

# SOLON

**Solon Township History from History of Cuyahoga County, Ohio; Part Third: The Townships, compiled by Crisfield Johnson, 1879.**

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Solon Township History

(Proofed by Denise Wells)

Two Families on the Way – Their Tedious Route – Robbins and Bull make the First Settlement – Oliver Wells – Arrival of Miss Della – First Twins – The First School – Organization of Township – Names of the Voters – Choice of a Name – The First Officers – Chasing an Elk – First Settlement on North Half – On Hampshire Street – Increasing Emigration – R. M. Hanaford – Wm. Pillsbury at the Center – W. W. Higby – Settlers on the Ledge – A Disgusted Stranger – First Marriage and Death – First Church and Physician – Bears, Deer and Rattlesnakes – Black Salts – Selling Sugar in Cleveland – Going Courting in Aurora – A Professor in the Woods – The First Store – Captain Archibald Robbins – General Improvement, Mails, etc. – Solon in the War – Education – Railroads – Business Places at the Center – Congregational Church -- Disciples' Church- Methodist Church – Principal Township Officers

In the month of August, 1820, two families, well supplied with teams, household goods, and especially with children, might have been seen making their tedious way along the rough road from Newburg through Independence to Hudson, in the present county of Summit, and thence northeastward to Aurora, now in Portage County, where they made their temporary stopping-place. From that point the heads of the two families made a thorough examination of the unoccupied land round about, and after due consideration determined to locate themselves in the west part of the "Williams and Ellsworth" tract, which comprised the southern portion of township six, range ten, then described as the survey-township of Milan, but now known as the civil township of Solon.

The heads of those two families were Samuel Bull and Captain Jason Robbins, both lately from Wethersfield, Hartford County, Connecticut, and both, when past the meridian of life (Mr. Bull being forty-five years old and Captain Robbins fifty-eight), having determined to try their fortunes in what was then called the far western wilderness of Northern Ohio.

Having erected their log-houses (those inevitable pioneer palaces), and having made such other preparations as circumstances permitted, the two men, in the month of November, 1820, moved their families from Anson to their new homes; thus, becoming the first settlers in the present township of Solon. Although these were the only two families in the township, yet they made quite a beginning in the way of settlement, as Mr. Bull had six children and Captain Robbins full as many.

Their places were situated on what had been an important mail and supply route from Pittsburg to Cleveland during the war of 1812, but which in 1820 had been abandoned in favor of the road through the more settled regions of Independence, Hudson, etc., and had become impassable by reason of growing bushes and fallen timber. It is now the direct route from Cleveland through Solon Center to Aurora. Their nearest neighbors were two miles to the southeast, in the northwest corner of Aurora. In the direction of Cleveland, they could travel without seeing a single residence to a point within three miles of the village of Newburg, and nine miles from their own homes. To the westward, also, it was nine miles to a neighbor, who resided in the south westernmost part of Bedford.

Of the four men and women who thus began the settlement of Solon, all remained at their chosen location throughout their lives. Samuel Bull died in 1838, at the age of sixty-three; Mrs. Eleanor Robbins died in 1850, at the age of seventy-seven; Captain Jason Robbins died in 1852, at the age of ninety; while Mrs. Fanny Huntington Bull, the last and oldest of the venerable quartette, survived to the remarkable age of ninety-four, dying in the year 1872. Of Mr. Bull's family, Pitkin S., Lorenzo S. and Norman A. are still living, and it is from the second named that we have derived the facts previously narrated. Of Mr. Robbins' family, W. W. Robbins and Mrs. I. N. Blackman still survive.

The third family which settled in the township was that of Oliver Mills, who came from the same locality as Messrs. Robbins and Bull in the autumn of 1821, and located on lot number forty of the Williams and Ellsworth tract, being the south westernmost lot in the township. From this time forward there were but few arrivals for nearly ten years; the land being held at higher prices by the proprietors than most emigrants were willing to pay.

We must not, however, neglect to mention one important arrival which occurred soon after Mr. Wells' settlement in the township – that of Delia, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Wells, and the first white child born in Solon. The same couple were also the parents of the first twins born in the township, who followed in due season after Miss Delia.

The first school in Solon was taught by John Henry about 1822, his only patrons being Messrs. Robbins and Bull, who were the only two who lived near enough to join in the enterprise. Robbins furnished four children and Mrs. Bull three. The price was ten dollars a month and board, and, according to Mr. L. S. Bull, his father paid in shoemaking and Captain Robbins in maple sugar.

Although emigration was slow, yet a few settlers did arrive, and by 1825 there were eight voters in the township: Messrs. Robbins, Bull and Wells, already named, young P. S. Bull, then just come of age, and four new arrivals, John C. Carver, C. M. Leach, Thomas Marshall and Ichabod Watrous – all in the south part of the township. Down to this time the survey-township of Milan had remained a part of the civil township of Orange, but in the year last named the eight gentlemen mentioned, thinking perhaps that it would attract attention and emigration, determined to have an organization of their own. On their petition the county commissioners set off Milan into a separate township, and ordered an election of officers.

By general consent the other settlers accorded to Messrs. Bull and Robbins, as the earliest pioneers, the privilege of naming the new township. They were desirous of commemorating some name connected with one of their families, but as neither Bulltown nor Robbinsburg seemed to sound exactly right, they finally agreed to adopt the second name of Mr. Bull's second son, Lorenzo Solon Bull, now the worthy postmaster at Solon Center. The complaisant commissioners confirmed the appellation, and thus the

name of the great Grecian lawgiver was applied (although at second hand) to one of the pleasant and fertile townships of Cuyahoga County.

At the first election the following officers were chosen: Trustees, Jason Robbins, Samuel Bull, Ichabod Watrous; clerk, James Robbins; treasurer, Pitkin S. Bull; constable, Pitkin S. Bull; overseer of the poor, Pitkin S. Bull; justice of the peace, Oliver Wells. The list is furnished us by the numerous elected Pitkin S. Bull, the only survivor of the official five to whom the eight officers were allotted.

Solon, when first settled, like all the rest of the Western Reserve, abounded in wild game; not only were wolves, deer, bear, etc., to be found there in great numbers, but occasionally even the lofty elk was to be seen bearing aloft his wide-branching horns adown the forest glade, and starting in sudden dismay at the faintest sound of the woodman's axe. These stately animals, however, very speedily disappeared. In 1821, the year after the first settlement, P. S. Bull and Warren Warner chased a large buck elk for three days through Milan (Solon) and the adjoining townships, it being finally killed in Northfield (now in Summit County) by a third hunter, who struck its track a little ahead of the unlucky Milanese and gained the prize. This was, so far as known, the last elk seen in the township. Bear remained a few years longer, and other wild game was abundant till a far later period.

The first settlement in the north half of the township was made about 1827 by John Morse, who located near the old State Road before mentioned (running from Cleveland to Aurora, etc.), not far from the Bedford line. He was followed within two or three years by Joseph G. Patrick, Baxter Clough, ----- Gerish and others, from the State of New Hampshire; for which reason that road has been called Hampshire Street down to the present time. John C. Sill settled in the township in 1831, and Walter Stannard and John Hodge about the same time. Mr. Martle settled in the extreme southwest part of the township. And now the tide of emigration began to rise rapidly. In 1832 Reuben M. Hanaford settled in Hampshire Street, about a mile and a half northwestward from the center. He is still living at the latter place, and we are indebted to his vigorous memory for many facts regarding the history of the township subsequent to his arrival. Not a tree had then been cut within a mile of the center. William Pillsbury, however, purchased the land around the center that same year. No roads were cut out in that part of the township, and no wagons were in use. There were merely paths through the woods, traversed summer and winter by ox-sleds.

William W. Higby was then working in Solon, where he has ever since been a permanent resident. Elijah Pettibone settled that year (1832) in the southeast part of the township, where he and his sons have since been permanent citizens. William W. Richards, C. R. Fletcher and John Hale all came that year or the next, and settled in the south and northwest parts of the township. These, including Pettibone, were all from Jefferson County, New York.

The first settlers in the north part, on what is known as "The Ledge," were Elisha Wilmott and Albert Pond, who located there about 1833. These were soon followed by Abraham Witter, George H. Mason, Stephen Dunwell and Alvin Harrington, most of these in this section being from Maine. Deacon John Barnard settled in the township about 1833.

The ground at the center being low and somewhat wet, that was one of the last points to be settled. An anecdote related by Mr. Hanaford shows the unpleasant impression which the township, and especially that portion of it, made upon strangers at the period of which we are speaking. Several roads had been laid out, meeting at the center, but none had been cut out, all being designated only by lines of marked trees. Having occasion to go to Twinsburg, during the first year of his residence in the township, Mr.

Hanaford followed the line of marked trees south to that point, and then returned by the same track to the center. As he approached the latter point toward nightfall, he saw a man on horseback looking anxiously at the various indications of highways yet to be.

"See here, stranger," he exclaimed, immediately on observing Mr. Hanaford, "I wish you would tell me which way I ought to go to get out of this infernal town."

"Well," replied Mr. Hanaford, "that depends on where you want to go to. This line of marked trees," pointing south, "leads to Twinsburg; that one runs southwest to Aurora; that one due north will take you to Orange; this one on the west"---

"No matter about that," interrupted the traveler; "I've just came from the west through that cursed swamp, and I'll swear I don't want to go that way. I don't care where these other trails go to either; all I want to know is which is the quickest way out of town."

Mr. Hanaford gave him the distances to the various points mentioned, the stranger selected the nearest one and immediately started toward it at a rapid pace. Scarcely had he got out of sight when the wolves were heard howling in the forest; a circumstance which probably did not diminish his anxiety to get "out of town," and which caused Mr. Hanaford to hasten his pace materially on his way home.

