to be worn. Until factory-made shoes came into use after the war, it was customary for shoemakers to visit their different customers sometime during the year, take their foot measure and make their shoes while they were free from their regular work. If the tales of old settlers may be believed, some of these hand-made boots were worn for ten years, and if a shoe did not wear from three to five years it was not accounted a good shoe. The county commissioners' records show that they paid two dollars a pair for shoes in the twenties for inmates of the county poor house, and these shoes were made out of genuine cow leather. Shoe repairing shops and harness shops are two distinct affairs at the present time and have been since shoe cobblers quit making shoes. Benjamin C. Vance is now the local harness maker. The first village barber was Benjamin Fish and since his day barbers have come and gone, leaving their bloody trail behind them. Years ago Samuel Loudon attended to the hirsute wants of the community; J. O. Carter and Paul Perry now preside over the village barber shops.

OTHER INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES.

Woodstock is not on a stream and consequently has never had the opportunity of providing itself with water-power mills. The first saw-mill was opened in 1850 by Jesse and Stephen K. Smith, brothers, in the north end of town. Five years later Jesse Smith in partnership with Orris Fairchild, added a flour-mill and the combined saw- and flour-mill was doing a big business when the whole establishment was burned to the ground in the spring of 1858. The firm had no insurance, but Smith was a man of energy and evidently of considerable means. The railroad had reached the town in 1853, and after the fire he bought an acre south of the railroad and proceeded to rebuild both mills at once. The flour-mill was discontinued many years ago,

but the saw-mill was operated year after year until a few years ago, when Pearl Bennett, the son of Barnett Bennett, who had run it for many years, sold it to parties in Georgia. It is now doing duty in the cypress swamps of that state.

Another woodworker of former years was Lester Smith, who had a small shingle factory in the basement of his house. He produced handmade oak shingles, but history does not record how many he could make in a day or how long he continued in the business. As has been stated, the first blacksmiths were generally woodworkers, and divided their attention between iron and woodwork, but later the demands of the time called into existence special wagon makers. Thus, in 1856 it is recorded that Charles Marsh and N. P. Hewitt had a wagon shop and in 1872 this same Hewitt was still listed as a carriage, buggy, spring and farm wagon manufacturer. He was the last one to conduct such an industry in the village.

The first drain tile factory in the village and in the county as well was opened for operation by David Kenfield in 1857 about forty rods south of the railroad track. This factory passed through a number of hands and eventually became the property (about 1875) of W. H. Miller, who operated it until Ralph Burnham took it in 1880. It closed about 1885.

Another industry dating back more than half a century was the tannery business. On lot No. 7 of the Sylvanus Smith plat there is indicated a tannery standing in 1872. This industry had been operated by Thomas Archer and was discontinued in the seventies.

The history of the way Woodstock came to get the railroad which went west from Columbus to Indianapolis is one of intense interest. It was presumed that the road would go through Mechanicsburg to Urbana, a more direct route and consequently less expensive, but Woodstock had one man who was more than a match in diplomacy and financial ability for all of the citizens of Mechanicsburg. This one man was Erastus Martin. He made up his mind to have the railroad come through his village and he left no stone unturned and no pocketbook untouched to bring about this desired result. With his own means and with such money as he induced his neighbors to subscribe, together with the subsidy voted by his township, he was instrumental in raising one hundred thousand dollars—a sum which was sufficient to induce the railroad company to put Woodstock on its right-of-way. The coming of the first train into the town in 1853 was made the occasion for a great celebration. For several years the railroad engines burned only wood and a shed was erected at Woodstock which would hold five hundred cords of four-foot wood for use in the engines. There was also a watering tank at



CUSHMAN MEMORIAL MONUMENT, IN CEMETERY AT WOODSTOCK



HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, WOODSTOCK

Woodstock, the water coming from a dug well and being pumped into the large tank by the hand of Richard Linehan, who lived until about 1910. Old residents recall that a blind man by the name of John Moody, now deceased, was employed by the railroad company for years sawing wood with a buck saw.

PHYSICIANS.

