

Fulton County Early Obits and Bios E-H

STEPHEN ELDREDGE, was born in Stark County, Tesearoyas (Tuscawarus) Township, Ohio on the 19th of December 1824 being about four miles south of Massilon in 1832 or 33, moved with his parents to Medina, now Summit County, Bath Township, Ohio in the spring of 1839, Moved with an older brother to Wood County, Ohio where Bowling Green now is built on the 9th day of June 1846. I was married to Miss Diantha P. Hunter at Bowling Green by the Rev. W. M. Pinters in the spring of 1855 I moved with my family to Fulton County Ohio our family then consisted of five children, three of them now living. Farming has been my occupation, have been a member of the M.E. Church since I was eighteen years old, average weight 175 - height five feet 8 inch

By Stephen Eldredge . (info transcribed from obit/bios that were submitted to the Fulton County Pioneer Society between 1883 and 1905)

GEORGE ELY

Another Pioneer Gone

George Ely, an old pioneer of Brady Township, Williams County, died February 28th, 1889: aged 77 years. Mr. Ely was born in Northumberland County Pennsylvania in 1812 and with his parents came to Knox County Ohio in 1826, and in 1833 was married to Elizabeth Folck and in 1835 settled in Brady Township. He entered his land there in an almost unbroken forest, there being only two or three settlers in the neighborhood that had preceded him.

He cleared up this tract of land for a home and has resided upon it ever since, a term of 54 years. His farm lies within a quarter of a mile of the Fulton County line and about one mile from the Franklin M.E. Church.

He raised a family of 7 children to manhood and womanhood upon this home and buried 4 children in their infancy. L.G. Ely of Franklin Twp. is the oldest of this family. Mrs. Riddle, now one of the teachers of our public school, is the 3rd daughter. The two oldest daughters live near the old homestead, in Williams County and the two youngest daughters live in Kansas. A son, George, was a member of Co. C, 100th Ohio Regt., and was killed in the battle at Atlanta, August 6th 1864, at the age of 20 years.

Mr. Ely assisted in the organization of Brady Twp., being one of 12 voters at the first election held. He voted a Whig ticket – the other eleven voted the Democratic ticket. He has voted the Republican ticket since the organization of the party. With the single exception of one twp. election he has voted at every election ever held in Brady Township. He subscribed for the first volume of the New York Tribune, when it was founded by Horace Greeley and continued his subscription to that paper without a break, up to and including the present year.

Although he never connected himself with any church, he was a believer in the atonement, a man of liberal religious views, of strict integrity and charitable almost to a fault. He was loved and respected by all who knew him.

During the earlier history of Brady Township, he held nearly all the different offices of the township. He also held the office of Commissioner and of County Auditor of Williams County.

Among the large concourse of people attending his funeral were many of the older settlers of the community. There were about 75 relatives in attendance. The funeral services were conducted by Revs. Baumgardner and Stockton, of West Unity and his remains laid to rest in the Franklin Cemetery. His wife, now 75 years of age and with whom he lived and enjoyed life a little over 56 years, remains with her children, to mourn his loss. (info transcribed from obit/bios that were submitted to the Fulton County Pioneer Society between 1883 and 1905)

WILLIAM FRAKER, was born in Wayne, County Ohio, January 19th 1822 and died at Pettisville, Fulton County, Ohio, February 15th 1891. When but a boy 14 years old he came to this county with his parents, then an almost unexplored wilderness and located near Delta. At the age of twenty he moved to Clinton Township and settled upon a farm in Sec. 18, where he lived until within three years of his death.

In 1844 he married Lydia A. Fashbaugh who died about three years afterwards, leaving two children. In 1850 he again married Nancy A. Kritzer who with six children still survives him.

Mr. Fraker, was a self made man, of remarkably, clear perception and excellent judgment; and was universally esteemed as a man of high character and he died equally lamented as he was beloved, whilst living by all who knew him He held many offices of trust; and was one of the first pioneer school teachers in the county, teaching in the little log cabin school houses. With puncheon floors and school furniture made of the same material.

Hunting and fishing was one of his favorite amusements and probably no pioneer in the county could relate more thrilling adventures, and hair breath escapes. In the wiles of the county, than he could.

