

A BRIEF HISTORY OF HUBBARD

by

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Only 140 years ago, or about 1798, this plot of a little less than 16,000 acres of land, now known as Hubbard Township, was nothing but dense forest and uncultivated and unexplored territory. It was owned by Nehemiah Hubbard, Jr. of Middletown, Connecticut. He purchased it from the Connecticut Land Company, for about \$1.25 per acre.

Mr. Hubbard secured Samuel Tylee, a surveyor, of Middletown, Connecticut, with others to survey the township. After the surveying was finished, the surveying party returned to their home in Connecticut, where Samuel Tylee Remained until 1801, when he returned to Hubbard township with his family, consisting of his wife, Anna (Sanford) Tylee, and five children, Anna, Nancy, Laura, Samuel Jr., and Mary; also his mother-in-law, Anna Sanford, to make their future home.

It is said that Mr. Tylee's wife was induced to follow her husband to the unsettled Ohio territory by a promise of 100 acres of land.

They made the journey from Connecticut through the forest by wagon, drawn by oxen. Mr. Tylee was born in Litchfield county, Conn., September 7, 1766, and was the first settler of Hubbard township, Trumbull County, Ohio in the year 1801.

Mr. Hubbard employed him as his agent in the township to sell land, make the deeds, and such other business as might be necessary. His name is on many of the land abstracts of Hubbard Township and village that are issued today.

Mr. Tylee located at a spring where he built a log cabin. This spring was located a few rods north west of the high school building at the north west corner of what is now School and Stewart Avenue, in the village. The spring was known as "Deer Lick" and deer would often come to it to drink. There was an Indian trail through the north east part of the township running in a north west and south east direction over which the Indians traveled to the lakes and sometimes Indians would come to his cabin. He lived in this cabin until 1818, when he built a large frame house on the West road, now West Liberty St., a few rods west of the square in the village. It was the first frame house built in the township and is still occupied as a residence.

Mr. Tylee's task was not an easy one. He had to blaze the trees, that is to carry his ax at all times and clip off the bark from the trees, in order to mark his pathways in the woods. A dense forest, a howling wilderness, an occasional squatter and the savage Indians were all there were here to greet the adventure of Mr. Tylee.

Soon, however, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Bussey and Mr. Clark, friends and relatives of Mr. Tylee, followed. A son of Mr. Roberts named Captain Thomas Roberts, owned the southeast corner of the present corner of Main and Liberty, then known as Tylee's Corners. Sylvester Tylee owned the south-west corner, Samuel Tylee the north-west and Alfred Tylee the north-east corner.

Mr. Roberts, who was a great great grandfather of Mrs. Howard Ditmansen, had six sons and four daughters. John Gardner, who came here from Huntington Co., Pa., shortly after the Roberts came from Connecticut, had three sons and one daughter. The Gardner and the Roberts families intermarried, Captain Roberts married a daughter of Sylvester Tylee and Mr. Bussey married a daughter of Samuel Tylee. Together these first five families withstood the trials and the discomforts of the earliest pioneering and insured the permanence of the settlement, which was later to become Hubbard.

Some of the other early settlers, whose names you might be familiar with were: William Burnett, Jeremiah Wolfe, Sr., Jesse Hall, George Frazier, John Frazier, Major Aron Hibler, Abram Holmbeck, William Veach, Martin Swaltzwelter, Jessie Marsteller, Benjamin Mayers, Sr., and four sons, Thomas, Andrew, Joseph L. and Benjamin, Jr., Joseph Bentley, Robert Stewart, Robert Porterfield, William Clingan, Jessie Clark, Harry Clark, William Long, John McCulley, Jonathan Corll, Joel Smith, William Brisbine, Thomas Brisline, Jugh Love, Peter Van Ness, Thomas Mathews Samuel Longley, Alexander Jewell, Locke Dilley, Samuel Kerr, David Kayes and Benjamin Kayes, and Stephen A. Doughton, and Samuel Price.

These early pioneers settled in different parts of the township. A number of them were from the state of New Jersey and settled along the north center road and it was called Jersey Street for some years. Silas, son of William Burnett, was the first male and Betsey, daughter of Jeremiah Wolfe, Sr., was the first female white children born in Hubbard Township.

