

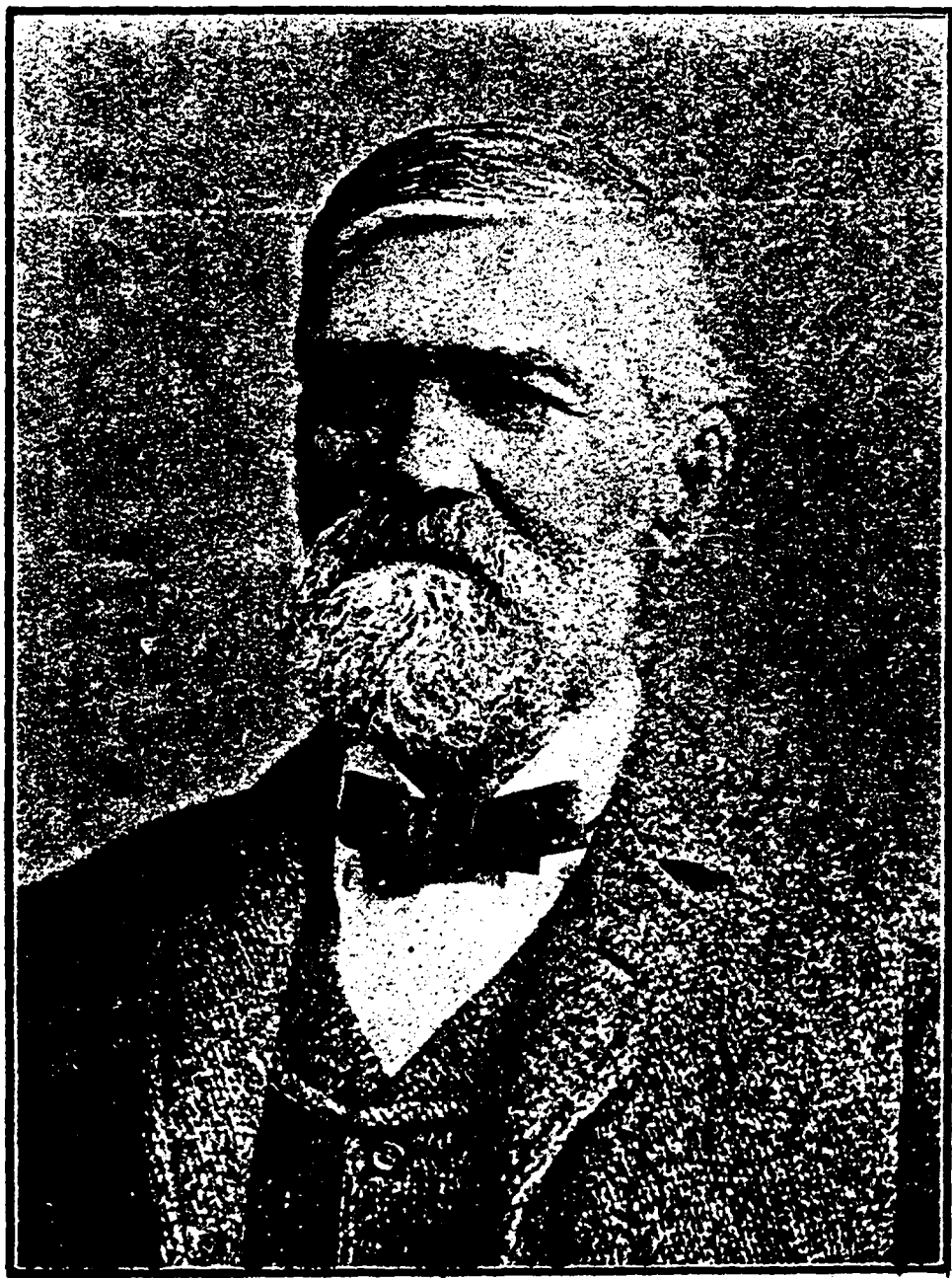
THE
WISEMAN FAMILY
and the OLD CHURCH AT NEW SALEM

*A BRIEF SKETCH, WRITTEN BY
THE AUTHOR FOR HIS CHIL-
DREN AND FOR GIFTS TO
A FEW PERSONAL FRIENDS*

BY
C. M. L. WISEMAN

Author of "Centennial Lancaster," "Pioneers of Fairfield County"





Yours truly,
C. M. L. Wiseman.

*TO THE MEMORY OF MY MOTHER,
WHO DIED SINCE THIS
SKETCH WAS WRITTEN*

THE following brief sketch of myself and the Wiseman family was written for the entertainment of my children, and this is the reason for the familiar style in the first person.

It is brief, because the material at my command was meager. Brief as it is, I trust they will derive some instructive lessons from it, and learn more than ever to love home, family and their kindred.

C. M. L. WISEMAN.

Lancaster, Ohio, March 2nd, 1887.

BRIEF SKETCH OF THE WISEMAN FAMILY.



MY Grandfather, Rev. John Wiseman, was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, before the War of the Revolution: indeed, was old enough and served in that war, and was in the memorable winter quarters at Valley Forge with Washington. His father, Isaac Wiseman, moved from Berks county, Pennsylvania, with a large family of sons and daughters to Rockingham county, Virginia, soon after the war, and there my grandfather married Sarah Green, one of another large family. From that county they moved to Monroe county, Virginia, where my father, Philip S. Wiseman, was born. Of the descendants of Isaac Wiseman and James Green, some few remained in Virginia, others moved to Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas and Louisiana. The greater number moved to Ohio and Kentucky. The descendants of Isaac Wiseman alone must exceed 1,000 persons in number. The names of father's uncles were William, Joseph, Isaac, Abner, Jacob and Samuel. Samuel died near New Salem at 90 years of age; Jacob and Abner in Kentucky, William and Joseph in Virginia, and Isaac near Gallipolis, Ohio. One of his aunts married a Blanton, who moved to Kentucky, and one a Honiker, who died in Virginia. I have been in the graveyard in Virginia, near Union, Monroe county, where Isaac Wiseman and wife are buried, and where father's sister and brother are buried, and I have also been in the church near by, where they all attended

Methodist church, and where my grandfather often preached. It is a lovely spot, with a high range of mountains in full view for more than twenty miles.

