

**THE BEAN CREEK
VALLEY; INCIDENTS OF
ITS EARLY SETTLEMENT**

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The Bean Creek Valley; Incidents of its Early Settlement by James J. Hogaboam

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JAMES J. HOGABOAM

**THE BEAN CREEK
VALLEY; INCIDENTS OF
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THE
BEAN CREEK VALLEY,

INCIDENTS OF ITS EARLY SETTLEMENT.

COLLECTED FROM THE MEMORIES OF ITS EARLIEST SETTLERS, NOW LIVING, AND
VERIFIED BY REFERENCE TO OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

BY JAMES J. HOGABOAM.



HUDSON, MICH.

JAS. M. SCARRITT, PUBLISHER.

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TO THE PIONEERS
OF THE
BEAN CREEK COUNTRY,
AND
TO THEIR CHILDREN.

THIS BOOK IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.

INTRODUCTION.

By the term, "Bean Creek Country," would ordinarily be understood the country drained by the Bean and its tributaries. Bean creek, or Tiffin river, as it is called on the early maps, rises in Devil's lake, situate on sections two, three, four, nine and ten in the township of Rollin, and sections thirty-four and twenty-seven in the township of Woodstock, said townships being the two most northerly townships in the west tier of Lenawee county. The creek flows from the western extremity of the lake, on section four in Rollin, a little north of west, to the east and west quarter line of section thirty-two in Woodstock, bends southward, flows through the western part of Rollin and along the west line of Hudson, leaves the county on section thirty, makes a bend on sections twenty-five and twenty-six in the township of Pittsford, Hillsdale county, returns to Lenawee county at the northwest corner of section thirty-six, flows southeasterly across the southwest part of Hudson, northeast corner of Medina, and southwest corner of Seneca township, crosses into the State of Ohio near the southeast corner of section six, township nine south of range one east, and then taking a southwesterly course, empties into the Maumee river at Defiance.

Only that part of the Beau Valley situate north of the south line of Michigan is to be treated of in these sketches. That part of the valley is quite narrow, but embraces portions of two counties, Hillsdale and Lenawee. The township of Woodstock contributes the most of her waters to swell the Raisin; Somerset divides hers between the Kalamazoo, the Raisin and the Bean; the western borders of Wheatland drain into the St. Joseph, of Lake Michigan, and the eastern borders of Rollin into the Raisin; Pittsford and Wright divide their waters between the Bean and the St. Joseph of the Maumee; Seneca divides between the Bean and the Raisin, and even Hudson sends her compliments to the Raisin on the ripples of her Bear creek. Medina township, only, lies entirely within the valley of the Bean, but for the purposes of this book we shall consider the valley of the Bean as including the townships of Woodstock, Rollin, Hudson, Medina and Seneca in Lenawee county, and Somerset, Wheatland, Pittsford and Wright in Hillsdale county.

On the banks of the Bean, within the territory mentioned, are the villages of Addison, Rollin, Hudson, Tiffin, Medina, Canandaigua and Morenci. But as a history of the Bean Creek Country would be incomplete if it did not make mention of all the territory, the trade of which has contributed to the prosperity of the Valley, we shall include in these brief outlines of history the territory lying at the headwaters of the Kalamazoo and the two St. Josephs, comprising the townships of Moscow, Adams, Jefferson, Ransom and Amboy, in the county of Hillsdale.

I am aware that in writing the early history of the country the difficulties to be overcome are very great; that in some of the townships the early records are lost, and in all they are very meager; that many of the early actors have passed away, and the memories of all are falling—but I have endeavored to collect my material from the most trustworthy sources, have verified them, when possible, by reference to contemporaneous records, and have endeavored to digest, write and arrange with an unbiased mind, only solicitous to discover and record the true history of the country and the times. How well I have succeeded I submit to the candid judgment of the old pioneers, than whom more noble and generous men and women never existed in any country.

