

# THE COMING CENTENNIAL

APRIL 7, 1886.

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EXERCISES AT MARIETTA, OHIO, APRIL 7, 1886, CON-  
NECTED WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE 98TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF THE SETTLEMENT OF OHIO AND THE NORTH-  
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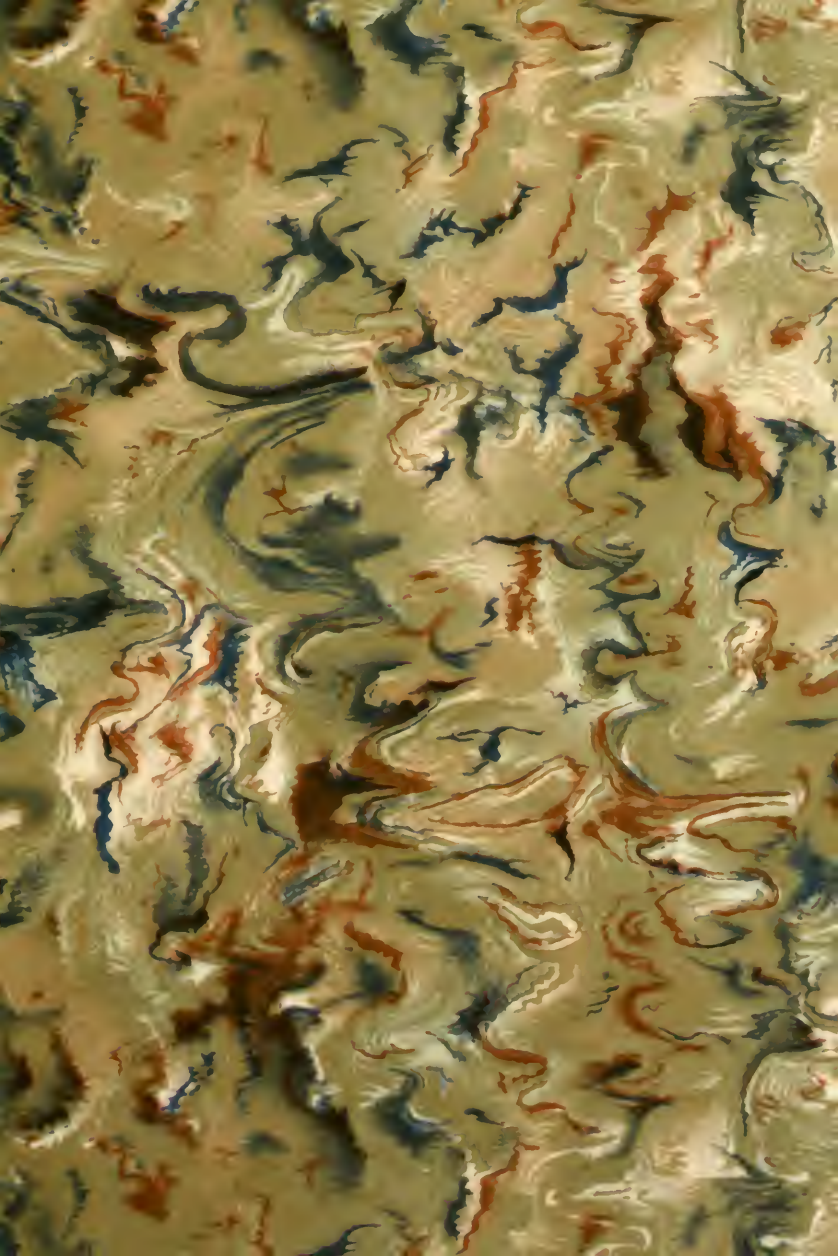
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## MEETING OF THE PIONEER ASSOCIATION.

### THE PIONEER ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Washington County Pioneer Association was held Wednesday, April 7, 1886, at 11 A. M., in the Firemen's Hall, the President, Mr. Douglas Putnam, in the chair. After the reading of the minutes the officers of the Association were re-elected, as follows: President, Douglas Putnam; Vice-President, William Glines; Recording Secretary, W. F. Curtis; Corresponding Secretary, R. M. Stimson; Treasurer, F. A. Wheeler.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

I. W. Andrews, W. P. Cutler, Henry Fearing, B. F. Hart,  
L. J. P. Putnam.

The resignation of Dr. G. O. Hildreth from the Centennial Committee was accepted, and Mr. A. T. Nye was chosen to the vacancy. Hon. A. J. Warner and Captain George Benedict were added to the Committee, which is now constituted as follows:

### CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE.

I. W. Andrews,	W. P. Cutler,
Beman Gates,	R. M. Stimson,
A. T. Nye,	A. J. Warner,

George Benedict.

