

# **A History and Biographical Cyclopaedia of Butler County Ohio,**

**With Illustrations and Sketches of its**

**Representative Men and Pioneers**

**Cincinnati Ohio. Western Biographical Publishing Company, 1882.**

<http://www.usgenwebsites.org/OHButler/cyc/562.htm>

Milford Township: pages 562-574

## **DARRTOWN.**

Conrad DARR and Robert and William OGLE, all from Pennsylvania, entered Section 28, on which Darrrtown stands, in 1802. After making the entry, they returned home, and in 1803, brought their families with them, and divided the section. DARR took the south half; William OGLE, the north-west quarter; and Robert OGLE, the north-east quarter. The section cost \$1.25 per acre. In 1814, April 4, the former of these gentlemen laid out Darrrtown, and called it after himself.

Abram DARR was the first resident of the village. He kept a store on the east side of the street, near the center of the town, in a frame house. This building burned down in 1820. John DEEN built the second house, about 1817, which is now used for a grocery by William SHEARS. In 1825 Willis DAVIS was in the house as a store-keeper, also as a saddler. In 1820 Henry WATTS built a log-house in Darrrtown, opposite the Davis property. HERRON & FENTON were in this log building in 1827 as merchant tailors. The venerable building has long since disappeared. Mr. PERSAILS, a hatter, from Hamilton, was here many years ago. John COOK, a blacksmith, from Pennsylvania, came here in 1825, with a large family; remained fifteen years, and died in this county. Stephen COOK, his son, followed, in the same business, for five or six years. David and John KNEE were, also, early blacksmiths. Abram DARR built a frame house, where ZIMMERMAN now keeps, in 1817, and began the tavern-keeping business. He continued for ten or twelve years. In 1832, he opened still- house, two hundred yards east of where Hiram Darr now lives. His corn was ground at the old carding-mill on the corner south of the Lutheran Church. This

distillery continued for a number of years. Mr. DARR removed moved to Iowa, in 1844, and in 1852, while in Cincinnati, died very suddenly.

Aaron CHAMBERLAIN, a native of New York, rented a store-room in 1826, and began to accommodate the public. His store stood on the east side of the street in the middle of the village. He afterward opened a tavern in the store building, continuing for six years. He also worked at the wagon-making business for some time, and died in Pike County, Illinois sometime after 1840. Henry BRANNER was a blacksmith in Darrtown from 1817 to 1827, in a log shop opposite site Chamberlain's tavern. PATTERSON and MARTIN had a store, in 1828, where ZIMMERMAN's saloon is. Stephen KENDALL came to Darrtown in 1825, built a tavern in the lower end of town, and continued until 1844. He was by trade a shoemaker, carpenter, and wagonmaker. William KIRKPATRICK kept a tavern in Darrtown in 1845 in the house now occupied by his son Samuel as a tavern and saloon. Henry KRIGGER was another blacksmith from 1826 to 1832, south of the widow CARNAHAN's house on the east side of Main Street.

Mitchell MARSHALL had a large three story still-house, from 1845 to 1852, one fourth of a mile east of the center of the village. The capacity of this establishment was fifteen barrels per day. Many hogs were fattened at this distillery, and many cooper-shops were in active operation near at hand. Sylvanus OCHS built the store where Peter WINSON now keeps, in 1840. His brother Josiah was a tailor in the same house for six or years. Stephen IRWIN was also a country merchant the same building about 1855. Mr. WINSON began as a weaver in Darrtown about 1840.

Dr. WYMAN, from New York, introduced the common domestic willow at Darrtown about 1845, five years after his arrival. The growing of willows in this vicinity is a leading industry with a number of the people. Dr. YEAMAN, from Hamilton, came to Darrtown in 1827, remaining two or three years, and then removed to Crawfordsville, Indiana. Dr. WILSON, from New England was here in 1833, and remained five years, removing to Rossville, Indiana. Dr. CRUIKSHANK, from near Cheviot, Ohio, came here about 1832, remained seven or eight years, and sold out to Dr. MACK, who continued to practice here until his death a few years ago.