The first man who built a house at the Center was Freeman McClintock, who located there in 1832 or '33. He resided there in his log cabin two or three years before any joined him.

The axes of the woodmen now resounded on every side, and in three years after Mr. Hanaford's arrival, in 1832, nearly all the land in the township had been purchased from the original proprietors. It was not until about 1833 that the first marriage took place in Solon, the parties being Baxter Clough and Hannah Gerrish, both of "Hampshire Street," the officiating magistrate being Capt. John Robbins, the second justice of the peace in Solon.

The first death was that of Mrs. Thomas Marshall, which occurred in 1834, fourteen years after the settlement of the township. There being, naturally, no burying-ground in Solon before there was a death, she was taken to what was called the Seward burying-ground, in Aurora, for interment. Several other of the Solon pioneers also rest there.

By this time both the Presbyterians and the Methodists had begun to hold meetings in the township – in fact, Presbyterian meetings were held at Mr. Hanaford's house as early as 1832. In 1834 or '35 a regular church of that denomination was formed, being composed largely of the New Englanders on Hampshire Street. A year or so later they built the first church edifice in the township, at the Center. It was the second frame building there, and was placed on high posts ("stilts," some called them) on account of the dampness of the soil. A separate sketch will be given of this church with the others.

In 1834 the first physician, Dr. Alpheus Merrill, settled in Solon. He remained several years.

The same year that the doctors began to come the bears disappeared. Mr. S. S. Bull mentions that the last of those animals was seen in Solon in 1834. In that year four were killed in the township; one by Thomas Marshall, one by S. S. Bull, one by William W. Higby, and one very large one, weighing about four hundred pounds, by James Robbins, 2nd.

The deer still continued quite numerous, and many a jolly hunt was enjoyed by the youth of Solon. William W. Hibgy stood at the head of the Nimrods of that township, and had hardly a rival in the country round, excepting Hiram Spofford, of Bedford, who hunted largely in Solon. Neither of them considered it a very remarkable feat to kill from six to eight fat deer in the course of a day, while as to raccoons, turkeys, etc., they numbered their victims by the hundreds every season.

Rattlesnakes, too, were extremely frequent throughout the pioneer period, especially on “the ledge” in the northern part of the township. One night when Albert Pond got up to attend to his sick child, he was somewhat startled to find a large, yellow rattlesnake stretched out comfortably in front of the embers of the fire. Similar unpleasant encounters with these reptiles were not uncommon, but we do not hear of any fatal results – except to the snakes.

The early exports of Solon consisted of maple sugar, “black salts,” and deer skins. The “black salts,” as is known by all the older citizens, were the results of boiling down the ley made from the ashes which could be produced in abundance by every energetic settler in clearing his own land. These were generally sold at Newburg. As they could speedily be transformed into pot- and pearl-ashes, which might be shipped east at slight expense, they would bring cash, when grain was almost unsaleable from the fact that the transportation cost nearly or quite as much as it was worth in the Eastern markets. As for sugar and molasses, each man who had a surplus when the maple-sugar season was on, put it in a wagon and started with an ox-team for Cleveland, occupying two days in the trip. There he would take a pail and a pair of steelyards and drive from house to house, selling from ten to fifty pounds in a place. If even a merchant took a whole barrel, he was thought to be doing a wholesale business.

While many young married men, with their families, came into Solon at this period, a large proportion of the settlers were bachelors. Nearly every one of these, as soon as he had made a little clearing and built a log cabin, would start for the nearest settlement, hunt up a good-looking girl and go to courting her with a straightforward energy which seldom failed of success. As Aurora (Portage County) was the oldest settled township in the vicinity, and the most convenient of access, and was also blessed with an ample supply of handsome, agreeable and industrious young ladies, the solitary Solonites betook themselves thither in large numbers, and with eminent good fortune, a larger proportion of the pioneer mothers of Solon coming from Aurora than from any other township on the Reserve.

Even after the building of the Presbyterian Church at the Center, it was sometimes difficult for the ministers who were to preach in it to find their way to the house of the Lord through the thinly-settled woods of Solon. Professor Reuben Nutting, of Western Reserve College at Hudson, who occasionally preached there, got belated one cool Saturday night in autumn, when on his way thither on horseback, lost his way when within a mile of the meeting-house, and, after wandering around for a long time, finally became satisfied that he could not find his way out. The professor had evidently been deeply impressed by the sanitary precept, “Keep your feet warm and your head cool.” Having hitched his horse and taken off the saddle, with the invariable saddle-bags, which formed a part of every minister’s equipment in those days, he took the “comforter” from his neck, cut it in two, wrapped the pieces around his feet, and then bestowed his pedal extremities, one in each of the saddle-bags. Thus protected, he lay down on the driest place he could find, and it is to be presumed that, whatever may have been his sufferings in other respects, he didn’t catch cold in his feet. The next morning, he found his way to the waiting congregation, but was too much exhausted to speak until afternoon. It was not until about 1840 that Solon was far enough advanced to support a store. The first one was then established at the center by Captain Archibald Robbins, son of Captain Jason Robbins, the early settler before mentioned, who had become a resident of the township many years after his father. The

younger Captain Robbins had had a very romantic and thrilling experience. He had been the mate of Captain Riley, whose "Narrative" was once read with delighted interest by thousands of youths throughout the country. Riley and Robbins, with their crew, had been cast ashore on the western coast of Africa; had been captured by Arabs, and had only escaped after a long and painful captivity. Captain Robbins also published a narrative of his adventures, but it was not as widely known as that of Captain Riley, perhaps because the former, being a very plain, straightforward man, did not embellish his account with the productions of his imagination sufficiently to suit the popular taste. After having subsequently been in chief command of various vessels for a number of years, and after keeping a store a few years at Griffithsburg, now in the township of Chagrin Falls, Captain Robbins had finally established himself in Solon, where he died in 1859 at the age of sixty-seven. Besides his store at the center, he had an ashery, where he made black salts and pearl-ash, which for a long time were almost legal tender among the settlers.

We have now given a brief sketch of the pioneer times in Solon. After 1840 the township rapidly assumed the appearance of a cultivated country. Framed houses superseded log ones on all the principal roads, and in time even the byroads showed the same signs of thrift and prosperity. The population steadily increased. The deer disappeared before the advancing waves of civilization. A small village slowly grew up at Solon Center, whither the farmers brought a portion of their products, while the remainder was furnished a ready market by the remarkable growth of Cleveland. A steam sawmill was built at the center before the war of 1861 by ----- Johnson, which is still in operation there, being owned by John Cowen. Another steam sawmill with a large cheese-box factory connected with it was erected by Calvin Gilfort, and operated by him until it was destroyed by fire a few years since.

At length came the war for the Union, when the youth of Solon promptly responded to their country's call. The deeds of the regiments in which they were embodied are recorded in their appropriate place in the general history, and the names of the gallant sons of Solon are to be found with their comrades from other towns appended to their respective regiments and batteries. A detachment of the first recruits joined the Twenty-third Ohio, President Hayes' regiment. Each of these was presented with a pistol by the patriotic ladies of the township. An interesting incident, growing out of this circumstance and connected with Corporal Sheridan E. Bull, son of Lorenzo S. Bull and grandson of Samuel Bull, the pioneer settler, is narrated in the sketch of that regiment in the general history.

Aside from war, the most important event in the history of the township in later years has been the construction of the Cleveland branch of the Atlantic and Great Western Railway, which runs diagonally across the township from northwest to southeast. The establishment of its depot about a fourth of a mile northwest of the original "Center," has caused a considerable extension of the village in that direction.

Great attention has always been paid to education in Solon, and it still ranks among the foremost rural townships of northern Ohio in that respect. In 1867 and '68 a very fine brick school-house was erected at the center designed for the use of the village district, and as a high school for the township. There are two teachers in it, and about seventy scholars.

In 1878 a narrow-gauge railroad was completed from Chagrin Falls to Solon. Its effect in increasing the business of the latter place is yet to be seen. The business places and shops of Solon now comprise the following list: Four general stores, one drug store, one tin shop, one hotel, two blacksmith shops, one shoe shop and one steam sawmill. Of late years dairying has become a leading business of the farmers, and there are now five cheese factories in the township.

The remainder of the township history will be devoted to brief sketches of the three churches which have been organized in it, and to a list of the principal township officers.

#### THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

As before stated, this church was organized in 1834 or '35, the presiding minister having been Rev. John Seward, of Aurora, Portage County. The first members were Joseph Patrick and Amanda, his wife; Baxter Clough and Hannah, his wife; Samuel Gerrish and Betsey, his wife; John Morse, his mother and his sister Prudence; Asa Stevens and Susan, his wife, and R. M. Hanaford and Nancy, his wife. Probably William Pillsbury and wife, and Horace Merry were also among those present at the organization; if not, they joined shortly afterward. Asa Stevens was one of the first deacons.

For about a year the church usually met at the house of old Mrs. Morse, a mile or so northwest of the Center. At the end of that time the framed church, still in use, was erected at the Center. During eleven years there was no settled minister, the pulpit being filled by professors from Western Reserve College, by occasional supplies, by lay readers, etc. In 1845 Rev. John Seward, the same who had organized the church, became its permanent pastor, and remained so until 1861. The church has since maintained itself in a condition of steady prosperity. There are now about one hundred persons whose names are on the roll, of whom at least eighty are regular communicants. Rev. James Webster is the present pastor, 1878.