The question may be asked, Why did you not wait until more facts and incidents

had been accumulated? The answer is, "Procrastination is the thief of time," and while we have been talking and waiting many persons whose supervision would have been desirable have died, and in the course of human life nearly all the old pioneers will pass away in the course of the next five years. It is, therefore, every way desirable that the material accessible should make its appearance, and be submitted to criticism before all the competent critics shall have passed away.

The facts and incidents here related were mostly gathered by myself, from interviews with old people and a careful comparison of official records; but I desire to acknowledge valuable aid from newspaper articles prepared by several of the old settlers, among which I would specially name the Hon. Robert Worden, Hon. Orson Green, Hon. George W. Moore, and Beriah H. Lane, esq., of the Bean Creek Country, and A. L. Millard and Samuel Gregg, esqs., of Adrian.

It was the original design of the Pioneer Society of Bean Creek Country that sketches prepared by members should be deposited with the Secretary, and that a book should be published by subscription, but no such material has been contributed. All the matter prepared by its members has been given to the public through the newspapers, no manuscripts have been deposited, and the interest appears to be dying out. At this juncture the publisher of the Hudson Post proposed to pay for a part of the labor of collecting material and writing it up. Believing it to be the only way in which such a book could at present be published, I accepted the proposition and commenced the work. It has been a hard task, but if it shall in any way serve to preserve the history of pioneer times, I shall be satisfied.

Truly yours,

Hudson, Mich., Oct. 1, 1876.

THE AUTHOR.

I. MICHIGAN.

SCRAPS OF ITS EARLY HISTORY—INDIAN TREATIES—SURVEYS—SETTLEMENT—DIS-
PUTED BOUNDARIES—GERM OF THE TOLEDO WAR—MISCHIEVOUS
OFFICIAL REPORT, ETC.

The word Michigan is probably derived from two Chippewa words—Mitchaw, great, and Saglegan, lake—Great Lake.

The territory of Michigan was visited by the French Jesuits, Fathers Chas. Rym-
bault and Isaac Jogues, at the Sault St. Mary, in July, 1641.

Father Mesnard spent the winter of 1660-61 on one of the bays of Lake Superior.

In 1665 Father Claude Allouez founded a Mission at La Point, Lake Superior.

In 1668 Father Marquette founded a Mission at Sault St. Mary, and in 1671 founded
a mission near Mackinaw. In the latter year an agent of the King of France took
formal possession of all the country between Montreal and the South Sea. At that
time Michigan for the most part was occupied by Ottawas and Chippewas. There
were some Pottawatomics and Miamies in the south part, and some Saes and Foxes
along the southern shore of Lake Superior.

In 1686 Fort St. Joseph and Fort Detroit were built, the former where Fort Gratios
now stands, at the outlet of Lake Huron; the site of the latter is not known. Both
were soon after abandoned.

Detroit, now the city of Detroit, was founded in 1701 by De La Motte Cadillac. He
landed on the 24th day of July, and on the same day commenced the erection of Fort
Pontchartrain. In 1761 the number of inhabitants in the Detroit settlement was es-
timated at 2,500. In 1763 France ceded her dominion over Michigan to England. In
1774, by act of Parliament, Michigan became a part of the province of Quebec, and
Col. Henry Hamilton was appointed "Lieutenant Governor and Superintendent of
Detroit." It was here that during the Revolutionary war Indian incursions
against the infant settlements of Western Pennsylvania, Virginia and Kentucky,
were organized.

Michigan was surrendered to the United States in 1796, and became a part of the
Northwestern Territory, Gen. St. Clair, Governor. On the eleventh of August of that
year Wayne county was organized, and included all of Michigan, the northern part of
Ohio and Indiana and a part of Illinois and Wisconsin. The county elected delegates
to the first Territorial legislature, which met at Cincinnati September 16th, 1799.