The township having been subdivided into great Lots of 200 acres, the settlers purchased the number of acres they wished. Then they would build a log cabin and begin clearing the land of timber soon as a small patch of ground was cleared; they would plant some corn or sow some wheat in their season and continue to clear more land. Much of this was done in the wintertime. They would cut a lot of trees about half through on one side, then would fall some other trees against them and that would break them down. In this way they saved a great deal of chopping. When the trees would dry, some would set them afire and burn them up. What would be very valuable timber was gotten rid of in this way and the land was made fit for farming.

The early settlers coming to the new territory by wagons from their homes in the then eastern states, could bring with them but very few utensils for their needs and comfort, and the cooking was often done outside the cabin, beside a stump or large log. Time was reckoned by the sun or sun dial, if one was fortunate to have one, as clocks were very scarce and watches were very rare. Some cooking was done on the fireplace by the use of the crane, which was attached to one side of the fireplace and could be swung over the fire. The kettles in which the cooking was done were hung on the crane. The bread was baked on the hearth stone in front of the fire. The fires were kindled by using flint, as matches were unknown. Sometimes the fires would go out and they would then go to a neighbor, which was often at a great distance and get some hot coals, with which to rekindle the fire. Then the tin reflector came, in which the baking was done. The wood stove followed, with the high oven on the back for baking. This kind of stove was in use many years.

Wild game was plentiful. Wild turkeys, pheasants, squirrels, quail, bear, deer and wild geese and wild ducks in the seasons of their northern and southern flights and the settlers always kept their larders well stocked.

In those days the settler had log rollings, house and barn raising and wood choppings. The neighbors would go together and help each other in their work. They were very neighborly in those days and depended on one another for assistance.

After the settler had cleared more land and there were larger fields to cultivate and the crops larger, the grain was cut with the cradle and the grass mowed with the scythe. The harvest lasted till late in the summer.

By this time there were larger barns. The grain was stored in the barns in the sheaf. It was thrashed out on the barn floors during the wintertime, using the flail or tramping it out with oxen or horses. The corn was pulled from the stocks with the husks on and placed in piles in the barns. The neighbors would then go in the evening and husk it. They would go from one neighbor to another till all the corn was gathered. When the orchards they had planted, came into bearing, they would have apples for drying, as there was no canned fruit in those days.

They had in the way of entertainments, spelling and singing schools, literaries, and dances at the homes throughout the neighborhood.

It is said that Mr. Hubbard gave a plot of ground at the center of the township for a burying ground. It is the old North cemetery. Jehiel Roberts was the first person buried in this cemetery, in the year 1809. He was a shoemaker and was delivering shoes he had made and in crossing Yellow Creek on the ice near where the town of Struthers, Mahoning Co., now is, the ice gave way and he was drowned.

The early religious services were held in the homes of the settlers. The First Presbyterian and First Baptist churches were built in the center of the township. There were two Methodist churches, one in the east part of the township, known as the Veach

Church, the other in the west part. In later years the congregations joined and built a church in the village. There was a church built in the north part of the township by the Campbellites, as they called it in those days. It is now called the Corner House church. There was also a church on South St. in the village, called Uncle Billey's church, as William Brisbine, contributed largely in a financial way to its building.

Early merchants were Samuel Tylee Sr., who kept some groceries and merchandise in his home in the very early days. Dr. John Mitchelltree kept the first store. It was located at the State Line. The store was in Pennsylvania and he lived in Ohio. Others who kept stores in the village were Wolfe Brothers, E. Ebenezer Jackson, Samuel Hine and John Cramer. Whiskey was very cheap and could be bought for about 18 to 25 cents per gallon and many of the stores throughout the country kept it. When one would purchase a bill of goods they were given a glass of whiskey.

Early ministers were Revs. Maxwell, Veach, McCrady and Bussy. Perlee Brush was the first attorney-at-law in the township. He was a highly educated man. A graduate of Yale college and said to be the first lawyer admitted to the bar in Trumbull County.

Early physicians were Drs. John Mitcheltree, Farrell, Richardson Brisbine and McGaughey.

Early school teachers were Asael Adams, who probably taught the first school, Augustine Bailey and Gilchrist. Joel Smith, a middle-aged man taught school on the John Gardner farm.