#### THE DISCIPLE CHURCH.

Disciple meetings were held at Solon as early as 1840. On the 29th of November, 1841, a church was fully organized there, with thirteen members. It has flourished and increased ever since, having now about a hundred members. Among its ministers have been the following: J. H. Rhoads, J. H. Jones, T. B. Knowles, James A. Garfield, H. W. Everest, John Smith, O. C. Hill, John Atwater, A. B. Greene, and the present incumbent, C. W. Henry. The elders are L. S. Bull, H. P. Boynton and C. S. Carver; the deacons, F. H. Baldwin, M. J. Roberts and W. W. Robbins; the trustees, F. H. Baldwin, W. W. Robbins and J. J. Little.

#### THE METHODIST CHURCH.

There was Methodist preaching at the school-house on "the ledge" in the north part of the township as early as 1840, and soon afterwards at the school-house at the Center, but it was not until 1854 that a church edifice was built, and regular service established. There was then quite a flourishing congregation, but it has since become so enfeebled by removals, deaths, etc., that it is impossible to learn the details regarding its early history.

Preaching was regularly maintained from the erection of the church edifice most of the time until about 1869. Rev. Mr. Vernon was the pastor in 1866, Rev. Mr. Latimer in 1868, and Rev. Mr. Burgess in 1869. Since then, the congregation have had to depend principally on transient preaching.

#### PRINCIPAL TOWNSHIP OFFICERS.

The township records down to 1838 are destroyed or lost; so that we can only give the names of the officers elected from that time to the present, with the addition of those chosen the first year, who were as follows: Trustees, Jason Robbins, Samuel Bull and Ichabod Watkins; clerk, Jason Robbins; treasurer,

Pitkin S. Bull; overseer of the poor, Pitkin S. Bull; constable, Pitkin S. Bull; justice of the peace, Oliver Wells.

1838. Trustees, Samuel Glasier, James M. Hickox, Jarvis McConoughy; clerk, Joseph G. Patrick; treasurer, Freeman McClintock; overseers of the poor, Collins Reed, William Higby.

1839. Trustees, S. Glasier, Wm. Higby, Ralph Russell; clerk, J. G. Patrick; treasurer, Reuben M. Hanaford; overseers of the poor, Col. \_\_\_\_ Reed, Seymour Trowbridge [sic].

1840. Trustees, S. M. Hickox, J. G. Patrick, Theodore S. Powell; clerk, Archibald Robbins; treasurer, R. M. Hanaford; overseers of the poor, Wm. R. Richards, James McConoughy.

1841. Trustees, Morris Bosworth, Obadiah B. Judd; clerk, John M. Harat; treasurer, S. Trowbridge; overseers of the poor, Wm. Higby, Henry Hillman.

1842. Trustees, Ebenezer Gove, Daniel Morse, Caleb R. Fletcher; clerk, H. W. Hart; treasurer, S. Trowbridge; assessor, Arch. Robbins; overseers of the poor, W. W. Robbins, Asa Stevens.

1843. Trustees, Leander Chamberlin, Joel Stewart, Wm. Higby; clerk, A. Robbins; treasurer, Asa Stevens; assessor, J. M. Hart; overseers of the poor, Samuel Glasier, Geo. Mann.

1844. Trustees, Simeon T. Shepard, Sanford H. Bishop, Seymour Trowbridge; clerk, A. Robbins; treasurer, Joel Seward; assessor, J. G. Patrick; overseers of the poor, John McClintock, James Smith.

1845. Trustees, S. H. Smith, W. W. Richards, L. S. Bull; clerk, A. Robbins; treasurer, S. T. Shepard; assessor, R. M. Hanaford; overseers of the poor, John McClintock, S. Trowbridge.

1846. Trustees, Joel Seward, H. W. Hart, E. Cook; clerk, L. S. Bull; treasurer, A. Robbins; assessor, O. B. Judd.

1847. Trustees, C. R. Fletcher, Simon Norton, S. H. Bishop; clerk, John Deady; treasurer, J. M. Hickox; assessor, Almon Case.

1848. Trustees, Daniel Morse, Wm. W. Richards, Norman A. Bull; clerk, Wm. R. Robbins; treasurer, John M. Hart; assessor, R. M. Hanaford.

1849. Trustees, Henry G. March, Leander Chamberlain, E. Gove; clerk, W. R. Robbins; treasurer, J. G. Patrick; assessor, L. S. Bull.

1850. Trustees, H. G. March, Wm. R. Sill, S. Trowbridge; clerk, Edmund Richmond; treasurer, A. Robbins; assessor, S. H. Bishop.

1851. Trustees, S. Trowbridge, Richard Dewey, Francis Pettibone; clerk, W. R. Robbins; treasurer, A. Robbins; assessor, O. B. Judd.

1852. Trustees, Robert Smith, C. R. Smith, W. W. Robbins; clerk, W. W. Barnard; treasurer, J. J. McClintock; assessor, Austin Blackman.

1853. Trustees, W. W. Richards, Norman A. Bull, Orris B. Smith; clerk, Wm. R. Robbins; treasurer, Geo. S. Hickox; assessor, F. Pettibone.

1854. Trustees, J. M. Hickox, Dexter McClintock, Wm. Higby; clerk, John Deady; treasurer, Wm. B. Price; Assessor, F. Pettibone.

1855. Trustees, Calvin T. Reed, H. G. March, S. T. Shepard; clerk, John Deady; treasurer, W. B. Price; assessor, F. Pettibone.

1856. Trustees, \_\_\_\_ Daniel, Calvin Gilbert, Augustus Pettibone; clerk, S. B. Smith; treasurer, W. B. Price; assessor, G. Gove.

1858. Trustees, R. M. Hanaford, C. H. Baldwin, L. Chamberlain; clerk, Wm. K. Ricksecker; treasurer, C. Gilbert; assessor, Norman A. Bull.

1859. Trustees, R. M. Hanaford, S. T. Shepherd, O. B. Smith; clerk, W. K. Ricksecker; treasurer, W. R. Robbins; assessor, H. A. Smith.

1860. Trustees, H. N. Slade, James Wester, R. Dewey; clerk, R. R. K. Merrill; treasurer, C. B. Lockwood; assessor, H. A. Smith.



1861. Trustees, H. N. Slade, C. Chamberlain, G. G. Hickox; clerk, Hiram Chapman; treasurer, C. B. Lockwood; assessor, A. Blackman.

1862. Trustees, G. G. Hickox, Alfred Stevens, Royal Taylor 2<sup>nd</sup>; clerk, W. R. Robbins; treasurer, C. B. Lockwood; assessor, C. H. Baldwin.

1863. Trustees, Royal Taylor 2<sup>nd</sup>, O. B. Smith, Alfred D. Robbins; clerk, R. R. K. Merrill; treasurer, J. C. Webster; assessor, C. H. Baldwin.

1864. Trustees, O. B. Smith, A. N. Slade, J. N. Blackman; clerk, A. M. Smith; treasurer, A. D. Robbins; assessor, L. S. Bull.

1865. Trustees, H. N. Slade, J. M. Hickox, S. P. McConoughy; clerk, A. M. Smith; treasurer, E. C. Blackman; assessor, O. T. Reed.

1866. Trustees, C. H. Carmon, Fenner Bosworth, J. M. Hickox; clerk, J. L. Chamberlain; treasurer, E. C. Blackman; assessor, H. A. Smith.

1867. Trustees, J. M. Hickox, F. Bosworth, H. A. Smith; clerk, J. L. Chamberlain; treasurer, E. C. Blackman; assessor, L. Chamberlain.

1868. Trustees, C. L. Chamberlain, H. A. Smith, James Webster; clerk, J. S. Chamberlain; treasurer, E. C. Blackman; assessor, L. Chamberlain.

1869. Trustees, C. L. Chamberlain, N. A. Bull, F. Bosworth; clerk, W. F. Hale; treasurer, E. C. Blackman; assessor, Wm J. McConoughy.

1870. Trustees, N. A. Bull, Thomas Potter, H. Haster; clerk, R. R. K. Merrill; treasurer, R. W. Collins; assessor, Wm J. McConoughy.

1871. Trustees, Thos. Potter, H. A. Smith, J. N. Blackman; clerk, R. R. K. Merrill; treasurer, R. W. Collins; assessor, W. J. McConoughy.

1872. Trustees, J. N. Blackman, Richard Davey, O. B. Smith; clerk, R. R. K. Merrill; treasurer, W. F. Hale; assessor, W. J. McConoughy.

1873. Trustees, O. B. Smith, W. W. Robbins, R. Dewey; clerk, W. F. Hanaford; treasurer, W. F. Hale; assessor, L. S. Bull.

1874. Trustees, Walter W. Robbins, Chester S. Carver; clerk, John Deady; treasurer, Erskine Merrill; assessor, L. Chamberlain.

1875. Trustees, Francis Pettibone, Daniel McAfee, Richard Dewey; clerk, John Deady; treasurer, E. R. Merrill; assessor, L. Chamberlin.

1876. Trustees, L. D. Hanaford, J. N. Blackman, D. McAfee; clerk, W. F. Hanaford; treasurer, W. F. Hale; assessor, W. J. McConoughy.

1877. Trustees, J. N. Blackman, H. L. March, C. H. Baldwin; clerk, F. A. Hale; treasurer, W. F. Hale; assessor, W. J. McConoughy.

1878. Trustees, A. Pettibone, James Harper, H. L. March; clerk, F. A. Hale; treasurer, W. F. Hale; assessor, W. J. McConoughy.

1879. Trustees, C. H. Baldwin, Founer Bosworth, A. H. Chamberlin; clerk, W. C. Lawrence; treasurer, W. C. Lawrence; assessor, W. J. McConoughy.

## Solon Township History from A History of Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland by William R. Coates, 1924.