In politics, he was conservative; in religion he was liberal; remembering the great rule to do the greatest good to the greatest number. He was a member of the Masonic order for over a quarter of a century. He lived to see nearly all the first settlers pass away and the growth and full development of what was once a wilderness, changed into beautiful farms and happy homes.

How often, have many of us been welcomed by his kindly voice and hardy hand grasp wherever met. How greatly is he missed by all who knew him; and his memory will be

justly honored, by those who emulate his worthy career.

By Elliot Bayes. (info transcribed from obit/bios that were submitted to the Fulton County Pioneer Society between 1883 and 1905)

GEORGE GASCHE

OBITUARY MEMORIAL OF THE LATE GEORGE GASCHE

The unfortunate Queen Katherine of England, wife of Henry the eighth said "After my death I wish no other herald, no other speaker of my living actions to keep mine honor from corruption, but such an honest chronicles as Griffith." Three or four years before his death, the late George Gasche said to the writer, "After I am gone if anyone think it worthwhile to write an obituary notice for me I do not want them to tell how many dollars I gathered together nor how many acres of land I acquired, but rather to tell what I did to help make the world better."

George Gasche was the fourth son of Dr. Carl (Charles) Gasche a Prussian Surgeon of good standing in his native country. The subject of this sketch was born in Witzlar, Prussia May 1st 1819. Died January 24th 1895, aged 75 years 8 months and 23 days.

Dr. Gasche brought his family to America when George was thirteen years old, locating first in Cumberland Co., Penn., where George was apprenticed to a shoemaker, serving this man two years. His father then removed to Holmes Co., Ohio and located in an 80 acre farm which this son helped to clear. He worked at his trade of evenings to help secure the money needed to pay for the land in this county which was to be his permanent home. In 1840 at the age of 21 years he purchased the farm he owned at the time of his death. Owing to the material condition of the country at that time he did not locate here until 1855. But he came each year and worked a month or more improving his land and getting it ready for occupation, making the journeys back and forth on foot.

On New Year's day 1847 he married Catherine Honeberger Gasche, the widow of his brother William also taking the care of his brother's children, Eliza and William. They bought a little home in Holmes Co., and cleared the land and lived there eight years. This house was then sold, their little store of goods stowed away in a canvas covered wagon. The pioneers present are all familiar with the mode of travel of that day and know something of the condition of the roads over which they were obliged to pass and the weather they might expect, when it is told that they started on their journey on the 12th April 1855 and arrived at their destination the 18th.

It took industry, much hard labor, and such economy as his children know little of, to make the comfortable home so well known to most of you. He worked faithfully and lovingly to provide each of his children with a home. He said frequently that he did not want a child of his to be compelled to practice the rigid economy and self-denial that he was obliged to when he began to do for himself after he attained his majority. He was

brought up under the teaching of the Lutheran Church. Also after he began going to school a Catholic priest went to the schools twice a week to instruct the children in the doctrines of the Roman Church. The parents were careful to explain to their children wherein Luther and other Reformers thought the Amish Church had substituted their own rituals for the teaching of the Bible. The result of his early teaching and his own study on the subject was that he believed in the "Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man".

When his father settled in this country in 1832, Jackson was President. The father said to his older sons "We will join no political party until we have had time to study the political history of the parties of the country. Dr. Gasche had carefully studied the history of the United States before he decided to emigrate and before the law permitted him to become a citizen he had made himself and older sons familiar with the political history of the nation.

In his early years George Gasche was generally classed as a Democrat yet he was always an independent voter. When his party nominees or the platform did not suit him, he would vote for that which did suit him, in whatever party he found it. Always anxious to promote the wellbeing of the masses and willing to lend a helping hand to any society or organization which proposed to do this work, it was to be expected by all who knew him best that he would become a staunch Granger when he joined that society when it was first organized in Wauseon. Members of that Society know how faithfully he did his part to make that organization a power for good to all classes. I do not know of a just cause which the Grange campaigned which did not receive the hearty support of George Gasche.

He served one term as commissioner, being elected to this office by the independent voters of the county. For several years he was a member of the County Board of Agriculture, favoring those measures which stood for the improvement of Agriculture, Education and good morals. Being strong in the faith that total abstinence from intoxicating liquors and narcotics was beneficial to the individual, and that mandatory prohibition was the state and nations best way of regulating and controlling of intoxicants and narcotics for drink purposes, it was only natural that he should ally himself with the Prohibition Party. He looked upon a political party as only a means by which men declared their belief as to what set of principles they wanted embodied in the laws of the state and nation. His political maxim was the greatest good to greatest number of people. Not being an aspirant for office he said he could always register his convictions on more questions in his ballot.

