



# CINCINNATI

## The Childhood of Our City



*Compiled and written by the*  
FEDERAL WRITERS' PROJECT  
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IN OHIO

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CINCINNATI OFFICE



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## PREFACE

**CINCINNATI: The Childhood of Our City** is one of three books written to commemorate Cincinnati's 150th birthday. It is designed to be read by children in the primary grades of the Cincinnati Public Schools as a part of the city's celebration. It shows how the settlement at Cincinnati began, how it became important in the Northwest Territory, and how its people lived and worked.

We hope that it will give the children of Cincinnati a better understanding of the richness of their heritage, and that they will enjoy the birthday celebration of their city more because of it.

Harriette Simpson, research assistant on the Federal Writers' Project in Cincinnati, was mainly responsible for the basic manuscript of this book. We are grateful for the keen interest and assistance given us at all times by the officials of the Cincinnati Public Schools.

HARRY GRAFF, *District Supervisor*

HARLAN HATCHER, *State Director*



# CONTENTS

Chapter		Page
I	<b>An Old Land Becomes Part of a Young Country</b> . . . . .	1
	The Land Has a Story. The First People Come. The Indians Come. White Men Claim the Land. The Land Gets a Name.	
II	<b>The First White Settlers Come</b> . . . . .	5
	Congress Takes a Hand. Many Men Want Land. They Make a Settlement.	
III	<b>Settlers Find the Miami Country</b> . . . . .	9
	Major Stites Looks for Horses. He Tells What He Found. Men Come to Look. East Moves West. Towns Are Cut from the Wilderness.	
IV	<b>A Great City Begins</b> . . . . .	15
	The Settlers Suffer. They Find a Friend. They Have a Good Year. They Move Away from the River.	
V	<b>The Settlers Get Started</b> . . . . .	19
	They Go to Work. They Build Schools and Churches. They Have Their Fun. They Make Money. They Have Trouble with the Indians.	
VI	<b>A Town Is Born</b> . . . . .	28
	Trade Gives It Life. It Has Much to Talk About. It Settles Down. It Improves Its Schools. It Grows Rich.	
VII	<b>The West Has a Queen City</b> . . . . .	34
	The Germans Come to Town. Cincinnati Is Busy. The Schools Are Made Free. The City Is Stricken. Europe Sends More People. The City Spreads. How Shall It Grow?	

# ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover: Fort Washington	<i>Earle Sargeant</i>	
Frontispiece	<i>Earle Sargeant</i>	
Arrival	<i>Earle Sargeant</i>	8
Early Candle and Soap Making	<i>Proctor &amp; Gamble Co.</i>	20
Play	<i>Earle Sargeant</i>	24
School	<i>Earle Sargeant</i>	31
Barnard's Lincoln, Lytle Park	<i>F.W.P.</i>	38





## CHAPTER I

### An Old Land Becomes Part of a Young Country

#### *The Land Has a Story*

**M**ANY, many millions of years ago our country did not look as it does today. For millions of years what was to be Ohio lay at the bottom of an ocean. The little striped shells which you sometimes see were once alive. They lived in that ocean. Time passed. Slowly, the land rose. The seas drew back and formed oceans much like those of today.

Other millions of years came and went. Frost and sun and wind and running water carved out hills and valleys and plains. Soon there were rivers, and forests of tall trees. There were animals, too, but they were not like those we have today. Some of them were great, hairy beasts who looked like elephants. They were called mastodons, and some were larger than any animal we see at the Zoo.

Many of these great beasts lived in the forests. Today their bones are sometimes found near Cincinnati. We may see the teeth and some of the bones of one of these big animals at the museum of the University of Cincinnati.

While these animals lived strange things were happening. Perhaps they lifted their heads from their grazing and shook and shivered with the cold. For there came a time when it seemed always winter in Ohio. This was the Ice Age. Great, thick sheets of ice called glaciers came down from Canada. They covered much of the northern part of the United States. One even pushed down past the Ohio River and the place where Covington now stands.

The glaciers were like big hands pushing rocks and trees about. Sometimes they cut off the tops of hills.

If you are ever near the Little or the Big Miami Rivers, you may see round black or gray-green stones. These stones are hard

and smooth. When they are broken, the inside will sometimes look as if it has been sprinkled with bits of glass. This shiny rock is called granite. The glaciers broke off great pieces of granite from mountains in Canada. The ice carried these pieces of rock, and ground them down and rubbed them smooth. Then when the ice melted, the rocks were left lying here thousands and thousands of years ago.

The ice sheets also brought soil. The southern part of Hamilton County got little soil from the glaciers, but the northern half and much of the rest of Ohio received a great deal. The soil the glaciers gave grows the tall wheat and corn and hay that you see when you are riding on a train, in a bus, or in an automobile through Ohio.

Sometimes the rocks and earth fell into streams and rivers, and blocked them so that they had to run elsewhere. Before the coming of the glaciers the Ohio River, the Licking River, and the Miami Rivers did not flow as they do now. There was no great Ohio River such as we have today, and no Mill Creek. The Licking River ran on down across what is now Cincinnati, and then went up the Mill Creek Valley. The Carew Tower stands on what was a rock island in the Licking River thousands of years ago. But the glaciers moved the rivers around, and forced them to flow as they do today.

After many thousands of years the ice sheet melted. The mastodons and other strange animals roamed the country for a while after the Ice Age, and then died.

The land looked much as it does today. To the north were the Great Lakes, formed by the glaciers. Down the center of what is today the United States ran the Mississippi, and cutting across from the east came the Ohio River to join it. Between the Lakes and the Ohio, and the Mississippi and the Allegheny Mountains, lay the country which thousands of years later was to be the Northwest Territory.

After many years trees grew again and animals once more came to live in the woods. The country lay there fine and beautiful, but there were no people.

### *The First People Come*

No one knows when the first people came, where they came

from, or how long they lived here. The first people of whom we know were the mound builders. In many parts of what was to be Ohio these first people built tall, fat mounds of earth. Some of these mounds were shaped like huge scoops of ice cream. Others twisted and curved like great snakes crawling on the ground.

On some of these heaps mound builders sang and made speeches. The long, twisting ones were built for protection. Others were piles of dirt these people had thrown over the places where their houses had stood or where they had burned their dead. Before all of downtown Cincinnati was covered by buildings and sidewalks and streets, mounds could be seen there. A large mound once stood at Fifth and Mound Streets.

In some of the mounds men have found clay dishes and many pearls. Most of the mound builders seem to have been very fond of pearls. They wore them in strings about their necks, and sewed them into their clothing. We know that these first Ohio people smoked, because many pipes with much carving on them have been found in the mounds. They knew how to make copper into rings and bracelets and how to make cups and bowls of clay.

No one knows why it was, but after a time there were no more mound builders. Some say that a great sickness made them all die. Others think that fierce tribes of other people came and drove them from the country. Still others say they were the great-grandparents of the Indians.

### *The Indians Come*

Many years passed. The Indians came to live in what white men were later to call North America. But at first none lived south of Lake Erie and north of the Ohio River. Many hunted there, for the great forests were filled with deer and bear and wild turkey. But they did not build their wigwams and pole lodges in Ohio.

The first Indians who lived north of the Ohio River were the Erie, or Cat People. They lived along the southern border of Lake Erie. But their enemies, the Iroquois Indians, soon drove them away. Then for many years there were few Indians in this part of the country.

But as white settlers came to live in New England and farther south along the Atlantic Coast, they forced the Indians westward into Ohio.

By the time of the American Revolution many tribes claimed the land that was to be the Northwest Territory. They loved the country. It gave them everything they needed—food, shelter, and clothing. And it had flint for their arrows. Near Newark were great ridges of fine, hard flint—pink, purple, blue-green, and streaked with other colors.

### *White Men Claim the Land*

The Indians were the only people living on the land, but soon everybody was claiming it. England said that the land belonged to her through an agreement with the Indians. France said it was hers because LaSalle had gone down the Ohio River.

England and France wanted to trade in it. They sent traders with loads of bright cloth, trinkets, guns, and powder for the Indians in exchange for the skins of animals. Some of the furs brought much money when they were sold in France and England.

When the Colonies won the Revolutionary War they claimed the land and wanted to settle it. When the Indians learned this they were not pleased. They wanted the land for themselves. They did not want white settlers to come out and cut down the trees and scare the animals away as they had done in the East.

They made up their minds that they would not be driven from their homes. "We shall fight for our land," the Indians said.

### *The Land Gets a Name*

After the Revolution, Great Britain agreed that all the land east of the Mississippi and south of the Great Lakes belonged to the United States of America. The northwestern part of this they called the Northwest Territory.

