

CHAPTER XIV

CONCORD TOWNSHIP AND FRANKFORT

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE TOWNSHIP—OLD CHILlicothe OF THE SHAWNEES—ONLY BREAK WITH THE SHAWNEES—POPEJOY'S PLACE AND THE INDIAN QUEEN—FIRST MILL AND GENERAL STORE—SETTLERS PREVIOUS TO 1812—FRANKFORT VILLAGE—ITS SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC LIBRARY—MUNICIPAL LIGHT AND WATER PLANTS—THE BAPTISTS FORMED FIRST CHURCH—THE METHODIST CHURCHES—PRESBYTERIAN ORGANIZATIONS—THE CATHOLICS—SECRET AND BENEVOLENT LODGES—INDUSTRIES, FINANCES AND THE SUN.

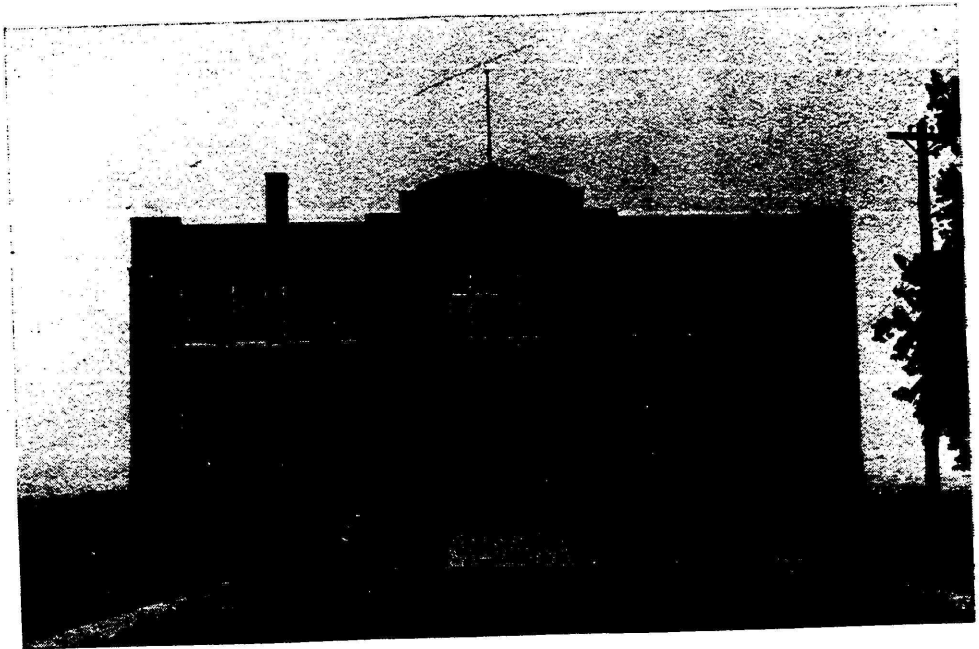
On the 10th of May, 1803, in accordance with the legislative act passed in the preceding month, Reuben Abrams, William Patten and Felix Renick, associate judges of Ross County, met at Chillicothe to define the boundaries of the townships and regulate other matters. They established Concord Township as follows: "Beginning at the mouth of Lower Twin creek, thence running up the same to its source; thence north, forty-five degrees west, to intersect the road leading from Chillicothe to Greenfield; thence westwardly, with said road, to the dividing ridge between the main Paint creek and the Rattlesnake fork of Paint creek; thence, north, to Deer creek; thence, down Deer creek, to the northern boundary of Union township; thence, with the lines of said township to the place of beginning."

From this large territory have been taken, at the dates named, the following portions: July 7, 1804, a part of Deerfield Township; February 20, 1805, a part of Twin Township; August 10, 1807, a part of Buckskin Township; and March 9, 1808, the whole of Paint Township, leaving Concord vitually in its present shape. It is stated that most of the early elections until Oldtown (Frankfort) was laid out in 1816 were held at the house of John Bush, the pioneer miller and merchant.