The Association requested the Citizens Committee of nine, whose names are given above, to act in behalf of the Association, as well as of the citizens of Marietta, in making, in cooperation with the Centennial Committee, all necessary preparations for the celebration to be held on the 7th of April, 1888.

The same committee were also requested to present to the Ohio State Archæological and Historical Society at their next annual meeting an invitation to hold their annual meeting for 1888 at Marietta in connection with the Centennial celebration.



The constitution of the Association was altered by striking out, as a condition for membership, a residence in the State of Ohio for a prescribed period, so that any person upon the payment of one dollar and signing the constitution may become a member.

Remarks were made by different citizens as to the action to be taken in anticipation of the celebration two years hence, all indicating great interest in the matter and a desire to do whatever can be done to make that occasion one worthy of the event to be commemorated.

Mr. A. A. Graham, Secretary of the State Historical Society was called on to speak, but as he had been invited to make an address in the afternoon he preferred to reserve his remarks to that time.

#### REPORT OF THE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE.

The chairman of the Centennial Committee made an informal verbal report, embodying a brief sketch of what had been done by way of preparation for the Centennial of 1888, as follows:

At the annual meeting of this Association in 1881, a letter was read from General Benjamin D. Fearing, who was unable to be present, reminding the members of the approaching Centennial, and of the importance of beginning to make arrangements for its appropriate celebration. A committee was accordingly appointed to whom the subject was referred, with instructions to adopt and carry out such measures as should seem best adapted to prepare the way.

This committee consisted of I. W. Andrews, Benjamin D. Fearing, Beman Gates, R. M. Stimson, and George O. Hildreth. At the next annual meeting W. P. Cutler was appointed in place of General Fearing, who died greatly lamented in December, 1881.

The committee were early impressed with the importance of calling attention to the subject by a celebration of the 95th anniversary of the settlement, and arrangements were accordingly made for that celebration. Hon. George B. Loring, U. S. Commissioner of Agriculture, was invited to deliver the address. Mr. Loring was formerly the Representative in

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Congress from the district in Eastern Massachusetts from which a portion of the first settlers came. The celebration was in every respect successful. The Governor of the State, Hon. Charles Foster, and other distinguished men were present, and there was a very large assemblage of the descendants of the pioneers and others. The proceedings were published in a pamphlet of seventy-six pages, embracing, besides the address of Dr. Loring, the speeches of the afternoon by Governor Foster and others, and various letters from those who could not come.

In the winter of 1884-85, the subject of forming a State Historical Society of Ohio was discussed at Columbus, suggested probably by the approaching completion of Ohio's first century, and a meeting was called to be held at that place on the 12th of March, 1885. The President of our Pioneer Association and three members of the Centennial Committee attended that meeting and participated in the formation of that Society. It may be stated also that of the fifteen Trustees of the Society three were assigned to Marietta.

At that first meeting of the State Society the following resolution, proposed by John W. Andrews, Esq., of Columbus was adopted:

*Resolved*, That this Society cordially approves of the erection at Marietta of a suitable monumental structure to commemorate the services of the patriotic men who obtained a valid title to the North Western Territory, and established therein the principles of civil and religious liberty expressed in the ordinance of July 13, 1787; and the Society will gladly participate in the proposed celebration to be held in the city of Marietta on the seventh of April, 1888, to commemorate the application of the principles of the ordinance in the first permanent occupation of the soil of Ohio by systematic colonization."

At the first annual meeting of the State Society held at Columbus, February 19, 1886, a committee was appointed to report what action should be taken as to the Centennial of 1888. This committee, consisting of W. P. Cutler, Charles Townsend, John B. Peaslee, A. W. Jones, and N. S. Townshend, recommended that the Society memorialize the General Assembly of Ohio to take such measures as might be deemed best to secure the erection at Marietta of a monumental structure. This recommendation was adopted by the Society, as was the form

of a memorial presented by the committee. The same committee was charged with the duty of laying the memorial before the Legislature, and was directed to correspond with the historical societies of other States in regard to the celebration.