As we look at a map of the United States and see that Ohio and other parts of the Northwest Territory are not even in the center of the map, but on the eastern side, the name may seem strange. But we must remember that when the name was given, the United States was young and small. No one then dreamed that some day it would reach all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

## CHAPTER II

### The First White Settlers Come

#### *Congress Takes a Hand*

WHEN our forefathers separated our country from Great Britain, they had to send men from each Colony to form a Constitution and make rules for the new nation. They had to decide how the Northwest Territory would be governed and how its lands should be divided. There were men who wanted to buy some of the land and live on it. The United States was anxious to sell the land to them and get the money.

Young nations are sometimes like young people just starting out in life. They do not have much money. When the United States was young she had no money at all. At first she did not even have laws that would allow her to collect taxes. And there was no money to pay the soldiers who had helped win the Revolution.

The soldiers asked to be given land instead of money. So the United States promised them land in the Northwest Territory. But they could not go there until the land was measured and divided, and until they had some form of government in the Northwest Territory.

In 1785 the United States decided that land in the new region was to be marked off into blocks six miles square. These were called townships. Land in the townships was to be sold at auction for not less than a dollar an acre. In each township some of the land was to be saved for schools.

In 1787 another law said that there should never be slaves in the Northwest Territory. There was to be a Governor, a secretary, and three judges; Congress would decide who these were to be. This set of plans was called the Ordinance of 1787.

The Northwest Territory, or the Ohio Country as it was also called, was at last ready for settlement.

*Many Men Want Land*

The Ordinance of 1787 was passed quickly because many people were eager to buy and settle the land. They wanted to build homes and raise their families there. They thought that in the new land times would not be so hard as in the Thirteen Colonies. When many of the soldiers came home from the Revolution they could not find jobs. Money was scarce.

Many farmers were interested in the Northwest Territory. New England farmers looked at their thin, stony fields and thought of the great stretches of deep, rich soil in the Northwest Territory.

In those days the United States did not have so much fertile land as it has today. There were no prairie states to grow great crops of wheat and corn and hogs. There were no great plains and no Pacific states for fruit growing. The United States went no farther than the Mississippi River.

Not all of the men who wanted land in the Northwest Territory intended to farm. There were some who planned to buy many acres of land from the government. They would then divide it into lots and fields. These they would sell for more than they had paid, and so make some money for their trouble. Such groups of men were called land companies.

Some men who had been officers in the Revolution had come together with their friends and formed a company. They named their group the Ohio Land Company because it was to buy land in the Ohio Country.

One of the members of this company was Reverend Manasseh Cutler. He went before the members of Congress and talked to them. He told them of all the land his company wanted to buy, and showed them that if they sold the land the United States could have money with which to pay its debts.

Congress was at first unwilling to sell parts of the Northwest Territory to the land companies. Most members felt that they should only sell small amounts to men who were going to live on the land. But Reverend Manasseh Cutler was not easily discouraged, and he finally persuaded Congress to sell some land to his company.

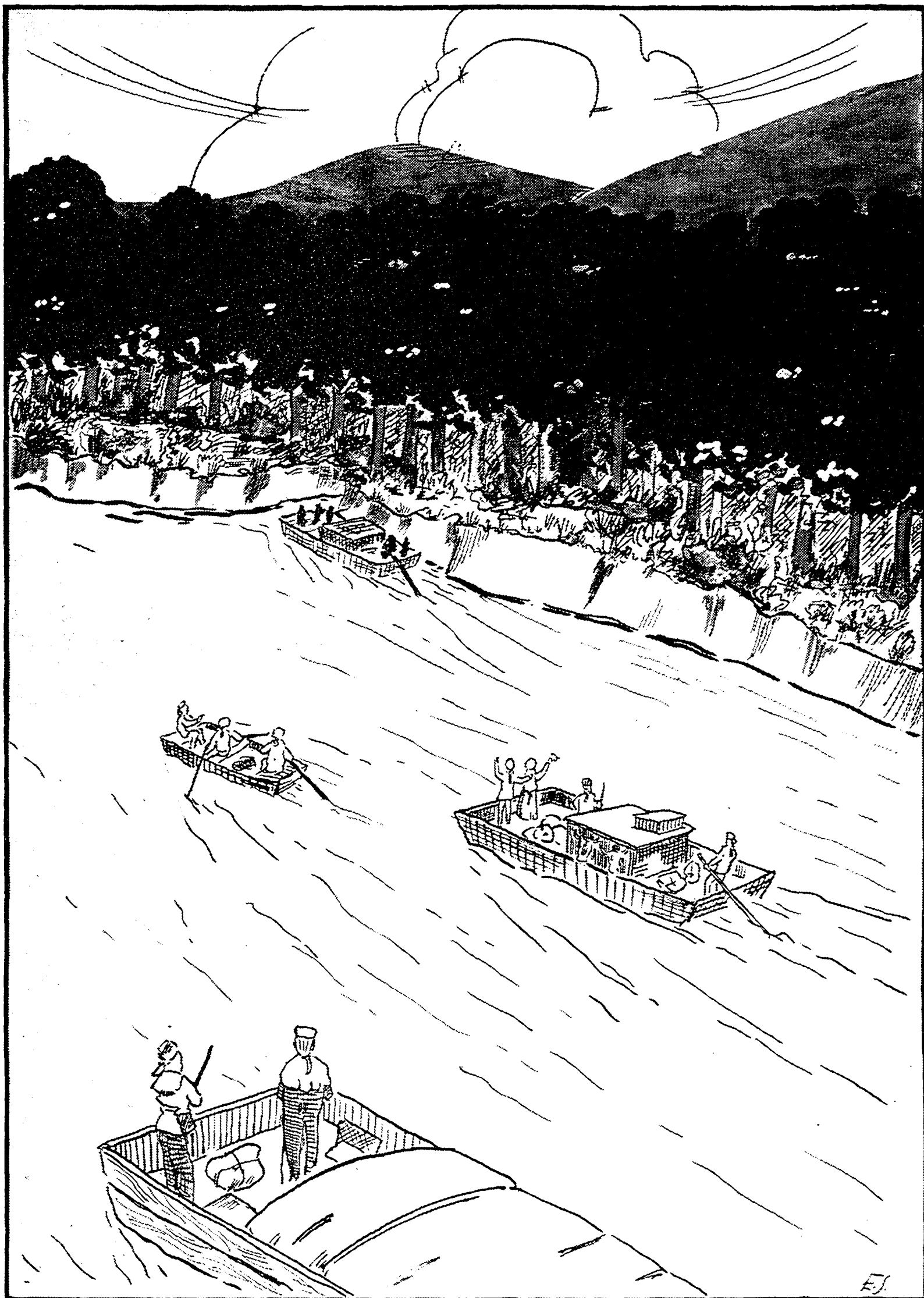
### *They Make a Settlement*

Another member of the Ohio Land Company was General Rufus Putnam, who had been a soldier in the Revolution. He and other members of the Ohio Company bought land in the Northwest Territory.

Let us imagine we are settlers planning to move to a new country. The land is filled with Indians. There are no roads—only trees and streams and wild animals. But winding along the southern part of the country is a broad river. Timber is cheap, and we can make many flatboats, big enough to carry sacks of flour and meal, furniture, clothing, horses, and cattle. The land along the river is so fertile that corn, wheat, and clover will grow thick and tall.

Is it strange, then, that the first settlement in the Northwest Territory was made on the north bank of the Ohio River? This first community was Marietta, founded by General Rufus Putnam in 1787. It was named in honor of Marie Antoinette, the French Queen, because France had helped us win the Revolution.

Though it was the first settlement in the Northwest Territory, Marietta was the most important one for only a little while. Farther down the Ohio three other little settlements were soon made. One of these grew faster than the others, and in later days was called the “Queen City of the West.” What do you think is its real name?



ARRIVAL



## CHAPTER III

### Settlers Find the Miami Country

#### *Major Stites Looks for Horses*

**I**N Pennsylvania there lived a man by the name of Benjamin Stites. During the Revolution he fought the British and the Indians along the borders of Pennsylvania. He fought so well that he was made an officer.

After the Revolution Major Stites lived at home with his wife and children. He had never been into what was to be Ohio, but he had sometimes come down the Ohio River.

One day in the spring of 1786 Major Stites floated down in his broad, heavy flatboat to Limestone in Kentucky. (Limestone is now called Maysville.) He brought flour and meal and other provisions to sell to the white settlers in Kentucky.

While he was near Limestone some Indians stole a band of horses from the settlers. Major Stites persuaded several men to go with him to find the Indians and get back the stolen horses.

They followed the trail of the Indians down the Ohio River, until they came to a place where the Indians had built a raft and crossed over to where the Little Miami River flows into the Ohio River. The land on the other side of the Ohio was part of the Northwest Territory.

Major Stites and the other men had heard of land where the Miamis flowed into the Ohio. The Indians had fought many battles there. White men had been killed as they passed by. Some even called the land between the two Miamis the "Miami Slaughterhouse."