[https://archive.org/details/historyofcuyahog01coat\\_0/page/212/mode/2up](https://archive.org/details/historyofcuyahog01coat_0/page/212/mode/2up)

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Township 6 of range 10, Solon, has the distinction of having formed the organization of a civil township with the smallest list of qualified voters of any in the county. It may be surmised that a community that would select for its name that of the great Athenian lawgiver would be inclined to establish the form and substance of law in its midst as soon as possible. It seems, however, that the selection of a name was brought about by another consideration than that of doing honor to the memory of the man of Athens. In August of 1820 two families "well supplied with teams, household furniture, and especially children, might have been seen making their tedious way on rough roads from Newburgh through Independence to Hudson in the present County of Summit, and thence northeast to Aurora in what is now Portage County, where they made a temporary stop." Leaving their families there, the heads of these two families began a thorough examination of the surrounding territory, searching for desirable unoccupied land. After a long search they decided to locate on the west part of the Williams and Ellsworth tract, which comprised the southern part of township 6, range 10, and was then called Milan, but later became the civil Township of Solon. These men were Capt. Jason Robbins and Samuel Bull, both originally from Wethersfield, Hartford County, Connecticut. They were both young in years, Mr. Bull was forty-five and Captain Robbins fifty-eight. Not too old to be pioneers, they built log cabins, did some clearing and in November of that year of 1820, moved their families into their new homes. These were the first settlers in the township, and while there were only two families, there were sixteen children in each, so that a colony of sixteen constituted the first settlers. They located on an old route or trail from Pittsburg to Cleveland, which was used during the War of 1812, but afterward abandoned for another touching the more settled region of Hudson, Independence, Newburg, and other towns to Cleveland. This old road had become impassable by reason of falling timber, underbrush and small timber. It was afterwards improved and became the direct thoroughfare between Solon and Aurora. When these first settlers came, their nearest neighbors were two miles southwest in the township of Aurora. Towards Cleveland they could travel without seeing a residence to a point three miles from Newburg and nine miles from home. Westward it was nine miles to their nearest neighbor in that direction residing in the north part of Bedford. Of the four adult first settlers all remained in the township during life. Samuel Bull died in 1838 at the age of sixty-three; Mrs. Robbins died in 1850 at the age of seventy-seven; Captain Robbins survived her two years, dying at the age of ninety years, and Mrs. Fanny Huntington Bull lived to be ninety-four, dying in 1872. Of her family, Pitkin S., Lorenzo S., and Norman A. were living in the township in the '80s. A son of Capt. Jason Robbins, by his first wife, Archibald, or Captain Archibald, for like his father he was a sea captain, came to Solon some years later. His career was so full of remarkable and unusual experiences that we will devote some space to the recital farther on. Jason Robbins was a sea captain for thirty years, his father before him followed the sea, and Archibald, the son, was likewise a sea captain. Captain Jason by his second wife had eight children, Honor, Sophia, Jane, Maria, Eliza, Walter W., Jason, Jr., and Corlenia. Walter W married Sally Ann Reeves, daughter of William Reeves, an old settler of Solon. Their children were three, Cora, Grace, and Ellen.

The third family to come to the new township was that of Oliver Wells. They came from the same locality in Connecticut as the first settlers, and located on lot 40 in the Williams and Ellsworth tract. It was

thought by prospective settlers that land was held at too high a price in the township, and settlement was slow. One arrival should be noted shortly after the Wells family came, and that was the first white child born in the township, Delia Wells. After Delia the Wells family were augmented by twins, so that Mr. and Mrs. Wells were not only the parents of the first child but of the first pair of twins born in the township. The first school teacher in the township was John Henry. He got \$10 a month and his board. He boarded "around." His pupils numbered four from the Robbins family and three from the Bull family. Bull paid his share of the teacher's salary in shoemaking, and Robbins paid his in maple sugar. No money passed, and no pay roll robbery is recorded. In 1825 there were eight voters in the township, Robbins, Bull, Wells, P. S. Bull, John C. Carver, C. M. Leach, Thomas Marshall, and Ichabod Watrous. These all lived in the southern part. The eight proposed to have a civil township of their own. This territory at the time of their arrival and since had been under the government of Orange. It was argued that the forming of a civil township would attract immigration. These eight petitioned the county commissioners, and on their petition the commissioners erected the township and ordered an election of officers. As we have said, this township on the arrival of the first settlers was called Milan, but the petitioners had conceded to Bull and Robbins the privilege of selecting the name for the township about to be organized. They desired some name that would perpetuate on record their families as first settlers, but Bulltown and Robbinsburg did not appeal to them, and after much discussion they selected the second name of Mr. Bull's second son, Lorenzo Solon Bull. The county commissioners confirmed the selection and thus the name of the great lawgiver, who flourished before the Christian era, was given to the little township in the woods of the Western Reserve. At the first election Jason Robbins, Samuel Bull and Ichabod Watrous were elected trustees; Jason Robbins, clerk; Pitkin S. Bull, treasurer; Pitkin S. Bull, constable; Pitkin S. Bull, overseer of the poor, and Oliver Wells, justice of the peace. Pitkin S. Bull was numerously elected.

The wild denizens of the wood were found by the early settlers here in large numbers. They included deer, bear, wolf, "painter" and elk. The stately elk disappeared first. In 1821, the year after the first settlers arrived, Pitkin S. Bull and Warren Warner chased a large buck elk for three days through Milan (Solon) and the adjoining townships. It was finally killed in Northfield by another hunter, who struck the trail ahead of the unlucky hunters from Milan and gained the prize. This was the last elk seen in the township, but the other animals named remained for some years.

The first settlement made in the northern part of the township was in 1827 by John Morse, who located near the old state road leading from Cleveland to Aurora and running near the Bedford line. The next that came were Joseph G. Patrick, Baxter Clough and Mr. Gerrish, all from New Hampshire. These with their families made quite a settlement and this road was called Hampshire Road from that time on. John C. Sill settled in the township in 1831. About the same time that the Sills arrived came Walter Stannard, John Hodge and a Mr. Martle, all locating in the northwest part of the township. More rapidly now the white man came. Reuben M. Hanford, who came in 1832 and located on Hampshire Street, one- and one-half miles from the center of Solon, northwest, found not a tree cut within a mile of the Center, but William Pillsbury that same year bought the land around the Center. No roads were cleared and no wagons could be used here. There were paths through the woods traversed in summer and winter by ox sleds. William W. Higby was then working in Solon but was not a freeholder. He became a permanent resident. In the settling up of the township the next to record takes us to the southeast part of the township in the same year, 1832. Here Elijah Pettibone, William W. Richards, C. R. Fletcher and John Hale, being a delegation from Pettibone, New York, established permanent residences and began the clearing of that section. The first settlers in the north part, or what is called "The Ledge," were Elisha Wilmot and Albert Pond, who located there about 1833. These were followed by Abraham Witter, George H. Mason, Stephen Dunnell and Alvin Harrington, a Maine delegation. Deacon John Barnard settled in the township in the same year. The ground around the Center was low and wet and was the

last portion on township 6, range 10 to be settled. It had in forest days a rather forbidding appearance. A story was related by Mr. Hanford illustrative of this appearance. The date of the incident was subsequent to 1833. A civil township must have a Center, and so several roads had been laid out with the Center as the apex. None were cut out but they were marked out by blazed trees. Mr. Hanford, having occasion to go to Twinsburg, had followed the line of marked trees south from the Center and was returning by the same route. When near the end of his homeward journey he met another man on horseback who was peering anxiously about trying to solve the transportation directions without the aid of The Cleveland Automobile Club. "See here, stranger," he said on seeing Mr. Hanford, "I wish you would tell me which way to go to get out of this infernal town." "Well," said Mr. Hanford, "that depends upon where you want to go. This line of marked trees to the south leads to Twinsburg, that one to the southwest leads to Aurora, that one to the north leads to Orange, and that one to the west-" "No matter about that," interrupted the traveler, "I just came from the west through that cursed swamp and I swear I don't want to go that way. I don't care where these other trails lead to either; all I want to know is which is the quickest way to get out of this town." Mr. Hanford gave him the distance to the various points mentioned and the stranger selected the nearest and immediately started on at a rapid pace. He had scarcely gotten out of sight when the wolves were heard howling in the forest, a circumstance which no doubt confirmed the traveler in his opinion of the locality; at least it hurried Mr. Hanford forward on his homeward trip. The first man who built a house at the Center was Freeman McClintock, who settled there in 1832. He lived at the Center for three years before near neighbors came. By 1832 practically all of the land in the township had been bought from the original or speculative owners, by actual settlers. By this time also sufficient land was cleared and crops raised to provide food for the community, but clearing went forward at a rapid rate, and attention was given to roads as a surplus crop must be marketed.

In 1833 the first marriage took place in the township. The contracting parties were Baxter Clough and Hannah Gerrish, both of Hampshire Street. The officiating magistrate was Captain Jason Robbins, the second justice of the peace in Solon. Having steered so many voyages safely on the ocean, he no doubt felt confident that he could at least start this matrimonial craft on its way properly. The first death in the township was that of Mrs. Thomas Marshall, who died in 1834, fourteen years after the township was organized. Her body was taken to Aurora for burial and several who followed her in death were taken there for burial in after years. The first physician in the township was Dr. Alpheus Morrill. He came in 1834 and was the only professional man in the township for many years. This last statement should be modified if we include the preaching profession, for religion was early taught in the community and ministers came from time to time to encourage and teach. As early as 1832 the Presbyterians held meetings at Mr. Hanford's house and the Methodists had held a number of meetings in various meeting places. In 1834 a Presbyterian Church was organized by the New Englanders of Hampshire Street and a year or so later the first church building was erected at the Center. This was the second frame building in the town and on account of the wet ground was set up on stilts or high posts as a health precaution. Of these churches we will speak later, giving some of the early members and pastors.