The memorial is as follows:

MEMORIAL OF THE OHIO ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Your Memorialists would respectfully represent: That the conquest of the Territory North West of the Ohio River from the British crown was an object of importance to the people of the United States—second only to that of National Independence. That this object was attained through the wisdom and patriotism of the *Continental Congress* in guiding the affairs of the great revolutionary struggle to a successful issue—and by the valor, endurance, and personal sacrifices of the *army*. That after the treaty of 1783 securing this territory to the United States, the efforts of Congress were successfully directed to quieting all claims of title by any of the States to this Territory—so that it became common property to be disposed of for the common benefit. That by the Ordinance of May 20th, 1785 a system of surveys and entries of land was established which has resulted in placing its *ownership* in the hands of its occupiers and cultivators. That by their Ordinance of July 13, 1787, an organic law was adopted applicable to this territory, embracing all the essential principles of civil and religious liberty, with a full recognition of personal freedom and rights, and of educational and moral forces as essential to good government and the happiness of mankind. That Congress early adopted the policy of forming “distinct governments” or “States” North West of the Ohio River, and that the State of Ohio was the first to receive a practical application of that policy. That the *army* who had so heroically endured the exposures and hardships of war through that memorable struggle found at its close a bankrupt treasury upon which to depend for compensation for their services. That in this trying emergency a large and influential number of the officers, supported by their Commander-in-

Chief, entered earnestly upon a scheme of colonization which fully accorded with the policy of Congress—offering to exchange their “final certificates,” given in settlement of their accounts, for lands in that distant wilderness—and also to accept their promised bounties as a part of the scheme. That these efforts and plans of the officers of the army resulted in a systematic, well organized settlement of the country by an intelligent, robust, and industrious class of men. That in maturing their plans they exerted a direct and favorable influence upon Congress in the formation of an organic law under which they were preparing to venture their all with their families and neighbors as the first permanent occupiers of the North West. That this scheme of systematic occupation of Ohio soil was consummated by the landing on the 7th of April, 1788, at Marietta, of the Pioneer force who thus opened the gates for a Christian civilization to enter the great North West. That these Pioneers in common with many others following and occupying other portions of territory were subject to the dangers and great hardships of an Indian War, which was only terminated by the Greenville treaty of 1795.

Now, in view of the important services rendered to the State of Ohio—to the whole of the North Western Territory—to our common country—to the progress of civil and religious liberty and the elevation of mankind, by the efficient agents and actors who have thus laid the foundations of many generations—your petitioners ask that some suitable recognition of the wisdom of *statesmen* and the valor of the *army* may be made by the State of Ohio.

In order that the virtues and services of a most worthy ancestry may be presented to posterity in an impressive form, that will be best calculated to inspire a patriotic devotion to institutions and inheritances thus established for their benefit, we ask that a Monumental Structure worthy alike of this great Nation and the noble men who have laid these foundations be erected at the city of Marietta in time to be completed by the 7th of April, 1888; and to this end we ask that you will take such action as you may deem most proper to secure this object.

The committee of the State Society presented this memorial

to the General Assembly, and the following joint resolution introduced into the Senate by Hon. A. W. Glazier was passed unanimously by both Houses:

WHEREAS, The acquisition of the territory Northwest of the Ohio river by conquest from the British crown was an object of great National importance to the United States; and

WHEREAS, This acquisition was effected by the wisdom and patriotism of the Continental Congress in conducting the affairs of the confederacy through the memorable revolutionary struggle, and also by the valor, endurance and sacrifice of the army, and

WHEREAS, The Congress representing the old thirteen States comprising the confederacy succeeded in quieting all claims to adverse titles to this territory so that it became common property to be used and disposed of for our common benefit; and

WHEREAS, By the laws and ordinances of that Congress the blessings of civil and religious liberty with full guaranties of personal freedom and personal rights have been forever secured to posterity; and

WHEREAS, The first settlement of the Territory of the Northwest was made at Marietta, Ohio, in April, 1788, where it is now proposed to hold a centennial celebration April 7, 1888, in commemoration of that historic event, and regarding this an appropriate occasion for the Nation to express its gratitude for the services rendered by the Continental Congress and the army under its control; therefore be it

*Resolved*, By the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, that our Senators in Congress be instructed and our Representatives requested to use their efforts to obtain an appropriation for the erection of a suitable monumental structure at said city of Marietta, Ohio, to commemorate this historic event.

*Resolved*, That the Governor be requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to our Senators and to each member of the House of Representatives of Congress of the United States from Ohio.

This action of the General Assembly shows the present condition of the centennial movement. It may fairly be hoped that Congress will entertain favorably the proposition of the Legislature of Ohio.