None of the men had ever gone into the deep forests that stretched away to the north. But Major Stites said, "What an Indian can do, we'll do. Let's build a log raft and follow them."

So they, like the Indians, put together a raft, and by pushing long poles against the bottom of the river sent the raft across. They

followed the trail of the Indians up the wide valley of the Little Miami. They went farther and farther up the river, deeper and deeper into the great forest. They came near the place where the Little Miami begins, and knew they were close to an Indian town. Many Indians would be there. Major Stites and the other men were too few to fight so many Indians. They knew they could never get their horses; it would be foolish to try.

Despite the Indians who might have been prowling in the woods, Major Stites wanted to explore some of the fine, new country he saw. He persuaded the men to go with him west across the hills. They came to the Great Miami and found another wide valley of fertile soil. They went down the river a distance, then came away, and at last reached Mill Creek, which they followed to the Ohio River.

When Major Stites returned to his wife and children in Pennsylvania, he could not forget the beautiful country he had seen in the Northwest Territory.

He thought of the stretches of broad, fertile land along the Ohio and the Big Miami and the Little Miami. He thought of the great forests with many oak trees. He knew that when the acorns dropped from the trees in the fall, hogs could eat the nuts and fatten on them. He had seen stone that would do for building, and there were springs and streams to furnish water for cooking and drinking. But best of all there was the Ohio River. He and other men could make flat-boats and float down the river to a new home.

### *He Tells What He Found*

Major Stites knew that he, one man alone, could do very little, but if several should go together they could make a settlement in the fine land between the two Miamis. Although it was winter he walked through the woods from his home in Pennsylvania to New York City. The Continental Congress was meeting in New York. Stites hoped to interest some members in the land and get them to help him buy some.

In New York he met John Cleves Symmes, and told him of the country he had seen on the southern edge of the Northwest Territory. Judge Symmes was a Congressman from New Jersey. He

was so interested in what Stites told him that the next year he came out west to see the country for himself. He traveled around looking at the land that was to be Cincinnati and Hamilton County. This forest land was as good as any he had ever seen, and he wanted to buy a great deal of it. He was sure many people would like to come here to live. If they did he could sell the land at a profit.

Soon Congress passed the Ordinance of 1787 and then Judge Symmes could buy his land. He bought nearly a million acres covering much more than what is now Hamilton County. This was called the Symmes Purchase. He paid only a few cents an acre for it.

### *Men Come to Look*

Major Stites thought that he would like to have his family and his friends live on the broad, level land where the Little Miami joined the Ohio River. So he bought ten thousand acres from Judge Symmes. He did not keep all the land he bought, but sold some of it to friends in Pennsylvania.

Several men thought that the best place for a settlement in the Symmes Purchase was on the bank of the Ohio River just across from the mouth of the Licking River. They were Robert Denman, Colonel Israel Ludlow, Colonel Robert Patterson, and John Filson, a young man who had taught school in Lexington, Kentucky.

John Filson named the new settlement "Losantiville." This name comes from French and Latin words meaning "the city opposite the mouth of the Licking River."

When Losantiville was named and a few of the streets were planned, John Filson and the other men one day went back farther into the hills. John Filson started to return alone to their flatboats on the river. No one ever heard of him again. Some say he was lost in the woods and died of hunger. Others think that Indians or wild animals killed him.

In spite of John Filson's death, other men went on with the work of laying out streets and dividing lots. Colonel Israel Ludlow bought Filson's share of the land. Soon they were ready to go for the women and children and other men awaiting them up the river at Limestone.

Judge Symmes wanted to have a settlement of his own. He thought that the place where the Big Miami River met the Ohio River was the best location. He decided to name his settlement North Bend, because it was at the top of a great northern bend in the Ohio River.

### *East Moves West*

Through the summer of 1788 groups of people were very busy getting ready to move. Though they came from many different places, these folk were all going to the three settlements being planned in the Symmes Purchase of the Northwest Territory. Some looked forward to living in North Bend, others were headed for Losantiville, and the rest were planning their future in the settlement that Stites decided to call Columbia.

Sometimes friends and neighbors would hear the happy, eager talk of those planning to go to the country between the two Miamis. They would shake their heads, and sigh. "It's foolish to go so far away," they said. "The country there is filled with Indians. There are no churches or stores or schools for your children."

And the people planning to move would answer, "When we have been there for a time there will be churches and schools and everything else that you have here."

The ones staying at home would laugh. "It is too far away. The United States can never stretch so far—all the way to the Mississippi. You and your wives and children may drown on that long ride down the river. Indians may hide behind the trees and shoot you as you float along. You may even get away out there and starve, or die for the want of a doctor. There are no doctors there."

But the pioneers were not afraid. They only smiled and went on planning to move to the fertile Ohio Country.

Moving was a very different thing from what it is today. A pioneer family could not telephone for a moving van to come and get their furniture. Most of them could not even take many of their household goods.

There were other things more important than furniture to be carried out to the new country. The men had to bring farming tools,

hogs and cattle and horses, and seed for the next year. The women had to bring spinning wheels and looms because the men would be too busy to make such things for them. The mothers had to bring medicine to take care of their families if they were sick, because there would be no doctors in the wilderness. They had to bring their iron pots, kettles, and skillets for cooking. The men of the family could make furniture and bowls and spoons from wood, but not cooking vessels. And most important of all, they had to bring plenty of meal and flour, enough to last them through the winter. The men could kill game in the woods, but they could not get meal or flour in the Northwest Territory.

All the men and the older boys had to bring their guns, bullet molds, powder, flints, and lead to be molded into bullets. They had to take along axes, hatchets, long, sharp hunting knives, and smaller ones to whittle wood.

The family thought of all these things and left behind what they could do without. The rest was heaped in great, heavy wagons drawn by oxen. The smallest children rode in the wagon with their mother; the rest of the family walked. The oxen walked very slowly, pulling the wagon along over rough, muddy roads. Even a very young boy could walk faster than an ox-drawn wagon could rumble along.

In this way people traveled over the mountains until they came to some stream that flowed into the Ohio River. There they would stop and camp, while the men cut trees and built flatboats. Some of them bought boats that were already built. These boats were strong and heavy and sometimes fifty feet long, with one end roofed like a house. The family placed their goods on these boats and continued their long journey.

Since most of the first settlers started in the late fall and early winter, the trip down the Ohio River was often dangerous. There was ice in the river, and the water was swift. Sometimes it whirled the clumsy boats against the river banks or sandbars and drowned the hogs and cattle. But the settlers went on to the land.

### *Towns Are Cut from the Wilderness*

With twenty-six men, women, and children Major Stites reached

the settlement he had planned on the land between the two Miamis. They came in November 1788 to what was to be Columbia. They had heard (while they waited up the river at Limestone) that about five hundred Indians were encamped near the mouth of the Little Miami. They sent scouts down the river in canoes. When the scouts saw no one, they waved their handkerchiefs to show that all was well. The rest of the party then came on.

As soon as they had landed, the men took their axes and made a clearing in a pawpaw thicket near the river bank. There they prayed for the success of their settlement. They set to work and built brush huts open on one side. In these they lived until they could finish log cabins and a blockhouse. This was the first settlement made in Hamilton County, and the second in the Northwest Territory.

Several weeks later, three days after Christmas, Colonel Ludlow brought up the party of settlers who had been waiting at Limestone until he could survey Losantiville. There, as at Columbia, the people built log cabins and laid off streets, whose names they marked on the trees.

There were so many trees that it was not always easy to tell where the streets were. Rebecca Kennedy, who came with her parents and six brothers and sisters in February, tells how her father built his house. He built it at what he thought was the corner of Walnut and Water Streets. But when spring came and more trees were cut down, the Kennedy family learned that their home was right in the middle of Water Street, where the mules and horses and wagons were supposed to go.

In February 1789, about three months after the settling of Columbia, Judge Symmes came to live at North Bend on the Great Miami. Soldiers came with him to protect his settlement and the other two, Losantiville and Columbia.

By the spring of 1789 these three baby villages were nestled on the land that Major Stites had found between the two Miamis. The people living in each village dreamed that their settlement would some day be a great city. Of the three, which do you think grew fastest and became a great city—Columbia, Losantiville, or North Bend?

## CHAPTER IV

### A Great City Begins

#### *The Settlers Suffer*

THE three settlements by the river looked small and lonely that first winter. The men worked hard cutting down big trees. Some of the logs were so high that a tall man had to stand on tiptoe to peep over them. Tree stumps stood all around the cabins. They were large and round, like crooked tables rooted in the ground.

On winter nights the wind moaned and whistled through the branches of the forest trees. Down in the little cabins the children shivered in their beds when the wolves howled in the snow on moonlit nights and the panthers screamed in the trees behind their homes.

That first winter was long, hard, and cold. Ice clotted the river, and it was hard to get supplies from the nearest stores, many miles away.

