

MEMORIAL  
TO THE  
PIONEER WOMEN  
OF THE  
WESTERN RESERVE.

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Parts one, two and three

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# PIONEER WOMEN OF SANDUSKY, ERIE COUNTY.

1810—1850.

Sandusky is situated on the beautiful Bay of Sandusky, and embraces the entire limits of Portland township. Sandusky was known to the first white settler as "Ogontz Place," being named after the illustrious chief, Ogontz. In 1816 Hon. Zalmon Wildman, of Danbury, Conn., laid out the town, and gave to it the name of Port Land, signifying a town located on a body of water. In 1818 the same gentleman and Mr. Isaac Mills, of New Haven, Conn., gave to the town the name of Sandusky, supposed to be derived from the Indian name Lac-san-dou-ske, meaning a lake of

## COLD, BEAUTIFUL WATER.

The first "pioneer" settler in Sandusky was John Garrison, of the State of New York, who, with his family, arrived here in 1810; they left before the war of 1812. We have no evidence that Garrison again visited this place. Title he had none. He was but a squatter on the land.

In 1816 Zalmon Wildman, I. Mills, and Mr. Hoadly platted the town, and obtained the services of Colonel Hector Kilbourne, of Columbus, O., to survey the same. Settlement at once began, buildings were erected here and

there, and the city of Sandusky appeared to be entering upon an era of unexampled prosperity.

In 1817 Zalmon Wildman erected the first frame dwelling structure, and in the same year William B. Smith built the first frame dwelling. Mr. Smith's first visit, however, to Sandusky was made prior to the war of 1812. Mr. Smith's family consisted of his mother, brothers and sisters.

His mother, Hannah Richmond, married twice. Her first husband was Mr. Brown, and they had two children, Lucy and Elizabeth. Dr. Alta Cooke is a descendant of Elizabeth Brown, and lives in Sandusky. He has a wife and one son. Mrs. J. B. Leeson is also a descendant, and lives in Troy, N. Y.

By her second husband, William Smith, Hannah Richmond had three sons and four daughters, William, Frederick, and Hiram, Sallie, Nancy, Clarrisa and Susan.

In the fall of 1818 Mrs. William Kelly, her husband, and their large family of children started from Troy, N. Y., for the Southwest. Mr. Kelly had returned a few weeks previously from the South, where he had accumulated \$4,000, a large fortune in those days, and, taking this money, he started on the 13th day of September to traverse the State of New York in a covered wagon drawn by a fine pair of oxen.

Four of the little children trotted along by the side of the wagon, and walked the entire way, picking hickory nuts, hazel nuts, wild flowers, etc., en route. Jane Kelly, now Mrs. Wyatt Hartshorn, was one of the little girls. She is now living in Sandusky, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Duroy, a bright, interesting, and unusual old lady, who, at the age of ninety-two, is only too happy to tell of pioneer days.

The first time I went to call upon her, to ask for a few facts and dates of early history, I found her too ill to see me, but her granddaughter, Miss Duroy, said that although her grandmother had taken no nourishment for two days, and consequently was very weak, she would tell her of my visit and my errand. She did so. The dear old lady revived; was recalled back almost from the grave by her interest and enthusiasm in my work, and I thank her for the help and encouragement she gave me in this great undertaking.

In a subsequent interview she told me that although only a little girl of thirteen years of age, she well remembered the voyage of seven weeks and four days in a schooner, from Buffalo to

Sandusky. Arriving here, they found only five frame houses—the White Store, Scott's American, William Smith's, McMurry's, and the Ransom's. All the other buildings were built of logs.