The State of Ohio was organized by act of Congress April 30th, 1803, and by the same
act the Territory of Indiana was formed, and of it Michigan formed a part. Gen.
William Henry Harrison was Governor of the Territory. The ordinance of 1787, by
which the Northwest Territory was organized, provided that "Congress shall have
authority to form one or two States out of the territory which lies north of an east and
west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan." The act
of April 30th, 1803, organizing the State of Ohio, fixed for its northern boundary "an
east and west line drawn through the southerly extreme of Lake Michigan," but the
Constitution adopted by the people of Ohio described as the northern boundary of the
State a line running "from the southern bend of Lake Michigan to the northerly cape
of Maumee Bay." Congress admitted Ohio without taking any notice of the discrep-
ancy, in matter of northern boundary line, between the State Constitution and the

enabling act and the ordinance of 1787. By the line described in the ordinance and enabling act Toledo would be in Michigan; by the line described in the Ohio State Constitution it would be in Ohio. The unwarranted departure of the Constitutional Convention of Ohio from the express terms of the ordinance and enabling act laid the foundation for that affair known in history as the "Toledo war."

On the 11th day of January, 1805, Congress passed an act organizing the Territory of Michigan and by it the legislative power was vested in the Governor and Judges. On the 26th day of February Gen. Win. Hull was appointed Governor of the Territory, and reached Detroit on the first day of July, but between the date of his appointment and arrival, that is to say, on the eleventh day of June, Detroit was entirely consumed by fire; not a house was left standing; nothing but ashes marked the site of the recent town.

On the second day of July, 1805, the government of the Territory of Michigan was organized, and the legislature commenced its session. The territory at that time comprised the Lower Peninsula only, and the Indians claimed title to and were in possession of nearly all of that. By the treaty concluded by Gen. Clarke at Fort McIntosh in 1785, the Indian title was extinguished to a belt of territory six miles in width, extending along the Detroit river from the river Raisin to Lake St. Clair. Aside from this strip of country, the Indians claimed title to the whole of Michigan. South of the river Raisin the Indian country extended to and bordered the waters of Lake Erie, so that the settlements of the young territory were completely cut off from the settled portions of Ohio.

On the seventeenth day of November, 1807, the United States government concluded a treaty with the Chippewas, Ottawas, Wyandottes and Pottawatomies, by which the Indian title to the following described tract of land was extinguished, viz: "Beginning at the mouth of the river Miami of the Lakes (Maumee), running thence up the middle of said river to the mouth of the great Auglaize river; thence running due north one hundred and thirty-two miles, until it intersects a parallel of latitude to be drawn from the outlet of Lake Huron, which forms the river St. Clair; then northeast the course will lead in a direct line to White Rock, Lake Huron; thence due east until it intersects the boundary line between the United States and Upper Canada; thence southerly, following said boundary line down said lake, through the river St. Clair, Lake St. Clair, and the Detroit river, into Lake Erie, to a point due east of the Miami river; thence to the place of beginning." This tract included that part of the State of Michigan lying east of the principal meridian of the Monroe survey, and south of a line drawn from near the village of Ovid northeasterly, diagonally intersecting the counties of Shlawasse, Saginaw, Tuscola, Sanilac and Huron, to White Rock, on the eastern shore of Lake Huron.

The Territory of Michigan was surrendered to the British by General Hull on the seventeenth day of August, 1812, and was put under martial law. On the twenty-ninth day of September, 1813, the Territory was evacuated by the British, and on the thirteenth day of October following, Colonel Lewis Cass was appointed Governor.

By proclamation of the Governor, Wayne county was re-organized November first, 1815; and on the fourteenth day of July, 1817, the county of Monroe was organized, also by Executive proclamation.

On the fourth day of September, 1817, William Woodbridge, Secretary and acting Governor of the Territory, issued a proclamation organizing the township of Monroe. The preamble recites, "Whereas, It appears by the report of John Anderson and Wolcott Lawrence, Esquires, appointed to examine and report in the premises, that a part of the farm of Joseph Loranger, and some adjacent ground on the borders of La Riviere aux Raisins, constitute the most eligible portion thereof. * * * *"

"Now, therefore, I, the above named William Woodbridge, do by the power and authority in me for the time being vested, constitute the whole of that certain tract and parts of tracts described in the aforesaid reports, * * * * into a township