The people of Columbia ran out of meal and flour long before the winter was over. Game was scarce. A neighborly band of Shawnee Indians gave them some corn, but that was not enough. The women went into the woods and dug under the snow for the roots of bear grass, which they boiled and fed to their families.

Down at North Bend conditions were little better. The troops who had come to protect Judge Symmes from the Indians had only half enough food to eat. The people at Losantiville also ran short of food. But Francis Kennedy came out in February bringing many barrels of flour. He helped the settlers and the soldiers at North Bend through the winter.

The settlers did not at first know that almost every year the river came up over the low land which they had chosen. But they soon learned. That first winter both Columbia and North Bend were flooded; but the houses at Losantiville had been built on higher land, which the river could not reach so easily.

In spite of all their troubles, the settlers thought of the spring. They would plant corn and potatoes and pumpkins, and store up food to take them through the next winter. They hoped, too, that in the spring more settlers would come and build log cabins, and be good neighbors.

### *They Find a Friend*

The soil in the Northwest Territory was fine and fertile, and corn had tall, green stalks with big, golden ears. Major Stites and the other men of Columbia grew their first corn crop where Lunken Airport now lies. The Indians had once farmed this ground, so that it had few trees. This stretch of land was called Turkey Bottom.

The settlers had only a few seeds to plant that first season. This handful of young grain had hardly been put in the ground when along came the frost and killed it.

But in the second summer the men planted great fields. The pioneers took turns working in the corn and standing guard with muskets in their hands. The Indians were no longer friendly; they were dangerous. All men who worked in the fields had to be careful. But the settlers were determined to grow their corn, which was selling for as much as a dollar a bushel. In those days a dollar was more than it is now. A soldier's pay was only three dollars a month.

That year the men of Columbia and others who had planted corn were repaid for their trouble. Men said they had never seen such corn. Some of the stalks stood fourteen feet tall, with long, plump, heavy ears growing so high above the ground that a man had to jump to snatch them off the stalk.

That winter nobody went hungry in the three settlements. There was corn for hoecakes, hominy, and mush. There was parched corn for the hunters to take with them on their long journeys. There was fodder for the cows to eat. Even the little children could build castles of the red and yellow cobs as they played at night by the fire while the older people shelled the corn.

### *They Have a Good Year*

In 1789 great things happened in one of the three small settle-



ments, the middle one—Losantiville. The United States Government decided that the people living in the Symmes Purchase should have a fort with many soldiers to protect them. After some talk about the matter they decided to build the fort in Losantiville and to name it “Washington” in honor of the President.

Fort Washington stood about where Lytle Park is now. It was made up of a number of stout log cabins in which lived three hundred soldiers. These cabins were built touching each other, so that their backs made a wall around a square of ground. At each corner of the square stood a strong blockhouse.

Many people now came to live in the village, for they knew that with such a strong fort, and so many soldiers, they did not have to be afraid of the Indians.

The next year Losantiville changed its name. Early in January, Arthur St. Clair, Governor of the Northwest Territory, came down from Marietta to see the settlement here. He did not like the name it had, and so he called it Cincinnati.

During the Revolutionary War, many of the officers had joined together to form a kind of club. They pledged themselves to help one another, and called this club the “Society of the Cincinnati” in honor of a Roman who lived about two thousand years ago. His name was “Cincinnatus.” He, too, like the soldiers of the Revolution, left his fields and his plow to help his country win a war. And so the Revolutionary soldiers named their society after him, and St. Clair named the little village after the society.

In that year, also, the first church and the first mill were built in Cincinnati. The mill did not have great air paddles like the Dutch mill; it used a horse to give it power. The horse kept going round and round, turning a wheel, until he was tired.

Cincinnati also became the capital of the Northwest Territory in 1790. Other settlements, such as Cleveland, were soon made in the Northwest Territory, but none was so important as Cincinnati.

### *They Move Away from the River*

Many of the new settlers did not want to live in the little villages on the Ohio River. They wanted to go farther back in the hills or up

the valleys to farm. But each man could not go off by himself and live on his own land as farmers now do. Instead he had to stay close to his neighbors for protection against the Indians.

The pioneers banded together and set all their cabins on a small plot of ground. Then they built a high log wall around the cabins, and erected a strong blockhouse at each corner. These strongholds were called stations. The men worked their farm by day and came back to the station by nightfall. As many as sixty men, women, and children lived in the larger stations. But some of the smaller ones had less than thirty people.

The Indians tried to keep these white settlers from taking their lands. They would dash out of the woods and fire on the stations. They stole horses and cows left to graze in the meadows. They ambushed hunters in the woods and killed or captured them. They carried away boys who ventured too far into the forests to hunt grapes, chestnuts, or hickory nuts.

The Indians even raided the farms. The men had to carry their guns strapped across their backs while they plowed, and they leaned them against a log or stump within easy reach while they hoed. The womenfolk stayed at the station and worked in the cabins. They were always on the watch for sneaking Indians. They could not let their children go outside the walls of the station until they had scanned the woods for danger.

But more and more people came, and soon there were many of these stations. Ludlow's Station was in Cumminsville; White's Station stood where Terrace Park is now; Covalt Station was about two miles south of Milford; and Dunlap's Station edged up close to what is now the northern border of Hamilton County.

Most of these stations were finally swallowed up by Cincinnati as the town grew and spread.

## CHAPTER V

### The Settlers Get Started

#### *They Go to Work*

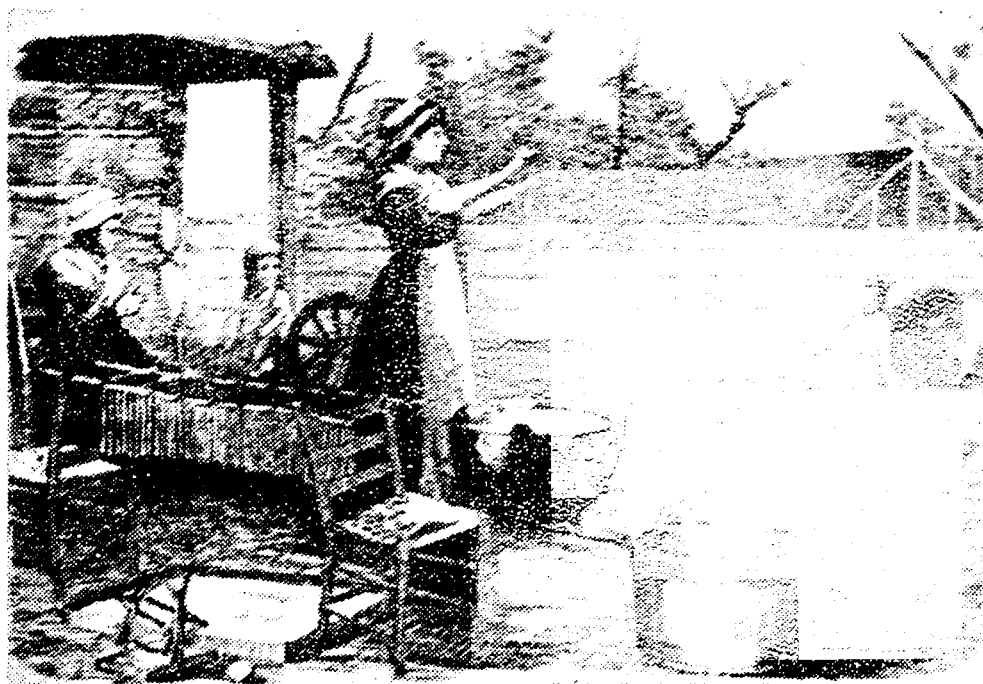
THE settlers were very busy people. The mothers wove and sewed the cloth they made into clothing for their families. Sometimes they dyed the cloth with many bright colors. They did not buy their dyes at the store as we do when we want to color Easter eggs. They used the bark of walnut, hickory, and butternut trees. When they could afford it, they bought indigo at Yeatman's Store, and made their clothes blue. When the spinning and weaving were done, the mother of the house and her older daughters knitted, for the many children always needed socks and mittens.

The men, too, were very busy. Some went hunting in the woods for bear and deer. Others, men like Colonel Israel Ludlow, were planning streets and fields. Such men were called surveyors. When he was a young man George Washington was a surveyor.

Most of the men at Columbia were busy farming. Through the early spring and in the winter they cleared trees and brush from their land. When the red oak leaves were the size of a mouse's ear, they went out to plant their corn. After the men had grooved the field for planting, the children walked down each row and dropped three grains of corn about every four feet. When the young corn showed green above the ground, the children helped keep the crows and squirrels away. Later, the larger boys helped their fathers cut the weeds from the corn.

The children also helped in many other ways. The older girls took care of the younger children, and aided their mothers in soap making, spinning, and weaving. They brought water from the spring and the river, and on washday helped with the clothes.

