

History of Carlisle Township

From Hon. W. W. Boynton's address

Carlisle, Town No. 5, Range 17, was drawn by Joseph Perkins, John Richmond, Tracy and Holt, William Eldridge, John McClennan, Daniel Tilden, and Jabez Adams. As before mentioned, Island No. 6 then called Cunningham's, now Kelly's, consisting of 2747 acres, was annexed to it for the purpose of equalization. Those who drew the town became the owners of that island. The first settlement in the town was made in the spring of 1816, by Samuel Brooks, from Middletown, Conn. He was accompanied by Phineas Johnson, his wife's father, who assisted in selecting the spot, for their future home. Johnson returned to Connecticut. A log house was soon erected, and in it Samuel Brooks took up his abode. This was on the east branch of the Black River, in the east part of the town. In September of that year, Hezekiah Brooks, a brother of Samuel, and whose wife was the sister of the wife of Samuel, and both daughter of Phineas Johnson, Capt. James Brooks and family, together with the family of Johnson, and the family of Riley Smith, left Middletown, and after the usual tedious journey of about six weeks, with ox teams reached Elyria. Smith and family remained in Elyria for a while and then went in to Carlisle. The families of the Brookses and Johnsons, pushed forward to Carlisle, and moved in with Samuel, and remained until other dwelling places could be provided. At about the same time that this settlement was making in the east part of the town, another was springing up in the western part. The families of Jamison Murrah, before then for some time a resident of Ridgeville, and Philo Murray, and Philo, Jr., had taken up their residence on the ridge, and Obed Gibbs and family, and Ransom and David had settled further south. Soon after, the families of Solomon Sutliff, Chauncey Prindle, Bennet, Drakely, Hurd, and others, were added. Prindle settled at the centre of the town. Abel Farr, and Abel Farr, Jr., and John Bacon, were among the earliest residents of the town. Julia Johnson taught the first school in Carlisle, as she had in Eaton and Elyria. She subsequently became the wife of Edmund West and resided in Elyria.

Carlisle and Elyria were, on the 20th day of October, 1819, organized for civil purposes, together by the name of Elyria. They belonged to Huron County. This connection was sustained and continued until June 4th, 1822, when on petition of Obed Gibbs and others, No 5, Range 17, was detached from Elyria, by the commissioners of Huron County, and organized into a separate township by the name of Carlisle. Before this independent organization, a part of the town had acquired the name Murraysville. This was not satisfactory to the inhabitants away from Murray's Ridge. Phineas Johnson wished the town name Berlin, after his native town in Connecticut. The people of the Ridge wanted it called Murraysville, and being unable to agree on either name, a compromise resulted in the name it bears.