A brief account has been given of the first exponent of the healing art—the woman with the healing apparatus, white horse and undertaker husband. The first real physician in the village was Dr. Daniel Delaney, who came to Woodstock with his wife in 1834 and built a house in the little village. He was a well-educated physician and soon built up an extensive practice. His wife was a cousin of Henry Ward Beecher, was a well-educated woman, and for many years was a teacher in the community. So excellent was the character of her teaching that many school teachers completed their work under her schooling and went out to take charge of schools in Champaign, Logan and Union counties. In fact, there was a greater demand for Woodstock teachers trained in Mrs. Delaney's school than could be supplied. Her husband spent a few hours each day in the school room, long enough to "hear" the lessons in arithmetic.

The second physician to locate in Woodstock was Dr. Benjamin Davenport, who settled there in 1836 with his wife, four boys and one girl. Within four years he had one of the most extensive practices of any physician in the county, and, until he left in 1859 for Oregon, he had all he could attend to. It is said that he never collected a bill for his services if he had to go after it; if his patients paid him they did so of their own volition. He seemed to have no care as to how he should live, but when his boys grew to maturity the family home took on a very comfortable appearance. He was really a very competent physician despite the fact that he seldom gave any medicine.

It is not possible to go into details concerning the careers of the many physicians who have come and gone in the village. Following Doctor Davenport came Dr. L. Swaine and he was succeeded by Dr. J. S. Crawford, who came to the village in 1854 from Logan county. Doctor Crawford practiced in the village until his death in 1889. The physicians since that year have included C. O. Johnson, L. C. Herrick, W. J. Green, D. W. Sharp and Howard Sharp. L. C. Herrick was one of the best trained physicians Champaign county has ever had. A summary of his career is given in detail in the medical chapter. Dr. Howard Sharp is now the only practicing physician in the

village. He and his father had the only drug store in the village for many years. His mother now owns the drug store. The village is the birthplace of W. C. Hewitt, a homeopathic physician, who practiced in his native town for a few years, and then located at Xenia, where he is now practicing.

CHURCHES AND CEMETERIES.

The village has had two churches for more than seventy years. As has been stated, most of the first settlers were members of the Christian church, but a few years later most of those in the immediate vicinity of Woodstock became identified with the Universalist church. The Christian church was definitely organized on April 13, 1839, by Amos Stephens, Harrison Lines, Gardner Thomas, Elias Smith and others. They bought a lot of Sylvanus Smith in 1844 and built a brick church the same year, dedicating it on November 19. This same building is in use in 1917. The Universalists also erected a brick building in 1844, the trustees at the time being Jonas Miller, Eliphas Burnham and John McDonald. This church was in use until replaced by the present brick building in 1893. The Catholics have never been sufficiently strong in the community to have a building, but are served by the priest from Urbana at regular intervals. For many years mass was said at the home of Mrs. Michael Sullivan, but services are now held in one of the town halls. A complete history of the Woodstock churches may be seen in the church chapter. The first village cemetery was laid in 1846 and stands at the west side of the town. Richmond Sibley was the first person buried in the cemetery and during the seventy years of its existence it has acquired a population considerably in excess of the village by which it stands. The cemetery is one of the finest and best-kept cemeteries in the state for a village of the size of Woodstock, and the people are justified in being proud of it. A handsome vault was built in the cemetery in 1887. The most striking monument in the cemetery is the Cushman family monument. It was designed and sculpted by Warren Cushman, now a resident of Zanesfield, Ohio. It contains the names of the various members of the family, a group of standing figures and busts of several other members of the family. The accompanying photograph gives a good general view of the monument.

THE FIRST SCHOOL BUILDING.

The first school building in the village was a rough log affair built in 1823, followed in 1829 by a brick structure. The latter structure was added

to in 1843, and this building continued in use until 1860. In that year the school trustees erected a two-story brick building in the western part of the village, the grounds occupying the space between the highway and the railroad. The next building appeared in the latter part of the seventies and was made possible by a legislative act passed in 1877. Joseph Chamberlin was responsible for the passage of the act and, despite vigorous opposition on the part of many farmers, Woodstock saw its fourth school building. This building cost nine thousand dollars, and was first in charge of J. W. Freeman, who was at the head of the schools for nine years. He was followed by Stephenson McConkey, George Waite, Alonzo Smith, J. W. Cross, Thomas F. Johnson, M. A. Brown, I. L. Mitchell, C. C. Kail, ——— Miller, H. C. Cusick and R. A. Conrad. In March, 1893, the school building erected in 1877-78 was completely destroyed by fire and the present building was erected in the summer of that same year. The high-school building was erected in 1915, and the Woodstock school district is now as well supplied with buildings and equipment as any school district in the county. Among other teachers prior to the nineties was Evan P. Middleton, now the common pleas judge of the county, who taught in the village during the seventies.