The Ohio settlers made many things that we buy in the store today. They made candles, usually by dipping a thread into tallow,



EARLY CANDLE AND SOAP MAKING

or mutton grease, until the layers of tallow formed a thick candle. They made their own soap from lye and fat. But first they had to make the lye. For this they saved all the ashes from the fireplace. These they placed in a large hopper and poured water over them. They then boiled down the lye water, and used it for making soap.

Sometimes they boiled grains of corn in lye water until the tough covering of the corn grain grew soft and fell away. Then they boiled the corn in fresh, clean water until it was plump and soft. This hominy was only one of the many foods they made from corn.

On winter nights the whole family would sit by the hearth and work in the firelight. Mother would run the little spinning wheel, rock the cradle with her foot, and sing to the baby—all at the same time. The older boys used their long, sharp jackknives and helped father whittle stout oak pegs to be used in place of nails, and bowls and spoons from the wood of the buckeye trees. They took hickory sticks, split them fine on one end, and made them into brooms. They watched as father molded bullets from lead.

The men made nearly all of their furniture. When they wanted to make a table they took a piece of a tree, round on one side but flat on the other. Such a board was called a puncheon. At each corner of a large puncheon they would put split sticks for legs, and this would be their table. Their chairs were often blocks of wood or stools with three legs. Sometimes they made chairs. For the seats they peeled strips of hickory bark from young trees in the spring.

### *They Build Schools and Churches*

In spite of all this hard work and all the trouble they had with the Indians, one of the first things the settlers did was to organize churches and schools for their children. There were no free schools. Parents had to hire a school teacher; those who could not afford to pay him could not send their children to his school. The first school in Hamilton County was opened in Columbia on June 21, 1790. The teacher was John Reilly, who had been a soldier in the Revolution. Later, another man came to teach Greek and Latin.

Of course there were no boarding houses or hotels—only homes. So the teachers stayed first with one family and then with another.

This was called "boarding round." It helped the teacher to get along, for his pay was small.

The first school in Cincinnati was opened in 1792. It was a little log house down near the river on the safest side of town, where the Indians would not come.

In those days people thought little girls should only learn to cook and sew, and perhaps read and write a bit. So only boys, about thirty of them, went to this school. They studied reading, writing, and arithmetic when they were young, and history, grammar, rhetoric, algebra, Latin, and Greek when they were older. Sometimes on Friday afternoons the children would have a program to which their parents came. They would make speeches, recite poetry, sing, or have spelling and arithmetic contests.

They had no pencils, tablets, globes, blackboards, or chalk such as we have today. Paper was too expensive for children to use at school every day. The few times it was used they wrote with ink, often made from oak galls. For pens they used sharpened goose quills. They had no blotters, but if they wished to dry ink in a hurry they sprinkled sand on the paper. Most of the time they used slates somewhat like those we buy in the ten cent store. Instead of smooth, fine seats such as we have today, they had rough puncheon benches all the same height, so that the very little boys sometimes had to sit with their feet dangling.

The older boys not only studied at school, but also helped the teacher. When the logs in the fireplace that heated the room had burned low, they would bring in wood and build up the fire. If the woodpile beside the schoolhouse was small, they would chop trunks and limbs of trees into the right length for the fireplace. If the wooden water bucket that stood in a corner of the room was empty, one or two boys would go to the spring for water.

The people also had churches. They formed their first one, the Columbia Baptist Church, in 1790. Men who came to this church not only brought their Bibles, but also their guns. If a man forgot and left his gun at home, he was fined. Some of the rules of the church were very strict. One member was scolded because he played ball on a weekday.

In that same year, 1790, the people of Cincinnati also formed a church, the First Presbyterian, whose building later stood at the corner of Fourth and Main Streets.

### *They Have Their Fun*

The pioneers here had to work much harder and live in more danger than we do today. Yet they had their fun and pastimes. The children had few toys, but they could amuse themselves in other ways. They loved to gather wildflowers on the river bank in the spring, and to watch the bright birds among the trees. They made boats, bows and arrows, and played at Indian fighting.

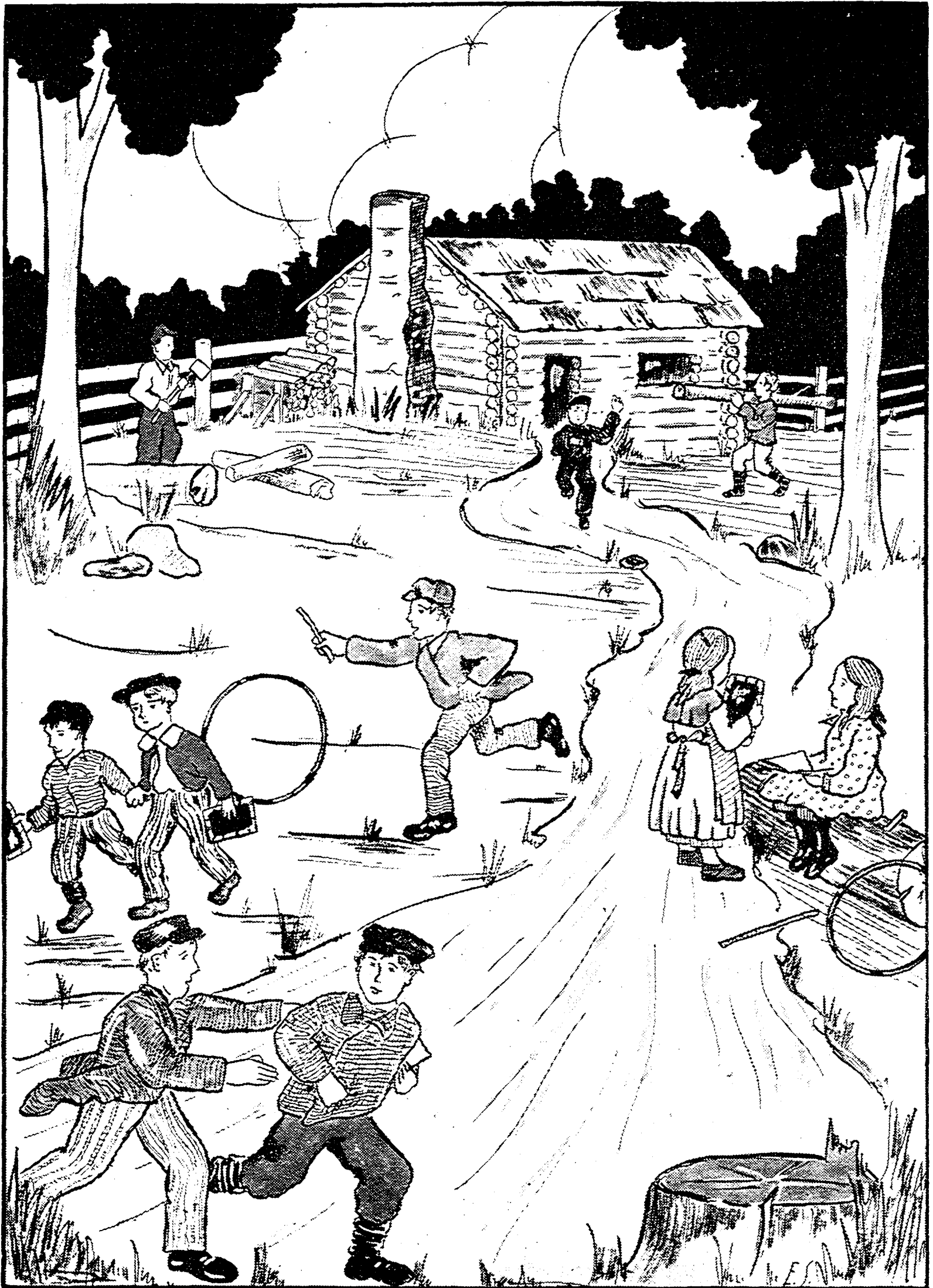
When the grown people were not too busy, they danced in the log cabins. The men came in their rough hunting clothing, and the women wore their linsey-woolsey dresses. They danced to the tune of fiddlers.

Weddings were always a gay time. Sometimes the parties, dinners, and dances would last three or four days.

What do you think was the gayest time of all? No, not Christmas or Thanksgiving, but the Fourth of July, or Independence Day as they called it. Many of the men had fought in the Revolution, and they prized the Declaration of Independence because they had fought for its principles seven long years. At Fort Washington the soldiers would parade to the thunder of drums. They would fire muskets and cannons into the sky.

Sometimes the officers of the fort would give great balls. Men would come in their bright dress uniforms, with their swords by their sides. Their hair would be powdered and curled. The ladies would get out their finest and brightest dresses, made of silk, velvet, or satin. In the light of many candles the men and women would bow and step gracefully to the music of violins.