In the Spring of 1806 the first school was made up in this part of the township and taught by George HOWARD. The house stood a quarter of a mile north-west the center of the town. It was a log building, with a large fireplace in one end, logs cut out for windows, roof covered with clapboards, which were held down by weight-poles. This house lasted and was used for twenty-five years. Among the teachers were John BLACKBURN, Enoch MORRIS, and Robert McMANUS, an Irishman, who was a

**Commented [MOU1]:** Records indicate that Wm. Kirkpatrick's tavern evolved into the "Milford House." An 1868 map of Darrtown (see: <http://www.darrtown.com/history/maps.html>) shows the Kirkpatrick property in Lot 77, just south of the present Fire Department building. For more info on the Milford House, see <http://www.darrtown.com/people/harris.html> AND see: <http://www.darrtown.com/organizations/businesses-6.html>

**Commented [MOU2]:** An 1868 map of Darrtown (see <http://www.darrtown.com/history/maps.html>) reveals a "Dr. J. P. Carnahan" owned a structure on a parcel of land (Lot No. 37) located in the southeast corner of Main and Apple streets. This suggests that Krigger's blacksmith shop was the building seen on the map, just south of the Carnahan property – as part of Lot No. 37.

**Commented [MOU3]:** An 1868 map of Darrtown (see: <http://www.darrtown.com/history/maps.html>) of Darrtown reveals that a "P. Winson" owned the property where the Wyckoff / Gardon / Don's Carry-out building now stands (Lot No. 52). For details on this business establishment, see: <http://www.darrtown.com/organizations/businesses-1.html>

**Commented [MOU4]:** In the 1880 census, Hiram Darr (brother of Conrad #2 and father of John) listed his occupation as "raising willows." Even to this day, cattails (similar to willows) grow in a wet, marshy area (see image below), which is located about 75 yards east of the former Teckman home (in the northeast corner of the intersection of Main and North streets. This property was once owned by Hiram Darr. See: <http://www.darrtown.com/people/darr.html>

fine scholar and a gentleman. The IRWIN boys, the KEGARDS, STOUTS, HAYNESES, PRICEs, and DARRs were among the scholars.

The second school-house was a frame, which stood on the public square, erected in 1830, or thereabouts. Abram DARR and Philip BROWN were among the first teachers. This building was used for about eight years. For the third school-house the Darrtown people had frame building which stood near DARR's distillery. The house is now used for a dwelling, near the center of the town. William HEWETT and David P. NELSON were two of the first teachers.

The fourth school building, a frame, was erected about 1848, and occupied a site two hundred yards west of the center of the village. This building was used until the present brick was put up, with an Odd Fellows' hall above, but which has been sold to the school directors for school purposes. Richard CHAMBERS and Gardner DARR were among the first teachers. Mr. Cornelius JONES, of St. Charles, is the present teacher. There an average of seventy scholars.

John MILLS built a carding-mill, in 1822, in Darrtown, and continued for five years. He sold out to Abram DARR, who used the old machinery for grinding his corn for the still-house. The power was supplied by a large tread-wheel, turned by oxen. In 1858 and 1859 a sawmill and a small grinding department was in operation in the village, owned by Benjamin HAWK and Joseph KECK. The buildings stood where the Lutheran Church now is. The establishment lasted but for eight or nine months.

In early history the settlers went to James BROADBERRY's saw and grist-mill, one mile and a half below town, erected in 1818, and continued for twenty- five years. BROADBERRY also had a log still-house, in 1817, which was replaced by a stone building. WALLACE and BRYANT came from the neighborhood of Colerain, Hamilton County, in 1816, and erected a saw-mill, a grist-mill, and a fulling-mill, all run by undershot wheels, on Four-Mile, now known as LANE's mill. The latter member of the firm was the fuller. WALLACE did sawing for eight or ten years; also carried on the grinding department. He sold out to James SMILEY. The property now belongs to his son-in-law, W. L. LANE, of Oxford. The mill is a three-story stone building, and was erected about 1850 by William ELLIOTT, who was accidentally killed.

GRIFFITH's mill stood on Four-Mile Creek, where the bottom road from Oxford crosses the stream, in 1817. There was a sawing and grinding department, both of which continued to run for twenty-five years. Half-way between LANE's mill and Darrtown, Thomas COOCH built, in 1818, an overshot saw-mill. He had also previously erected an overshot grist-mill, thirty-five feet wheel. Thomas COOCH, Jr., with his father, also had a large distillery. All three of these establishments continued

**Commented [MOU5]:** This "third school-house" may be the one that is designated on an 1868 map (see <http://www.darrtown.com/history/maps.html>), which shows a school located on Lot No. 30 (northwest corner of Apple and Cherry streets).

**Commented [MOU6]:** Presumably, this is the brick, two-story building that resembles a schoolhouse and stands on Lot No. 90, at the northwest corner of West Street and Mulberry (now known as Schollenbarger Road).