PUBLIC MEETING IN THE CITY HALL, AT 2 P. M., APRIL  
7, 1886.

At the request of the Committee of Citizens, Dr. I. W. Andrews presided on the occasion. The exercises were opened with prayer by Rev. H. C. Haskell of Harmar.

The first address was made by Hon. W. P. Cutler.



INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS, APRIL 7TH, 1886, CELEBRATION  
98TH ANNIVERSARY, MARIETTA, OHIO:

When Napoleon undertook his invasion of Egypt—and his veterans were sinking under the toils and fatigues of its arid sands, he led them to a point where those monuments of ancient art—the *Pyramids* were presented to view, and pointing to their hoary summits he exclaimed, “*Forty centuries are looking down upon you!*” Under the inspiration of that sentiment the “*Battle of the Pyramids*” was the *defeat* of the Mamelukes.

We are standing to-day where *one century* is “looking down upon us.”

What did forty centuries accomplish for Egypt? *Once* the head of all nations—the world’s fountain of wisdom—a granary for all peoples? *Now* with the richest and most fertile of soils its miserable populations have only the sustenance that six cents per diem will bring them as the full compensation for their daily toil. It is no longer a *nation*. It has lords many, and every lord is a robber. It may be a geographical expression retaining its ancient and once honored name, but for all the grand purposes of humanity it is a wreck, a ruin, a waste place.

Now let us turn for a moment to the *one century* that casts its kindly and instructive glance “down upon” us. We may call it *our century* as it reaches back to the beginnings of our civil and social life.

I like the word *century*, as a measure of time, a recorder of human events.

Days, months, even years pass away so rapidly, they leave affairs so unsettled, with such heavy clouds of doubt hanging over the future, while even the present is in confusion, that there is but little ground upon which to rest for serious reflection. But a *century* well rounded up is like gaining an eminence from which the broad landscape of many days’ travel can be taken in quietly, satisfactorily and most instructively. From this summit then let us look back and gather up a few thoughts from the store house of a hundred years.

In July, 1786, one of the important preliminary steps for the permanent occupation of the North Western Territory



was taken. The surveyors appointed by Congress under the Ordinance of May 20th, 1785, assembled at Pittsburg under the general supervision of Thomas Hutchins, the geographer of the United States, and the surveying of the *Seven Ranges* was soon commenced under the more immediate direction of General Tupper, Colonel Sproat, Major Sargent, and other State Surveyors.

This application of science to running lines by the magnetic needle—subdividing the virgin soil prior to its occupation—platting, recording, then disposing of the land in fee simple, without quit rents or other incumbrance of any kind to those who were forever to hold political power and control civil government, was an historical landmark in our National life, second to no other in importance.

The Ordinance of May 20th, 1785, was the work of the old Continental Congress. Washington says that it was passed after "long and painful deliberations." Colonel Grayson, of Virginia, says "it would have taken forty volumes to contain the discussion on that subject." Madison remarks that it was a "contest between the *township system* and that of *indiscriminate locations*."

While personal influences cannot be traced with accuracy—because we have scarcely a page or scrap of Grayson's forty volumes, yet it was really the adoption of the New England plan—based upon the idea that every man should have a fair and equal opportunity to acquire ownership in land, and that convenient civil districts called townships should be laid off at the start.

By this policy as respect lands tenure the question which now more than any other engages the attention of England's wisest statesmen and threatens revolution if not disruption was forever settled and *settled* at the *right time*.

From our elevated point of observation we can trace the beneficent and permanent influences of that land tenure policy all the way across the continent; so that the wild schemes of Anarchists and Socialists are met with a quiet, but solid and immovable force of *ownership* of the soil; "every man sitting under his own vine and fig tree," with political, civil, and

physical power enough to bid all intruders "*keep hands off.*" Such owners cannot be molested or made afraid.

We may also recall that other Ordinance of that old Congress passed July 13, 1787, under which all the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty with full guaranties of protection to person and property were forever made the Organic Law.

Along with these more common safeguards we also find the exceptional feature of prescribing moral and educational forces as essential to good government, as evidence of the wise foresight of these founders of the great republic.

But we may pass from these public acts which richly deserve grateful recognition at the hands of posterity and trace for a moment the activities of that great pioneer force who braved the perils and endured the hardships of first settlement and cultivation.

One general fact or condition may be recalled on this occasion; that is, the first settlement of Ohio and of the North West was started from along its Eastern border and was confined to that region which stretches from the Lake on the North to the Miami River on the South West.