Sam Weller, the philosopher of *Pickwick Papers*, said: "I have noticed it as a werry particular and uncommon circumstance that verenever you see a sausage shop you never see no dogs." This vague connection comes to mind in going over the annals of Solon and noting the fact that when the first doctor came to town in 1834 the bears (shall we say instinctively?) left. This joke loses its force when it is related that the bears did not move away but were killed. Four were killed that year, one by Thomas Marshall, one by S. S. Bull, one by William W. Higby and the fourth, a very large one weighing 400 pounds and the last in the township, by Jason Robbins, Jr. Deer hunting continued long after the bears became extinct. The young men were rivals in that direction but William W. Higby stood at the head as

the best deer hunter in the township. He was excelled, however, by Hiram Spofford of Bedford, who hunted in the township but was a resident of Bedford. Neither of these men considered it a very remarkable feat to kill from six to eight fat deer in a day. Of lesser game, such as raccoons, wild turkeys, etc., they killed hundreds. Of the rattlesnakes, that were a menace to the pioneer invasion all over the county, many stories are told but no fatalities are recorded, except to the snakes.

Solon exported three commodities in the early years that relieved the stringency of the money market, maple sugar and syrup, black salts, made, as we have already related, from ashes lye, leached from the abundance of that product in clearing the land, and deer skins. Their market was Newburg. Grain was unsalable, as transportation cost as much as it was worth in the market. The problems that confronted the pioneers are still before the farmers of the great West. In the marketing of maple sugar and syrup, each man who had a surplus would load up for Newburg or Cleveland. The trip with ox team and wagon occupied two days. They would take along a pair of steelyards and drive from house to house, selling from ten to fifty pounds in a place. Sometimes a barrel of sugar would be sold in one place and then the Solon farmer considered himself a wholesaler. In the tide of humanity that poured into the Western Reserve there were many young bachelors who came individually and not with families. A considerable number of these detached individuals came to Solon. The method of these home founders was to make a clearing, build a log cabin, surround it with a garden of vegetables and flowers, and then repair to the nearest settlement, hunt up a good-looking girl and court her with persistent energy. And they were usually successful in gaining the object of their selection. As Aurora in Portage County was the oldest settled township in the vicinity and most convenient of access, and was blessed with an ample supply of "handsome, agreeable and industrious" young ladies, the young bachelor pioneers of Solon, led by the God Hymen, would repair to that town and with eminent success. A larger percentage of pioneer mothers of Solon came from Aurora than from any other town.

After the building of the Presbyterian Church at the Center, it was difficult for the ministers to find their way to the house of the Lord through the thinly populated woods of Solon. There was no resident minister. Professor Reuben Nutting, of Western Reserve College, Hudson, who occasionally preached there, got belated one cool Saturday night in the fall while on his way there, and got completely lost within a mile of his destination. He wandered around for some time and finally became satisfied that he must wait for daylight. He was a believer in the injunction that one must keep his feet warm and his head cool in sleeping. He had no trouble with the latter proposition, for it was a cold night. But as to the feet. After hitching his horse to a tree, he cut his comforter in two, wrapped the halves about his feet, put a foot in each saddle bag, where reposed the sermon, and slept in the driest place he could find. The next morning, much exhausted, he found his way to the meeting house, but was too much used up to preach. He recovered sufficiently, however, to preach in the afternoon, showing the pioneer spirit. It was not until 1840 that Solon was far enough advanced to support a store. The first store in the town was opened that year by Capt. Archibald Robbins, son of Capt. Jason Robbins, the first settler. Capt. Archibald, the son, came many years after the father, Capt. Jason. It seems appropriate here to discuss the dramatic history of this sea captain, son of a sea captain, who was the first settler of Solon, of Capt. Archibald Robbins, who settled down as the first storekeeper of Solon, enamored of its quiet, uneventful but attractive reaction from a life filled with most uncommon experiences. Two books in the Cleveland Public Library cover much of this history, one a large illustrated volume of over 600 pages, by Capt. James Riley, under whom Captain Robbins once served as a seaman, and another by Capt. Archibald Robbins himself. In his book Captain Robbins relates that he was born in the town of Wethersfield, Connecticut, a pleasant and fertile town situated on the west side of the Connecticut River, that the date of his birth was November 19, 1792. He remained at home until twelve years of age, when he went to Middlebury, Vermont, in which town he relates is situated a university which begins to rank among the

first in New England. He thus spent three winters in getting a common school education. At the age of fifteen he was employed as a sailor on a vessel partly owned by his father. On the fourth voyage, which was in 1813, and during the War of 1812, he was captured by the British frigate Surprise and landed at St. Bartholomew, a neutral port. After some time, he was returned by a cartel to New York. On a fifth voyage from New Haven the vessel was captured by a British squadron and he was taken to Halifax. He was there about two months but apparently was not confined as a prisoner and took passage on a Swedish vessel for St. Bartholomew, having entrusted to his care certain merchandise by merchants of New York. On the return trip he was captured by the British brig Borer and again sent to Halifax. Here he was confined as a prisoner on the island of Melville until the close of the war. After getting home from prison he found himself familiar with only one occupation and he shipped as a sailor on a new vessel, the brig Commerce, under the command of Capt. James Riley. The first mate was George Williams, second mate Aaron R. Savage, and the crew consisted of William Porter, Thomas Burns, James Clark and himself. They sailed for New Orleans with a small cargo, the object being to get freight for the foreign market. At New Orleans they took on a cargo of flour and tobacco for Gibraltar. They landed in Gibraltar in just forty-five days. Here they took on a cargo of brandy and wine for New York and were wrecked on the African coast between twenty-six and twenty-seven north latitudes. This occurred about 10 o'clock at night, August 28, 1814. It is the details of the wreck and the subsequent experiences of the officers and crew that are set forth in the two volumes mentioned. While the boat lay helpless on a reef, Captain Riley, who had reached shore in a small boat, was seized by the natives, a wild tribe on the Barbary coast. His life was saved by the sending of a bucket full of gold coin from the vessel, but this was only temporary, as the natives were treacherous and attempted to hold him longer, but he escaped by plunging into the sea and returned to the vessel, which was rapidly breaking up. The sufferings of the crew as they attempted to escape in the long boat are told, how they sailed for seven days, suffering from hunger and thirst, and finally landed on the coast of Africa but farther south. Here they were captured by a tribe of Arabs and made slaves. They were divided up and Robbins became the slave of Ganus. He kept something of a record and fixes the date of the beginning of his slavery at September 8, 1815. This was on the Desert of Sahara. He relates that his master led him off to the camels stationed at a small distance in the keeping of two young women, who afterwards proved to be his sisters. The details of his suffering are most harrowing. He tied knots in a string to keep track of the days. The Arabs were all Mohammedan and their slaves were Christian dogs. After eighteen days as a slave, this free born son of New England assumed to have been converted to Mohammedanism, but it only mitigated in some degree his condition. Williams and Barrett were stolen from their masters by other Arabs but recovered, for it was said a slave was about the only piece of property that an Arab would not give up. The slaves were not permitted to have much clothing, but his master permitted Robbins to use the colors of the brig. Robbins cut a hole in the flag so that it would slip over his head and form a doak and said this was the first American flag ever hoisted on the Sahara Desert. Escape was impossible, as death by thirst was as sure as would have been death by drowning in attempting to escape in mid ocean. Various white slaves would often meet on the desert and Robbins met a Spaniard who had been a slave seven years. Robbins' second master was Mahomet Mearah and his mistress Fatima. When sold, Ganus had taken off his trousers and the new master expressed the same resentment that the purchaser of a horse might have if the original owner tried to keep the halter. At this time, he lived mostly on wild locusts. Mearah was not a nomad and lived near the ocean. He was next sold by Mearah to a wandering Arab, whose name was Hamet Webber and went with a caravan. By this time, he had learned the habits and language of the Arabs, and to show the adaptability of the New Englander was comparatively happy, except that he was a slave. The previous hardships and privations made his present lot seem exceedingly pleasant. He was sold by Hamet Webber to a chief named Bel Cossim, who already had five black slaves and several wives. This transaction was consummated at a town called the capital of the Sahara. Here he found a shipmate, Porter, who had become the slave of a wealthy merchant and had begun negotiations

for a ransom. He was here eleven months. Bel Cossim had been the owner of many white slaves, whom he had held for large ransoms. An Arab of a tribe called Shilluh began negotiations for the purchase of Robbins. Bel Cossim offered to sell for \$200, but the Shilluh only offered \$150. Bel Cossim said the money was sent for a ransom, but the Shill said he only wanted to buy Robbins for his own slave. Cossim came down to \$175, but the Shilluh rode off. The Shilluh country was under the dominion of the Emperor of Morocco, and at Mogadore, a seaport town of Morocco, there lived an English merchant by the name of Willshire, who had become very wealthy and used his wealth in freeing many of the white slaves. As soon as he heard of one among the Arab tribes he began negotiations for his ransom. Robbins wrote to Mr. Willshire and to the Spanish Consul at Mogadore. The Shilluh, it seems, was an agent of Mr. Willshire, and he returned and completed the purchase or ransom. He was only negotiating with the thought of getting the best bargain possible. The book of Captain Riley was published in 1817 and was widely read at the time. Captain Robbins' book was published in 1851, after he had lived for many years the quiet life in the new township where he was honored and respected. He followed the sea for many years after the shipwreck and slavery, was in chief command of various vessels. He kept store at Chagrin Falls for a few years and then came to Solon, where he died in 1859 at the age of sixty-seven. Besides his store at the Center, he conducted an ashery where he made black salts and pearl ash, which brought money to the growing township.