COLLEGE MEN AND WOMEN OF WOODSTOCK.

The state of Ohio is noted for the number and excellence of its colleges and universities. No statistics are available to show the number of Champaign county people who have attended college; but a list of the young people of Woodstock who have attended college within the last few years has been compiled by one of the graduates of the Woodstock high school and later a graduate of Ohio State University. This list is not complete, but it indicates in a striking way that the present generation firmly believes in higher education. While this record is only for the Woodstock community, there are many others of the county which can doubtless furnish similar records. Not all of the appended names of Woodstockians were graduates, but they have at least attended college one or more years. In the following list, the names of those who graduated are indicated with an asterisk.

Ohio State University—*Raymond H. Smith, *Marion Carter, *Ernest Kimball, *Christine Kimball, *Clifford Briney, George Lincoln, Edward Kimball, James Miller, Frank Miller, Herbert Clark. Mrs. Herbert Clark (Ruby Smith), *Howard Sharp (medical department), Leroy Briney, Jared Cushman, and Byron Hawley.

Miami University—*Vivian Crawford, *Frederica Crawford, *Kenneth

Crawford, Sarah Martin, Robert Lincoln, Ruth Fox, *Mabel Briney (later attended Columbia University), *Helen Lincoln.

Ohio University, Athens, Ohio—*Fauntobelle Lattimer, *Marjorie Kimball, Mr. and Mrs. Wist.

Oberlin College—Mrs. Moulton Martin (Grace Carter), Mrs. Than Madden (Adah Westfall).

Antioch College—Philo G. Burnham, Mrs. Edna McMullin.

Columbia University—Mabel Briney, Leroy Briney.

College of Osteopathy, Kirksville, Missouri—*Carson Burnham, *Arthur Benedict, *Emmett Benedict.

Cleveland School of Homeopathy—*W. C. Hewitt.

Military Academy, Pontiac, Michigan—C. K. Lincoln.

King's School of Oratory, Pittsburg—*Eva Darrow.

Grant Hospital, Training School for Nurses, Columbus, Ohio—*Nellie Martin.

Harvard University—Rev. Harland Glazier.

SECRET ORGANIZATIONS.

The first settlers of Woodstock were opposed to secret organizations and it was not until the decade before the Civil War that the first fraternal society gained a foothold in the village. The Odd Fellows instituted a lodge on October 22, 1850, and erected a brick building in that same year. This building was burned in 1871 and was replaced by the present building two years later. There are traditions to the effect that a lodge bearing the peculiar title of "E. Clamups Vitus" thrived in the village years ago, but its history has disappeared along with the men who conceived its unique name. The Know-Nothings had an organization in the village during the heyday of the political party of that name, and the local organizations were genuine secret affairs—with rituals, grips, passwords, and such other paraphernalia, impedimenta, etc., as are usually associated with secret organizations. Then in later years came the famous, or infamous, according as it may be viewed, American Protective Association. Probably no organization in the country has ever aroused as much discussion as the American Protective Association, and while it lasted in Woodstock it was the means of furnishing plenty of conversation for the loafers around the stores during the long winter evenings. No more honorable organization ever came into existence than the Grand Army of the Republic, and it was but natural that Woodstock should organize a post as soon as the national organization began spreading to the different states. The local

post was organized in 1886, but its members have been fast answering the last roll call and now there are only a few left. The Junior Order of American Mechanics has maintained an active organization since it was established.

BANKS.

The first banking institution in the village was a building and loan association formed by L. C. Herrick, A. B. Howard and George Riddle, about 1870. It lasted for about three years and voluntarily suspended business. The village was without banking facilities until April 4, 1877, when the Woodstock Bank was organized with A. P. Howard, president, and George Riddle, cashier. These men operated the bank until 1880, when Moulton & Riddle became the owners and operated the same until the spring of 1883. For a brief period of nearly four months the village was again without banking facilities. On October 1, 1883, True Martin assumed control of the banking business and organized the present bank. E. P. Black was chosen the first president, and he was succeeded by D. W. Sharp. After his death H. D. Martin was elected to the presidency and is the present incumbent. True Martin has been the cashier since the beginning.