This district was also first occupied in distinct groups, each one having distinctive characteristics.

First came the application of that preparatory process, the surveys of the Seven Ranges.

Second. The actual occupation in the way of permanent settlement by the Ohio Company, extending from the Seven Ranges down the river to the Scioto.

Third. Nearly simultaneously as to purchase and settlement came the "Symms purchase" between the Miamis.

Fourth. The Virginia Military district between the Scioto and Little Miami.

Fifth. To these distinct groups of territory may be added the United States Military district lying west of the Seven Ranges; also,

Sixth. The Connecticut, or Western Reserve, the settlement of which commenced after Wayne's Treaty in 1795.

It is worthy of observation that all these groups had their separate origins and distinct characteristics.

It was a Mosaic of foundation material in which the highest virtues, with courage, experience, endurance, and practical wisdom were finely and conspicuously blended. These settlers of the Eastern border not only incurred the hardships of pioneer life, but they withstood the brunt of the Indian War. They not only maintained territorial government, but all the Counties—nine in number—that organized the State of Ohio were found within the limits of the six groups of her Territory. In many respects they have distinct and separate elements of history; and the closing up of a century affords an appropriate occasion for a careful survey and recording of their many and distinguishing virtues. Posterity needs and ought to have their history. The finest of the wheat from New England, Virginia, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania was planted in these different localities.

From this base thus formed along its Eastern border the central and north western portions of Ohio were filled up after the Treaty of 1795 and the completion of the United States Surveys. This movement of population was more the result of individual enterprise, but none the less worthy of attention and notice.

To one peculiar characteristic of these early founders of our Commonwealth I wish to call special attention at this time. That is the large representation to be found in their numbers of the old veterans of the Revolutionary and French Wars. Their lives were spent in first aiding the mother country to conquer the North West from France; then with the aid of France to conquer it from England; then after accepting their promised bounties—and the only equivalent that a bankrupt government could give for their services—*in lands* they endured the perils of a third, Indian War, before all titles were quieted, and peaceable possession fully acquired.

The memories of these noble men deserve recognition and a MONUMENT that will for all future time keep fresh and green their virtues and their services.

Posterity cannot afford to lose the lesson of their lives.

Turning from this general outlook it is appropriate on this occasion to recall the fact that it was *here* upon the banks of the Ohio and the Muskingum that the plans and policies of

the Continental Congress, in regard to the North Western Territory, culminated and assumed practical application in the form of permanent settlement. It is well to bear in mind that at that time the policy of the government was positively hostile to individual enterprise. No "pre-emptions" were allowed. "Tomahawk rights" or "squatter claims" were resisted by military force. Early trespassers on public lands were ejected and their cabins burned down before their eyes. Compact and continuous settlement was the policy. The *range, town, and section* had triumphed over "indiscriminate locations." Washington said "compact, progressive settling will give strength to the Union, admit law, good government and federal aids at an early period." This immense real estate constituting the only resource over which the old Confederacy had control was regarded as property to be disposed of for *common benefit*, as well as territory to be governed by a common sovereignty. Although the preparatory step of surveys had commenced 100 years ago (in 1786) yet no progress had been made in actual settlement.

The Seven Ranges were treated as the property of the several States. Deeds for those lands, with a few exceptions, came from the loan officers of each State. It was right *here* in connection with the event we are now celebrating that the essential principles of nationality, of the rightful sovereignty of a Nation both as respects property and government were fully and for the first time asserted and applied. The contract for the Ohio Company's lands was made with the United States in Congress assembled, and without reference to separate ownership of the States. The ordinance of government came from the same source and asserted sovereign power over the North West. Hitherto the Confederacy had exercised only delegated power from the States. But here was an expression of the inherent sovereignty of a *Nation*. All this was confirmed, consolidated, and made organic by the Constitution subsequently adopted.

There was a period of transition in regard to this important question of nationality, dating from the full confirmation of the Treaty of Peace in 1783. Mr. Read, of South Carolina, offered a proposition in the Continental Congress on



April 23d, 1784, as follows: "The said settlers shall be ruled by Magistrates to be appointed by the United States in Congress assembled and under laws and regulations as the United States in Congress assembled shall direct." This was voted down, only Maryland and Pennsylvania voting for it. The resolutions of the same date—known as the Jeffersonian—were essentially *squatter sovereignty* in principle. The Ordinance of May 20th, 1785, providing for surveys and disposing of the lands was essentially a *States Rights* Ordinance. That of July 13th, 1787, had in it the essential element of *national sovereignty*. The order of the Board of Treasury taken July 27th, 1787, was a direct assertion of a sovereign right to dispose of a large tract of land without reference to *State Rights*.