By 1840 pioneer times seems to have ended and the township of Solon took on the appearance of a cultivated country. Frame houses took the place of log ones, as in other townships, roads and byroads were improved and made more passable. The ox team was still much used, but horses attached to light vehicles were seen and were beginning to be used in the heavy farm work. The wild denizens of the wood had given place to flocks and herds of the farmer. Matches were used instead of the tinder box and the family album appeared on the parlor table with family pictures done in chemicals. A small village grew up at the Center, where the farmers sold a portion of their products; the market of growing Cleveland took more. There was a steam sawmill at the Center before the Civil war, built by John Anderson, which was later owned by John Cowen. Later another was operated in connection with a cheese box factory by Calvin Gilfert. When the Civil war came the first detachment of recruits from Solon joined the Twenty third Ohio, President Hayes' regiment, then Colonel Hayes. Each man was presented on leaving with a pistol by the patriotic ladies of Solon. An incident growing out of this presentation of pistols shows with what intense favor these gifts were regarded. Corporal Sheridan E. Bull, son of Lorenzo Bull, was seriously wounded at Antietam. He fell just as the regiment was compelled to give way before a sudden assault of the enemy. He carried one of the pistols which he had marked with his initials S. E. Bull. Seeing the enemy advance, he hastily dug a hole and buried it where he was stretched upon the ground. One of his comrades noticed the act and made a survey of landmarks around the spot. Both men were captured and Bull died in prison from his wounds. The other soldier; named Henry, recovered and was exchanged. Sixteen years later Mr. Henry, then principal of the public schools at Coshocton, Ohio, revisited the battlefield, located the spot where the pistol was buried and dug it up. The rusty weapon was sent to L. S. Bull, who was at that time postmaster at Solon.

An important event in the development of Solon was the building diagonally through the township of the Cleveland branch of the Atlantic & Great Western Railway. The depot, which was built a short distance northwest of the Center, soon drew the village in that direction. In 1878 a narrow-gauge railroad was built from Chagrin Falls to Solon. As indicating the growth of the town, at this time Solon Center had four general stores, one drug store, one tin shop, one hotel, two blacksmith shops, one shoe shop and one steam sawmill.

As has been stated, a Congregational or Presbyterian Church was organized in Solon in 1834. This was

brought about by Rev. John Seward of Aurora. The first members were Joseph and Amanda Patrick, husband and wife; Baxter and Hannah Clough, husband and wife; Samuel and Betsey Gerrish, husband and wife; John Moore, his mother and sister Prudence; Asa and Susan Stevens husband and wife; R. M. and Nancy Hanford, husband and wife; William Pillsbury and wife and Horace Merry. Asa Stevens was one of the first deacons. Before the frame church was built the meetings were held at the house of Mrs. Morse, northwest of the Center. For eleven years the church had no settled pastor, the pulpit being filled by students from Western Reserve College and by readers. In 1845 the organizer, Rev. John Seward, became the permanent pastor. Rev. James Webster was pastor in the '80s. The Disciples of Solon held meetings in 1840 and November 29th of the following year a church was organized with thirteen members. Among the ministers who have for a shorter or longer time served this church have' been: J. H. Rhoads, J. H. Jones. T. B. Knowles, James A. Garfield, H. W. Everest, John Smith. O. C. Hill, John Atwater, A. B. Green and C. W. Henry. Among the elders have been L. S. Bull and H. P. Boynton and C. S. Carver. T. H. Baldwin. M. J. Roberts and W. W. Robbins have served as deacons and F. H. Baldwin, W. W. Robbins and J. J. Little as trustees. The Methodist Church that began holding meetings at the Ledge in 1840, and then in the schoolhouse at the Center, built a house of worship in 1854. Among the pastors have been Reverends Vernon, R. Latimer and Burgess.

The names of the trustees of the township who have served in the first sixty years of the civil life of the township include some family names known over the county: Samuel Glasier, James M. Hickox, Jarvis McConougli, William Higby, Ralph Russell, S. M. Hickox, J. S. Patrick, Theodore S. Powell, Morris Bosworth, Obadiah B. Judd, Ebenezer Gove, Daniel Morse, Caleb R. Fletcher, Joel Seward, Simeon T. Shepard, Sanford H. Bishop, S. H. Smith, W. W. Richards, L. S. Bull, H. W. Hart, E. Cook, C. R. Fletcher, Simon Norton, Henry E. March, Leander Chamberlin, William R. Sill, Richard Dewey, Francis Pettibone, Robert Smith, C. R. Smith, W. W. Robbins, Orris B. Smith, Dexter McClintock, Calvin T. Reed, Augustus Pettibone, R. M. Hanford, C. H. Baldwin, H. N. Slade, James Webster, Alfred Stevens, Royal Taylor, Jr and J. N. Blackman. Of the clerks who served in the first half century and more we can mention Capt. Archibald Robbins, Joseph G. Patrick, John M. Hart, H. W. Hart, L. S. Bull, John Deady, William R. Robbins, S. B. Smith, L. Chamberlin, G. G. Hickox, Alfred D. Robbins, A. M. Smith, J. M. Hickox, J. S. Chamberlin, W. F. Hale, R. K. Merrill, W. F. Hanford, F. A. Hale and A. H. Chamberlin. Of the treasurers of the township since its organization may be noted Freeman McClintock, Reuben M. Hanford, Seymour Trowbridge, Asa Stevens, Joel Seward, S. T. Shepard, Capt. Archibald Robbins, J. M. Hickox, John M. Hart, J. G. Patrick, William B. Price, William K. Ricksecker, C. B. Lockwood, Hiram Chapman, R. K. Merrill, A. D. Robbins, E. C. Blackman, L. L. Chamberlin, R. W. Collins, W. F. Hale, Erskene Merrill and W. C. Lawrence. The present officers of the township are: Justice of the peace, Ralph Blue; trustees, L. S. Harrington, O. R. Arnold and W. A. Hawkins; clerk, H. E. Gildard; treasurer, E. D. Rhodes; assessor, C. H. Craemer; constable, C. M. Hickox.

Of some of the early officers some notice biographical would be appropriate in this connection. Royal Taylor was born in Aurora, Portage County, October 5, 1812. His father, Worthy Taylor, was a native of Blanford, Massachusetts, and was a soldier in the War of 1812. His grandfather was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. The Taylors came to Aurora in 1806. An uncle, Col. Royal Taylor, was an officer in the War of the Rebellion. Royal Taylor came to Solon in 1843, cleared a farm of 233 acres and was thirty years in the dairy and stock and later in real estate. He married three times. James W. Harper was born in Orange Township and was educated in the district schools of that township. He manufactured cheese in Solon for many years. He was the son of James and Sarah Harper, born near Belfast, Ireland. He has eight children. Jacob Strohm was the son of Michel and Barbara Strohm. Jacob was a soldier in the Civil war and came to Solon in 1868. He was appointed postmaster of Solon in 1893. Robert Thompson, another soldier in the Civil war, was born in Solon in 1844. His parents were Christopher and Elizabeth Thompson.



The father was from Yorkshire and the mother from Durham, England. They lived in a log cabin for a number of years. James Potter was the son of Thomas Potter, who came to Solon in 1836. He is of Scotch-Irish descent. His log house stood in a small clearing of two or three acres and all about was a dense wilderness. His family consisted of nine children: Eliza, Robert, Jane, Thomas, W. J., Andrews, James, Henry, and an adopted daughter, Angeline G. Potter. James Potter II and Thomas Potter were soldiers in the Civil war. Thomas was a quartermaster and was under Sherman in his march from Atlanta to the sea. Thomas Potter, Sr., besides being a farmer, was a stone mason and worked on the Weddel house when that historic structure was built. For years he worked for William Hutchins doing stone work in the county. He died at the age of eighty-one years. The Morrison family should be mentioned. Perry Morrison and his father, John Morrison, and his mother, Lucy Perry Morrison. Both of Perry Morrison's grandfathers were soldiers in the War of 1812. We have already given something of the biography of Capt. Archibald Robbins and his father, Capt. Jason Robbins.

One village has been formed from the territory of Solon. It was formed from territory constituting the southwest corner of the township originally and is called Glenwillow. There are two methods under the statute for the organization of villages, one by petition to the county commissioners and the other by petition to the trustees of the township from whose territory the village is to be formed. In the latter case a vote of the qualified electors residing in the territory, which is to constitute the village, must be taken and a majority found in favor of the project. Under the first method the commissioners must find that the petition contains all the matter required, that its statements are true, that the name proposed is appropriate, that the limits of the proposed corporation are accurately described and are not unreasonably large or small, that the map of the plat is accurate, that the persons whose names are signed to the petition are electors residing in the territory, that notice has been given as required, and that there is the requisite population for the proposed corporation, before they make the order. The township trustees, under the law, must receive a petition signed by at least thirty electors of the territory from which the village is to be formed, a majority of whom shall be freeholders. If the village proposed includes territory from more than one township the application must be made to the trustees in the township where a majority of such inhabitants reside. This petition must contain a request for an election. The township, satisfied that all the provisions pertaining thereto have been complied with, or rather the township trustees, must order an election for ascertaining the opinion of the voters on the question of forming a village, and, if that carries, then they must order an election for village officers.

