

MEMORIAL
TO THE
PIONEER WOMEN
OF THE
WESTERN RESERVE.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
THE WOMAN'S DEPARTMENT OF THE CLEVELAND
CENTENNIAL COMMISSION.

EDITED BY
MRS. GERTRUDE VAN RENSSELAER WICKHAM,
242 HARKNESS AVENUE, CLEVELAND, O.

Parts one, two and three
VOLUME I

JULY, 1896.

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WOMAN'S DEPARTMENT
OF THE
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PREFACE.

When, in August, 1895, the women of Cleveland organized to assist in the proposed celebration of the city's centennial year, local history was selected as one of the important features of the work which they were best qualified to do, and it was decided that in addition to resumes of the industrial and philanthropic work engaged in by women during the century of Cleveland's existence, efforts should be made to enrich the history of the Western Reserve by securing and recording new facts in regard to it.

Accordingly the Woman's Department of the Cleveland Centennial Commission created the office of "Historian" and appointed one of its members to fill the position, leaving the subject in her hands with which to devise or plan as she thought would best ensure the object desired.

Upon investigation, it was found that every county of the Reserve had its published history, and that in each was included that of the townships composing it, so that apparently everything worth mentioning already had been told.

One thing noticed, however, was the prominence given to biographies of men, living or dead, who had been identified with the settlement and growth of the Reserve, with little or no mention of their wives, who, doubtless, had performed an equal though different part in laying the foundations of future civilization and prosperity. The following anecdote, verbally related, served to stimulate the dawning thought that a fitting time had come in which to treat—not of the services, as usual, of our forefathers—but, if the term be admissible, of our foremothers.

Twelve men, composing the jury in a criminal case on trial in a Northern Ohio town, found a verdict difficult to attain, and were weary from their long-continued effort to agree. It was night, and as the hours passed, one after another was overcome with a desire for sleep, which was thwarted by those best able to keep awake and most anxious for release.

Finally, some one suggested that every member of the jury who could tell the names of his two grandmothers should be allowed to rest awhile. Every sleepy eye brightened at the prospect, but when the roll was called, only three men of the twelve could swear to adequate knowledge, in both cases.

Some could give the maiden name of one grandmother—the one who had lived the longest, or with whom they had been most associated—but, until the present moment, they had never possessed any laudable curiosity concerning the early life and environment of the other.

In view of this, a circular letter was prepared embodying the idea that a history of the pioneer women could be written by women, and asking for co-operation in preparing it. This was mailed, as fast as names and addresses could be secured, and the result was that with comparatively few exceptions, in townships all over the Western Reserve, women have been and are yet diligently working on this memorial to our mothers and grandmothers, the first chapters of which are given now, in order that they may be collectively submitted to the public at the opening of the Cleveland Centennial Celebration.

It can be seen readily why the work, as a whole, makes no pretense to literary merit, for the local historian often was the most accommodating, rather than the best qualified scribe, and the slowness of comprehension, or indifference to the value of the work which led the capable to decline assistance, occasionally, when too late, became a matter of keen regret to themselves and to others.

The difficulty of finding in 216 townships, in which the editor was a stranger, women who could and then would, without remuneration, furnish the desired sketch, can be left to the intelligent appreciation of the reader.

And, therefore, whatever may be noted as crude in style, defective in composition or lacking in taste of selection, let it steadily be borne in mind that not one in twenty who performed the task ever before had written a line for publication, and that the nineteen others fully realized their limitations, and hesitated to undertake it.

This is stated, not as an apology, but in explanation. All honor is, and in the years to come, will be given to every name following these historical sketches.

A postal card received by the editor will serve to indicate the difficulties under which many of the writers labored: "I hope to forward my article by the 15th, for I expect from now on to devote all the time to it that I can spare from absolutely necessary duties. But a family of

six must eat, and I am cook ; there is a big house to keep in order, and I am housemaid. But I shall leave every thing undone possible, devote myself to literary pursuits, and let the boys go ragged. For the sake of my soul's repose I want to finish it, for when I have worked all the evening, I go to bed so excited that I can scarcely sleep, and the ghosts of bygone generations hold high carnival all night long in my dreams, and the next morning my head aches."

