

At that time three families were residing on the site and for two years no addition was made to the settlement, the business and industries of which comprised the store of Æneas Foulk, the blacksmith shop of Elisha Kelley, and the shoe shop of Austin Southard. Nathan Reeves had a tannery on his land two miles east, and Masie's mills, furnace and distillery were about the same distance westward. To the north, half a mile away, was a general store conducted by Christian Benner.

MERCHANTS AND BANKERS

The Bainbridge plat was soon advanced in standing by the establishment of a postoffice by that name, with Elisha Kelley, blacksmith and justice of the peace, as postmaster. Then a few other families took notice of the location and settled there. Foulk, who had been bringing his goods in saddle-bags from Chillicothe, was reinforced in the mercantile line by David Adams and a Mr. Crockett, both of whom opened stores. The Seymours finally displaced Foulk, and other pioneer merchants came into the field, such as Elijah Rockhold, J. P. Brown, William M. FitzWilliams, T. C. Campbell, Charles Robbins (the first druggist) and J. H. Huling (the first hardware merchant). Most of the thriving mercantile establishments and the banks of the present are conducted by the descendants of the pioneers mentioned.

This is especially true of the private bank of Rockhold, Brown & Company, which is a direct descendant of the Rockhold, Cook & Company, bankers, founded in August, 1867. The firm originally consisted of Elijah Rockhold, Aaron Fernow, J. P. Brown and William A. Cook. Mr. Cook died in the late '70s, and the descendants of Messrs. Rockhold and Brown are still identified with the bank. The senior member of the firm is Elijah C. Rockhold, son of the founder, both senior and junior Rockholds being also engaged in general merchandising at the time of the bank's establishment. Another member of the firm is J. P. Clagett. The old firm of Rockhold, Cook & Company were also owners of the Paint Valley mills.

The other bank operated by Spargur, Head & Company was established in 1878 by J. B. W. Spargur, John Hulitt, B. C. Hulitt, William W. Clyburn and Asa W. Spargur. The interest of the late senior member of the firm is held by his widow; other members are J. R. Head and R. F. McCoppen.

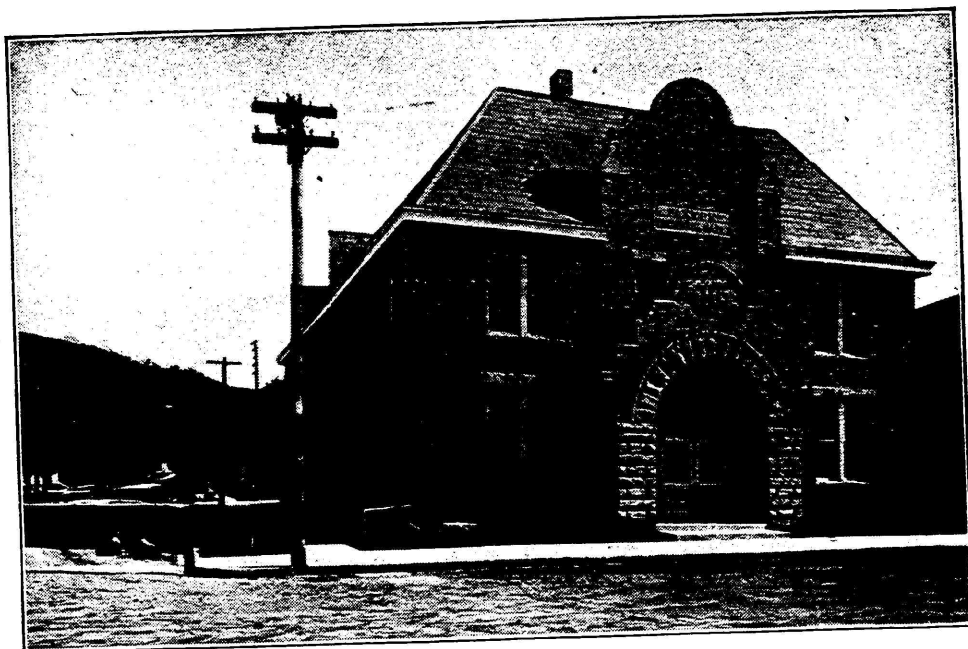
The present industries of Bainbridge are represented by the flour mill of Worley Brothers, the Hosler sawmill and the two canning factories of W. S. Moore and the Bainbridge Canning Company (W. M. Lewis).

THE VILLAGE OF TODAY

Bainbridge was incorporated in 1838 and has a population of some 900 people. It is on the Dayton, Toledo & Ironton Railroad; is a good shipping point and the center of quite a large country trade. Since 1900 it has been in the class of municipalities which own and operated their water and light plants. Its educational facilities are adequate to the wants of its people, and the same may be said of its social and religious advantages. The Masons, Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias all have organizations.