My grandfather left Virginia with his large family, and the families of his sons, moving much as did the patriarchs of the Bible, and camping out at night. This was in 1818. My father was then 12 years of age. Their journey was through the almost untrodden wilderness for 300 miles. My father had an old shotgun, and grandmother told me long ago that he was very brave and stout at the start, and declared that he would carry the gun to Ohio on his shoulders, but it was only a day or two until the old shotgun was found in the wagon, and Philip was glad to ride. They first settled on the farm now owned by E. Shisler, six miles from Lancaster, but a year after, having first built a cabin, they moved to their new home near Salem, where his stalwart boys soon cleared up a farm. One of father's sisters was left in Virginia. One married Thos. Brattin and came to live in Chillicothe, where they raised a very large family, and Mrs. Morgan died later in Virginia, the other, Mrs. John Brattin, near Maysville, Ky. The latter left a boy baby a few weeks old. My father and perhaps a brother were sent on horseback through a thinly settled country to Kentucky, and brought the baby on horse back, resting it upon a pillow in front of the saddle, all the way to New Salem. That boy, John W. Brattin, grew to manhood, but proved to be a wayward and ungrateful young man. He afterwards married and moved to Wells county, Indiana, where he died.

Uncle Aaron Morgan, husband of father's sister, was a very much esteemed man by his relations, and lived a long and honorable life.

His oldest son, S. G. Morgan, resides in Lynchburg, Va. Benjamin Morgan lives in Salem, Va. John Morgan remained in Monroe county, became a Confederate soldier, and was killed in the battle of Fayette C. H., Va. I never met any of this family except my Uncle Aaron.

Aunt Sallie Brattin raised a large family in Chilli-cothe. Most of her children are dead, but they left many descendants.

The Lindley Bros., attorneys, of Chicago, and Chas. Lindley, of Cincinnati, are her great-grand children. The latter is a son-in-law of Gen. John W. Denver, ex-Governor of Kansas, and he is a splendid business man, a man of good habits, and a splendid specimen of the physical man.

Isaac Wiseman, brother of my grandfather, Rev. John Wiseman, settled in Gallia county, Ohio, early in the century, and raised a large family.

Isaac, Samuel and Henry were the names of three of his sons. Isaac died at the old home of his father in Gallia county. I once visited him, and there met his aged father.

Samuel lived for years in Lawrence county, where he raised a large family. Late in his life he moved to Missouri, where he died some years since. His sons, W. W. and Frank, still live in Lawrence county, and are highly respected and honorable men. W. W. Wiseman recently represented his county in the Ohio legislature.

Three at least of old Uncle Isaac's descendents became Methodist preachers. One is a physician in Tuscola, Ill., and the other is a physician in Cincinnati, and honors an old family name, Samuel.

One branch of this family lives in Pike county, Ohio. When Henry was last heard of he was living in Minnesota. Rev. William Wiseman, of Houston, Texas, is of this Pike county family.

Samuel Wiseman, brother of Rev. John Wiseman, came to Ohio as early as 1806, and settled in Fairfield county, near New Salem, where he died some twenty years ago, at the age of ninety (90) years. He raised a large family of boys and girls, all of whom are now dead. He has many descendants in the western states, and a grandson, Isaac, at New Salem.

The descendants of Abner Wiseman are in Kentucky and in the western states.

William and Joseph, brothers of Rev. John Wiseman, remained in Virginia and died there. A son of William lived and died in Missouri, near Ashland. His daughter married Thos. Jeff. Ruffner, formerly of Fairfield county. A grandson of Joseph was a Methodist preacher, and spent his life in West Virginia. Another grandson, named Granville, now resides in Jackson county, Ohio.

Jacob Wiseman, brother of Rev. John Wiseman, lived and died in Harrison county, Kentucky. He was without family. The father and mother of this long line of descendants were buried in the Rehobuth church yard at Union, Monroe county, West Virginia, but the exact spot cannot be located, as no stone marks their resting place. I found the grave of an aunt, and I presume they rest by her side.

Of father's brothers, Isaac and James moved to Hancock county, where they lived to a green old age, and left many descendants. John R. moved back to Virginia, where he died at the age of eighty-five (85) years. He was the father of five daughters, and had

two grand daughters named Wilson. Jacob and Joseph died near the old home at an advanced age. My father married Priscilla Lewis, daughter of Tilman Lewis, one of the pioneers. He lived near New Salem, a respected and intelligent citizen, all his life, and died upon his farm in Perry county in February, 1862. He was a generous man, and from his door no hungry person was ever turned away. He commenced life in poverty, worked hard all his life, raised a family of eleven children respectably, and gave all such education as he was able, in the common schools of the county. His brothers and sisters, as well as his ancestors, were stalwart people, and mostly lived to a great age. But of all the number, I am sorry to write, not one is left among the living, and of the dear ones who with me clustered around our mother's knee, and enjoyed such comforts as she, with her limited means, was able to give us, some have gone to the Spirit Land, and we shall meet no more around the old hearth stone.

My cousins are scattered over many states: Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri.