Most of the time, however, the people were too busy and too worried about the Indians to hold balls and parties. So most of their good times were mixed with their work. In the fall of the year, when the corn was gathered, there would be husking bees. Some settler would make two great piles of corn. A group of young men would



PLAY



each take a pile and see who could finish taking the shucks off first. And every time a husker found a red ear of corn he was allowed to kiss his girl.

When a new settler had the logs of his cabin ready to be lifted into place, all his neighbors would gather around and help him with the work. They worked fast. In the morning a group went to a patch of thick woods. By nightfall the trees had been cut down and fitted together into a log house. The house was finished even to the fireplace, the mud-and-stick chimney, and a floor made of hard-packed clay. While the men had been working, the women had roasted wild turkeys and deer meat, and baked hoecakes and other good things over hickory-wood fires. Such a party was called a house raising; it was as much fun as our picnics are today.

Often the women would get together and make quilts. This was called a quilting bee. Both men and women took part in spelling matches. The men held contests, and sometimes ran in foot races, or entered their horses in races.

### *They Make Money*

The pioneers raised most of their food and made at home most of their clothing and other necessary things. But now and then they needed money to buy salt and coffee, and also powder and lead for bullets.

But money was scarce. Therefore, if they wanted to buy something at Yeatman's Store down near the river at the foot of Sycamore Street, they exchanged the skins of animals for coffee or salt, or the other articles they needed. A rabbit skin was worth 6¼ cents, a fox skin twenty-five cents, and a deer skin fifty cents.

Some of the men had brought a few silver dollars with them, but they did not have quarters or half-dollars. So if a man wished to pay another man fifty cents he would take a silver dollar to the blacksmith. The blacksmith would cut it in two, and there would be two half-dollars.

Sometimes the blacksmith cut the dollars into five equal pie-shaped pieces, and kept one for himself. These were called sharpshins; they were not so big or so heavy as the regular quarters.

The settlers did not have small coins for change until Yeatman, the storekeeper, brought the first pennies, a whole barrel of them, from Philadelphia about 1795.

### *They Have Trouble with the Indians*

The pioneers did not mind the hard life of those early days because they were building a new country for themselves and their children. But the Indians were always a menace. About fifteen thousand Indians roamed over Ohio in those days. They loved Ohio and they were determined to keep it as their home.

They caused more and more trouble for the settlers. They raided farms, they stole horses and cattle, they captured women and children, and they killed hundreds of travelers. The United States government tried to make peace with them, but the Indians would not leave the white men alone. The Government then sent Josiah Harmar against them with a troop of soldiers, but the Indians defeated him.

General Arthur St. Clair then went against them with an army of many men from Fort Washington in 1792. The Indians surprised St. Clair's army deep in the woods, and chased them away.

That winter was a sad time in Cincinnati and the nearby settlements. Many people got discouraged and moved away. The Indians grew bolder. In all the land north of the Ohio and between the Miamis they were a terror to the settlers. The Indians sometimes crept down the hills and frightened the settlers in Cincinnati. Men in the town carried rifles with them wherever they went. People who lived in the stations behind the hills were afraid to go into the woods to hunt their cows, and men risked their lives when they planted corn or cleared land.

At night people sat at home about their fires and told many fearful tales of children carried away by the Indians and of men killed or tortured. They were worried because the Indians began to think that no white general could conquer them.

Just when the settlers were most discouraged, the news came that General Anthony Wayne and his army were on their way to fight the Indians. Few of the settlers had ever seen Anthony Wayne, but many

had heard of him. He had fought through the Revolution with such daring that he had been nicknamed "Mad" Anthony.

Mad Anthony came down the Ohio River in April 1793, as the willow trees were turning green. But he did not march north to the Indian towns immediately.

Mad Anthony was a shrewd general. He would not risk a fight with the Indians until his army was ready. He spent a whole year training his men to fight in the woods.

The soldiers drilled in a cleared field about where Fifth Street now crosses Mound. The place came to be known as Camp Hobson's Choice. A Hobson's Choice is something you have to do, like taking medicine, whether you like it or not. Hobson was a livery stable keeper in England who made his customers take the horse nearest the stable door. So when people had no choice at all in a matter, they spoke of it as a "Hobson's choice." Mad Anthony could not find another dry plot of ground because the river was up when he came to Cincinnati. So he drilled his men on Camp Hobson's Choice.

Volunteers came in to help General Wayne. Four hundred came up from Kentucky. These volunteers were not dressed in soldiers' uniforms; they looked more like hunters. They wore powder horns slung over their shoulders, and their rifles were as long as a tall man.

At last General Wayne felt that his army was ready to fight the enemy. So he marched away, up Main Street, over the hill, up the Millcreek Valley, north toward the Indian towns. Men, women, and children waved to the soldiers as they marched away to the sound of many drums.

This time the Indians met their match. General Wayne's men went cautiously and struck quickly from behind trees or from the forts they built as they went north. In August 1794 Wayne met the Indians in the Battle of Fallen Timbers near what is now Toledo. He won a great victory, and the settlers back in Cincinnati and in the stations rejoiced because the Ohio Country would now be at peace.

## CHAPTER VI

### A Town Is Born

#### *Trade Gives It Life*

**A**FTER Mad Anthony had conquered the Indians, men rushed to buy the rich land between the two Miamis. All day long the ring of their axes and the crashing down of the great trees could be heard in the woods.

Soon huge fields of wheat and corn and blue-flowered flax grew among the stumps of the trees that had lived on the land. The panthers, the wildcats, and the bears began to hunt new homes in the vast reaches of forest north and west. Cows pastured where light-footed deer had once raced with the wind. Grunting hogs rooted for nuts among the leaves under the oak and chestnut trees.

At first Cincinnati did not grow so fast because the new families went back into the forests to make their homes. There were still only a few houses by the river, with trees and cornfields all around.

But the growing number of farming families needed supplies from the village. More stores sprang up. The women still made cloth at home, but they wanted to buy silk or fine-spun wool or linen for their Sunday best. They would buy dishes, too, instead of using home-made bowls of wood.

Many things like silk and coffee came on flatboats down the river, but people also began to work at making other things in Cincinnati. Some made furniture, some made beer, and others made candles and soap. The blacksmiths were busy all day long shoeing the horses and mules of the farmers, or making plowshares and other tools of iron that were needed on the farms. There were men called teamsters, who hauled supplies in wagons to Hamilton and other nearby settlements that could not get their provisions directly from flatboats coming down the Ohio.

And as more men found that there was work in Cincinnati, they came here to live. In 1802 Cincinnati had nearly a thousand people.

That number was large enough to form an incorporated village. Meanwhile enough people had moved to the new country to form a State. Ohio was the first State in the Northwest Territory.

### *It Has Much to Talk About*

The village grew so fast that by 1810 there were 2,300 people, and more were coming all the while. Cincinnati was a busy little town. There was a public square between Fourth and Fifth Streets and between Main and Walnut Streets, and here was a graveyard, courthouse, jail, and public whipping post, as well as a meeting house. The post office was at the corner of Lawrence and Front Streets. Mail came several times a week.

Then in 1811 many things happened that caused Cincinnati to grow. The Indians were making trouble again. They and the British were fighting Americans in what was to be Indiana. About four thousand soldiers came through Cincinnati from Kentucky. Many of them bought things in the town. The farmers sold the armies food, and so had more money to spend.

When the war was over and the British and the Indians had again been beaten, many of the soldiers who had passed through Cincinnati returned. They liked the place so well that they sent for their wives and children and built their homes here.

In 1811 the first steamboat, the *New Orleans*, came down the Ohio from Pittsburgh with a great puffing of smoke and hissing of steam. All the people of the town turned out to see it. Such a strange, funny thing they had never seen, they said. Some laughed and thought the whole thing silly. But others saw more than a clumsy steamboat. They thought that there would come a day when boats could bring great loads up the river as well as down. Until the coming of the steamboat, most traffic on the river had floated down, because it would have taken many strong men to row a load up the river against the current.

In that same year an earthquake shook the cabins in Cincinnati, and some people thought the world was coming to an end. A great comet, a large ball of fire with a long, gleaming tail that could be seen

for many miles, shot through the sky. Some of the people did not know what the comet was, and they were very frightened indeed.

### *It Settles Down*

In those times market day in Cincinnati was three times a week. Many people came quite a distance to purchase the many fine foods displayed on the market place. There were all kinds of vegetables, dairy products, and meats.

Times were easier now. Nobody went hungry, and though everybody worked, the work was not always so hard as it used to be. There was more time for quilting bees, corn huskings, wheat threshings, house raisings, and log rollings.

The homes were better than they had been. Many were of brick made from the good clay about Cincinnati. The log cabins were being covered with weather-boarding, and they looked something like the frame homes of today. Now that men had more time they could build chimneys and make cellars of stone. There was time to make finer furniture in place of the rough, heavy stools and tables they had used when they first came. Many of the windows were made of glass instead of the oiled paper the first settlers had stretched across the window frames.