MASONS AND ODD FELLOWS

Bainbridge Lodge No. 196, Free and Accepted Masons, was organized October 18, 1849. Its charter members, holding the of-



TOWNSHIP HALL, BAINBRIDGE

fices stated, were as follows: J. D. Miller, worshipful master; Samuel Tweed, junior warden; G. D. Teter, junior deacon; Jacob McDaniels, treasurer; James Slater, senior warden; C. W. A. Halley, senior deacon; J. M. Baird, secretary; Daniel Kelly, tyler.

Bainbridge Lodge No. 437, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted August 20, 1869, and its charter members were William L. Tulleys, D. E. Peck, J. H. Huling, John W. May, Fred Messmer, W. W. McCrackin, James S. Hannawalt, T. J. Atkins, James I. Clarke, C. D. Lindley, E. C. Rockhold, Isaac B. Gault and Peyton Kendall. The lodge, as now constituted, has a membership of seventy.

Paint Valley Lodge No. 496, Knights of Pythias, was organized in the early '90s.

THE METHODISTS

The pioneer church in Bainbridge and in Paxton was the Methodist. Almost as early as 1800 there was preaching in private houses and in school houses in various parts of the township. It was in 1818, however, that John Meek and John Collins, who had been among these early preachers, formed the first church organization in Bainbridge. During that year a class was instituted, consisting of James Gaskill and wife, Sarah McCollum, Rebecca Turner, John Baird and Magdalen Gilmore, and placed under the leadership of Mr. Gaskill. The class met at Gaskill's house, which became, and for some time continued to be, a regular "preaching place" of the denomination. In 1820 Gaskill gave to the church permission to build a meeting-house on his land and a small brick church was built there 24 by 30 feet in size. Gaskill used the adjacent land as a tan-yard. Afterward the tanning business together with the real estate, passed into the proprietorship of E. Rockhold and son, and the old meeting-house was turned into a slaughter-house. There the members of the congregation continued to meet until 1834, when they erected the frame structure, occupied by them until the year 1868. At that date a fine lot was purchased by the society on the south side of the main street of the village, and a church building erected at an expense of nearly \$10,000—a severe strain upon an organization of only about eighty members. On the second day of April, 1876, this building took fire, and the roof and woodwork were completely destroyed. Not to be discouraged by this, however, repairs were at once begun, and in September of that year the congregation occupied the rebuilt edifice.

In 1868, when the church erected its third house of worship, the frame building which had been constructed in 1834 was transferred to the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which is still alive.

In the early days of the Methodist Episcopal church at Bainbridge it was a part of the Hillsboro circuit, which embraced 23 appointments, all of which was attended by two clergymen. Each of these ministers had to traverse a territory 30 miles square in 20 days and preach 29 times during that period. Among the early preachers of the circuit were Revs. Robert W. Finley, James B. Finley, James Havens, G. W. Walker, George Maley and James Quinn. Later pastors were Revs. John Power, Henry Turner, W. P. Strickland, Joseph Brunner, Joseph Reeder, Mark Bonner, Thomas Lee, Leroy Swormstedt, Zachariah Wharton, Edward Estell, B. A. Cassett, I. W. Smith, Henry Wharton, B. L. Jefferson, I. W. Stone, John Stewart, Alexander Mehaney, Philip Nation, John W. Locke, J. A. Brown, David Reed, J. S. Brown, B. Mark,

A. Morrow, A. Kite, J. W. Steele, James B. Austin, Joseph S. Morris, D. C. Howard, Samuel Bateman, Nathan Westerman, Eskridge H. Dixon, David H. Moore, now a bishop retired; I. B. Bradrick, F. A. Timmons, W. H. McClintock, Richard Pitzer, William Morris, T. G. Wakefield, Ed. T. Lane, J. P. A. Dickey, David Mann, R. I. DeSelm, Frank Gillilan, M. W. Acton, Isaac Mackey, C. B. Longman, Carl G. Doney, at present head of Williamette University, on the Pacific coast; T. B. White, T. W. Locke, F. M. Swinehart, C. W. Sowers, W. E. Prior, W. L. Hickey, G. D. Clifford, and the present incumbent, Rev. John M. Chandler. The church now numbers over 400 members. Altogether it has occupied five houses of worship—erected in 1820, 1834, 1868, 1897, and 1903.

THE PRESBYTERIANS

Most of the early preaching which the Presbyterians of Bainbridge enjoyed was furnished by clergymen from South Salem, who became established there in the pioneer times. There was no distinct organization at Bainbridge until 1841, when Rev. George G. Poe formed a church. In 1842 land was purchased and a meeting house erected. Among the early pastors were Revs. P. Irmiston and S. P. Durham. Rev. Kerns Preston is now in charge.