My grandfather, Tilman Lewis, was born in Germany. He came to America and settled in Loudon county, Virginia. From there he went to Washington county, Pennsylvania. There, probably, he was married to Mary Graves, or the marriage may have taken place in Virginia. From Washington county in 1798, or near that time, he, with his father-in-law's large family, embarked in a flatboat on the Monongahela river, and floated down to where Portsmouth now stands — the entire route being a wilderness, except the small settlements at Marietta and Belpre. They pushed their boat up the Scioto river to what is now

called High Bank, where they squatted upon public land. This before, or just about the time, Chillicothe was laid out by General Massie. From this point grandfather moved to the Pickaway plane, on a farm recently owned by the late John Boggs. There my mother was born, also Uncle Lakin and Uncle Daniel. As early as 1810 grandfather exchanged his farm for the one on which my mother now lives. Here he moved with his wife and family of little children, and there his wife soon died, leaving him in a helpless condition. When he moved to that farm, the country was new and wild, and there were no churches. Grandfather was a great Methodist, and a devout man, and his cabin was the preaching place, and for a quarter of a century the home, of the Methodist circuit preachers. Here they had their horses unsaddled and fed, and here with thankful hearts they partook of his corn bread, bacon and kraut, the best meal ever cooked for hungry men, and were happier, more earnest and zealous than some preachers of our day. I have fed many a preacher's horse, and have received in return the grasp of their warm hands, with a gracious smile, a kind word, and a "God bless you." I have profound respect for the old pioneer Methodist preachers, and will always cherish their memory. Young, Findlay, Gurley, Jennings, Hooper, Spencer, and Carper were the last of their race, and I am thankful that I lived in their day. Grandfather Lewis had brothers and sisters, most of whom I saw once or twice.

Daniel lived in Pennsylvania, George in Knox county, Ohio, and Henry in Pickaway county. I know but little of their descendants. Rev. W. H. Lewis, of Columbus, and George Lewis, of London, Ohio, are grand sons of Henry Lewis.

Mother had three brothers and three sisters, all of whom lived to old age. She and one brother only remain, and among so many that I knew, they only remain. Sojourning for a short time on the shores of time, then all will be gone.

Of the hundreds of descendants of Isaac Wiseman, scores of whom I knew personally and others by reputation, all were sober, honest and industrious men and women, an honor to their families and forefathers, and useful citizens in their day and generation. The same I can say of Tilman Lewis' descendants. The old Virginia-born set were wonderful men physically, and no man dared to insult them. Some years since I received a letter from one of the Kentucky branch, and he was proud to state that one of their family was the stoutest man in Estill county. My father was a stout man, and Uncle Joseph was a giant in strength. He, Uncle Joseph, once lifted a barrel of sugar water from the ground and drank from the bung hole.

Uncle James raised a large family of stout boys, who entered the primeval forest and cleared up a good farm in a short time. They afterwards, by turns — Andy, Joe, Sam and Green — as we called them, visited the old neighborhood, and cleared up the greater part of Uncle Joseph's farm, felling the green beech and oak trees, and logging them at \$10 per acre. My brothers, Jacob and Tilman, and cousin, Manly Wiseman, afterward visited them and others in the north, and raised Ned with their mischief, fun and frolic. Uncle Isaac had good boys, but we did not know them so well, except his son, Henry. I have often visited there, and found them warm-hearted, generous and abounding in hospitality; their welcome was to their hearts and homes.

The Wiseman family were all on the side of the government during the war of the rebellion, including the Kentucky branch, the leader of whom was Abner, of Irvine, Estill county, son of my father's Uncle Abner.

My brother John was a captain in the 46th Ohio Regiment. Theodore, son of Judge Wiseman, served in the 17th Ohio Regiment, and died of disease contracted in the army.

James W. Stinchcomb was a brave Captain of the 17th Ohio.

Andrew Wiseman, Samuel Wiseman and Simon Wiseman, sons of Uncle James, were brave soldiers of the 21st Ohio Regiment. Samuel and Simon died of disease during the war, and were buried the same day near Fostoria.

Andrew survives, a hale old man of 84 years, respected and honored wherever he is known. Andrew had several sisters, but I cannot name them, and brothers John and Washington, long since dead.

Joseph Wiseman is the only brother living of Andrew. He is a prosperous farmer near Fostoria, and the father of a nice family of six children.

Uncle George Stinchcomb, who married father's sister Ann, and lived near neighbor to us all his life, was an honest man of noble and generous impulses. No man however humble ever called upon him in sickness or any kind of distress, in vain. The night was never too dark, the roads never too deep, the cold never too intense for him to answer a call of distress. He raised two sons, James W. and Frank, who were both men of decided ability, warm and generous friends, and followed their father's example in doing kind and generous deeds. James W. was a gallant soldier of the

Union army. They were kind to me, and now that they are gone, I cheerfully make this record.

The Green family moved from Rockingham county, Virginia, where they and my grand parents had lived on Linville Creek, to Ohio. Many of them afterwards moved farther west. Father's uncle, John Green, was a preacher of the Christian church. He moved with a large family in 1822 to Illinois, and settled near where the city of Jacksonville now stands. He settled on the open prairie, with no house or neighbor for many miles around. His children prospered, and became wealthy farmers. One of his grand daughters is the wife of a distinguished Republican politician of Carlinville, Ill. Stephen Green, his son, is now one of the retired wealthy men of Jacksonville.

Jacob Strawn, the great cattle king of Illinois, married one of the girls. He at one time was the largest cattle dealer in Illinois, and himself told me that he owned and cultivated 22,000 acres of good land, worth now \$80.00 per acre.

James Green, another of grandmother's brothers, lived for some time in Fairfield county, during which time his wife died and was buried near the present east wall of the Methodist church in Lancaster. He has a granddaughter living in New Lexington, Mrs. J. J. Johnson.