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE TOWNSHIP

Concord Township, which lies in the northeastern corner of Ross County, is fourteen miles from east to west and about twelve from

north to south. Its area is therefore the largest in Ross County. Through its heart flows the north fork of Paint Creek, and back from that stream on either hand stretches a rich band of bottom lands, which, in places expands even beyond the limits of the township. Smaller streams cut across the main valley, along which is a succession of picturesque wooded belts. From the south there are Herrod's Creek, Whetstone Creek and the Little North Fork; the north, Waugh's Run or Hay Creek, Oldtown Run and Carey's Creek, besides many runs too small to be christened, yet of sufficient volume to furnish an ample water supply to the farms along their courses. On every side still remain tracts of woodland, which have survived over 100 years of white occupation, and have a double



FRANKFORT SCHOOL BUILDING

value from their influence as climatic agents and their direct practical utility as cover and pasture for hogs and other stock. Oak is the most common wood, while hickory, maple, walnut and ash are also abundant. Though particular attention has been given to the North Fork Valley, it must not be inferred that, beyond its borders there is any lack of beauty of surface or richness of soil. Leaving the bottom lands and going either north or south an upland region is crossed, watered by such streams as the Main Paint and Deer creeks. The predominating soil of the township is a dark loam in the bottom lands and a lighter soil, both in color and texture, in the higher lands.

OLD CHILLICOTHE OF THE SHAWNEES

It was within Concord Township, on the present site of Frankfort, that the Shawnees established one of their Chillicothes, or

towns. It was called Old Chillicothe, or Oldtown, and the Shawnees considered it not a temporary settlement, but a permanent dwelling place or city of refuge. By virtue of its remote position and construction, it was an important fortified town and served both as a base of supplies and a prison for white captives.

The site of the town was immediately on the north fork of Paint Creek, centering about the spot occupied by the Old Dayton and Southeastern Railroad Depot. In a field between the railroad and the creek was a cemetery, from which the plow even today occasionally turns up a skull, or some weapon of stone—relics of battles fought and lives lived by the Shawnees of that region. Much of romance has attached to the history of the old town, and naturally some confusion has resulted from stories published inconsiderately, and without sufficient evidence of their truth. One of these, quite generally believed, is that Daniel Boone was held a prisoner at Old Chillicothe in 1773, and after his escape, in 1778, organized an expedition, and, proceeding to the Paint Valley, destroyed the town in retaliation. This story is untrue in its relation to Oldtown. Daniel Boone was taken prisoner, was confined by, and did escape from the Indians at about that date, and also proceeded to and attacked their village, but it was at the Miami, and not the Old Chillicothe, of Paint Creek. One of the first authoritative recorded statements as to the old town, is that in 1774 the Indians massed there and marched out to fight the memorable battle of Point Pleasant. In 1787 Indian attacks upon the Kentucky frontier had become so bold and frequent that decisive measures were deemed necessary to check them. An expedition was organized by Simon Kenton, moved under his guidance and the command of Colonel Todd, from Kenton's Station, Kentucky, to the vicinity of Old Chillicothe, and attacked its people, who fled to the dense forest, leaving their village and its contents to the mercy of their enemies. The whites destroyed the corn-fields, and much of the other property thus deserted and then returned to their homes. It is highly probable that Daniel Boone, in his expeditions through the wilderness, was more than once at or near Old Chillicothe; he may even have been with Kenton when the town was attacked, but all this is, and must remain a matter of conjecture.

In 1793 Gen. Nathaniel Massie, in the interest of the State and the Continental army lines of Virginia, formed an expedition for the purpose of surveying that portion of the Virginia Military District lying along the Scioto and Paint valleys, and, in company with Duncan McArthur and about thirty others, penetrated, in that year, as far as Old Chillicothe, pushing the work of the survey in the face of incalculable hardship and danger. Finding the attitude of the Indians at Old Chillicothe to be so menacing as to make an