He once said "Those children honor their parents most who give them the least cause for grief or shame. I have always tried to live so that when all of this earth is past, and I meet my mother in the future world I can say to her, if it is necessary for children to say such things there with a clear conscience, mother I have never dishonored your teaching and example, nor brought disgrace upon my father's name."

This man was a great lover of the beautiful in nature and art and music. He said to me

when we started to the World's Fair, "We cannot see and hear all that is there. I want to see the best pictures, the fine laces and porcelains and Italian stationary, the flowers and hear the best music. If there is any time left we will give it to some of the useful exhibits." He was touched most by the paintings of home life and the music that touched the affection and home life.

He was a sturdy, rugged, courageous man and yet he was singularly tender and affectionate, without being demonstrative. Only those who knew him most intimately knew how careful he was to avoid everything that might hurt any ones feelings.

"The fine spirit cannot always sleep in dust,
Whose essence is ethereal, they may try
To darken and degrade it; it may rust
Dimly while, but it cannot wholly die;
And, when it wakens, it will send its fire
Intense, forth and higher."

Written by Eve (Gorsuch) Gasche wife of William Gasche the stepson and nephew of George. . (info transcribed from obit/bios that were submitted to the Fulton County Pioneer Society between 1883 and 1905)

MICHAEL HANDY is the subject of this sketch, became a citizen of Fulton County in the year 1840 (It was Pike Twp in Lucas Co. then) and resided here continuously until his death, less than a year ago, and was therefore, one of our citizens for upwards of 45 years, a third longer than the average years of man, and more than half the duration allotted by Holy Writ to him. He was a native of New York and was born about the time of the outbreak of our second war with England. Deprived by death of a mother's assistance, counsel, and love at the age of ten years, he may truly be said to have been abandoned to fight life's battle alone. How he grew to manhood's estate and succeeded in acquiring an education which well fitted him to discharge with dignity, honor and success the duties of a learned and influential profession may best be left to the consideration of those, who like him, similarly situated, have won for themselves in society, high and respected names, and dying shall leave, as he did, an honored record and the memory of having served well their day and generation.

Mr. Handy successfully served and benefited society in three ways: as a teacher, as a farmer, as a lawyer. Which of the three is the most exalted and useful I do not pretend to decide; but I do know that to act well one's part in any position or in any capacity, is where honor is to be found.

In 1836 he was married to Mary Ann Bryant, a most excellent woman, and the best of help mates, the mother of his children, and the sharer of all his joys and grief for 44 years. Together they came to Fulton County, then unformed and the land of self-denial, of privation and of hardship; wild, sparsely settled and extending but a savage and unpromising welcome to the hardy pioneers who ventured into the wilderness of North-western Ohio. But along with others, not many of whom remain among us he

confronted all the ills and inconveniences of a life almost primitive in its conditions, and grew and thrived with the North-west, winning a name for enterprise, integrity and ability throughout all its borders until at the date of his death, none among us was better known or more highly esteemed than Squire Handy.

Mr. Handy probably came first into public notice as a school teacher, and we all whose memory runs back to the early history of Fulton County, know he was a good one. But alone and coordinate with his duties as a teacher he farmed, he labored and cleared a farm, interspersing these agreeable and useful duties by occasionally trying a suit at law in some Justice's Court, or pettifogging as it is sometimes called. In 1852 he was admitted to the bar and became a full-fledged lawyer, practicing continually from that time until his death, and always rated, and deservedly, among the foremost attorneys at law at the Fulton County Bar.

As to official position, that was something to which he never aspired, and although endowed with native gifts beyond the common run, and adding hereunto the learning and acquirements of many years of laborious research and study both in the domain of the law and the fields of general literature, yet he was not forward to seek political preferment choosing rather the arduous duties of his profession. Hence he held but few offices, but all of them which he did hold, he honored.

In disposition he was genial, kind and sunshiny, never crowding or imposing on anybody, but with that true and manly sense of self-worth, which would not brook imposition. What is commonly called a grumbler he was not. There is 'bread and work for all' he often said.