He has another granddaughter, Victoria Green Van Buskirk, living in Peoria, Ill. Her husband is a wealthy business man. I saw her in Peoria when she was a very handsome girl. When a boy I saw Uncle James. He was a tall, fine-looking old Virginian, dressed in the garb of the day, homespun. One of his sons married the sister of the late John A. Collins, and one of their boys became a Methodist preacher. One

of the Green girls married a Vance, one a Berry, and one a Henry, all from Virginia, and they and their children are all long since dead.

Of mother's family, Daniel Lewis lived and kept a store in the house where my mother now lives, as long ago as 1830. He died and was buried in Rushville. His son, Homer C., resides in Columbus. John Lewis lived in Seneca county most of his life. He was one of the pioneers there as early as 1832 or 1833. Nancy Bowen, her oldest sister, in early times braved the wilderness, and moved to Macomb, Ill., where I saw her in her old age. She had a numerous family.

Uncle John Lafferty, a famous old talker, married Aunt Sallie and moved to Mount Blanchard in 1835. He and my father were very warm friends, and often visited. As early as 1834 or 1835, I remember then being 4 or 5 years old, of going with father and mother to camp meeting at Milligan's camp ground between Salem and Rushville, and of being baptized by Rev. Jacob Hooper, and then sent home with Uncle John's family. The first child I can remember playing with, besides Sisters Elvira and Nancy, was Cousin Matilda Lafferty. Mother's sister Phoebe married David Hill, who also moved to Seneca county. John Lafferty, a cousin, lives on a large farm at Forrest, Ohio. Leroy is a physician at Arlington, O. The Hill boys live in Clinton, DeWitt county, Illinois. Of mother's Grandfather Graves' family I know but little. Her uncle George Graves died near Portsmouth, Ohio. Two other uncles moved to Kentucky, and one of their sons, Samuel Graves, now lives in Jacksonville, Ill. One of her aunts married a Rush of Fayette county, Ohio. The late Hon. Nelson Rush of Fayette county was their son. A cousin married the late Dr. Brown, one

of the foremost men of Circleville, Ohio. —an honest, capable, grand man. He was a cousin of old John Brown, "whose soul is marching on."

My father was a captain in the old Ohio Militia, commissioned as such by Gov. Lucas. I have attended general muster with him at Thornville, which was always a great gala day. The principal thing accomplished, however, was the consumption of water-melons, ginger bread and whiskey. Col. Tom Hood, of Somerset, commanded one of the regiments. He was the finest and most imposing looking officer on horseback that I ever saw in uniform, and might have become a very distinguished man but for bad habits. I also used to attend annual elections in Thornville, where I have seen drunken men by the score and bloody fights by the half dozen. Now all is changed, and I learn that liquor is not even sold there.

As to myself, when a boy I attended the common schools in log cabin school houses, and sat all day on wooden benches without backs. My first teacher, a woman, I do not remember. My second was Darius Smith. This was about 1836. He is still living at Forest, Ohio. I read my first lesson, the first reading lesson in the old American spelling book, with Frank Stinchcomb and Nathan Baker, both of whom are now dead. My next teacher was a noble old man, James Allen, who took a great interest in me in after years. He died nearly forty years ago, and is buried at New Salem. My next teacher was Simon Ortman, who died in New Salem. The next was Dr. Aldred, late of Carroll, Ohio. Homer Leach, Mr. Welsh and James W. Stinchcomb and the late Dr. Ballard, of Findlay, were my teachers, and are all now dead.

From my earliest recollection, I loved to read papers and books, and have read many a night by a poor light until my father ordered me, for the good of my health, to bed. I read of mornings, at noon while the horse rested, and on Sundays, instead of playing as other boys did. Fortunately for me, my father took good newspapers, among them the National Intelligencer, and there was a small library of good books in the village. Whatever success I have had, I owe to the good example of my father and mother, and to those books and papers. I mention these things to encourage my children and grand children to do likewise. I read all of the great speeches made in Congress from 1842 to 1852. L. D. Campbell and Dr. Olds led the debates in the House, and Tom Corwin was the great orator of the Senate.

In addition to the library at New Salem for the benefit of the boys, there was always a good debating society at our school house, and among my school mates who were benefitted by both, and many of whom took part in the latter, besides my father, the Judge and Dr. Brock, our family physician, I will name James W. Stinchcomb and A. T. Hooper, attorney and member Indiana Senate; Dr. T. K. Williams, Homer Leech, attorney; George S. Hill, attorney, all now dead; Hon. R. De Bolt, of Missouri, ex-member of Congress; Dr. A. S. Williams, of Fostoria; Dr. D. G. Linville, of Columbus City, Ind.; Homer C. Lewis, merchant, Columbus, Ohio, all of whom owe much of their success to that library and debating society. The whole neighborhood was improved in general intelligence, and in all things that go to make up an interesting and pleasant community. All honor to its founders. I once talked to an old friend who became a

reader after he was 25 years of age. and he lamented that his father had not taken good newspapers, like the National Intelligencer, when he was a boy. He considered that I had had advantages incomparably greater than his, in this, that the newspapers had given me a taste and thirst for other reading. In this connection I will state that my father and Judge Joseph G. Wiseman, his elder brother. were great readers all their lives. The Judge was particularly an intellectual man and a self-taught mathematician. He could solve any problem in surveying, mensuration, trigonometry or geometry contained in any of the text books, upon those subjects. He and my father were posted on all political matters, and were never so happy as when engaged in a political argument. The Judge was also a good stump speaker in the campaigns from 1840 to 1850. He was rewarded by being made associate judge of the Court of Common Pleas by the Legislature, and served with credit for one term. They took a great interest in the conduct of the war against rebellion, but unfortunately, my father did not live to see what he foresaw would be the result. They, as well as Uncle Jacob and Uncle Geo. Stinchcomb, were leading members of the "New Salem and Neighborhood Library," established about 1840. My father, P. S. Wiseman, was the Whig candidate for member of the Legislature for Fairfield county in the year 1848.

