

Along the line of what is known as business enterprise is where we lay deep and solid, the foundation principles to be woven through the woof in preparation for the City of Mansfield's Centennial celebration in June, 1908.

Your commissioners will not be able, alone, to carry out in detail this great enterprise. There must be large and active committees drawn from Mansfield and Richland County citizens. The city council must be impertuned to furnish financial aid, to fully beautify and enlarge our park reat. We must not be selfish in any degree, or show personal pride for public property. Yet, it cannot be denied, that our park system, the joy of it to all classes of the community—has become so great that we as citizens are often found alone strolling quietly through the park. It is an undisputed fact that when a relative or an old friend makes us a visit, however short, we all find it an entertaining joy to show such parties through the parks of the city.

Your Centennial Commissioners are encouraged to take up the charge assigned, feeling that our various park areas will greatly assist our people in entertaining the visiting friends and strangers on that occasion.

We urge that our citizens commence now to notify relatives and friends at a distance, inviting them to come to our Centennial.

They will be here on the slightest beck and call,—Aunt Ann, Cousin Jane and Sophia, with Uncle Jonathan, Cousin Olive and Adolph.

The descendants of all the old families of former years in our community now in far away states, are longing to visit the old home of childhood days.



BLACK HAWK.

LOCAL HISTORY.

Now we are approaching the Centennial of Mansfield, and from this coign of vantage of nearly an hundred years since the city was founded, may look backward through the vanishing vistas, and realize how able, how clean hearted and handed, how conscientious, were the builders of the state.

The body of land designated as Richland, as the pioneers swept up the streams, whose downward flow was into the beautiful river, was in time reached. Richland, an empire in area, would that it was the original yet, uncarved and as a whole, almost a perfect square, each of its four sides 20 miles in length, enclosing 576,000 acres of hill, valley and plain; its virgin soil so rich that native grasses grew spontaneously; so fertile that if you tickled it with hoe or plow, it returned an hundred fold in fruitage, while its forest trees towered into the sunlight, awaiting only the ax of the settler to lay them low.

History supplies one of the chief needs of the highest civilization and the character and culture of the people of a county, as well as those of a nation, are estimated and measured by their literature and published records.

Local history stimulates local pride—a pride which is a bond of union and of sympathy in communities—and the surest safeguard of liberty and the staunchest champion of justice and right.

Richland County is in north central Ohio, situated in the highest part of the state, on the water-shed between Lake Erie and the Ohio river. The surface of the north part of the county is comparatively level, and in the southern part there are chains of hills, separated by valleys of divers widths. The county is well-watered by streams and springs, and is noted for its productiveness and healthful climate. It suffers but little from wet or dry seasons, the center of the county being only fifty miles from Lake Erie, whose waters prevent excessive rainfall and are conducive to moisture in dry periods.

In giving the history of Richland County it is not necessary to go back to the original county formations into which this part of Ohio was divided, nor to trace their alterations, made from time to time, as the settlement of the country required, but to deal with Richland as it was at its formation and is at the present time.

The original act for the creation of Richland County was passed January 16, 1808. By this act Richland was placed under the jurisdiction of Knox county "until the legislature may think proper to organize the same." On June 9, 1809, the commissioners of Knox County declared "the entire county of Richland a separate township, which shall be called and known by the name of Madison." In 1809 the legislature provided for the location of the county seat, which the commoners located at Mansfield. By this act the county had a seat of justice ready whenever the legislature should think proper to organize the same. On January 7, 1813, the legislature passed an act organizing the county of Richland, aid "act to take effect and