Less than a year ago, as to his bodily presence, he passed away; but his memory, that of a hale, hearty and true man, still survives with us. We miss his hearty greeting, his buoyant, sunshiny ways. In our County Courts, at our Pioneer, and all our citizens meetings, his sturdy, genial voice is stilled forevermore; for us all, the light of his eyes gone out; but we cannot and should not forget his excellent name, his sterling manhood and all the good of that life so well and so worthily spent for the forty-six years of arduous undertaking and labor among us, the friends, neighbors, and collaborators of his pioneer days; all indeed of whom in but a few years more will be spoken of only as the Fulton (a line is missing here). and the night of death and the rays of the eternal morning with their shadow and glory soon must come. (info transcribed from obit/bios that were submitted to the Fulton County Pioneer Society between 1883 and 1905)

MARCUS H. HAYES, was born in Bloomfield, New York on June 7th 1822, he lived there until he was 12 or 13 years of age, at which time his father moved to Brunswick, Medina Co., Ohio, they lived there about one year. The family then came to Litchfield in the same county, in this township he lived until he was about 21 years of age, but being of an energetic enterprising nature he wanted a larger field and the west at that

time offering great opportunities. He bought a team and went west to the State of Iowa, here he engaged in teaming for a year and then returned east and married Caroline McKenzie, this was in the year 1843. During the following year he with his young wife sought a house in the western states and located in a town called Guttengurg Iowa. Here Mr. Hayes engaged in the mercantile business and did an extensive and profitable trade exchanging his goods and wares for furs. I am unable to say how long he lived in Iowa but it must have been 12 or 13 years, he then came to this county and was twice elected county Sheriff and is always spoken of as an able and efficient officer. He was one of the moving spirit of anything that he engaged in he was a man of more than ordinary ability. He was strictly conscientious in all his dealings, a friend you could depend upon and the best of a neighbor in short his record is one to be proud of. We ought as bands of pioneers and without doubt do cherish the remembrance of this one of our beloved band who with us faced the privations and hardships incident to a new country. The ties of friendship are more closely drawn around this band than those who now live to enjoy the fruits of their labor. May we each so live and act that when we to shall pass away that the verdict may be "we have lost a good man or a good woman" as the case maybe. For the good mothers who lives in these early times deserve just as much if not more praise than the men and we can truly say that when Bro. M. H. Hayes "passed to that beyond from which no traveler returns" we lost a good man. (info transcribed from obit/bios that were submitted to the Fulton County Pioneer Society between 1883 and 1905)

CHARLES HARRISON

To the pioneers of Fulton Co., Ohio

Our Brother Charles Harrison is dead the deceased with his family came from the State of New York in the year 1846 and settled in York Twp. On the farm where he resided till his death September 19th 1891 aged sixty seven years.

Brother Harrison was genial and of very industrious habits, a kind husband and father always a true friend in time of need.

With hard labor and his skillful management he acquired considerable of this worlds goods.

He was a man that will be missed, both at the social gathering and the counsel halls.

A man that held positions of trust and always filled them with honor and when I speak of him I want to be understood that he was one of York Twsp. first men.

Respectfully yours Stillman C. Biddle (info transcribed from obit/bios that were submitted to the Fulton County Pioneer Society between 1883 and 1905)

JOHN HARRISON was born in Yorkshire England February 20, 1814, in the year 1826

when a boy with his parents he immigrated to America, they settled in Livingston County State of New York.

When about twenty one years of age Mr. Harrison came to Ohio and settled in Summit County where he married Elisabeth Wardley February 19, 1837, at the time he was a blacksmith by trade.

In the year 1845 with his small savings and family he came to what is now Fulton County. There entered and settled lands in York Township of which he made a beautiful and well-paying farm, which he occupied till June 1871 then he removed to Wauseon. Where he lived a retired life till May fifth 1893 when death relieved him, buried in Wauseon Cemetery.

To him and his wife Elisabeth was born six children, Eliza, Addie, Olivia, Alfred, DeEtta and John R. of which four of them together with Mrs. Harrison survive him. Mr. Harrison was of moral culture, tender and affectionate to his family, industrious habits, sought home pleasures, was a fine farmer, always provided and lived well. Their latch string out and noted for company and a good time they always had, of which your humble writer had full experience.