The Kellys arrived on the 3d of December, 1818, and that night the bay froze over. Thus they were obliged to stay in Sandusky, their intention having been to push further south, and as the dear old lady said: "Oh, how glad I am that we did not go South, for then I might have been a 'secesh!'" On their arrival, the only place William Kelly could find to place his family for the night was a little log house situated where the C., S. & C. depot now is, and built by some young men as a sort of fishing club house, consisting of one room, and a garret overhead, reached only by a ladder, up which the tired children were only too glad to climb to bed. There was no fireplace and no chimney, only a stone hearth, with a hole in the roof for the smoke to get out. The floor was a "puncheon floor" (split logs laid side by side). They had few dishes, few cooking utensils, and little furniture, and yet the

JOYOUS, HAPPY LIGHT

which came into dear old Mrs. Hartshorn's face as she told of the early happy days proved that the hardships

were forgotten in remembrance of the friendly and neighborly feeling which existed among our pioneer grandparents.

In 1818 the first school was opened, by Miss Sally Stimpson, in a log cabin on Wayne street. Miss Stimpson was a very handsome girl, about twenty-one years of age. She came alone to Sandusky from Granville. She afterwards married Mr. Mathers and finally moved to St. Louis.

In the year 1819 William Townsend came from Danbury, Conn., and started one of the first stores in Sandusky, corner of Water and Lawrence streets. He married, in 1824, the young and beautiful Maria Lampson, who came from Granville in 1822 with her two sisters, Mrs. Case and Mrs. Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. William Townsend had seven daughters and one son. Mary Elizabeth Townsend, the eldest daughter, married Pitt Cooke, in 1844, and lived in the old family home until her death in 1888. A most wonderful and noble woman, taking charge of her father's large family and home when he and his wife were stricken down with cholera, she then being only twenty-four years of age, with a husband and two little boys of her own to care for.



Well, indeed, did she perform her task. Pitt and Mary Townsend Cooke had six children—three sons and three daughters—who arise up and call them blessed.

Mr. and Mrs. John Clemmons (nee Mary McLellan) came to Sandusky in June, 1819, with their family, consisting of ten children. They started from Dunkirk, N. Y., in a schooner and were three weeks on the voyage, leaving snow in Dunkirk, and picking wild strawberries on Cedar Point, where they camped the first night. The next morning they came up the bay to Sandusky. They took their first meal at Benjamin Greeg's house, on Market street just off of Columbus avenue. There were then not more than a dozen frame and log houses in the town.

To tell of all the brave deeds of our pioneer women would fill many volumes, but a few must be told. This same Mary McLellan Clemmons, one day being desparate for a dinner for her numerous little ones, saw a wild turkey flying over her log cabin. Quick as thought she caught up a loaded gun from the corner of the kitchen, aimed, and fired it at the turkey, and lo, did they not all have a fine dinner!

On another occasion Mary McLellan Clemmons became so homesick for dear, loved ones at home that she rode 400 miles on horseback, with her baby in her arms, through forest and lonely roads, with settlements few and far between. After making her visit home she returned to her husband and their pioneer life, contented and happy.

Eunice Clemmons, daughter of John and Mary Clemmons, married Daniel Newton in 1820. They had seven children. The only one now living is Mrs. Mary Newton Clarke, a woman beloved by all.

The first Congregational church was organized on the 20th day of May, 1819, with six members—four being women, Maria Jennings, Elizabeth McMurray, Lydia Watkins, and Anna Sylvia. The Revs. John Stewart and Joseph Treat, missionaries of the Connecticut Missionary Society, conducted the services.

Grace Protestant Episcopal Church, standing on the corner of Wayne and Washington streets, and prominent in the substantial organizations of Sandusky, had its beginning on the 13th day of June, 1835, at a meeting of citizens at the home of Oran Follett. The first vestry was composed of Abner Root, Zenas M. Barker, John G. Camp, John N. Sloane, Eleutheros Cooke, Ogden Mallory, Thomas Nell, John Kinney, James Hollister, and William P. Chapman. The following is a list of the

first recorded women communicants:

Elizabeth Root, Eliza G. Barker, Rhoda Camp, Elizabeth Camp, Elizabeth G. Webber, Ann Boyse, Grace Nell, Fanny Mallory, Fanny Cooke, Elizabeth Chapman, Eliza Inman, Ann Wilber, Eliza P. Hollister.