In May, 1906, the Peoples Bank opened for business with D. R. Kimball, president; W. C. Fullington, vice-president; and S. F. Burnham, cashier. The bank erected a fine brick building on the northeast corner of the square, containing five business rooms on the lower floor, besides the quarters for the bank, and a large hall for public gatherings on the second floor. The officers of the institution at the present time consist of the following: D. R. Kimball, president; W. G. Fullerton, vice-president; A. R. Connor, cashier; W. C. Fullington, F. G. Fullington, D. R. Kimball, W. C. Kimball, C. P. Kimball, George Hann and Henry Westfall, owners and directors. The bank has a financial responsibility of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

INCORPORATION.

The population of Woodstock had reached a place in 1870 where many of the leading citizens of the village felt that it would be advantageous to have it incorporated and to this end circulated petitions in order to ascertain the sentiment of the voters of the village. On March 31, 1870, forty-one voters of the village, representing a total population of two hundred and seventy-five within the limits of the proposed corporation, presented a petition to the county commissioners and on the 30th of the following May

the commissioners granted the prayer of the petitioners. The official proceedings incident to the incorporation of the village are taken from the official record in the recorder's office, plat book B, p. 32.

To the honorable the commissioners of Champaign county, Ohio. The undersigned petitioners, legal voters of the village of Woodstock, Rush township, Champaign county, Ohio, residing within the limits of the territory named in the petition, respectfully petition your honorable body that you organize the following territory into an "Incorporated village for special purposes," to-wit: "the territory lying within the limits of a quarter of a mile extending in every direction from the center of the public square of said village of Woodstock, said limits embracing one-half a mile square, for fuller particulars refer to map of territory proposed to be incorporated accompanying this petition. The name proposed for the corporation is the name the village now bears, "Woodstock," about 275 persons reside within the proposed limits of the corporation and we hereby authorize J. F. Gowey to act as our agent in the matter. Signed by Joseph Chamberlin and forty others. This petition will be heard by County Commissioners at their office in Urbana, Ohio, on Monday, May 30 1870.
Woodstock, Ohio, March 19, 1870.

J. F. Gowey, Agent.

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|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Joseph Chamberlin. | 15. B. H. Reynolds. | 29. J. H. Abbot. |
| 2. C. C. Walt. | 16. Samuel Standish. | 30. D. H. Hall. |
| 3. J. G. Holsington. | 17. Barnet Bennet. | 31. S. P. Carlson. |
| 4. J. Frank Gowey. | 18. David Smith. | 32. G. M. Jennings. |
| 5. R. Smith. | 19. J. H. Welser. | 33. Jesse Smith. |
| 6. Minard Sessions. | 20. L. Smith. | 34. Azro Smith. |
| 7. G. W. Clark. | 21. L. C. Herrick. | 35. John Judy. |
| 8. George Riddle. | 22. Samuel A. Standish. | 36. Cyrus Smith. |
| 9. Miles Standish. | 23. George McDonald. | 37. J. B. Reed. |
| 10. John McDonah. | 24. James S. Foster. | 38. F. L. Mason. |
| 11. W. S. Cushman. | 25. John Pampel. | 39. John D. Taylor. |
| 12. Joseph Judy. | 26. Charles P. Pollard. | 40. T. J. Crawford. |
| 13. D. S. Abbot. | 27. N. P. Hewitt. | 41. S. W. Painter. |
| 14. C. C. Smith. | 28. J. E. Hewitt. | |

A REMONSTRANCE AGAINST INCORPORATION.

To the Hon: The commissioners of Champaign county, state of Ohio. We, the undersigned residents and property holders of Woodstock, Champaign county, Ohio, do humbly remonstrate and protest against the petition now before your humble body praying for the incorporation of said town for special purposes for the reason that we think the incorporation is not needed and that we can get along under the present laws of Ohio regulating villages, etc., Woodstock, Champaign county, Ohio, May 2, 1870:

James Blanton.	John Willett.	John Lockwood.
Dexter Smith.	Thomas Archer.	E. Cranston.
Nathan Davis.	Jerry Stapleton.	William Casey.
C. B. Jennings.	Michael Morrissey.	