Stillman C. Biddle (info transcribed from obit/bios that were submitted to the Fulton County Pioneer Society between 1883 and 1905)

JOHN HARRISON – Wauseon, Ohio April 5th 1886

The death of Chester Herrick, or Uncle Chet as he was familiarly called by all who knew him, occurred at Delta March 26th and he was buried in the Etna Cemetery on the 28th. A man who has been a resident of the Maumee Valley for over half a century and one who has performed his full share of the labor with the perseverance and privation necessary to change a wilderness country, a country almost uninhabited to a thickly settled and highly cultivated one, as is this valley of the Maumee at the present time, certainly deserves more than a passing notice. After a life of 93 years he lays his head upon mother earth and says "My work is done", Uncle Chet was born at Northfield, Massachusetts March 27th 1793, and moved to the Maumee Valley with his wife, Miss Mary Ann Walker, in 1833 or 1834 and after teaming a short time for Elijah Herrick (a near relative) he rented and moved on the Hollister farm, a short distance below Presque Isle, (Wayne's battle ground of Fallen Timbers) where he continued to reside until about the year 1843, when he purchased of Valentine Winslow, (and I think) Mrs. Richardson, the widow of Isaac Richardson who was murdered at Rochteboul (Rushtebou) the farm of 200 acres upon which he lived, in Pike Township, until a short time previous to his death.

The Hollister farm was principally river flats and well adapted to the raising of corn, which was the staple crop of the country, (perhaps excepting the crop of coon skins, otter and deer skins) for many years and the rent which was paid to the owner for the

use of the land was 13 to 15 bushels of ears of corn per acre delivered at the ware house below Ft. Meigs. Uncle Chet had a severe affliction of inflammation of the eyes while yet a young man, from the effects of which he never entirely recovered rendering his sight very imperfect and at times more or less painful during his whole life. Notwithstanding this great inconvenience and affliction with the accumulated savings from his fields of corn of nearly a score of years and with that "Yankee spirit" (for which the descendants of the Pilgrims are noted) moved with his wife to his new and comparatively unimproved land in the "six mile woods" over roads almost impassable, going into the log cabin erected by the first settler of the land. With industry and perseverance and long days of labor; no 7 or 8 hours then for a day's work, and a dollar a day, but 12, 14 and often 16 hours of continuous hard work, in a few years cleared away the forest; broke the wild prairie, ditched and fenced the land, and put up comfortable buildings, in which he spent his declining years. Uncle Chet was a good neighbor, always accommodating the needy when it was possible, strictly honest and upright in his dealings and always held in high esteem by the leading citizens and businessmen of the early settlers, such men as John and Frank Hollister, Gen. John E. Hunt, Robert A. Forsyth, Dr. Conant, John C. Allen, Judge S.H. Cately, Capt. David Wilkinson and the many others of the businessmen of the country. The wife who shared all his early hardships and performed her full share of the hard work, necessary to accomplish so much, met an unfortunate death, by drowning in a well July 5, 1866. Uncle Chet retained his vigor both of body and of mind up to the time of his death, which is remarkable at the age of 93 years; often walking from Delta to his farm (four miles) during the years of his life. In passing his farm, in August of his 90th year, I found him following the plow drawn by two large and fast walking horses and it seemed no great effort for him to keep up, and I noticed that he turned as straight and perfect a furrow as he had years before. He was always noted as a good ploughman, in fact, a good farmer in every respect; always keeping the best breeds of livestock when it was much more difficult to obtain them than at the present time. In the industrious life of this old man is repeated the history of many of the early pioneers; they leave an inheritance to the coming generations that if preserved and followed and fully appreciated will surely lead on to virtuous industry and happy lives. The old man sleeps well; "He sleeps the sleep that knows no waking."

Written by Col. Dresden Winfield Huston Howard

ELIJAH HERRICK, Biography

Elijah Herrick was born in Stillwater, Saratoga Co., New York December 12th 1809. In 1822 he came with his father to the present vicinity of Waterville on the Maumee, owing to the unhealthiness of the climate his father soon returned to New York leaving Elijah and his brother William behind. He worked for a short time across the river from Waterville and among other things made 4,000 rails at 80 cents per hundred. He also worked at blacksmithing and made the ironworks for the sailing vessel Ante___? built by Daniel Hubble. When about twenty years old he kept bachelors hall and raised corn

on the big flats near Turkey Foot Rock.