The political campaign of 1840, when Gen. Harrison was elected President, was a very exciting one, only equalled, but not in any respect surpassing it, by the Brough campaign of the 60's. Great conventions were held at Lancaster, Chillicothe, Newark, Columbus, Dayton and Fort Meigs. Hundreds of enthusias-

tic Whigs rode in wagons and carriages more than 50 miles to attend those meetings. with banners flying, and log cabins on the wagons. with coons perched on the roofs, and hard cider and a gourd on the inside. I went with my father, and a long procession, to Lancaster, where I saw the log cabin raised and put under roof on the public square. just in the middle of Broad, at the north side of Main street. Henry Orman and William Cassell superintended the erection of an ash pole nearly 200 feet high. Tom Corwin, the greatest of orators, made the speech in the Cox grove, near the frame house then occupied by Thos. Cox. I was enthusiastic and enjoyed it, and will never forget that glorious campaign. Lancaster never saw such a day as that on which the log cabin was raised. I was 11 years of age, and saw Lancaster for the first time. It looked larger to me then than it ever has since. G. Steinman and F. Shaeffer kept the hotels. Thos. Ewing, Henry Stanbery, Gen. Sanderson, John M. Creed, Col. Van Trump, John Reber, Chas. Borland, Gen. MacCracken, Dr. Boerstler, Dr. Edwards and G. G. Beck were then in their prime and glory.

John M. Creed was a very eloquent speaker. At the Harrisburgh convention he placed Gen. Harrison in nomination, in a speech of wonderful power, eliciting as much praise at the time as the famous speech of Ingersoll in favor of Blaine at Cincinnati, in after years.

At the close of my schoolboy days, at the age of 18, I taught a small school in the McNaughton neighborhood; afterwards near Pickerington, and again near Rushville at the Teel school house, and last of all, in Basil, where I taught two terms of four months each. In 1851 I attended for a few months Farmer's College

near Cincinnati. Among other pupils that I remember were Murat Halstead and ex-Mayor Means of Cincinnati. My eyes failing me, I left school, and engaged to travel as a collector for C. W. James, of Cincinnati, Ohio. I spent three years in traveling in the western states, then married and settled down in Lancaster. I married Mary E. Parr, the girl I loved in my youth, and have had no cause to regret it. I first served in Lancaster as Deputy Sheriff under Wm. Potter, whom I lived with in Basil, and afterwards served as Deputy Clerk of the Common Pleas Court under John Radebaugh. While in his employ I was elected secretary and treasurer of the Starch Company, where I remained four years.

During the year 1860 I was chairman of the Fairfield County Republican Central Committee. I served as said chairman during the first campaign of Abraham Lincoln, and also four other terms, part of the time, while I was postmaster of Lancaster. This brought me in contact with many of the brilliant men of that period, whose acquaintance I highly prized. Gov. Chase, Gov. Dennison, Col. W. H. Gibson, V. B. Horton, John Sherman, Gen. Sherman, Jas. G. Blaine, and others of like note, not forgetting Cassius M. Clay, who came at my request from Kentucky, and spoke to the largest audience ever assembled upon our public square; also Gov. Todd and Gov. Brough.

In 1861 I was appointed postmaster of Lancaster by Abraham Lincoln, upon the recommendation of my never to be forgotten friend, Hon. V. B. Horton, then our able member of Congress.

I was re-appointed upon the recommendation of Hon. C. A. Trimble, now of Columbus, and again upon John Sherman's recommendation, serving in all 13

years. You are old enough to remember what I have done since that time, and it is not necessary to make this sketch of greater length.

My life has been an almost continuous struggle with ill-health, but I have been fortunate in my employments, and my success has been such that I have no reason to complain. I have reared a family of children that my wife and I are proud of, and if I leave them a good name and one that they will in turn be proud of, and seek to emulate, I shall be content, and consider that I have accomplished my mission in the world, and when my time comes, be ready to go. My sister Sarah Elvira married Jackson Parrott, and became the mother of six children. A few days after the birth of the last one she died, leaving her little family apparently helpless. This was in 1862. Forty years have rolled away but the dear sister is not forgotten. Her dying request was that her husband keep the children together. He married a second wife. She was a good woman, and the children, except the babe, who died a few days after the mother, grew up together. Elvira was a lovely woman, and I never think of her without sorrow. My sister Nancy Elizabeth married Michael Hammack and they reared a family. Mr. Hammack died a few years since. My brother Jacob Y. married Elizabeth Landon, and they reared a family. The wife died a few years since, and in a few years Jacob married Mrs. Benj. Warner. Tilman Lewis married Miss Yonts, who lived but a few years. For a second wife Tilman married Miss Magruder. They reared a family in Missouri. Two or three years since the wife died, and recently he married a neighbor, a Missouri woman. John married Honora Rank. They reared a family of three chil-

dren, one of whom, Wm. Wirt, died recently in New Mexico, where he had gone for his health. John and his wife both died in Chicago. Samuel married Elizabeth Cherry, and lives at the old home near New Salem. Philip Smith, another brother, married Fanny Smith. They live in Springfield, and have a family of three boys. Sister Mary married Horace Wilson, was left a widow, but did not long survive her husband. Henry Clay died at the age of 14 years. William Wirt died at the age of 20 years. He was a bright and lovely young man, beloved by all who knew him. The brothers and sisters who died are all buried at New Salem. Both of my grand parents, on both father's and mother's side, lie in the church yard on my mother's farm, together with my father and beloved sister Elvira, and two young brothers, Wirt and Henry, and your own grand mother Catherine, besides many other kindred, a few of whose names are mentioned in the preceding pages. A spot of earth ever dear to our family. While writing this sketch my dear brother John died, and will rest there also.

In writing this brief sketch, I do not wish to be understood as claiming that our family was perfect and without fault. They doubtless had faults in common with others of the human race.