### *It Improves Its Schools*

The Cincinnati pioneers found it hard to educate their children, especially if they were poor. The only lessons poor children had were in spelling and reading at the Sunday School.

Examination day was not great fun. It was usually the last day in the term. The teacher did not give the children a list of questions to be answered in writing. Instead, parents and their friends were invited to come in. They would sit in the front of the room. One by one the pupils who had come to school through the year were called up. It must have been frightening for the pupil to stand and try to answer any questions asked him. If he answered the questions correctly, he was promoted to a higher group for the next year.

The children were not the only ones who went to school. Many



SCHOOL



of the older people in Cincinnati felt that there was still much in the world they would like to know. They went to classes. They studied French or Latin, and some learned about medicine from Dr. Daniel Drake.

The largest school at this time was one started by Doctor Drake, called Lancaster Seminary. It was opened in 1815, and within three weeks there were 420 students. This was the largest school in the Northwest Territory. The Cincinnati schools were soon famous all over the South. Students came here from other States to go to school.

In those days books were not so plentiful as they are now. They cost so much that a group of people decided to start a library. The library could not be free, as our public library is today. Each man promised to give ten dollars either in money or books, and in return he would be allowed to use the books that others gave.

Cincinnati had something else that was unusual for such a small town. This was the Western Museum, where animals, birds, and curious things were shown. Today we remember this museum chiefly because of a man who once worked there in 1819. He stuffed birds and mounted them so that they might look as lifelike as possible. As he worked he would listen to birds singing outside. Often he would tramp the woods watching them. At nights he worked at home trying to paint the birds he had seen in the woods near Cincinnati. This man's name was Audubon. His paintings of birds are still thought to be the best that have ever been done. There are books in your school library and in the public library that contain many of his pictures.

### *It Grows Rich*

When Cincinnati was first settled, few Americans lived down by the Mississippi River, and not many farther south on the Ohio. But in 1803 the United States Government bought from France much land west of the Mississippi River. This was called the Louisiana Purchase.

As soon as this land was opened to American settlers, great numbers of people went to live along the Mississippi. Many of these people needed corn, wheat, furniture, and other things from Cincin-



nati. Every year more and more flatboats, and now and then a steamboat, each piled high with merchandise, went down the Ohio River from Cincinnati to the towns on the Mississippi.

The farmers near Cincinnati raised many hogs. They not only fattened the pigs on corn, but they also sent great droves into the woods to thrive on the acorn, beechnut, chestnut, and hickory nut that plopped from the trees in the fall. Fat hogs were driven to Cincinnati to be killed.

The hogs were driven through the city streets, and often boys and girls at play had to run quickly to get out of their way. The slaughter-houses stood all along Deer Creek where Eggleston Avenue is now, from the Gilbert Avenue Viaduct on down to the Ohio River. Deer Creek carried away the refuse of the slaughter-houses.

In these huge structures the hogs were butchered. The meat was then packed in salt and shipped down the river. By 1825 many farmers for 150 miles in all directions were driving hogs to Cincinnati. The pork business flourished so well that some called the town "Porkopolis." Cincinnati sent many other things by boat to the people on the Mississippi. It sold them cheese, candles, hemp, lumber, furniture, and bur ash for making lye. And the city grew rich by making things and shipping them to all the country round about.

## CHAPTER VII

### The West Has a Queen City

#### *The Germans Come to Town*

THE fame of Cincinnati spread across the ocean to Europe. Many famous people came to see the city. Some of them wrote books about what they saw. They told of the rich land, the busy people working at many things, and the neat homes.

So it was that in Europe more and more people heard of Cincinnati. Many German people thought this would be a good place to live in. They wanted to escape from their rulers and be free men.

They talked of Cincinnati, the young, swiftly growing city of America. "There men work at many things, and we could find jobs," some said. "There stand many different churches. The people go to these with no fussing and quarreling." "We could build our own," others thought aloud. And still others said, "The land about Cincinnati produces much wheat and pork and corn. We and our children would never be hungry." Many of these people then packed their things, crossed the Atlantic Ocean, and came out to Cincinnati.

These Germans were fine people to have in a new town. Many of them could work in wood or metal or leather. They knew how to build houses, brew beer, and make musical instruments. They set up tailoring shops and brick plants, and did all kinds of skilled work. And they made the city beautiful with neat lawns and flower gardens.

Everybody who came to town spoke of the happy life of the Germans along Vine Street, and about their fine music, their bands, and their parades. The Germans helped to keep Cincinnati from becoming untidy and awkward as it grew.

#### *Cincinnati Is Busy*

After the first coming of the Germans, Cincinnati grew busier than it had ever been. The town spread back from the river to the hills. New houses were built all over the basin. Old houses were

moved from place to place. If a man wished to move his house, he would sometimes hire from thirty to fifty head of oxen, and slowly pull it across the town.

The streets were noisy with life. All day long and far into the night you could hear the clop-clopping of horses' and mules' feet and the rattle of iron-rimmed wagon wheels over the cobblestones. The taverns were crowded. Housewives went to the stores and markets with baskets on their arms. Farmers came to town to do their trading; and bricklayers, builders, brewers, blacksmiths, cabinet makers, and soap and candle makers all hurried to and from their work.

The people up in the town were busy, but the men down on the river and among the wharves were busier still. For the Ohio River was the big highway that led to and from Cincinnati. Hundreds of great and little boats scurried up and down the rivers. They were loaded with goods and passengers bound for Cincinnati wharves. The passengers made a gay picture. The men wore long frock coats and tall hats and the ladies wore dresses that swept the ground. The children dressed much like their parents. Some of them would stand about on the landing and watch the strong, wide-shouldered Negroes load and unload the boats. These Negroes were called roustabouts. They handled huge barrels of pork and whisky, sacks of wheat and corn, furniture, farm tools, pottery, and all the things to be sent up and down the river. They unloaded bales of cotton, bolts of silk and calico, medicines, spices, coffee, tea, and other supplies to be sold in Cincinnati.

The Ohio River had always been like a godfather to Cincinnati. But after 1840 it was even more important, because men had finished digging the Miami and Erie Canal. The canal brought boats from Lake Erie all the way across Ohio to Cincinnati. Farmers living near the canal no longer had to haul their produce in wagons to the river. Instead, they loaded it on the huge flat barges that came down the canal to Cincinnati. Some of the produce was kept in the town, but most was shipped away on the Ohio River.

The canal continued to be a great boon to Cincinnati and all of Ohio until the railroads were built.

*The Schools Are Made Free*

There had long been many men in Cincinnati, such as Dr. Daniel Drake, who felt that all children should go to school. But many times poor children could not go because none of the schools were free.

But more and more men began to feel that in a great city such as Cincinnati all people should be able to read and write and figure, and know something of history and geography. There was one man who believed this strongly. His name was Nathan Guilford. Guilford was born in Massachusetts and educated at Harvard. In 1816 he came to Cincinnati to be a lawyer. Always he talked and wrote about education.

He talked so much about free education that the people of Cincinnati elected him a member of the Ohio Senate so that he might go to Columbus and tell the men who made the laws for Ohio that they should have free schools. He got a law passed to make all people who had property pay a tax to support public schools. Some of the people who had no children did not want to be taxed for schools. Others said that they would rather send their children to the private schools, for it might seem as if they were poor. Most people wanted the new schools, and they set to work to build them. The first public school was opened to the children in 1829. It stood near the river between Front and Pearl Streets. This was the first free school in the entire Northwest Territory.

At first the people were a bit slow about sending their children, but soon they saw that the children in the free schools learned just as much as those in the private schools. They soon had to build more schools and employ more teachers. By 1850 there were twenty-two of these public schools, with 147 teachers. And more than twelve thousand Cincinnati pupils went to school.

*The City Is Stricken*

Cincinnati also had its troubles. Some of these were worse than any we have today. In those days most of the business section was down near the river. Every year or two the floods came and destroyed much property. Fires broke out, too, and burned houses and plants. In the downtown section many of the houses were of

wood and closely crowded. Sometimes a whole city block would catch fire and burn.

In those days the city didn't have any swift fire trucks, but it did have volunteer fire companies. They fought the fires by throwing water from leather buckets. In the early days of the town there was a huge drum, five feet high, on the top of a building at Fourth and Walnut Streets. When someone cried "Fire!" a man would go rushing to the top of the building and beat the drum. Volunteer firemen from all over town would hear the drum and rush to the fire. Later, the great bell on the top of the First Presbyterian Church at Fourth and Main Streets was rung as a fire signal. The clanging of this bell could be heard all over town.