COMMISSIONERS ORDER INCORPORATION.

In the matter of petition for the organization of the incorporated village of Woodstock for special purposes, a petition was this day presented to the county commissioners signed by thirty or more legal voters on the territory described therein praying that it may be organized into an incorporated village for special purposes to be known as the "Incorporated Village of Woodstock for special purposes," which petition is filed in the office of the county auditor; whereup the commissioners fixed a time for the hearing of said petition for Monday, May 30, 1870, at the court house in Urbana. On the 30th day of May, 1870, said petition came on for hearing and after a careful examination of the petition, map and the objections, the commissioners find that the said petition contains all the matters required, and that its statements are true, that the name proposed for said corporation is appropriate, that the limits thereof have been accurately described and that the same are not unreasonably large or small, and that the map or plat thereof is accurately made, that the persons whose names are subscribed thereto are legal voters, residing on said territory, that at least 50 qualified voters reside on said territory, and it is deemed right and proper by the commissioners that said petition be granted. It is ordered that the corporation as named and asked for in the petition be organized. It is hereby certified that the foregoing is a full and complete transcript of the proceedings had by us in the above stated matter.

Attest: J. M. Fitzpatrick, auditor, received the foregoing for record June 10, 1870.

Thomas F. Wood,

Z. P. Cayre,

E. M. Bennett.

Commissioners of Champaign County, Ohio.

WOODSTOCK IN 1872.

There has been preserved in an atlas of the county published in 1872 a complete directory of Woodstock, and, what is valuable from a historical standpoint, the atlas contains a plat of the town as it appeared after its incorporation in 1870, with the names of the owners of the various lots printed thereon. Beginning at the east end of Bennet street, on the north side, the following names give the complete list of the owners on the north side of the street to the west side of the incorporation: ——— Lockwood, D. Gifford, E. Cranston, Susan Cushman, C. Cushman, Rian, W. Casey, D. P. Smith, A. L. McDonald, "Tip" Smith, Carlton & Gowey, M. Sullivan, Universalist church, N. P. Hewitt, A. Smith.

The south side of the same street beginning from the east has the following: E. Cranston, L. Park, A. Foster, J. Conner, Burnette Elsworth, R. Smith, Hiram Guy, E. Carrier, B. E. Fish, Dexter Smith, Erastus Martin, Joseph Chamberlin, David Watson, T. J. Crawford, and school.

Main street beginning at the south and following the east side of the street had the following: The factory, W. H. Miller, R. Linchan,

D. Smith, C. B. Jennings, A. Cushman, D. Hanley, R. Smith, D. Smith, J. Hicks, Mrs. Flynn, Mrs. Waite, N. Davis, C. Smith, M. Guager (and turning to the right) Geo. McDonald, C. C. Waite and Mrs. Ballon. The west side of Main street beginning at the south line had the following residents: J. A. McDonald, railroad station, W. S. Cushman, J. W. Crawford drug store, Odd Fellow building, Hiram Guy, Carlton & Govey, Mrs. E. M. Smith, Mrs. S. Fairchild, Mrs. L. Riddle, J. S. Crawford, J. Conway, Mrs. A. Shipley (and turning to the left—now called Flynn Place Avenue) tannery, A. Smith and P. M. McDougal. The owners of the northwest section of the town were R. A. Smith, Mrs. M. Smith, Miles Standish, A. Smith, Jason Taylor, Mrs. Waite and Mrs. L. Smith. This gives the owner of all lots indicated on the plat of 1872 with the exception of Michael Morrissey who lived on what is now Burnwell avenue, just north of the Universalist church.

In addition to the business interests represented on the map it is known that the following were located in Woodstock in 1872: L. C. Herrick, physician; J. F. Govey, attorney-at-law; S. A. McAdow, liveryman and Barnet Bennett, saw-mill.

