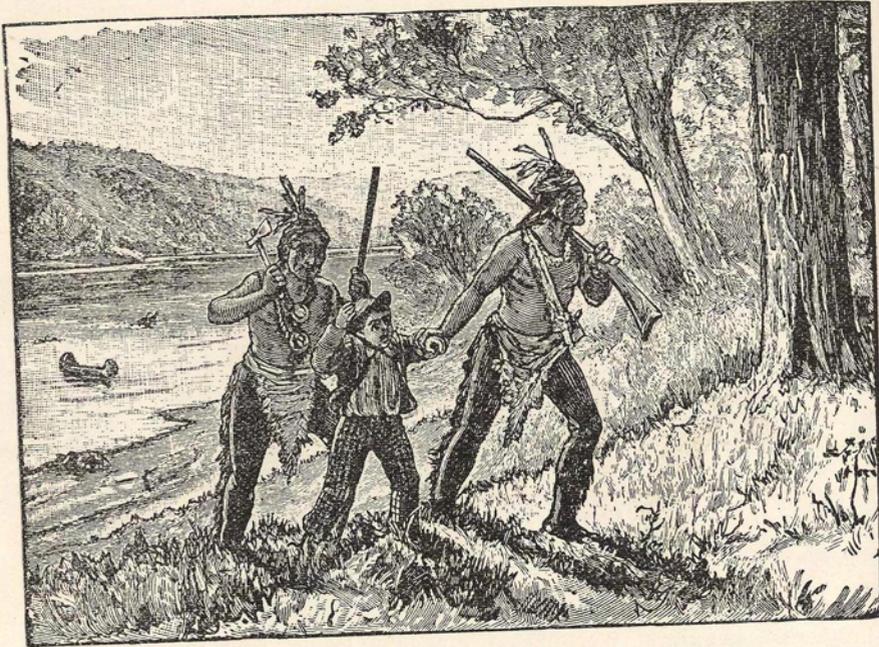


The following sketch is copied from the Mansfield Shield:

BLOCK HOUSE ARCHITECTURE.

There never was an arbitrary style of block house architecture. Block houses were built quickly and efficiently, and the pioneers knew no law governing their construction except that of making them able to resist the attacks of assaulting foes. There were similarities about the most of them in that they were built of logs, ship-lapped, and about six feet from the



BILLY BUNTING CAPTURED BY INDIANS.

ground the walls on the four sides were projected outward several feet to prevent scalling by an attacking enemy. This made the upper story larger than the lower story. They were covered in the hip-roof style generally, and the roof as well as the sides of the building were made bullet proof as far as possible.

This will explain why the block house recently erected by the Centennial Commission has a hip roof, which some have thought is too much in the hodiernal style, but such is not the case. There was but one block house, so far as the Historical Society has been informed, that was covered with a comb roof, and that was the Symmes block house near North Bend, 16

miles below Cincinnati. That locality was of note in the early settlement of the country, and later derived interest from having been the residence of Gen. William Henry Harrison, and the place where rest his mortal remains.

When war was declared with Great Britain in 1812 a feeling of uneasiness was felt along the Ohio border and Mansfield was on the danger line of the border. Very few soldiers were then upon the frontier and block houses were built as means of defense. When Hull surrendered it was supposed that a British invading army with Indian allies would immediately cross Ohio and lay desolate its settlements. Block houses were at once erected on the public square of Mansfield, one at Beam's Mills, one at Ganges, one on the Clearfork and one on the lower Blackfork. Within these block houses the pioneers felt comparatively safe. A few of them could defend themselves against quite a force of Indians. Squads of soldiers were frequently stationed at these block houses.

The Centennial Commission has re-erected one of the old Mansfield block houses—the one used as a Court House from 1813 to 1816—on the Court House lawn as a memorial to the pioneers. The building has been put up as nearly as possible after the "fashion and similitude" of the block houses that were built in Richland County during the war of 1812.

A. J. BAUGHMAN.

CAPT. JAMES CUNNINGHAM

Pioneer Citizen and School Teacher of Richland County—
Commanded Company in War of 1812.

The large impromptu gathering at the southeast corner of Central park, Saturday morning to witness the arrival of the procession of the Hammon brothers teams from Worthington township, loaded with the logs of the late Cunningham house, recently bought by the Centennial Commission, evinced the interest felt in the rebuilding of the old block house and the coming Centennial.

When the Centennial Commission bought the old block house it was found necessary to get other material to restore the building to its original form and size of two stories. To do this, other logs must be secured as nearly the size and age of the block house as possible. But that was not all, for historical associations must also be maintained. After having had a number of buildings offered for that purpose, a trip was made to Worthington township and a consultation held with the Hammon brothers, whose farm of over six hundred acres includes that of the late Capt. James Cunningham. The large hewed log house built by the Captain in 1821, was