

## CHAPTER XIV

### HISTORY OF AMBOY TOWNSHIP

Amboy is one of the pioneer townships of Fulton county. Its settlement began in 1833, and its early history and eventual development redound to the credit of the pioneer settlers; so much so, indeed, that descendants undoubtedly may be proud of the records of their ancestors. Yet, singularly enough, the ancestral homes have, with one exception, all passed out of the possession of the pioneer families of Amboy, in which noticeable particular it differs strikingly from other townships of Fulton county, which today is peopled, in unusually large proportion, by the descendants of the pioneer settlers; and in very many cases the descendants still till the land, now rich and desirable, that once was swamp or wilderness, and was won to fertility and agricultural production by the brow-sweat of their forebears. The lands of Jared Hoadly, the pioneer settler of Amboy, of the Steadman, Blain, Roop, Gilson, White, Bartlett, Hallett, La-Bounty, Purdy, Welch, Lewis, and Richey families, all worthy pioneers of Amboy Township, have passed to strangers. The only farm in the township that has not in transfer passed out of the family of the original settler is, it is believed, the Tripp Farm, on section sixteen. It was in 1838 that Norman N. Tripp entered wild land in that section, the property passing at his death to his son, Henry, whose widow still resides on and owns the estate, which is a rich one.

Part of Amboy Township in the first years of its settlement was in "the disputed territory", the Territory of Michigan and the State of Ohio claiming it, as has been elsewhere explained herein. Until the dispute was finally settled, all residents within the disputed strip had to recognize the authority of the Territory of Michigan, and consider themselves as being resident in Fairfield township, Lenawee county, and Territory of Michigan. The map made in 1834, one year before the organization of Lucas county, shows the territorial line. All parts of Amboy north of the "Fulton line" were accountable to Michigan, and until December, 1836, when the whole of the disputed strip became an integral part of Ohio, under the jurisdiction of Lucas county, the settlers were forced to transact their legal business and pay their taxes at the city of Adrian, county seat of Lenawee county.

The township of Amboy was organized on June 4, 1837, by taking all of town nine south, range four east, south of the Harris line, now the State line of Michigan, and all of fractional township ten south range four east, extending to the Fulton line, south. On March 1, 1841, Fulton Township was organized, Amboy losing to it all of town ten south, range four east, and in 1846, upon petition by Fulton Township, further territory, to wit: sections 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36, being the south tier of sections of town nine south, range four east. Amboy thus was reduced to an area of 16,677 acres, or twenty-six full sections of land;

and since 1846 there has been no change in its boundaries. The map shows its position sufficiently to make further verbal description unnecessary.

In early days the territory was a favorite hunting ground for the Indians, who remained in the territory for several years after settlement by whites had begun. It has been stated that bears, panthers, wolves, and wild-cats abounded in the dense forests of Amboy; while the settlers found in the deer and wild turkeys welcome sources of food.

Ten Mile Creek runs through Amboy Township, emptying eventually into Maumee Bay. Smaller streams empty into Swan Creek. The land is mostly level, at the highest point being only 140 feet above the level of Lake Erie.



"BEARS, PANTHERS, WOLVES, AND WILDCATS ABOUNDED IN AMBOY."

#### SETTLEMENT

It was generally acknowledged among the pioneers that Jared Hoadly was the first to settle in the township. He entered his land in the month of July, 1833, and "late in the fall of that year" took up his abode on the land, which was in section seven. It is understood that he built a log cabin thereon in the early part of January, 1834.

Many other settlers are supposed also to have come into the township in the year 1833, among them David Steadman and his sons Alvah and Aaron, Frank O'Neil, Charles and William Blain, John and Joseph Roop, and Alfred Gilson.

In 1834 came John Blain; Jerry and David Duncan; Lorenzo Abbott; Seneca Corbin; Park White and his son David; Jonathan and Clark Gilson, James Hallett, John LaBounty; Samuel Purdy, Joseph Richey; Nathaniel and Harry Welch.

In 1835 Hiram Bartlett, Calvin Skinner, Cyrus Fisher, Horatio

Stevens and Caleb Remilie are stated to have come into Amboy and settled. And George Barnett is grouped with the incoming settlers of that year, as are also the Chapman, Griswold, and Koons families.

During the next five years many others came, including Job Duvall, Tunis and John Lewis, Charles Welch, Joseph Richey, William Irwin, Charles C. Tiney, Norman N. Tripp, and possibly others; while during the succeeding decade those who took up residence and began the clearing of land they had acquired were Morey S. Potter, Sullivan Johnson, Hezekiah Culver, Caleb Satterly, Thomas Cahoe, George Hackett, and his brother, and possibly, nay probably, many others. The activities of these men made Amboy quite a consequential township even before the organization of Fulton county. The village of Metamora was beginning its career at that time, and although its claims to consideration were not convincing there were some who thought, or perhaps hoped, the village might be chosen as the county seat of the new county.

Regarding the early settlers there is little biographical material on record. Jared Hoadly was one of the most influential men of Amboy in its first decades. He took directing part in most of the public affairs of the township, and came successfully through the first trying period, during which the settlers had to take their grain to Tecumseh, a journey of three or four days duration for an ox-team, for grinding. After many years of residence in Amboy, Mr. Hoadly moved into Michigan.

Alvah Steadman was, it is generally conceded, the second settler, closely followed by John and Joseph Roop. Alfred Gilson settled on section nineteen. The Blain family was a notable one among the pioneers of the first and second years. Charles and William, originally from Lodi, Onondaga county, New York, came via Toledo in the late fall of 1833. John Blain came with the Duncans in 1834. All were from Lodi, N. Y., and became worthy settlers in Amboy, the Blains raising large families and clearing the greater part of sections eighteen and nineteen. Sarah, mother of the Blain brothers died in Amboy Township in 1874, having reached the unusual age of one hundred and four years.

Joseph Roop, was an enterprising and industrious man; he was the first to make brick in the township, and he carried on that industry extensively for many years.

Frank O'Neil is looked upon as the pioneer settler within the limits of the village of Metamora, although the log cabin he erected there in 1833, or 1834, cannot be considered to have had any connection with, or to have been the commencement of, the establishment of that village, which really did not come into existence until fifteen years or more had passed. Frank O'Neil was the first white settler in the northeastern part of Amboy, and for many years had no near neighbors.

Hiram Bartlett was originally from Cooperstown, N. Y., but spent about nine years in Port Lawrence (Toledo) before settling in Amboy, in 1835. He died in 1875. His three daughters all married pioneers of Amboy Township. Elizabeth married Solomon Keeler, son of Samuel Keeler, who settled here in the same year as did Bartlett; Julia Ann married Norman H. Tripp, who first visited Amboy in 1838, stayed a short time, but did not permanently settle until 1847; and Hannah F., who became the wife of George Gale.