In 1831 he was married to Orra Sophronia Noble by whom he had four children, one of which, a daughter, was living at the time of his death.

He now bought teams and went to teaming, moving many pioneers into the woods.

In 1836 he moved to Perrysburg and took a contract to haul goods for John Hollister, taking the most of them up the river to Defiance and Fort Wayne. One time Asa Miller had goods frozen in at Manhattan which he wished to take to Fort Wayne, they loaded two teams and Mr. Miller tacking an ax went with them, they were thirteen days chopping their way through and five days coming back, for which Mr. Herrick received \$100.00 Mr. Miller bearing all the expenses. He also hauled the first load of goods from the Maumee to Adrian Michigan unloading them in a log cabin which had a blanket hanging up for a door.

In 1841 he moved to Miami and with his partner established the first line of boats on the canal between Toledo and Providence. In 1843 his wife died and in 1844 he was married to Abigail Allen to whom five children were born. They lived for a few weeks at Perrysburg, and came the same year (1844) to the present homestead in Fulton Township, Fulton Co. When he came to Fulton Co., it also was very new with a small clearing here and there but he in common with the other pioneers soon brought it to a good state of cultivation.

Mr. Herrick's school advantages of course were limited but having obtained the rudiments of an education he was able by his superior natural ability to make up for the deficiency of early mental training. He held a number of offices and among others was Justice of the Peace for twelve years.

His was a long and eventful life for a private one, and the period of time over which the years of his life extended, saw wonderful changes in the physical, and industrial , social and intellectual life of the county. When he came a boy of twelve years to the Maumee he found it a vast wilderness abounding in swamp and full of malaria, he lived to see it cleared drained and made as productive and healthy as any place in the country. When he came he found it inhabited mostly by Indians, he lived to see it peopled by persons of the highest intelligence and morality. He found the country with scarcely any educational or religious advantages, he lived to see it well provided with schools and churches. In the beginning of his life the best moods of travel were the stage coach and canal packets at its close we have the swift steam and electric car and the speediest means of communications was the fast boy now we talk face to face be the distance long or short by means of the telegraph and the telephone and _____ ? it is not to much to say that he did his part to bring about these privileges and blessings.

Several years ago under the pastorate of Rev S. L. Klotzs he united with the United Brethren Church and in hope of the eternal life, died July 31, 1891, at his home in

Fulton Township Fulton Co., Ohio.

Written by his Son in law Rev. Lucius E. Willson, Feb 19th 1892

Lucius was married to Anna Herrick, Elijah's daughter with his 2nd wife Abigail

DRESDEN WINFIELD HUSTON HOWARD

Transcription of his hand written letter

On the evening of 11th of June 1821, the emigrants Thomas Howard, (father of D.W. H. Howard) with his daughter Mrs. Sidney Nelson and the families of his sons Edward and Richard (the families of Alexander and Robert coming, later from White River Indiana) landed at Fort Meigs. The only children were D.W.H. Howard and Sidney Howard ages 5 and 14 years. They purchased land at the Grand Rapids of the Maumee (18 miles above the Fort) and moved into their cabins in the winter of 1822 and 23; this was the first settlement on the south side if the river above the old Indian Mission (8 miles below) and exactly opposite the Indian village of Tein-jo-a-no. The only white settlers and neighbor for miles was Peter Manor who lived on the Indian Reservation opposite. Edward Howard entered the lands at Aetna (now Winameg) in 1833 and built the old Etna Block house. Soon after there was established an Indian trading post in which Merrill Wilkinson and D.W.H. Howard were the traders of the establishment until Wilkinson died, when the goods and trade was sold to other parties. The Indians trade was soon after destroyed by the removal of the Indians by the U.S. Government to their lands west of the Mississippi, D.W.H. Howard aided in removing the Indians and followed there soon after and entered the fur trade with the people in the west. D.W.H. Howard moved to the farm at Etna (Aetna) where he still remained in 1882.

Mr. Oliver Verity use the above as you may deem, as the history since the above date is well known to yourself you can add whatever you wish. I would much rather you would put what I have written in your own language; and of course make all these biographies brief.

Very Truly,
Dresden W. H. Howard