barger and John Dietz; *Venango*, William Allison and wife; *Springfield*, Nicholas LeBarger; *Fairview*, John Dempsey; *Conneaut*, Abiathar and Elihu Crane; *Washington*, Peter Kline; *Girard*, Abraham and William Silverthorn; *North East*, Thomas Crawford, Lemuel Brown, Henry and Matthew Taylor, William Allison, Henry Burgett, John, James and Matthew Greer; *Waterford*, Aaron Himrod.

1796—*Waterford*, John, James and David Boyd, Capt. John Tracy, M. Himebaugh, John Clemens, the Simpsons and Lattimores; *Erie*, John Teel; *McKean*, Lemuel and Russell Stancliff; *Summit*, Eliakim Cook.

The above is not claimed to be a complete list of the settlers up to 1800, but is as nearly full as can now be obtained.—Emigration was slow the first five years in consequence of the land troubles. After 1805, the county commenced to fill up more rapidly, and to attempt to give a roll of the settlers would exceed the limits of a work like this. [See the City, Township and Borough Chapters.]

NATIVITY OF THE PIONEERS.

Most of the people named above were from New England or New York, but quite a number were Scotch-Irish from the southern counties of Pennsylvania, and a few were of Pennsylvania Dutch descent. The New Yorkers were in general from the interior of that State, and the Pennsylvanians from Dauphin, Cumberland, Lancaster and Northumberland counties. The Riblets, Ebersoles, Loops, Zucks, Browns, Stoughs, Zimmermans, Kreiders, and others of that class, came in at a period ranging from 1801 to 1805. From that time the people who settled in the county were almost universally of New England and New York origin until about 1825, when another emigration of Pennsylvania Dutch set in, which continued until 1835 or thereabouts. Among those who located in the county during this period were the Weigels, Warfels, Mohrs, Metzlers, Bergers, Brennemans, Charleses and others whose names are familiar. The foreign element began to come in at a comparatively recent date—the Irish about 1825, and the Germans from five to ten years after. The first settlers were a hardy, adventurous race of men, and their wives were brave, loving and dutiful women.

FIRST MARRIAGES, BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The earliest marriage was that of Charles J. Reed, of Walnut Creek (Kearsarge), to Miss Rachel Miller, which occurred on December 27, 1797. The earliest recorded birth was that of John R., son of William Black, in Fort LeBœuf, August 29, 1795. Mr. Boardman, of Washington township, was born in the Conneauttee valley the same year

The earliest known deaths occurred in the years below:

Ralph Rutledge, killed by the Indians at Erie, May 29th, 1795. His son was fatally shot at the same time, and died shortly after, in the fort at LeBœuf.

Gen. Anthony Wayne, in the block-house at Erie, December 15, 1796.

Col. Seth Reed, at Walnut Creek, March 19, 1797.

PRIMITIVE MODE OF LIVING.

The majority, if not all, of the settlers were in moderate circumstances, and were content to live in a very cheap way. They had to depend on the produce of their little clearings, which consisted to a large extent of potatoes and corn. Mush, corn bread and potatoes were the principal food. There was no meat except game, and often this had to be eaten without salt. Pork, flour, sugar and other groceries sold at high prices, and were looked upon as luxuries. In 1798–99, wheat brought $2.50 per bushel; flour, $18 a barrel; corn, $2 per bushel; oats, $1.50; and potatoes, $1.50. The mills were far apart, the roads scarcely more than pathways through the woods, and the grists had to be carried in small quantities on the backs of men or horses. Few families had stoves, and the cooking was done almost entirely over open fires. The beds were without springs and were made up in general by laying coarse blankets upon boxes or rude frames. All clothing was homemade. Every house had a spinning wheel, and many were provided with looms. Liquor was in common use, and there was seldom a family without its bottle, for the comfort of the husband and the entertainment of his guests.

The first buildings were log cabins constructed of unhewn logs laid one upon another with the crevices filled in with mud. These gave way, as the condition of the people improved, to structures of hewn timber in which mortar was substituted for mud. Hardly any

of the houses were plastered. Many were without window glass, and wall paper was unknown. As saw mills increased, frame buildings of a better character were substituted for the log cabins, and occasionally a brick or stone structure was erected, which was talked about in all the country round as a marvel of architecture. The people were separated by long distances; for years there were few clearings that joined. In every house there was an immense fire-place, in which tremendous amounts of wood were consumed, which practically cost nothing.

When a new residence or barn was to be erected, the neighbors were invariably invited to the raising. On such occasions, liquor or cider was expected to be freely dispensed, and it was rarely the case that the invitations were declined. These raisings were the merry-making events of the day, and generally brought together twenty-five to fifty of the settlers, who worked hard, drank freely, and flattered themselves when they were through that they had experienced a jolly good time.

A HARD BUT HEALTHY LIFE.

All the cooking and warming, in town as well as in country, was done by the aid of fires kindled on the brick hearths or in the brick ovens. Pine knots or tallow candles furnished the light for the long winter nights, and sanded floors supplied the place of rugs and carpets. The water used for household purposes was drawn from deep wells by the creaking sweeps. There were no friction matches, by the aid of which a fire could be easily kindled, and if the fire went out upon the hearth over night, and the tinder was damp, so that the spark would not catch, the alternative remained of wading through the snow a mile or so to borrow a brand from a neighbor. Only one room in any house was warm, in all the rest the temperature was at zero during the extreme winter nights. The men and women undressed and went to their beds in a temperature as cold as our barns and woodsheds.

Churches and schoolhouses were sparsely located, and of the most primitive character. One pastor served a number of congregations; and salaries were so low that the preachers had to take part in working their farms to procure support for their families. The people went to religious service on foot or horseback, and the children often walked two or three miles through the woods to school. There were no fires in the churches for a number of years. When they were introduced they were at first built in holes cut in the floors, and the smoke found its way out through openings in the roofs. The seats were of unsmoothed slabs, the ends and centers of which were laid upon blocks, and the pulpits were little better. Worship was held once or twice a month, consisting usually of two services, one in the forenoon and one immediately after noon, the people remaining during the interval and spending the time in social intercourse.

WILD BEASTS AND FISH.

A dense forest covered the county, when it was opened to settlement, which abounded with deer, bears, wolves, panthers, rabbits, foxes, raccoons, squirrels, oppossums, minks, skunks, martins, and some wild cattle, or "buffalo," as they were called by the French. Every man kept a gun and went into the woods in pursuit of game whenever the supply of food in his household ran short. Deer were abundant for years. There were numerous deer-licks, where the animals resorted to find salt water, at which the hunters lay in wait and shot them down without mercy. Packs of wolves often surrounded the cabins and kept the inmates awake with their howling. A bounty was long paid for their scalps, varying in amount from $10 to $12 per head. Accounts are given of sheep being killed by wolves as late as 1813. Occasionally a panther or wild cat terrified whole neighborhoods by its screaming. The last panther was shot at Lake Pleasant by Abram Knapp in 1857.

The country was full of pigeons, ducks, geese, pheasants, partridges, and turkeys in their season, all of which fell easy victims to the guns or traps of the pioneers. The lakes, of course, contained plenty of fish, and most of the small streams abounded in trout. It does not appear that the county was ever much troubled with poisonous snakes. There were some massassaugies and copperheads on the peninsula; but the interior seems to have been remarkably free from dangerous reptiles.

Taken altogether, while they had to endure many privations and hardships, it is doubtful whether the pioneers of any part of America were more fortunate in their selection than those of Erie county.

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