

Captain Husted, who always had an eye to the "main chance," saw the great inconvenience of the absence of a grist mill and soon set to work to supply that deficiency. He began the work of building a mill in April, 1818, and it was finished in September. The dam had a foundation of rock and has not had as many mishaps as the most of mill dams. The mill stood near the center of the present road running west from the village of Clarksfield, in front of the Daniels house and one of the old mill stones is doing duty as a horse block in front of that house. It was made from a granite rock. The mill was an unhandy building, two stories high and all the grain had to be carried up a steep, winding stairway. It had one run of stones. The stream went dry in the summer and those settlers who did not lay up a supply of flour and meal had to go to some other mill. Before this mill was built the settlers here went to Merry's mill at Milan or to Richland county. This mill stood for about twenty years. The first sawmill in the township was built by Smith Starr in 1820. It stood east of the Hollow on the bank of Spring brook, some distance south of the road and some remains of the dam are yet to be seen. The dam once broke and the flood of water cut a channel through the road at the foot of the east hill. About 1823 Levi Barnum built a sawmill on the east branch of the Vermillion river, short distance north of Rowland's Corners. He sold out to Asa Wheeler, Jr., and Joseph Bartholamew in a few years. It thus appears that Clarksfield was well supplied with mills early in the settlement of the township.

Benjamin Benson says: "The first trading establishment, if it be worth name, was opened by Richard T. Huyck in the Hollow. He sold rum, a few articles of stone ware, a trifling amount of groceries and called it a store. Some of the inhabitants would meet there; the rum was good for the men to get drunk on, and but little else." We think Captain Husted must have been the first and principal merchant in town. In a few years (probably after he had built his frame house at the Hollow) he built a store across the street from his house, about where the hotel now stands. About 1830 it was moved further east to make room for the hotel. It was a long, low two story frame building and fronted the east after it was moved. In the latter years of its existence the front part was used for a store and the rear for a dwelling. Mr. Husted's account books contain the names of men of New London, Fitchville, Hartland, Wakeman, Florence and Brighton, as well as Clarksfield. Some of the articles sold were whiskey, tobacco, flour, horse and ox hides, salt, window sash, potatoes, fish, wooden dishes, cotton cloth, bear skins, kettles, young bears, pups, deer skins, cranberries, hat splints, ox yokes, bear meat, tallow, deer meat (salt, dried and hams), hoes, scythes, hats, apple trees and coffins. Frequent mention of Indians is made. Benson says: "Of money there was but little in use, for the reason that there were no markets for grain, and but little to dispose of if there had been. Labor was reckoned at a dollar per day, but a bushel of wheat would pay for that day's labor, although it was nominally worth but thirty-seven cents. Thus, the products of the soil constituted the articles of traffic, and supplied the place of bank paper, or the better currency of gold and silver coin. Speaking of barter, it would have been truly diverting if a record had been kept of the many queer exchanges that were made both by the men and the women at that early period. And if one should now offer to swap toadstools for old socks or live skunks for 'possum fat, it would not be more ludicrous."