Mrs. Cynthia Strong Sloane, wife of Colonel John Sloane, died February 2, 1873, and lies beside her husband in Oakland Cemetery, Sandusky. She was born in Homer, Courtland county, N. Y., October, 1802. Cynthia Strong was the eldest daughter of Abner and Sally Strong, with whom, in the spring of 1815, she removed to Lyme, Huron county, O., where, August, 1818, she was united in marriage with John N. Sloane. Settling in Sandusky in 1821, she was well known and loved by all its early residents. One of the first to unite with all good works, she was a fond, devoted mother, a true, faithful friend; to know her was to love her. In 1835 she was among the first to engage in the building up of Grace Church, and one of the first to unite with it. Her quiet acts of kindness, her unostentatious charities, her

#### SWEET, PLEASANT SMILE,

her pure Christian life will long be remembered. Her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren live in Sandusky and love to listen to stories of her sweet and good life. Colonel and Mrs. John N. Sloane had six children, Edward, Sarah, William, Rush, Louisa, and Helen.

Mrs. George Anderson, nee Eleanor Hull; born at Ballston Spa, N. Y., 1789; died at Sandusky, O., April, 1866. In 1821 she married Dr. George Anderson, born at Cooperstown, N. Y., 1792, who studied at the medical college at Philadelphia under the eminent Dr. Rush. He commenced his practice as a physician at Venice, O., but moved to Sandusky in 1819, where for several years he was the only physician. He died at Sandusky, 1834.

Mrs. Anderson was living at Buffalo, N. Y., when that place was burned by the British and Indians in the war of 1812. She only escaped with her life by running upon the ice and through the snow in the middle of a December night two miles down the river to Black Rock, pursued by the Indians, who killed and scalped their victims as they overtook them. She reached the fort in safety and thus escaped the fate that befell so many on the night of that terrible massacre. Dr. and Mrs. Anderson had three children. Their first child died in infancy, the second Pallas Elizabeth, and the third George.



Pallas Elizabeth Anderson was born in 1825, in Sandusky, and died near Chicago, Ill., September, 1886. She was confirmed by Bishop McIlvaine at Grace Church, Sandusky, in 1844. She was an active member of Grace Church, Chicago, aiding and assisting in all of the charitable organizations of that church. She married Dr. Eben S. Lane at Sandusky, January, 1845.

Well does the historian remember the beautiful and gracious Mrs. Pallas Lane, particularly as she was a life long friend of her mother, and they, with Mrs. Maria Birchett, Kate Barker, and perhaps thirty other young people, formed one of the most brilliant social circles Sandusky has ever known.

Mrs. Francis Ann Lane was the fourth child of Governor Roger and Fanny Roger Griswold, the granddaughter of Governor Mathew and Ursula Wolcott Griswold, the great-granddaughter of Major General Roger and Sarah Drake Wolcott, was born 1776, at Lyme, Conn. In 1818 she married **Ebenezer Lane**, late chief justice of Ohio, and came to Ohio with her husband. Soon after their marriage they settled at Ridgeville, near Elyria. They moved to Norwalk in 1819 and to Sandusky during the summer of 1842. She was a devoted member of the Protestant Episcopal Church, having

been confirmed by Bishop McIlvaine in 1834.

Mr. and Mrs. Eleutheros Cooke came to Sandusky in 1821, and quoting from a recent work of D. Mason: "After they became citizens of the town there was made one grand step forward."

The first work was in the erection of a dwelling on Columbus avenue, of native stone, the pioneer of its kind in the town, under much discouragement from the citizens, they thinking it impossible to find stone in the town sufficient to erect a building of any size. They little dreamed Sandusky was

#### "BUILT UPON A ROCK."

The old edifice still remains, and is supposed to have been the exact location of the wigwam of old Ogontz, the first Christian chief. But be this as it may, on the lot there grew six ancient apple trees, still standing at this time, and for several years John Ogontz, son of the celebrated chieftain, sometimes with two or three of his brothers, paid annual visits to the premises, and with Indian cunning, claimed the old trees as his own. Mrs. Eleutheros Cooke always satisfied their claims with a good lunch, for which she was ever famous,

and they departed evincing much gratification.