Another chairman, in charge of the work at Fairfield, Huron County, had collected all necessary material, and partly prepared her sketch, when the serious illness of a relative imperatively called her out of town. Upon her return, she found her home and all its contents in ashes. Most women would have thought all responsibility in the matter ended with such a calamity. But this brave chairman, at the earliest possible moment, replaced her notes and forwarded them to Cleveland.

Death has claimed two of our historians since this work began. One, in which the pen dropped from the trembling fingers of old age ; the other, with life all before her, had finished her task when the summons came.

The committees, who assisted the local chairman, should not be neglected in acknowledgment of services rendered. To them has been assigned an additional and most important feature of the work ; one that requires much time and trouble—the vital statistics of women who lived on the Western Reserve previous to 1850. Comparatively few of them could be mentioned in the historical sketches, but this embraces each and all. The following is the order in which it is given :

Married Name.	Maiden Name.	Year came to Township.	Where from.	Last Residence.
MRS. JOHN RAY.	LOIS HILLS.	1803.	GROTON, CONN.	MILAN, O.

To the dissatisfied or disappointed, we would announce that it is not too late for additions and amendments. The second part, to be published by September 1st, will contain the "Errata" for this part, and in the fourth and last number space will be given such additional matter as the townships may desire to be included in the work.

G. V R. W.

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PART TWO.

PRICE, 40 CENTS EACH.

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TO THE
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PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY
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EDITED BY
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PRICE 40 CENTS EACH.

DECEMBER, 1896.

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PART FOUR.

PRICE, 40 CENTS EACH.

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MEMORIAL
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PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
WOMAN'S DEPARTMENT
OF THE
CLEVELAND CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

MRS. GERTRUDE VAN RENSSELAER WICKHAM
EDITOR AND HISTORIAN

MRS. CHARLES HEBER SMITH
ASSISTANT HISTORIAN

PART FIVE WITH INDEX

1896 — 1924

FOREWORD

THE MEMORIAL to the Pioneer Women of the Western Reserve was begun in 1896 during the Centennial Celebration of the founding of Cleveland. The idea of such a history was first conceived by Mrs. Gertrude Van Rensselaer Wickham, Historian for the Woman's Department of the Cleveland Centennial Commission. It was approved by this organization and the work begun under its auspices.

In cooperation with assistant-historians from each township upon the Western Reserve the material was gathered and prepared in manuscript form under the personal direction of the Historian. Four volumes were published and placed in the hands of subscribers during the centennial year. The fifth and last volume, together with the Index for the entire history, completes this most remarkable and valuable work.

It is said to be the only record of its kind that connects the pioneer women of the Western Reserve with their New England forebears. It is hoped that it may prove of assistance to genealogists, as the maiden names of wives and mothers are recorded, as well as names of husbands and families and ancestors still further back in history. The research work has been monumental. It has necessitated delving into musty records, finding old letters, visiting old cemeteries and corresponding with descendants of pioneer women.

The narratives are unique, being true accounts of thrilling events and personal experiences of those courageous men and women who braved the wilderness. It gives a vivid picture of early times upon the Western Reserve in great contrast with conditions in the twentieth century.

Since there have been so many persons engaged in the collection and transmission of historical material, relying in many cases upon the memory of descendants of the pioneers, who have retold the tales as best they could, it is possible that

some errors in dates and even in names have occurred. But the greatest care has been taken to make the work accurate.

After the Cleveland Centennial Commission disbanded, the Executive Committee of the Woman's Department re-organized and became self-perpetuating in order to finish the work undertaken by the Woman's Department and to carry forward its patriotic interest in the preservation of the early records of the Western Reserve.

In 1922 this organization became affiliated with the Western Reserve Historical Society, which society, through its Secretary, Mr. W. H. Cathcart, has given most valuable assistance in the preparation of this volume. It is the earnest hope of the Historical Society, as well as of the Executive Committee of the Woman's Department of the Cleveland Centennial Commission, that this Memorial to the Pioneer Women of the Western Reserve may prove both valuable and interesting to many students and readers throughout the entire country.

The Vital Statistics of some 50,000 names, which were collected by these same committees, still remain to be published. These, when made accessible, will give much additional information valuable to those seeking to complete genealogical records.

To those whose generous gifts of money have made possible this publication and to all who have assisted in any way in the work the Publication Committee extends its heartfelt thanks.

Almira F. Chase

Chairman of Publication Committee.

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