The States Rights feature of the Land Ordinance of 1785 was repealed July 9th, 1788. All these acts of that transition period clustered around the North West Territory, and it may fairly be claimed that the germ of nationality was planted in Ohio soil when the Pioneers landed at Marietta on the 7th of April, 1788.

I have thus briefly suggested some of the topics worthy of reflection and discussion; have pointed out a few of the objects of interest that a backward glance over *our century* brings to view in the wide panorama of the past.

From the time that Rufus Putnam enlisted as a private in the first campaign against Canada on the 15th of March, 1757, to the signing of Wayne's treaty of peace with the Indians in 1795—a period of 38 years—this North West Territory was at all times a prominent subject of public and private interest. Trace the veteran soldier through his three wars, he was fighting for the North West; trace the old Congress through the Revolutionary War, it was to secure its acquisition. Then follow their laborious efforts to quiet all the claims of the different States to this Territory; look over their prolonged efforts in maturing a system of surveys and in disposing of this vast territory. Trace the effects and results of that system from the time that General Tupper and his associates drove the corner stake, and marked the Witness Trees of *Section one, Town one, Range one*; follow that sys-

tem of surveys and land distribution across the continent; estimate the power, the wealth, the intelligence, the moral elevation, the universal happiness and contentment of the millions of *homestead owners* of the soil. Go back and trace from its first application *here* the beneficent influence of the governmental Ordinance; gather up the noble deeds of these war veterans that now sleep in your Mound graveyard and other Ohio cemeteries; remember the personal sacrifices and services of pioneers in the civil line. Do this and you will find that this day's celebration comprehends a grand and inviting theme for reflection, for historical research and grateful appreciation.

But those earlier stages of western enterprise were not free from adverse currents and influences.

The initial step was taken in 1783, when 288 officers of the army, despairing of any cash equivalent for their services, petitioned Congress to erect a *New State* in the Ohio valley; allot to them from promised bounties and accept their final certificates of settlement in payment of *land* in that wild and distant region. This interval of five years up to April 7, 1788, was a busy one in maturing plans and in choosing locations. Several of the old States had lands of their own for sale and settlement and were consequently adverse to the loss of their best citizens to build up distant and possibly hostile interests. The "Ohio scheme" met with much opposition and even ridicule.

The condition of affairs west of the mountains was at that time threatening to the authority and integrity of the United States government.

General Washington, on resigning his command of the army, entered at once upon a scheme of internal improvement designed to *bind* the Ohio valley to Virginia seaports by the "cement of interest."

In his letter to Governor Harrison urging those plans he says that the west then "*stood on a pivot*" and that the *weight of a feather might turn it any way*"—either to the Spaniards on the south or the British on the north.

In 1790, Fisher Ames, who was a true friend to the "Ohio scheme," asked General Putnam two questions—1st, "can we



retain the west as a part of the Union?" and 2d, "will it be worth the effort?" The best showing that Putnam could then make was that there was 160,000,000 acres of land which he estimated after extinguishing the Indian titles to be worth fifty cents per acre.

The principal reliance *then* in the way of commerce was the "peltry trade"—but with fine prospects in future, from the native resources of the country.

He reviewed the three alternatives of danger—the Spaniards holding the mouth of the Mississippi, the British holding the lake and St. Lawrence outlet, and the possible assertion of political independence by the people, but urged that if Congress would afford them protection from the savages the west would remain in the Union.

There can be no doubt that it was the location at the proper time here at Marietta and in the different groups of Ohio territory that I have named of a strong and influential body of men who were the personal friends and companions of Washington, and who were firmly attached to the Federal government that averted those dangers—turned the "*pivot*" in the right direction and forever settled all those early schemes of secession and disunion.

When the pioneer fathers reached their promised land here in the Ohio valley, they found the monuments of unknown centuries looking down on them; when Rufus Putnam built "Campus Martius" and planted his 100 acre corn field he laid the foundations of a Christian civilization upon the ruins of an obsolete and long departed heathenism. Archaeologists tell us that Ohio was once densely populated. By whom, or whence they came, or whither they went are questions for the curious enquirer.

But is there any evidence that these monuments of the past that look down upon us as we are here assembled to-day ever witnessed the moral, social or even industrial elevation of their builders?