It was while in this house that one night Miss Lydia Stone (the children's governess) was sleeping upstairs with a baby in her arms. The baby, Henry David Cooke (who was afterwards the first Governor of the District of Columbia), awaking suddenly, Miss Stone felt rather than saw a tall Indian bending over her. Quick as thought, she pinched the baby, who thereupon began to cry lustily. The Indian jumped behind the bed and crawled into a closet. Miss Stone then said: "Poor baby wants a drink! Auntie will go down stairs and get him one." Then taking baby in her arms, downstairs went the brave girl. She aroused the family, and the Indian was discovered in his hiding place.

Allow me to quote from a letter received a few days since from Mrs. Cooke's son, the well-known Jay Cooke, of Philadelphia, Pa:

"My mother, Martha Simpson Carswell Cooke, was born in Salem, N. Y., May 6, 1792. Her mother, Martha Simpson Carswell, was also born in Salem in 1769. My mother spent some time at the female seminary at Fort Edwards. She was married to Eleutheros Cooke in 1812, and after the birth of my sister Sarah, and some time in the year 1817, the family

moved to the far West, accompanied by Judge Caldwell and family and others of their neighbors, and settled at Madison, Southern Indiana.

"In the spring of 1818, my father went East to settle some affairs, and in so doing, went across country to Sandusky Bay, and thence skirting the shores of Lake Erie in a small vessel, to Black Rock, below the present site of Buffalo, and so on to Eastern New York, returning shortly; he prevailed upon most of his neighbors there to remove with him to the lake region.

"Thus, early in the spring of 1819, before the snows had disappeared, passing through the vast wilderness, amidst Indians and wild animals in abundance, they reached and founded the village of Bloomingville, where, in July, my brother, your father, Pitt Cooke, was born.

"The residence in Bloomingville was continued until August, 1821, when my father and family removed to Sandusky, but his new residence, which was built upon the land occupied by Old Ogontz, as the place for his lodge, was not completed for some sixty days thereafter, so the family took up their residence in the frame building of Dr. Anderson, about 150 feet to the south,



where, on the 10th day of August, 1821, I was born.

"My memory is quite vivid as to my early days in Sandusky. I frequently have seen my mother at her flax spinning wheel, and the larger wool spinning wheel, and spent many a half-hour watching her vigorous movements, in thus preparing the material for our stockings and clothing.

"I have remembrances of her

#### BEAUTIFUL SONG SINGING.

She was very hospitable, and the gatherings at our home of the neighbors were very frequent, particularly when father would bring back from Columbus some cans of fresh oysters! My mother was a good cook, and this vast dish of toast and oysters was only a portion of the many good things she provided for her guests on such occasions.

"I have seen her, with her maids, busy dipping candles in the old-fashioned way, as well as engaged in the various preserve making and other necessary supplies for a bountiful table."

Mrs. E. Cooke was a most devout and loyal church woman, her liberality was unbounded, her Christian love un-failing, her counsel wise and true, may we who follow after be thankful for such an example, and strive ever to pattern after it!

Mr. and Mrs. Cooke had six children, Sarah, Pitt, Jay, Henry David, Eleutheros, and Catherine, the two latter dying in infancy.

Sarah Esther Cooke (Mrs. William G. Moorhead) spent her girlhood in Sandusky, a most brilliant woman; she traveled over all the world, being presented at the  
GREATEST COURTS IN EUROPE.  
Her grace and sweet dignity were unsurpassed.

Martha Simpson Carswell and her husband, David Carswell (a Revolutionary hero and pensioner), born in Colrain, Mass., in 1764) came from Salem in 1823. They had three children, all born in Salem, Martha, Esther, and William Henry. They lived in Sandusky until their death, beloved by all, and now lie side by side in our beautiful cemetery.

Mrs. James C. Hurd, nee Esther Carswell, came from Salem, N. Y., in 1823, with her husband and two children, Willie and Caroline Hurd. Mrs. Hurd lost her husband in a shipwreck in 1829, and led a brave, struggling life to support her two little ones, and well did she succeed.