Travelers were kept by the settlers in early days. Nathaniel Mitchel kept probably the first tavern, as they were called in those days, on the north side of West St., a few yards west of the square. Later, Andrew (Bulger) Gardner, built a tavern on the south east corner of the square, which he kept for several years, then went to Youngstown and lived for sometime. He was a hatter and auctioneer. Later he returned to Hubbard and lived on a farm on the South hill until the time of his death. He was a prominent man in the community. Mrs. Garner was a daughter of Jehiel Roberts, the first person buried in the Old North cemetery.

There was a stage coach route through Hubbard between Warren and Youngstown, by way of Brookfield. It carried the mail and changed teams at Hubbard.

Joshua Snyder, who lived in the southeast part of township, had a very loud voice. Neighbors were at a distance in those days, and he would call to them at long distances and be heard. It is said he treed a bear at one time on his farm. Not having his rifle with him and fearing the bear would escape, he called to his neighbors for help; the neighbors came and the bear was killed. It is said he was heard in the village, a distance of two miles.

The settlers used to go to meeting in their shirt sleeves in the summer season with clean linen shirts of their own manufacture and many respectable farmers made their

appearance on Sunday barefoot. The women were accustomed to carry their shoes and stockings in a satchel for miles, going barefoot until within sight of the church and then put them on.

The nearest market towns where the settlers could exchange produce of goods desired, were Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Ashtabula. A grist of logs was erected by Mr. Tylee on Yankee Run at the foot of what was then known as Mt. Pleasant. This saved a long journey to Beaver, Pa., and proved a great boom to Hubbard. The road from Youngstown to Hubbard was built for the purpose of making the journey to the grist mill by oxen team possible for the people of Youngstown.

A saw mill and a carding machine were erected soon after the grist mill. The latter stood near the bridge on the center of N. Main St. The women spun their own flax and wove it into shirting and sheeting. They also carded, spun and wove their own wool into clothes, flannels and blankets. They dyed portions of the woolen yarns red, indigo, blue and other less decided colors and wove them into richer, warmer and more beautiful coverlets than are turned out on machines today.

One long felt want in the new community was supplied in the building of a tannery in 1801, on what is now a part of St. Patrick's cemetery. Hitherto the shoemaker had to go from house to house carrying his own leather. He would board with the customer until the boots were completed. Leather came from the distant sources of supply. Amos Bussey was superintendent of the construction of the tannery, assisted by Mr. Clark. An ashery was erected and wood ashes solicited for six cents a bushel. Hard and soft soap was manufactured at the ashery.

Up to 1861 Hubbard was merely a country crossroads, with few houses or inhabitants. But when the coalfields began to be largely developed, the corners rapidly became a village, and in the course of ten years nearly two thousand inhabitants were comprised within the present limits of the village. The houses were nearly all put up in haste, and many of them still stand unimproved in appearance. Next to the coal business the manufacture of Iron has contributed most to the prosperity of Hubbard. Hubbard furnace, number one, was erected in 1868; number two 1872. Both were owned by Andrews and Hitchcock.

Hubbard rolling-mill was built in 1872 by the Hubbard Rolling-mill company. It was owned by Jesse Hall & Sons, who were partners in the firm from the start. Employment was given to about two hundred men.

The Hubbard Flouring mill was built by W.A. Loveless and run by him for sometime as a planing mill.

The Hubbard National bank was organized in 1873 as hubbard Savings Bank, with A.M. Jewell president and G.M. Dill cashier, and continued as a Savings bank until 1878, when it was converted into a national bank with a cash capitol of \$50,000.

The first newspaper in Hubbard was established by A.D. Fassett, and run by him from July 1868, to November 1872. For a few months it was called the Standard and was printed in the Courier office at Youngstown.

The first appointed Mayor of Hubbard was John Cramer, grandfather of Mrs. Margaret Bell. In six months Nathaniel Mitchel was elected as Mayor.

To Hubbard's earliest settlers too much praise can never be given, for next to the immortal discoverer and explorer comes the pioneer. What would the soil and the forest avail be, had he not wrought them into the primitive harvest. Though dead, he seems to speak in the faith he transmitted in the roads he laid out, in the houses, schools, laws, institutions which he erected, fostered and endowed. In a word he speaks in the ripe fruits of his experience which we now enjoy.

As we recognize the numerous blessings of the pioneers, we regret that their past history is so little known. They seem to pass slowly across the stage of Life's drama, doing their work like men but leaving behind nothing of their personal traits or character.