**Commented [MOU7]:** This corroborates the existence of such a group in Darrtown. For more info, see:

up to 1835, when the mills stopped. The still-house was carried on for five years longer. Pearson STOUT had a still- house in 1840, on the farm now occupied by Ebenezer BROWN, one mile north of Darrrtown.

The Darrrtown town hall was built in 1826 or 1827, to be used by all religious congregations as a place of worship. Conrad DARR gave the land on which the house stands. Among the leaders in this enterprise were Joseph HAYNES, a blacksmith, who lived one mile east Of town; in 1814, and perhaps was the first within this part of the township; Jacob OGLE, a man of many excellent parts, and James WALDEN, who lived on the farm now owned by Huston KIGER, the latter of whom has a large steam saw-mill. At that time the Baptists were the most prominent. This Church was organized in 1806 at Thomas COOCH's. The first preaching was under a shade in the Summer, and at COOCH's house in the Winter. The first preachers that might be called regular were Stephen GARD and William TYNER. In 1816, the society built a frame meeting-house in the old or present cemetery. This society flourished for a while, and was then broken up. Among the members were Israel DeWITT, Thomas COOCH, James WALDEN, and Mr. BLACKBURN. When the town hall was built this society sold their church to Abram LAWE, who removed it to Darrrtown, and it is now used for a dwelling.

The cemetery was laid out in 1806 by Thomas COOCH and Mr. MARKLE. The former gave one and the latter half an acre of land. The first interment was that of Harriet, daughter of Thomas and Hannah COOCH, September 6, 1806. About the same time the Baptist Church was organized the Methodists began to have preaching in the neighborhood, and some time thereafter built a log church on the Beeler section, at the foot of the western slope of "Chaw Raw" hill. This Church has since become very numerous and respectable, now worships in a handsome frame building in the village. There are a number of graves near the site of the old church, but the house has long since disappeared.

The New School Presbyterians organized a Church in Darrrtown about 1848. The first preachers came from Oxford. In its most prosperous days, this organization numbered thirty-five members, of whom Stephen KENDALL, Hiram DARR and wife, Susanna and Sarah COOK were the most prominent. The Rev. B. W. CHIDLAW organized the first Sabbath-school in Darrrtown, about 1840. Joseph CURTIS, of Hamilton, was the first superintendent, followed by Gardner DARR, who was also the chief officer of a similar organization, at the same time, at McGonigle's.

The Lutheran Church in Darrrtown was organized at Jericho, four miles north on the Hamilton and Richmond pike. The original place of worship has since been destroyed by fire. This resulted in the erection of the church in Darrrtown. George KRAMER and

wife Barbara, old Mr. KNAPP and wife, Daniel SHOLLENBERGER and wife were among the first and leading persons who gave the Church its present healthy constitution. There are now over sixty members in good standing. A Union Sunday-school is carried on, with alternate meetings at the Methodist and the Lutheran Church.

Odd Fellows Lodge, No. 47, was chartered June 10, 1871. The charter members were W. H. HARRIS, A. J. MORTON, W. L. LANE, Joseph and David KECK, R. G. and William KENDALL, and George MORTON. This society is a branch of the Somerville Lodge. There are now thirty-two members. The hall where the society meets was built for a select school, and was owned in shares, which were bought at a small figure from the stockholders. A. J. NORTON was the first N. G.; W. H. HARRIS, the first vice-grand.

Old Mr. COOLEY settled in the lower end of Darrtown in 1815. He was from Kentucky; his family consisted of but himself and wife. The same year he built the stone house now occupied by Mr. WAGONFEED. Conrad DARR, in 1815, began a tan yard, carried on for seventeen years, in the upper end of the village. He was followed by his son Hiram, who continued in the business of his father for nine years, and also carried on boot and shoe making, on a small scale, for fifty years.

Enos CAMPBELL, a soldier of the Revolution from Pennsylvania, came to Darrtown about 1810, and remained for ten years. David RATTERY, a Scotchman, came to the village in 1825, and left in 1835, Samuel FINCH, from Massachusetts, was a settler in Darrtown before 1818; he remained four years.

At an early day, two flat-boats were built at Broadberry's mill on Four-Mile, by Jacob OGLE and the proprietor of the milling establishment. When the creek rose, on account of a freshet, the boats were floated to Hamilton empty, and loaded there for New Orleans.

James ANDERSON came from Pennsylvania to Darrtown in 1817; built the house now occupied by John GRAW, and close by opened a still-house, in 1820. He remained for ten or twelve years, and died afterward in Oxford Township.

Commented [MOU8]: Defined as "the flood of a river from heavy rain or melted snow."