Were all the noble deeds of this good woman written, they would cover many

pages. She was ever ready to help those in need, throughout a long and active life as a member of Grace Church. She was always loyal, faithful, and generous.

Mrs. General Mills (nee Caroline Hurd) still lives in Sandusky with her husband at the residence of her son, Judge Grayson Mills. Nothing more delightful can be imagined than an hour's visit with this unusual woman. After two accidents, both of which resulted in a broken hip, this brave, undaunted woman faces life with all the courage and enthusiasm of earlier years, and shows in a remarkable degree the true pioneer spirit.

A day or two ago she gave me a description of a sermon she heard when only nine years of age. The minister began slowly and in a low voice; gradually he grew more and more vehement, till at last he took off his coat, then tore off his cravat, and again threw his collar down, and reached the climax in these astounding words:

"Rick, Rack! Center crack!!

And drive old Satan's kingdom back!!"

Caroline Sprague (Mrs. Henry F. Merry) was the first white child born on the Western Reserve. She came to Sandusky from Florence township in 1837, and lived her long and useful life in Sandusky; she died in April, 1896. It is said that when she was born there it is said that which said there was no little cradle anywhere to be found for her, and that her father went out into the woods, and cutting up a fallen tree, he sawed and shaped and hollowed out an impromptu but very cunning cradle.

Mrs. Martin Eldis came to Sandusky from Cincinnati in 1828. "We were not welcomed," the old esteemed lady was once heard to say, "On our arrival here, sixty years ago, we were advised: 'Better move on!' Had it not been for the steamboat trade, we never could have made a living in the first year or two. By and by, though, the inborn element became more friendly to us. For four years we were the only German family in this hamlet, and in all probability in this county."

Mr. Eldis was of great assistance to his countrymen in finding employment for them in Sandusky. Mr. Eldis died in 1862, Mrs. Eldis in 1888, leaving their family an abundant share of earthly goods and a name respected by all.

Mrs. Peter Gilcher (nee Christina Boos) came to Sandusky in 1838. She lived a happy and useful life, raising a family of eleven sons and daughters, and gaining the respect of all who knew her. Mr. and Mrs. Peter



Gilcher were among the founders of the first German Protestant church. Mrs. Gilcher died in her beautiful home, surrounded by loving children and grandchildren, in 1879.

Mrs. Charles Zollinger (Christine Schmidt) was married in 1859 to Charles Zollinger. Twelve children were born to them, ten of them now living, many of whom are married and reside in Sandusky.

Mrs. Samuel Landsdowne (Rachel West) came from Somersetshire, England, to Sandusky, in 1833. She died in 1859. She was one of the faithful and good workers of the early days of Grace Church parish.

Maria Landsdowne was only ten years old when she came here from England with her parents. She married Joseph Colley June, 1846. Her husband died of cholera in 1849, leaving her with two little children, one a babe of three days. She was confirmed by Bishop McIlvaine, under Dr. Bronson. Her last illness was a long and painful one, patiently borne, knowing that all things are sent for our good. Her two daughters are Emma M. Colley and Deborah Colley; the latter married George Gaylord, and now resides in Green Bay, Wis.

Mrs. William P. Chapman, nee Eliza Pendleton, came to Sandusky in 1834 from New London, Conn., and died in 1891, after a long and useful life. She was one of the first communicants of Grace Church, and always a faithful member. There never was a storm so severe as to keep Mrs. Chapman away from church, were there a service. Would there were more to follow her worthy example! She had two daughters and one son. Mary Chapman married Walter F. Talcott; Josephine married Mr. Henry M. Bronson, the son of the well beloved Rev. Dr. Bronson, whose rectorship of Grace Church parish for sixteen years endeared him to all. Mrs. Chapman's husband, William P. Chapman, was the valued secretary of Grace Church vestry

#### FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS.

Mrs. Chapman's only son, Edward, married Miss Julia Mills, and they live in Sandusky.