Shakespeare says that:

"The evil that men do lives after them,
The good is often interred with their bones."

It is therefore unnecessary and cruel to parade evil; let us rather reverse this, and remember only the good.

Rev. John Wiseman was commissioned a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the year 1785, by the first American Bishop of that church, Francis

Asbury. The commission, in the Bishop's own handwriting, is in the possession of the late Judge Wiseman's widow at New Salem.

FAMILY RECORD OF ISAAC WISEMAN, OF VIRGINIA.

Joseph Wiseman, born March 29th, 1759.

John Wiseman, born August 18th, 1760.

Sarah Wiseman, born July 17th, 1762.

Isaac Wiseman, born June 19th, 1764.

Jacob Wiseman, born January 12th, 1767.

Rachael Wiseman, born March 1st, 1769.

Samuel Wiseman, born February 15th, 1771.

Abner Wiseman, born 1772.

Betsey Wiseman, born 1774.

Peggy Wiseman, born 1777.

William Wiseman, born 1779.

FAMILY RECORD OF JAMES GREEN, OF VIRGINIA.

James Green, born October 28th, 1715, son of James Green.

Jane Green, born June 4th, 1759, daughter of James and Mary Green.

Margaret Green, born March 28th, 1761, sister of Jane Green.

Sarah Green, born February 28th, 1763, sister of Jane Green.

Joseph Green, born April 26th, 1765, brother of Jane Green.

Elizabeth Green, born March 23rd, 1767, sister of Jane Green.

James Green, born March 7th, 1769, brother of Jane Green.

Mary Green, born May 12th, 1771, sister of Jane Green.

Hannah Green, born November 22nd, 1773, sister of Mary Green.

John Green, born January 15th, 1776, brother of Hannah Green.

Nancy Green, born June 24th, 1779, sister of Jane Green.

Mary McGary, wife of James Green, born July 8th, 1737.

Elizabeth McGary, sister of Mary McGary, born September 7th, 1748.

Hugh McGary, who is prominently mentioned in the history of the battle of Blue Lick, Ky., was a brother of Mrs. James Green.

FAMILY RECORD OF REV. JOHN WISEMAN.

Elizabeth Wiseman, born July 10th, 1789.

Mary Wiseman, born October 5th, 1788.

Margaret Wiseman, born June 13th, 1790.

Ann Wiseman, born December 9th, 1791.

James Green, born August 14th, 1793, son of Rev. John Wiseman.

John Ray, born June 26th, 1795, son of Rev. John Wiseman.

Isaac Wiseman, born July 11th, 1797.

Sarah Wiseman, born June 3rd, 1799.

Joseph Green, born December 6th, 1801.

Abner Wiseman, born March 11th, 1805.

Philip S. Wiseman, born June 10th, 1806.

Jacob G. Wiseman, born November 26th, 1808.

Rev. John Wiseman was married to Sarah Green May 10th, 1786.

FAMILY RECORD OF PHILIP SMITH WISEMAN.

He was born June 10th, 1806.
Priscilla Lewis, his wife, was born May 26th, 1806.
C. M. L. Wiseman, born January 15th, 1829.
Sarah E. Wiseman, born July 9th, 1830.
Nancy E. Wiseman, born December 7th, 1831.
Jacob Y. Wiseman, born August 20th, 1834.
Tilman L. Wiseman, born February 29th, 1836.
John Wiseman, born March 20th, 1838.
Mary A. Wiseman, born January 20, 1840.
H. C. Wiseman, born May 20th, 1842.
P. S. Wiseman, born November 15th, 1843.
Samuel Wiseman, born January 13th, 1847.
Wm. Wirt Wiseman, born April 18th, 1850.
John Wiseman, died March 3rd, 1887, in Chicago, Illinois.

FAMILY RECORD OF C. M. L. WISEMAN.

C. M. L. Wiseman, born January 15th, 1829.
Mary E. Wiseman, his wife, born November 19th, 1834, in Somerset county, Pennsylvania.
Henry C. Wiseman, born September 14th, 1854.
Ella C. Wiseman, born March 3rd, 1856.
Sallie P. Wiseman, born March 13th, 1858.
Mary E. Wiseman, born October 18th, 1860.
Annie J. Wiseman, born June 10th, 1862.
Chas. P. Wiseman, born October 26th, 1863.
Will T. Wiseman, born August 24th, 1867.

MARRIAGES.

C. M. L. Wiseman and Mary E. Parr were married at New Salem Chapel by Rev. Jos. Carper, November 25th, 1853.

Ella C. Wiseman and Joshua Clarke were married by Rev. Boyd, February 24th, 1881, at Lancaster, Ohio.

Annie J. and Charles Williamson were married on June 10th, 1890.

Sallie P. Wiseman and F. C. Whiley were married by Rev. McLaughlin, at Lancaster, Ohio, October 16th, 1884.

Henry C. and Mary E. Cummings were married on May 23rd, 1888.

Chas. P. and Annie Wetzer were married April 29, 1896.

Elijah Parr and Catharine France were married in or near Petersburg, Pa., by Rev. David Sharp, December 12th, 1833.

Wm. T. and Ada Wilson were married February 20th, 1898.

P. S. Wiseman and Priscilla Lewis were married November 15th, 1827.

C. M. L. Wiseman married the second time Parthein E. Collins November 1st, 1900.

DEATHS.

H. Clay Wiseman died September 22nd, 1854.

P. S. Wiseman died January 28th, 1862.

S. E. Parrott died June 28th, 1862.

W. Wirt Wiseman died December 26th, 1871.

Priscilla Wiseman died February 26th, 1888.

Mary E. Wiseman died March 20th, 1894.

William T. Wiseman died October 2nd, 1898.