Glenwillow. Village was formed by petition to the trustees and vote of the resident voters. J. D. Davis, S. Orchard and C. A. Roselle were the township trustees. The petition was filed December 18, 1913, and contained thirty-seven signatures. W. O. Avery was named as agent of the petitioners and the number of residents in the proposed village was stated to be 150. An election was held and the vote was for the village. Village officers were elected in 1914 as follows: Mayor, W. O. Avery; clerk, A. Balder; treasurer, J. W. Davis; councilmen, Frank Parmelee, S. D. Stolifer, L. D. Yonker, William Knox, W. E. Sheets and L. C. Wills; marshal, August Arndt; board of education, J. D. Davis, George Raster, William McGregor, Amanda Balder and Hattie Avery, being officers of the board for the separate school district of Glenwillow. In this new village was located the Austin Powder Company and a large number of the signers of the petition were employees and officers of that company. The present officers of the village are: Mayor, W. O. Avery; clerk, A. Balder; treasurer, E. A. Snyder; assessor, Ed Boose; justice of the peace, Arthur E. Smith; councilmen, T. C. Wells, William McGregor, F. Parmelee, Henry Koch, George Haster and John Resabek.

The district schools of Solon are now all abolished and the centralization that is practically accomplished throughout the county is completed. The school are in one building at Solon Center. There are eleven teachers employed and 250 pupils enrolled. The superintendent is J. J. Deets. In the graduating class of

the junior high school, which includes the seventh and eighth grades, this year there are fourteen and in the graduating class of the high school there are twelve. The special school district of Glenwillow has two teachers and an enrollment of forty-five. Although not yet officially accomplished, Glenwillow schools are soon to become a part of the Solon schools and are already under the supervision of J. J. Deets.

**Solon Township Excerpt from Memorial to the Pioneer Women of the Western Reserve by Gertrude Van Rensselaer Wickham, Under the Auspices of The Executive Committee of the Woman's Department of the Cleveland Centennial Commission, 1896. Parts 1-4. Transcribed by Betty Ralph.**

<https://usgenwebsites.org/OHCuyahoga/Cities/SolonTwpPWWR.pdf>

**All four parts with many other locations are also viewable at:**

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/2719949?availability=Las%20Vegas%20Nevada%20FamilySearch%20Library>

**Solon**

Solon, situated on the Erie R.R., eighteen miles from Cleveland was, in the year 1821, a wilderness, broken only by a narrow trail running through it from Ravenna to Cleveland. It was then called Milan, and the land had been held so high it could not find buyers until surrounding towns were settled. In the year above mentioned three families from Weathersfile, Conn., settled here and for the next decade they were the only residents of "Milan." They consisted of Capt. Jason ROBBINS, his wife, six daughters and two sons. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel BULL, several children, including two daughters, and Mrs. And Mrs. Oliver WELLS.

It requires but little imagination to picture the lives of the women for the first few years after their arrival. Their homes were the rude log houses of that day, but they were well swept and clean. If there were brass andirons they were brightly scoured and the dishes of light, or "flowing" blue, were carefully arranged on the shelves of the open cupboard. Immaculately white curtains hung at the windows, and their beds, covered with beautifully woven blankets, looked warm and comfortable. Perhaps in one corner was a table covered with a spread, also white, trimmed with knitted lace, or fringe, made by the deft fingers of wife or daughter. On this were a few trinkets and choice books, including the Bible, brought from the dear old home in the east.

There must have been many lovely hours when even a letter from far-away friends would have been a welcome messenger. But these were of rare occurrence, as postage on the same was twenty-five cents, and it is said that letters often remained in the post office at Bentleyville three months for want of money to pay the postage.

The first year a thousand pounds of maple sugar were made, the women doubtless doing their part of the work; "sugaring off" much of it in kettles over coals on the hearth.

The ROBBINS women were all well skilled in the arts of spinning and weaving, are readily converted the wool from their flocks and flax from their fields into clothing. Of a winter evening the elder daughters gathered with their parents about the blazing hearth, each busily knitting for father and brothers, while winter storms were raging without and wild beasts making night hideous with their howlings.

At such times the father might be relating stories of his old sea-faring life, for he had once been the captain of a vessel that was taken by the French. Becoming weary of his hard life on the ocean, he had sought a retreat, and a home, rude though it was, in the wilderness of northern Ohio.

It is recorded of this family that "they lived many years independent, contented, happy, each and all doing their part toward supplying the family needs."

Mrs. ROBBINS (Eleanor WILLIAMS) was a true woman and dearly beloved.

Mrs. Samuel BULL (Fannie HUNTINGTON) was a woman of genuine worth, doing well whatever her hands found to do. She was once lost in the woods in the following manner: One afternoon, while the family were busy making sugar, she started to drive the sheep into the fold, as was their nightly custom to protect them from wolves. Not finding them, she followed in the direction of the sound of a bell, and soon realized that she was lost!

Wandering on for some time she came to a sugar camp where men were at work. She explained the situation and they, not knowing where Mr. BULL lived, took her to another camp where they did, and walked home with her. The sound of a horn was plainly heard, the signal that someone was lost; and on arriving home, she saw her husband sitting on the barn blowing a horn so loud and fast that no response could be heard. It was two o'clock in the morning and the rejoicing can better be imagined than described.

Both Mr. and Mrs. BULL were faithful attendants at church, going on horseback, each taking one of their children, also their lunch so they could remain for the afternoon service, the latter, being a characteristic feature of the pioneer churches.

Mrs. Oliver WELLS (Abigail WARREN) was an active, courageous woman, and few things could daunt her. Her husband took the contract for clearing the road of trees, from Lewisburg to Bedford, and found in her a valuable assistant. Her daughter, Delia, born 1822, was the first white child born in the township.

Mr. Wells built the first frame house which was used as a tavern, and his wife was the first landlady in town. She was left a widow, but kept her family together until they made homes for themselves. She died 1869, in the same house where she had toiled so long, at the age of eighty years.

These hardy pioneers were awake to the importance of an education, and organized a school the year following their arrival. The teacher was John HENRY, who was to receive ten dollars per month and board. There were four pupils from the ROBBINS family and three from the BULLS'. Tuition for the former was paid in maple sugar; for the latter in shoemaking.

During the thirties great accessions were made to the population of the town, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts being the states principally represented.

The first wedding took place early in these years. Hannah GENISH and Baxter CLOUGH being the contracting parties, and Capt. ROBBINS the officiating justice of the peace.

The Presbyterian church was organized with seventeen members, among them being the names of Mrs. Asa STEPHEN, Mrs. Joseph PATRICK, Mrs. Reuben HANAFORD, Mrs. Baxter CLOUGH, Mrs. Sally MORSE, Prudence MORSE, Mrs. John BARNARD, Mrs. Henry HILLMAN, and others.

A school was organized in the Pettibone neighborhood in a blacksmith shop. If oxen were to be shod during school hours the children had a recess; but fortunately, this did not often happen, as such work was usually done before or after school hours.

Mr. Seymour TROWBRIDGE and wife (Sally JOHNSON) were from Arcadia, N.Y. One morning the former arose early and walked to Cleveland to pay his taxes, leaving his wife and infant son alone. They were in bed, and hearing a noise, Mrs. TROWBRIDGE thought a wolf was under the table. She was sure she could see its eye-balls glare and its frothing tongue hanging from its mouth.

Her imagination took wings and for about an hour she suffered all the agony of fear. When daylight came, she discovered to her joy that it was only the movement of the table cloth.

Mrs. TROWBRIDGE now lives in Cleveland and is a lovely and much beloved lady.

Mrs. Stephen TROWBRIDGE (Mehitable B. GARFIELD), born in Independence, O., 1821, moved here after her marriage and still lives in the old home, kindly cared for by her daughter, Mrs. OLDS. Her life has been one of toil and trial, but through all she has been a model of Christian fortitude and faith; beloved by all who have known her for her kindly ministrations to the sick and afflicted. One of her sons gave his life for his country, and one daughter died in her home in Wyoming. Mrs. Morris BOSWORTH (Sally STRONG) was a descendant of Elder John STRONG of Northampton, Mass., and her husband a descendant of Cotton MATHER, the noted divine. They first lived in a log house, afterward in a frame one of their own building, and were prosperous and happy until Mr. BOSWORTH's death. The widow survived her husband nearly half a century, dying in 1890.

Cornelia PHELPS was born in Granby, Conn., 1800. At the age of twelve her mother died, leaving her with the care of several younger brothers and sisters. When fifteen her father died, and she then came to Ohio, walking most of the way, to make her home with her grandfather, Judge Samuel FORWARD, of Aurora.

She married Enos BISSELL, the nuptial ceremonies being performed in the new log house built by the groom in the woods of Aurora. It was midwinter, but the occasion was made merry by music and dancing, the young people, generally from the surrounding towns, were in attendance. Later, they settled here. One daughter married Mr. DAY of Mantua; another is Mrs. Henry TROWBRIDGE of this place, and still another is Mrs. George ROBERTSON, wife of a Cleveland editor. Mrs. BISSELL was in the highest sense of the term a Christian. Her death occurred in her eighty-fourth year, at the home of a daughter in Bryan, O.

The wife and daughters of Capt. John SILL, from Adams, N.Y., furnished the musical talent of the neighborhood. A young man living in this family was a wonderful bugler, and put his accomplishment to good account when someone was lost. The notes of his instrument could be heard at a great distance.

Mrs. Benjamin SAWYER (Charlotte MILLS) was a charter member of the Presbyterian Church, and often walked three miles through the woods to attend its services. On one occasion a wild hog compelled her to climb a tree for safety.

She remained there until the animal was called away by the squealing of its mates, then descended and continued her way to church, whether in time for the service is not recorded.

The house of worship was built on piles to keep it out of the mud, and often the meetings were disturbed by cows, with bells, that sought shelter under it.

Mrs. SAWYER's daughters were Betsy, Mrs. Alvin HARRIS; Nancy, Mrs. Chandler WALLACE; Elvira, Mrs. Giles WESTCOT; Ruth Ann, Mrs. HARVEY; and Eliza, Mrs. BASSETT. She died, aged ninety-four years, walking a number of miles a short time before her death.