What will be the testimony of another century of our history as it looks down upon the results of its own activities? What will forty centuries bear witness to? Will this broad and fertile valley stretching from the Ohio to the Mississippi,

now the very heart of the most powerful and prosperous nations on earth, will it then be like Egypt—a mass of ruins—a witness against the folly and wickedness of its own people? Will it go back to a more dreary desolation than when our fathers found it?

Most assuredly there is a brighter prospect before us. We may hope and expect that the prophetic beatitudes of humanity may here be realized; when the “vine and fig tree” will shelter every man’s own home; when the plow and pruning hook will displace the sword; when the fig tree and myrtle will take the place of the thorn and brier; when joy and singing shall break forth in all places. What solid ground have we for such exalted anticipations for our future—as we turn away from the wrecks of time that now disfigure the face of the earth—where mighty empires once stood? Our hopes must rest upon the foundations, carefully and skillfully laid in our governmental and social structure.

The corner stones are found, in complete guaranties of personal and civil rights, in that “*religion*” which comes in purity, freedom and power to the individual—directly from the great Author of his being—in that “*morality*” which is an expression of the religion of the Bible; in that “*knowledge*” which extends to all subjects of useful enquiry; embraces all departments, and calls into active exercise all the mental powers. Not only may we rest our hopes upon these well laid foundations, but also upon the fact that this first century has witnessed an honest, earnest, and successful application of these organic principles in civil affairs and social life.

I have spoken of the present as a centennial occasion, and have done so because the policy and plans both of government and of the projectors of the first settlement were in active progress of preparation and of organization even more than one hundred years ago. In fact they date from that memorable year 1783, when the North West Territory was secured to the United States by the firmness of John Adams and John Jay who positively refused to sign any Treaty that would relinquish it. Still there are two intervening years before the century of actual occupation is fully rounded up. These should be years of zealous work, in embalming the memories

and deeds of a most worthy ancestry for the benefit of their posterity.

Children can have no richer inheritance, no better stimulus to a useful life than the virtues and example of such a parentage.

The Ohio State Historical and Archæological Society have kindly and zealously undertaken to encourage a suitable celebration at Marietta at that time. They have also undertaken to promote the erection here of some suitable monumental structure that may through the coming centuries "look down" upon the teeming millions of the Great Republic and remind them of the organic principles upon which it was founded.

To this end the society has secured the passage of a joint resolution by the Ohio Legislature calling upon Congress to recognize the landing of the pioneers at Marietta on the 7th of April, 1788, as an event of national importance and worthy of an appropriation for a monumental structure at the expense of the General Government. The society will also open correspondence with other historical associations with a view to enlist their co-operation in these objects.

The Secretary has kindly favored us with his presence here to-day—I cordially welcome his attendance and beg leave to introduce him to the audience.

MR. A. A. GRAHAM said:

About year ago a number of gentlemen happened to meet in the Secretary of State's office in Columbus, and in the conversation which followed, the question of the near approach of Ohio's first Centennial was mentioned. This led to an extended talk on the subject in which was developed the fact that the State had no historical or other society to which would properly belong the celebration of that event, nor any society to care for its historical interests. It was finally decided that I should communicate with a number of leading men in all parts of the State, and see if such a society could be established.

The result of my correspondence was most gratifying to those of us interested in such a movement, and a call was issued and sent all over Ohio, inviting all who desired to join in founding such a society to meet in Columbus, March 12th. At that date a large and interesting meeting was held and our present society organized. We provided for an active mem-

bership of any who might join by paying annually five dollars each; a life membership by one payment of fifty dollars; and for honorary and corresponding memberships. The active membership was made the sustaining membership.

At this meeting the question of the Centennial of Marietta was brought up, and a resolution, offered by John W. Andrews, Esq., endorsing the erection of a proper monumental structure was adopted. The discussion which followed evidenced much interest in this question. Dr. John B. Peaslee, of Cincinnati, thought that it would be a good time to interest the children of the public schools, and suggested the plan of a celebration in all the school houses of Ohio, on that day, somewhat similar to that now observed on Arbor Days. He was requested to prepare a pamphlet containing suitable prose and poetical selections for the use of the schools on this occasion, and the Society pledged itself to endeavor to carry out this idea. If it can be done, (and there is no good reason why it cannot be,) there will be held commemorative exercises in all the schools of Ohio April 7, 1888, at the same time they are held in Marietta. Can you devise a better and more beneficial plan to commemorate the opening of the North West Territory? We wish to benefit the youth all over Ohio, and thus, not only direct their minds to good and wholesome reading, but teach them something about this the most important inland settlement ever made in our country.