Mary E., over 4 years of age, died July 12th, 1865

Captain John Wiseman died March 3rd, 1887.

Mary A. Wilson died —————.

HISTORY

OF THE

Methodist Episcopal Church

OF

NEW SALEM.



**METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF NEW SALEM,
BUILT IN 1888.**

HISTORY OF THE OLD CHURCH



Where my father and mother and my grand parents, both paternal and maternal, worshipped, and adjoining the grave yard where they and many other kindred were buried.

The Methodist society was formed at a very early day, perhaps prior to 1810, at the cabin of my grandfather, Tillman Lewis. In 1822 a hewed log house of worship was built, where the society worshiped until 1838, when a new frame church was dedicated, and which is still a comfortable house of worship. This church is just over the county line (Perry), near New Salem. In these two houses of worship the eloquent voices of Gough, Findlay, Jacob and James Hooper, Homer Clark, David and Jacob Young and Joseph Carper were often heard.

The leading members of this church in the early years were: Samuel Wiseman, Rev. John Wiseman, the Hoopers, Tilman Lewis, Jacob Ortman, Judge Swayze, Daniel Lewis, Daniel Swayze, John M. Snyder, Joseph Walmire, William Kenestrick, James Civil, John Hanby, George Williams, Benjamin, Linville, John Aldred, Isaac Wiseman, James Wiseman, Samuel Wiseman, Jr., Geo. B. Wiseman, Simon Ortman, Jno. Goldthwait, Jno. Lafferty, Isaac Wiseman, son of Samuel, Judge Wiseman, Jacob G. Wiseman, Philip Smith Wiseman, Cornelius Diltz, Peter Sperry, George Norris, George Stinchcomb, David Cullers, Philip King, Abram Watson, C. Trovinger, Edward Berry, Sr., Edward Berry, Jr., Lorenzo Dow Wiseman, Benjamin Wiseman, David Swayze, and many others

whose names cannot now be recalled. To this list must be added the worthy Christian wives of these men, and many of the descendants.

All have passed to the great beyond, and the Father of all has —

“Taken them in immortal trust.
Ashes to ashes, dust to kindred dust,
Till the last angel rolls the stone away
And a new morning brings eternal day.”

The first body buried in the grave yard was that of the wife of Christian Smith, the first owner of Grandfather Lewis' farm. Smith lost the farm on a foreclosure, and grandfather traded his Pickaway county farm with the purchaser. Mrs. Smith said that if she could not own the farm she would at least be buried there, and she was. No stone marks the grave. About the year 1844 a young colored boy, son of old Perry Cooper, was buried there, but no stone marks the spot. In 1837 this church society came very near being disrupted, and the trouble did not heal over for many years. A new church was to be built, and those living in the village and their relatives favored building the structure down town. Families were divided, and the contest was a very bitter, unchristian one. Men who had been the best of friends did not speak for many months. The friends of the old location contended that the new church at the grave yard would cause greater care for the dead, and they prevailed by a large majority, and the majority paid for the church. Joseph G. Wiseman laid the foundation for the new church, and now, after 64 years, it is as firm as at first.

The writer remembers with pleasure attending church in the old log meeting house, when common benches, without backs or rests of any kind were used

for seats. In this old church he distinctly remembers the preaching of good old David Young. This was 65 years ago. The new church gave joy and comfort to the worshipers, and the membership was increased; notwithstanding the defection, for a time, of the Salem members.

This church was always popular with the circuit and crowded to overflowing at quarterly meetings. Here we have seen and heard William Coulson and Daniel Baker of Rushville; Thomas and David Wilson, of W. Rushville; Zebulan Holliday and Dr. Evans, of Bremen; Father Elder, father of Hamilton Elder, of Perry county; Randolph Mitchell, of New Reading; the Kempers, of Thornville, and James Watson, of Mt. Zion, all brainy, pious, forceful men. And last and best of all, Rev. Jesse Stoneman, the first circuit rider to preach in Perry county or Fairfield. He was entertained by my father, and I cared for his good horse. It is now 100 years since he preached his first sermon in this county. His dust reposes in the graveyard at Thornville, Perry county, O. How many people, who daily pass that graveyard are aware that it holds the dust of the first circuit rider appointed for this circuit by Bishop Asbury? We are aware that Rev. James Quinn was his associate, but if we have read aright, Stoneman was the preacher in charge.

Thoman Watson, a grand old Scotch-Irishman from the north of Ireland, came to Walnut township at an early day with his family. He lived south of the Great Swamp, now Buckeye Lake. He was one of the early members of the society, and in his cabin and that of Tilman Lewis the early preachers held their meetings. He died in 1822, and we believe he was buried in the old Salem graveyard. We know that his

son Richard was buried there and others of his family. His son James remained upon the old home and was also one of the early members of the Salem church, called by one of the old preachers in his journal, Lewis' Chapel. A daughter of Thomas Watson married Hugh Andrews, father of the venerable John Andrews. She with her family attended this church. Whether she was a member or not we cannot state. In addition to the names mentioned, James Miller and James Allen were early members, but later, in 1832, united with the Protestant church.

Thos. Watson, the Hoopers, Tilman Lewis, Rev. John Wiseman, Samuel Wiseman, James Miller, James Allen and John Goldthwaite were undoubtedly the very early members of the society. James and Jacob Hooper were both preachers before the first church was built.

John Goldthwaite was one of the earliest members of this society. He was a class leader and a very zealous member of the church. He died in 1829, 73 years ago. We doubt if there is any one living who personally knew him. His grave is marked by a modest stone about 30 feet north of the church. On this stone is inscribed his hope of immortality. He established the first nursery of grafted fruit in Fairfield county. This was located about two miles from New Salem on the Lancaster road, on the left hand side. A cottage stands upon the ground once occupied for the nursery. There are two or three apple trees there, and if we mistake not, grew up in the old nursery.