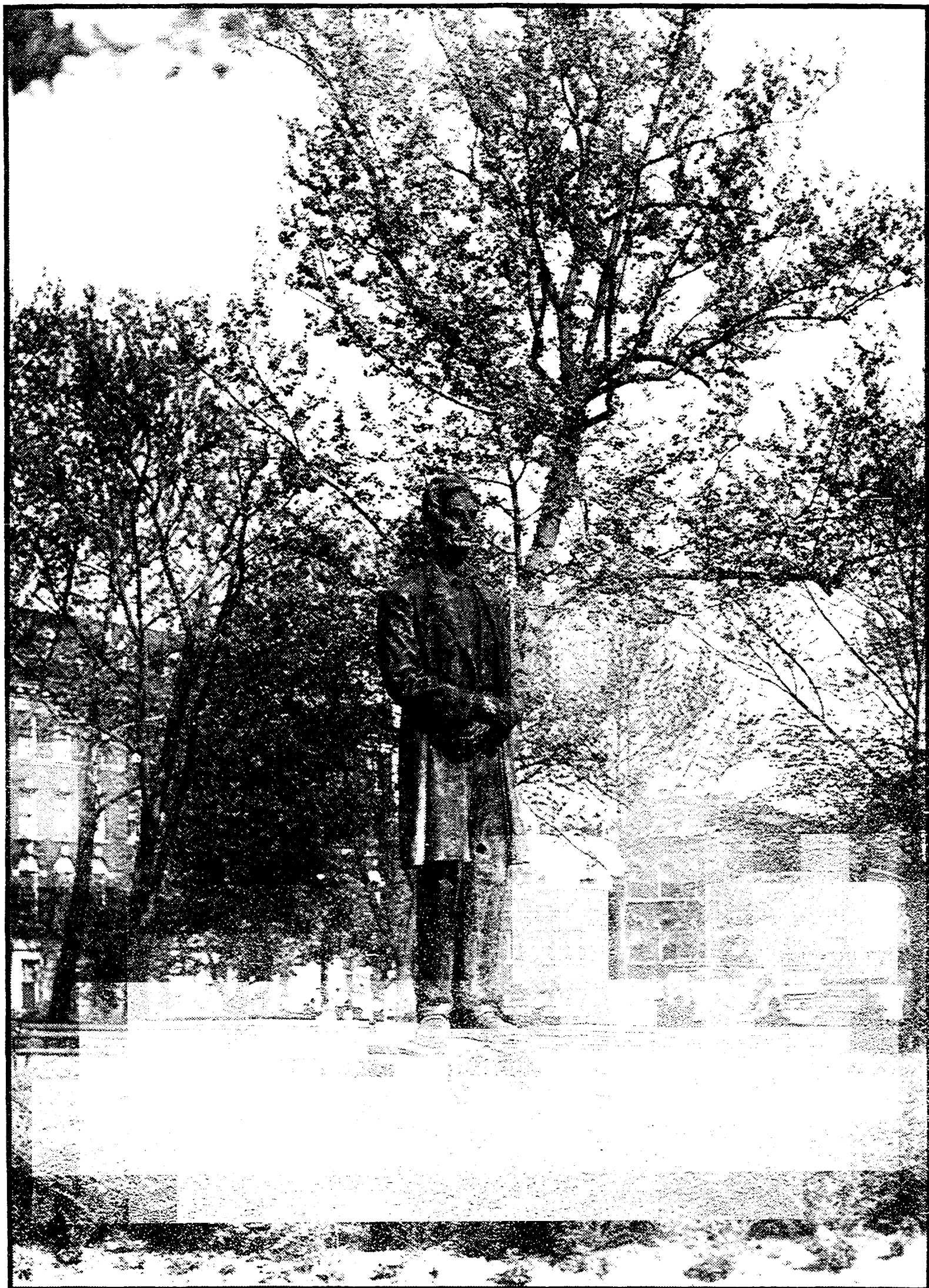
After many years, the city got too big for these fire-fighting methods. Cincinnati men invented and built new and better equipment. It was drawn about in strong wagons, pulled by large horses galloping at full speed.

The greatest trouble that came to Cincinnati was neither flood nor fire, but cholera. The city had no sanitary department, and many of the streets were filthy. Epidemics ravaged the town. In 1832 about eight hundred people died of this disease, and in 1849, when the town was much larger, more than eight thousand perished. Men like Doctor Drake did what they could to fight it, but in those days people knew nothing of germs. Hospitals were hardly heard of, and there were no trained nurses.

Those were sad, frightening days. People would be well in the morning and dead by nightfall; men with families fled into the country. Church bells tolled for the dead, and funeral processions were always passing through the streets.

## *Europe Sends More People*

Still, for all its troubles, Cincinnati grew like a mushroom in the spring. Between 1840 and 1850 so many Germans came that parts of the town seemed a bit of Germany. You may have heard the expression, "Over the Rhine." When the Germans began to come in 1840, the Miami Canal flowed where now is Central Parkway. Many Germans settled north and east of the canal. Some who lived



BARNARD'S *LINCOLN*, LYTLLE PARK

near the canal called it their Rhine because in Germany they had lived near the River Rhine. Soon the German settlement across the canal came to be known as "Over the Rhine."

These Germans, like the ones who had come earlier, were a thrifty people, not afraid of work. They liked to laugh, dance, and sing, and send their children to school. They formed little orchestras and bands among themselves, and in the evenings gathered together and practiced music. Sometimes they held festivals of song which became famous. These festivals were the beginning of Cincinnati's great appreciation of music.

Maybe one of your great-grandfathers or grandmothers was a German. But even if they were not, do you ever eat *Lebkuchen* at Christmastime, or hear your parents order *Sauerbraten* in a restaurant, or sing "Auf Wiedersehen" and "Ach, Du Lieber Augustin," or wonder about such monuments as the one in Washington Park, with its inscription in both English and German? Such things, as well as the many industries carried on by firms with German names and the great number of Cincinnatians whose people came from Germany, show something of what the Germans have meant to Cincinnati.

There were many other people as well as the Germans who thought Cincinnati would make a fine home. About the time that Cincinnati was beginning to be thought of as the most important inland city in America, sad things happened in Ireland. Potato crops failed. Since potatoes to the Irish were as important as bread to us, there was much hunger in Ireland. So many of the Irish said, "Let us go to Cincinnati. There is work there for every man to do. We can buy potatoes and other food, and never be hungry."

Great numbers of the Irish came. They worked at building houses, canals, and railroads, and laying streets.

Negroes have lived in Cincinnati from almost the earliest years. Many crossed the river as runaways from slavery and found friends in the city. Some of the Negroes and their protectors banded together to form a branch of the Underground Railroad, which was a secret method of getting slaves from the South to Canada. Harriet Beecher Stowe met many of these runaways while she lived in Cincinnati. She later wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, a book which protests against slavery.



This book helped many people decide to do something about freeing the slaves. They found a leader in President Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln declared that the South must free its slaves. The South objected, and this was one of the main causes of the Civil War. When the war ended and the slaves were set free, many of them came to Cincinnati.

The early Negroes of Cincinnati frequently prospered. Negro leaders struggled to get schools and churches for their people. Today their descendants and many other Negroes who have made the city their home are an important part of the life of Cincinnati.

These people were not the only ones who moved to the city. Many American white people from the East and the South were constantly coming to Cincinnati.

### *The City Spreads*

Take a map of Hamilton County and find the place where Sycamore Street touches the Ohio River. Now imagine that all the land that is now Cincinnati is a table. Then suppose that you have a fan, one of those ivory ones that unfold, such as your grandmother may have had when she was a girl.

Imagine it is 150 years ago and you are putting the edge of the folded fan even with the table edge. For a few years, while the Indians were so bad, the fan that was the people and the houses of Cincinnati had only its side on the table edge that was Cincinnati on the Ohio. But after a few years it was pushed farther inward, and it began to spread a bit. After 1825 it spread more rapidly, shoving trees and pastures and cornfields away. What had once been stations or settlements like Columbia and Cumminsville were soon reached by the city growing and spreading like an unfolding fan.

In 1869 the fan of Cincinnati covered seven square miles. Then it opened with a flip; within the next four years the area of Cincinnati became three times as great. After that, though the fan continued to spread, other cities in what had been the Northwest Territory were growing much more rapidly. And Cincinnati did not long remain one of the largest cities in the United States. Gradually Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, and other cities outgrew Cincinnati.



*How Shall It Grow?*

Though her time of greatest growth is past, Cincinnati is growing in another way, more rapidly, perhaps, than she has ever grown.

When you are fifteen or sixteen years old you may be almost as large as your father or your mother. But that does not mean that you will be as skilled, as strong, or as wise. Though your body may get only a little larger, you will continue to grow in other ways for many years.

The same is true of Cincinnati. There are men and women in the city who are constantly working and planning so that Cincinnati may have better schools, better homes, larger and more useful public libraries. Others want it to be more beautiful, with more parks and playgrounds for the children, less smoke in the air, and no ugly tenement buildings. Much time and thought is being given to the Cincinnati of the future. And the children of today will help it grow in many ways tomorrow.