In addition to our work in the schools the society has pushed vigorously its work in all directions. I have given it my entire time. I have visited many of the cities and towns of Ohio, seen many of the principal men therein; and by personal work and by correspondence I have raised in one year a membership of 239 persons.

In all parts, not only of Ohio, but all over the country, there is a growing interest regarding the Centennial of Marietta's settlement. It is looked upon, not merely as the Centennial of Marietta, but as the opening of the great North West Territory, now the most progressive part of our Union. Here were planted the first principles of universal freedom in the fundamental law of the land. Here was planted the first free school system supported by a tax upon the land; and here



was first developed the principle that to the general government belonged primarily the public lands, by whom they should be properly surveyed and sold to her citizens. The memories which cluster about Marietta gather about no other settlement in in this country, and it is but proper that the whole government should commemorate in a fitting and lasting memorial the birth place of these principles.

In order that this might be done properly our Society prepared a memorial to the General Assembly of Ohio, calling the attention of that body to the facts I have narrated, and asking it to memorialize Congress to erect a memorial structure at Marietta. I am glad to say that that body took united and prompt action, and I expect to take such a memorial to Washington in a short time. I feel confident I shall have the united and hearty support, not only of Ohio's Senators and Representatives, but also of those from Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin, and also from Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Virginia. I trust that there may soon be commenced at this "Plymouth of the Northwest" a structure which will be an enduring monument to the wisdom of the Continental Congress, the patriotism and valor of the Revolutionary Army, and the energy and sacrifices of the pioneers.

In regard to the celebration to be held here in 1888, I can only say that the exercises of that occasion must be managed entirely by yourselves, working in harmony with the desires of Congress and the interests of all. At the State Capital the autumn following, will be held an Industrial Exposition, in the place of the Annual State Fair, on the Fair Grounds. This will be an Exposition of the growth of Ohio in all material and educational interests since April 7, 1788, and will continue about six or eight weeks. We all hope to attend the celebration at Marietta, and then we hope all can come to Columbus in the fall and see how Ohio has grown since the landing made on the shores of the Muskingum ninety-eight years ago.

The HON. JOHN EATON, for the last sixteen years U. S. Commissioner of Education, and recently elected President of Marietta College, was then introduced and made an interesting and eloquent address. It is a cause of regret that he has been unable to write out his remarks for publication here.

DR. ANDREWS said a few words in closing, congratulating the Pioneer Association and the citizens of this county and region on the favorable outlook for an appropriate cele-

bration of the approaching centennial of the founding of the town of Marietta, the State of Ohio, and the Territory of the great Northwest. The event to be celebrated two years hence assumes larger proportions the more it is studied. No period in our history is so filled with events of interest and importance as that in which this landing of General Rufus Putnam and his associates at the mouth of the Muskingum took place. And these events were all connected with this region northwest of the Ohio, and with the purchase and settlement by the Ohio Company.

The questions that agitated most profoundly the statesmen of a hundred years ago centered about this territory on the northern side of the beautiful river. There was great danger that the Union would be broken even before Great Britain had acknowledged our independence. The wisest men in Congress saw a danger here as imminent as that from the armies sent over the Atlantic by King George. The danger grew out of conflicting claims to this very region. And when this danger was passed great interest was felt in the disposition to be made of it and the mode of settlement. The proposition by the Ohio Company to purchase of Congress a large tract of land made a profound impression on the members of that body and on the Constitutional Convention in session at Philadelphia. An ordinance for the government of the Northwest Territory, which had been reported, was committed to a new committee, and in a few days the great ordinance of July 13, 1787, was enacted. The purchase and the ordinance were parts of one measure. The whole nation was interested in them both. The chairman of the committee on the sale of the land, Colonel Edward Carrington, of Virginia, was made the chairman of the committee on the ordinance. Two others of this last committee of five were from Virginia and South Carolina, so that the great ordinance came from a committee of three Southern and two Northern men. And it was passed by the votes of five Southern and two Northern States. Thus the northwest and the country are largely indebted to Southern men for this immortal ordinance.

The settlement of no other part of the country had such a preparation, and that of no other part was so nearly national in its character and its attendant circumstances.

While we honor greatly the memory of the Pioneers, the centennial in 1888 will not be wholly in their commemoration. In it the Statesmen of the revolutionary period and the army who conquered for us this region are to be commemorated. The local feature is not the predominant one. The celebration is also for Ohio, for the five States of the Northwest, for the whole country.















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