After Goldthwaite's death his family moved to New Salem. They lived on the lot just north of the German Reformed church. About the year 1837 his son Oliver, mother and two sisters moved to Marion, Grant

county, Indiana. A man named Hogan, who was a tailor and lived on the old Dr. Brock corner, moved with them.

The grand children of Goldthwaite live in Marion, and are highly respected, influential citizens.

Mr. Goldthwait was a native of Springfield, Mass. He came to this county as a teacher from Marietta in 1802. He taught in Athens in 1801.

Jacob Ortman, the grandfather of Benson Ortman, was one of the leading members of this church. He was a quiet, modest, unobtrusive man; but his influence was very great. He was not a noisy mixer, nor was he much of a visitor, even among relatives. The church and the sick received his undivided attention. He was a great reader and owned good books. Everybody respected Jacob Ortman for his modest demeanor, his integrity and his every-day Christian life. His daily life demonstrated to every one what his Christian profession meant. I recall his gray head, near the window, on the front

SEAT OF THE WEST

side amen corner. Tilman Lewis, the father of this society, being quite deaf, usually sat in a chair within the altar. But he was often to be seen on the seat in the rear of the preacher in the pulpit. He was a man of fine taste for his opportunities, and was scrupulously cleanly in his person and always well dressed. He spoke good English, but could only read the German language, and this put him to some disadvantage at times. When in good health he was a regular attendant at all church services, and frequently led in prayer meeting. His talks were interesting at such meetings, and effective. He was the grandfather of the late Homer C. Lewis.

DAVID SWAYZE.

David Swayze, one of the old members named, was a merchant on the corner now owned by Frank Andrews, and built soon after the town was laid out by Abraham Harckbarger in 1832, by a man named John Price. Swayze lived in Lancaster before moving to New Salem. He had earlier lived in Rushville. His wife was a daughter of John Walter, an old citizen of Lancaster. He left New Salem early in the forties in company with Isaac Wiseman, son of Samuel, who married his daughter, Elizabeth. He moved to Kalamazoo, Mich., where Wiseman in a year or two died. His funeral, for the benefit of the Wiseman family, was preached at New Salem by Rev. Jacob Young, who said that whenever he came to New Salem he was greeted by the warm hand of Isaac Wiseman. In the year 1839 Swayze was returning from Lancaster and took refuge from a storm under the shed of the Fetter barn at the foot of Fetter's hill. Lightning struck the barn and killed his horse, and in falling partly fell upon Swayze. Mrs. Fetter, mother of George, and her daughter, ran to his assistance and extricated him from his perilous position, and carried him to a safe place. The rain descended upon the apparently lifeless man, he revived, and was removed to his home where he soon recovered. We learn that his daughter Elizabeth is dead, but Mrs. Emma A. McCarty and her sister Caroline live in Aurora, Illinois. They were handsome, refined, elegant young ladies, and became leaders in the society of their new home.

David Swayze was born in Morris county, New Jersey, January 10, 1796. Before he was 21 years of age his father, who was a brother of Judge Swayze,

settled on a farm near Rushville, this county. He moved to Lancaster in 1822, and lived where the family of C. Winter now live. He came to New Salem about the year 1836, and was the first regular merchant. Daniel Lewis had previously opened a small store on the hill, near the Methodist church.

Judge David Swayze and John Sakes Manly in early times belonged to the first society — able to build a church, in Fairfield county, at Richland Chapel, on the farm of Daniel Stevenson. Swayze lived there on the Noah McNaghten farm. He afterwards owned the Linville farm, and he built the house where Dr. Baker lives. On Bishop Asbury's second trip to Ohio he spent at least one night with Judge Swayze. On the third or fourth visit of the Bishop he rested several days with John S. Manly, who then lived where Caleb Ruffner now lives. We believe we are correct in stating that Manly in after years joined the Salem society. He and his wife are buried in the old graveyard. The church record has not been preserved and we have written the names of old members from memory chiefly. We had the help of some old members before they went to their long home.

The journal of Bishop Asbury is authority for the foregoing statements pertaining to his visits.

Henry Nicely, R. D. Dean and Jacob M. Shade were members prior to 1839 of this church.

SOME OLD PREACHERS WHO WERE KNOWN AT NEW
SALEM.

Jesse Stoneman, James Quinn, John Meek, Asa Shinn, James Axley, Ralph Lotspeich, James B. Findlay, Charles Waddle, Michael Ellis, and Abner Gough were the most famous men who preached in the cabins of Tilman Lewis and Thomas Watson. The log church was completed in 1822. Abner Gough was preacher in charge, assisted by Henry Matthews, who in a short time became a Lancaster merchant.

They organized this society in 1820. James Gilruth was preacher in charge when the church was dedicated and Jacob Young was presiding elder. In the years following 1822 and up to 1838 such men as Leroy Swormstead, David Young, Z. Connell, H. S. Fernande, Samuel Hamilton, Homer Clark, James Hooper, Joseph Carper, James T. Donahoe, Moses A. Milligan, Charles W. Swain, and James T. Hand preached there; James B. Gurley and F. H. Jennings in the new church in 1838. Kellogg, Carroll, Jacob Young and Dr. B. B. Cassett followed them. Robert O. Spencer and James B. Findlay were presiding elders. Rev. James T. Hand was an Englishman. He owned a fine, gentle, sensible gray horse, and he told Simon Ortman that he believed that his horse had been converted.

From 1840 to 1850 Daniel Lewis, Simon Ortman, Joseph Walmire and Daniel F. Linville were the most active members of the younger set of men. Samuel Wiseman, Sr., Samuel Wiseman, Jr., and L. D. Wiseman were the fine singers of the society, but not the only good ones. An entire new generation has taken their places. May they prove worthy of the great trust in their charge.