Miss Mary Denman came to Sandusky in 1835 from Frederick, Maryland. She married William A. Simpson in 1841. Her father was an officer in the war of 1812 under General Scott, and was in the battle of Queenstown Heights and Fort Erie. Her father died when she was seven, and her

mother when she was but five years of age. After their death she was adopted into the family of Major John G. Camp, who moved to Sandusky from Buffalo in 1835. Mrs. Simpson has been a member of Grace Church since 1841.

After the death of her husband in 1887, Mrs. Simpson purchased and deeded to Grace Church the parish building as a memorial gift to the church. The memory of the gracious giver, who is still with us, must ever be kept green in the minds of those who in the years to come shall have the good fortune to enjoy the privileges of this beautiful parish home.

Mrs. Augustus Hitchcox Moss (nee Mary Esther Moss) came here in 1837 from New Berlin, N. Y. Soon after their arrival, Mr. and Mrs. Moss built a beautiful home, where they lived and reared their family. They had three children, Jay Osborne, A. Chester, and Emily Rhoda.

Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Moss celebrated their golden wedding in 1887 in a most charming manner, throwing open their hospitable home to their many friends, who gladly congratulated them upon this joyful occasion. Mr. Moss died in 1889. Mrs. Moss still lives in her lovely home, surrounded

by all the loving care that children and grandchildren can suggest. She has long since passed her three score years and ten, and yet her sweet cheerfulness endears her to all who know her. She is interested in all the busy affairs of outside life, and is an unusually bright and interesting lady. Mrs. Moss has been a lifelong and faithful member of Grace Church.

Mrs. William West, nee Lydia Mahala Todd, was born July 15, 1824. She was the daughter of Lurana Strong and Amos Todd, and granddaughter of Susannah West and Ozias Strong. She married William T. West on the evening of January 23, 1844. It was a very beautiful and brilliant wedding, being the first one in Grace Church, and was largely attended by the

#### ELITE OF SANDUSKY.

Mrs. West is an exceedingly charming woman. On an occasion of a visit to her studio, a few days since, I was shown some exquisite pieces of her hand-painted china. Her water colors also are a delight to all who have the pleasure of seeing them, nor is her dainty hand less skilled in fine etching and drawn fancywork.

Mrs. David Campbell, nee Mary Jones Todd, was born in Homer, N. Y., in 1796. Her mother, Mrs. Amos Todd, nee Lurana Strong, born 1779, came from Lee,

Mass. to Sandusky in 1830, and was well beloved by all.

Mrs. John G. Camp, nee Rhoda Barker, arrived in Sandusky with her husband, Major Camp, in 1834. They had two rarely beautiful daughters, Elizabeth Camp (Mrs. Sidney Hosmer) and Maria (Mrs. Richard T. Birchett). To Mrs. Major Camp all honor is given for being the first woman inspired with the holy zeal and desire to plant our beloved church here in our midst. It was through her efforts that Grace Church was organized.

Mrs. F. T. Barney came to Sandusky from Port Ann, N. Y.

Mrs. Rice Harper, nee Susannah Montgomery, came from Harpersfield in 1840.

Mrs. George Reber, nee Nancy Stiles, came from New York State in 1849.

The following pioneer women also deserve more than mere mention:

Mrs. Oran Follett, Mrs. Isaac Mills, Mrs. Horatio Wildman, Mrs. John G.

Camp, Mrs. L. B. Johnson, Mrs. Beecher, Mrs. Barker, Mrs. Samuel Caldwell, Mrs. Samuel W. Butler.

I sigh as I draw to the close of this resume of early history, for I realize that my pen has failed to do justice to the noble women who did so much for us in the days gone by. Above all do I regret that there are so very, very many of whom I have made no record. Had I known the great importance of this work I fear I never would have ventured to undertake it. Be this as it may, I send it forth as a memorial of Sandusky's pioneer women.

SARAH MARIA CARSWELL COOKE

SLOANE, Chairman and Historian.

Sandusky committee—Mrs. Jay O. Moss, Miss Jessie Wilcox, Mrs. Livingston Hubbard, Mrs. Wylie Barrows, Mrs. Frank Layman, Mrs. Fred Woolsey, Mrs. Charles Mack, and Mrs. George Barker.