The daughters of Mrs. Chandler WALLACE were Sarah, Lucy, Jane, Sylvia, Martha, Amelia and Mary. Lucy became Mrs. Royal TAYLOR, and Mary Mrs. Orrin MILLS.

Alvin HARRIS and wife (Betsy SAWYER), from Howardsville, N.Y., crossed Tinker's Creek on a floating bridge, and hastily constructed a shanty, in which two families lived until they could build their log house. The dedication of this was to be a happy event, Mrs. SAWYER promising her family a genuine wheat short cake in honor of it. Placing her oven - and, by the way, that was a prize - on newly made hearth, and putting her cake in to bake, she was horror-stricken to see cake, hearth, oven and all blown to atoms, while the family had to flee for their lives.

Mr. HARRIS, being very homesick, his wife did all she could to cheer him. She helped him in his work - making black salts - that being the only available means of making a living.

During the sugar season she assisted in the arduous labors connected with the work. Feeling the importance of religious instruction, her daughters, Elvira and Jane, were sent to the first Sunday school taught in the woods of Solon.

She was untiring in her efforts to relieve the sick, and at her death, 1892, left a goodly inheritance to her five children, who were all married and living here at that time. The daughters already mentioned are respectively, Mrs. E.C. RHOADES and Mrs. Augustus PETTIBONE, worthy and honored residents of this place.

Mrs. Walter STANDARD often went through the woods one horseback to Bedford for groceries, and attended the meetings held in the various school houses of that day.

Mrs. Madison HICKOX (Roxy GRANGER) was said to be "worth her weight in silver." Her daughter Eva, Mrs. M. WITHERELL, still lives here.

Mr. and Mrs. MARSHALL were originally from Ireland, and had but fifty cents in money when they landed in Cleveland. They wished to go to their brother at Centerville Mills, some twenty miles distant, and started on foot through the woods, crossing streams by means of fallen logs.

Night overtook them and they stopped at a log house, where they obtained lodging and supper. Mr. MARSHALL, fearing his fifty cents would not pay for two, urged his wife to eat, but refused food for himself.

Their host provided them with a horse which, he said, was familiar with the country, and would take them directly to the door of their brother's mill, but on no account were they to guide the rein! The way seemed long and dreary, and they feared they were placing too much confidence in a horse. However, they obeyed instructions, and soon had the pleasure of finding themselves at their place of destination.

Mrs. MARSHALL was the first woman who died in Salon, and her daughter, Mrs. Eliza WITHERELL, was considered the handsomest woman in town.

Mrs. Nathan MORSE (Lucy LATHROP), from Richmond, Maine, was left a widow and moved to Chester, Geauga Co., near the seminary. It was customary in those days for young men to rent rooms and do their own cooking. Mrs. MORSE's motherly heart prompted her to help many of them, among the number being James A. GARFIELD, of honored memory.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel MORSE (Lucretia SAWYER) from Oxford County, Maine, passed through Kirland when the Mormon temple was being built. Their daughter, Emeline, is the wife of Col J.C. SAXTON, of Cleveland.

On one occasion the eldest daughter of each MORSE family was invited to a pumpkin "paring bee." They were accompanied by a young man as torchbearer. A hickory torch often served as lantern, and was a good one if rightly made.

This young man, wishing, no doubt, to be gallant, asked one lady to take his arm. She indignantly refused, and thereupon the swain in his wrath threw down the light and left the girls to get home they best they could. As it was a time of land clearing and brush burning, by these "beacon lights" they were enabled to do so in safety. These two girls became noble women, and left the impress of their characters upon their descendants.

Mrs. Elijah PETTIBONE (Catherine McKEE) was left a widow, but with the help of her children cultivated the farm and made a comfortable home. Her daughters are Mary, Mrs. H.L. SILL; Sarah, Mrs. C.T. REED; Roxy, Mrs. Dan COOK. Her sons' wives are Elmira HARRIS, wife of Edward; Ermina KENT, wife of Frank; and Marian NORTON, wife of Dudley.

Other honored names of this period are Mrs. John HALE, Mrs. Ebenezer GOW, Mrs. Sanford BISHOP (Martha CONNOR), Mrs. Charles R. SMITH (Mary TOWNSEND).

During this and the following decade the children of the first settlers began to marry and seek homes of their own. Cornelia ROBBINS married Harvey HENRY; Marcia, Randolph SHIFF; Sophia, Anthony SINGLETARY; and Jane, Almond THAYER.

Jane died, leaving three daughters. Her sister Eliza became Mr. THAYER's second wife. He died, leaving his widow with one daughter, now Mrs. G.S. FRAY, of Cleveland. Mrs. THAYER married Mr.

I.N. BLACKMAN, of Aurora, and later moved to Solon, where she now lives in good health and happy in the Christian faith, at the advanced age of eighty-two years.

Walter ROBBINS married Sally REAVES, and remained on the old homestead. Their eldest daughter is Mr. E.C. BLACKMAN of this place.

Archibald ROBBINS, son of Jason, moved with his wife, Elizabeth, early in the forties. He, too, had followed a maritime career, and in his early manhood had been shipwrecked on the coast of Africa; had been taken captive by the Arabs and kept by them as a slave for eighteen months. Their daughters are Mrs. James SMITCH, of Ashland, Va., and Mrs. McNABB, of Washington, D.C.

Fannie BULL became Mrs. Alvin UPON, moved to Lansing and died 1879. Amelia married Dyer B. JUDD and moved to Iowa.

Delia WELLS became Mrs. James COX of Bedford. Her death occurred 1892. Louisa WELLS married Joel MAXAM and died 1874.

The daughter of Mrs. Pitkin BULL (Celia BERRINS) is Mrs. Andrew KENT, of Newburg.

Mrs. Norman BULL (Sarah HOPKINS) died, leaving a family of little children. Her husband married Fannie WARD, of Vergennes, Vt., who has been a loving, faithful mother to the children. One daughter, Melissa, married John SEATON and died, 1870. Emma, Mrs. E. VAN DE MARK, lives in Clingon, Mich.

Mrs. Lorenzo BULL (Harriet Taylor) rode on horseback behind her husband from Aurora to Warren on her wedding trip. They lived with Mr. BULL's father until they built a home of their own, which was a happy one. Both were faithful attendants at church, and their house was a home for preachers, especially the aged ones. They lived to celebrate their golden wedding, and of her it was truly said: "She hath done what she could."

Mrs. Maremus LARABEE (Mary H. GARFIELD, sister of the distinguished Jas. A. GARFIELD) lived many years in this town. Two of her daughters are Mrs. Ellen HOPPE and Mrs. Adelle HOAG, women much beloved for their Christian graces.

Everyone speaks in the highest praise of Mary GARFIELD. She was one of the kindest neighbors and her superior qualities as a nurse were often put into practice. "Her spirit was a power and her Christian faith sublime," were the words of a friend written after her death.

This lady once had a remarkable dream, which is given in her own words, as follows: "I saw a train loaded with men of distinction in all parties. The train passed swiftly. I could not see James, but knew he was on this rushing train. There was a crash; the train was off the track, and there was great confusion."

The "friend" already referred to, writes: "When last I saw this sister, save once, was when the throng massed about her brother on the Mentor platform, as he was about to depart for Washington, just before his inauguration. The train moved and he had gone, never more to return.



There was no mention of her painful foreboding's when I took her hand, but I remembered her remarkable dream.

"I saw her again in the home of Mrs. GARFIELD in Cleveland. She was weak and disease was settled upon her lungs. She talked of the future and of death. She said: 'James is gone, and I am going! You wrote of him, and when I am gone write some word of me!'

"I have kept my promise, feeling that a noble spirit passed from earth to Heaven that day of November 1884."

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert HUDDLESTON were originally from Belfast, Ireland. They lived for several years in a log house in the woods, but purchased a farm on "The Ledge," where they built a comfortable home, in which the widow still lives, at the advanced age of eighty-four years.

In addition to her own large family Mrs. HUDDLESTON reared an adopted son, who is a popular teacher, now traveling in Europe. Her daughter Mary, Mrs. Daniel McAFEE, was "home guard" during the war, while her husband was in the army, looking after the farm and caring for her children.

Mr. and Mrs. Amasa LITTLE settled on the farm where their eldest son now lives. Mr. LITTLE died, and his widow married Mr. KELLY. She died 1890.

Mrs. Simon NORTON (Sally PEASE) won a race in spinning upon a wager with a friend. Two ounces was a day's work, and she spun six ounces. One summer she milked sixteen cows, and the following winter twenty-four. She also made cheese.

Mrs. Orson NORTON (Ursula KENT) was bedridden nearly thirty years. Shortly before her death she was helped by the "faith cure," so she could go about among her friends.

Mrs. Leander CHAMBERLIN (Susan WILLEY) had a large family, but was equal to the task of taking care of them. She often did her washing by the side of a stream half a mile away. She was very hospitable and well skilled in the art of dressing wounds.

Mrs. Simeon SHEPERD relates many pleasing incidents of pioneer life.

Mrs. William OLDS spent many years in California, returning to care for her aged mother.

Mrs. Thomas POLLNER (Mary Ann JOHNSTON), Mrs. James LUCKNOR (Abigail HARPER), Mrs. Avry PHELPS (Betsy BARTLETT), and more, of which space forbids mention, were honorable and honored residents of Solon.

*Mrs. M.N. BULL*

*Chairman and Historian*

Solon Committee - Mrs. L.J. LITTLE, Miss Hetta BLACKMAN, Mrs. John COCHRAN, Mrs. Ella BLACKMAN, Mrs. Charles CONNOR