The second settlement within the present limits of Richland county was made at Belville by James McCluer in 1800 and was known as the McCluer settlement.

James McCluer came to that locality in the fall of 1800, entered land and built a cabin, but spent the following winter in Pickaway county. The next spring he brought his family and made his abode in the cabin he had built the fall previous, making the date of the settlement 1800.

The first road in the county was known as the Wooster road, running from Wooster via Green town to Mansfield and the second road was from Mt. Vernon via the McCluer settlement to Mansfield and north to Huron on the lake and was called the stage road.

James McCluer was so favorably impressed with the Clermont country and gave such glowing description of the same that several settlers and others joined the same season. Samuel and Thomas McCluer and Jonathan Oldfield were among the new-comers. The first marriage in the township was Jonathan Oldfield to Betsey McCluer, in 1813, and the "knot tied" by Squire Coffinberry. The next road was from Mt. Vernon via the McCluer settlement to Mansfield in 1810, and of his children, David and Mrs. Hildreth, who was afterwards well known as a lawyer and physician. Mr. Hildreth has two children living in Mansfield—Thomas Hildreth and Mrs. Hildreth. Mrs. Hildreth is still living, aged about 90 years. Her maiden name was Platt.

Joseph Carter was the first merchant and had his store in a room at Ogle's inn. He was subsequently a member of the Ohio Legislature. He married Sarah Hildreth, who was afterwards well known as a lawyer and physician. Mr. Hildreth has two children living in Mansfield—Thomas Hildreth and Mrs. Hildreth. Mrs. Hildreth is still living, aged about 90 years. Her maiden name was Platt.

John Zeno located in Jefferson township in 1810 and of his children, David and Mrs. Wright Gaddes are residents of Belville.

John Leedy was one of the 1810 settlers and his descendants live mostly in the southern part of the township. His daughter Catherine married Samuel Garber, and of their children, John is perhaps the most widely known, as he served two terms as county commissioner. Of this numerous family, I should like to give each a separate mention. Did space admit, I would combine the qualities of a leader, a statesman and a warrior.

Although the Indians could not be civilized, many of them possessed ability. Take the great Pontiac, who was the chief of the mighty confederacy of the Ottawas, the Ojibwas and the Potawatamies. The genius of this mighty chieftain spread his fame and influence not only throughout what is now Michigan, which was geographically the center of his power but over the greater part of the continent. His intellect was broad, powerful and far-seeing. In him were combined the qualities of a leader, a statesman and a warrior.

A writer has said that the world is full of wasted genius; that great minds can seized opportunities, but without the English revolution, Washington without the revolutionary war and Grant without the rebellion would never have risen to fame.

James McCluer was appointed one of the associate Judges of the court of common pleas and sold his land to Robert Beil, who, in 1815, laid out a town plat of 48 lots and the town was named Belville.

Judge McCluer removed to Mansfield and lived in a cabin on the northwest corner of Main and Fourth streets, the present site of the Savings Bank of Richland.

The found of Belville in 1813, and that denomination was the first to occupy the religious field. The Baptists, Disciples, Universalists, Presbyterians and Lutherans came later.

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were passed at Leesville, where I died ripe in years and in honors.

The McCluer cabin at Bellville stood on the lot now owned by David Zent, south of the railroad and east of Main street and on the part of the lot he now cultivates as a garden. The blockhouse, built in September, 1812, stood near the present site of S. N. Ford's grain elevator.

The first death in the township was that of Stephen Dodge, in 1811. He was buried on Snake Hill, now called Beulah cemetery.

A postoffice was established in 1824, with Isaac Hoy as postmaster.

Private schools were taught by William Spears in 1815-16-17. The first public school in the township was taught by Timothy Evarts in 1818 and the school house stood on the old state road, a short distance north of Honey Creek.

At the school house that afterward stood near that old site, the writer first went to school. Mrs. Lucy Oldfield was the teacher and among the pupils were Calvin Robinson, who now owns and lives on the Palmer place, a half-mile south of the old red tavern on the new state road, south of Bellville.

Henry N. Hamilton was also among the number. The war came 15 years later, in which Mr. Hamilton served his country as a lieutenant in Col. William L. Tibbalt's 59th New York regiment and now resides in Bellville. Among the girl pupils was Olive Howard, now the wife of Simon B. Young, and they are blessed with full garners, and live at the old homestead which has been for many years in the possession of the Young family, situated two miles south of Bellville, at the fountain spring, on the new state road.

And there were Solon and Amelia Morrow, of Morrow's Inn and Andrew Elliott and Levi Evarts, sons of the late 'Squire Reuben Evarts.

Added to these at the winter term (1847-8) I recall the Howard and the Morrow boys, Abner Oldfield, Dolph Hamilton, David and Samuel Beal, the Wentlingers, the Carpenters, Miss Cross and others.

Mrs. Oldfield, whose maiden name was Lucy Palmer, was an exemplary Christian lady, and one of the best of teachers. That first day at school seemed a long one, for I was homesick, and wished for the closing, hour to come, that I might go to my mother and a similar wish is the theme of my longing today.

The Rev. James Smith, a Methodist