WOODSTOCK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The Woodstock Library Association was organized at the drug store of George Riddle & Company, on the evening of May 19, 1874, by the following persons: J. F. Govey, Rev. T. N. Glover, Dr. L. C. Herrick, Levi Kidder, George Riddle, N. P. Hewitt, N. W. Chamberlin, Charles Colwell, Samuel Standish, S. D. Fairchild, J. A. McDonald and Miss A. L. McDonald. According to the by-laws and regulations of the organization the number of stockholders was to be unlimited, and each share was to sell for five dollars.

The first officers elected by the organization included the following: S. D. Fairchild, president; Rev. T. N. Glover, secretary and treasurer; Dr. L. C. Herrick, librarian. The executive board, composed of the president, secretary and treasurer, decided to call in half of the capital stock and to expend the same for books. The purchasing committee selected and bought thirteen volumes and with this small stock opened the library in the office of Doctor Herrick. The first book was loaned on May 29, 1874. In August, 1874, the association negotiated with several persons who owned collection of books and thus secured thirty-three volumes, taking the shares at a fair valuation on the shares of stock. The library was kept supplied with reading material by means of assessments on the capital stock, made

at intervals of every three or four months, until the stock was paid up. After all the stock had been paid the library was supported by an assessment of fifty cents on each share for a period of four months, together with rentals, fines and entertainments.

The library continued to enjoy a more or less prosperous career for nearly fifteen years, but about 1888 the interest in it had waned to such an extent that it was deemed advisable by the few remaining stockholders to close the institution permanently. By that time the library had accumulated about five thousand volumes, besides a goodly collection of magazines and pamphlets. F. T. Crawford was the last regular librarian in charge. The books were divided among the stockholders and the library was closed forever. Since that time the school authorities have installed a library in the school building, which is to all intents a free library for the community.

POSTOFFICE.

The postoffice was established shortly after the village was laid out but no information is at hand to show when it was established or who was the first postmaster. Among the postmasters who have been identified with the office are H. Poland, John Hoisington, C. C. Smith, James Welch, S. M. Overfield, N. P. Hewitt, Walter C. Gifford and S. M. Overfield, the present incumbent, who was appointed November 20, 1909. One rural route serves the rural community from this office. The present postoffice is in the township building.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY, 1917.

The following persons and firms represent the business and professional interests of Woodstock in 1917: Frank Mason, auctioneer; Fred T. Crawford, railway agent; Peoples Bank, Woodstock Bank; J. O. Carter, Paul Perry, barbers; Daniel A. Fox, Thomas P. Morrissey, blacksmiths; Harry Neal, brick mason; McCoy Canning Co., Warren G. Lincoln, manager; G. H. Clark, M. G. Burnham, C. K. Lincoln, carpenters; Universalist church, Christian church, Catholic mission; Gwynne Clark, Marble Burnham, contractors; Wesley Hardman, C. P. Kimball & Son, Ohio Grain Elevator Company, coal dealers; William H. Hess, drayman; Howard Sharp, drug store; Herbert Clark, resident manager of the Northwestern Ohio Light Company; Ohio Grain Elevator Company; Adams Express Company, Fred T. Crawford, agent; Edgar Borst, Morrissey & Clark, garage; Claypool & Weist,

Westfall & Madden, general stores; Samuel G. Loudon, grocer; Benjamin C. Vance, harness; C. P. Kimball & Son, hardware; Mrs. Ellen Davis, hotel; Thomas P. Morrissey, implements; Bruce Craig, livery stable; Samuel G. Loudon, meat market; Thomas Davies, music teacher; Frank Mason & Son, painter; Linehan & Clark, pool room; Frank Mason & Son, paper hanger; Samuel Overfield, postoffice; Dr. Howard Sharp, physician; Samuel G. Standish, repair shop; Linehan & Clark, restaurant; Frank Riley, section foreman; O. B. Summers, shoe repair; Howard Martin, George Hamm, Henry Westfall, stock dealers; Scott Cushman, truck farmer; Mrs. Lena Woodward, local telephone operator.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS IN 1917.

Mayor, Levi Kidder; clerk, Edward Gifford; treasurer, T. B. Smith; marshal, Daniel Fox; council, D. R. Kimball, W. G. Lincoln, Michael Powers, B. C. Vance, Warren Swisher; board of education, W. C. Kimball, M. C. Leninger, T. B. Smith, G. S. McCarty, Edward Guyton.