

# A Standard History

OF

# Fulton County, Ohio

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An Authentic Narrative of the Past, with an Extended Survey of  
Modern Developments in the Progress of Town  
and County.

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Under the Editorial Supervision of  
**FRANK H. REIGHARD**

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*Assisted by a Board of Advisory Editors*

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*Frank H. Reighard*

## **School History from page 367, 368, 369, 378 and 379**

The schoolhouse and church go hand in hand. The first school was taught in 1835, in the log hut located on the Thomas Silsby farm, by Elizabeth Throwbridge, who afterwards became the wife of William Fewless. She is remembered as a woman of strong character. She believed in social advancement, and the influence of religious living. The schoolhouse was later removed to where the Salsbury cemetery now is, afterwards returned to Thomas Silsby's Stishy's Corners, where it now remains, under the name of the Pike Center School.

"The first winter school was taught by Michael Handy, a young and rising attorney. He had been admitted to the bar in 1850, and was a lawyer of good standing until his death, in 1886. He was at one time prosecuting attorney of the county.

"The first frame schoolhouse in Pike Township was built in 1860, by Jacob Tappan. It was situated a quarter of a mile east of Winameg, and many of the grey-haired men of today remember it as the place where they first imbibed the 'rule of three' and 'hickory oil,' within its ink-stained and whittle-marked precincts. It was destroyed by fire sometime in the 70's.

"The schoolhouses of today are neat and commodious, fitted with every convenience for the instruction of the descendants of those hardy pioneers. But there is still room for advancement. There are six schoolhouses in the township, but it is to be hoped that the enactment of new laws, and the development of the county will bring within the next five years to the youth of the country schools, the advantages of the graded school.

### **Transportation.**

The oldest established roads in the county were the Toledo and Angola, the Maumee and Angola, each running westward. They were the most direct emigrant roads leading to the undeveloped country farther west. The automobilist who glides through our beautiful country in his electric machine, over roads smooth as a floor, little thinks that not many years ago these delightful highways were miles upon miles of impassable roads, over which the pioneer wended his weary way with white-covered wagons which sank with every turn of the wheel to the hubs. Then, years afterwards, came the improvement known as the 'Corduroy' road, formed of logs laid side by side, which soon left their alignment, and sank into the mud, in places making the road as uneven as before, although somewhat more passable. Afterwards came the improved 'plank road,' which for a number of years was considered sufficient. As the country improved, and the demand for better roads became necessary, it was thought best to call a meeting in the court house, at Wauseon (about 1877 or 1882), for the discussion of the subject. The call was answered by a large and enthusiastic gathering of the best and most influential farmers in the county. The discussion was very long, heated, and many-sided. At last, one of the active farmers, and one who always held the best interests of the county at heart, arose quietly, and said:

'Gentlemen, you may not live to see it; I may not live to see it; but your children and your children's children will live to see in Fulton county, every roadway and every byway graveled, from north to south, and east to west.' Like many others, he was only a few years in advance of his time. We of today know the results of the prophesy. Pike

Township is not behind the rest; within her borders are fine gravel pits, and as a result her roads are smooth and solid, suitable for the finest phaeton, or rushing automobile.

### **Early Taverns of Pike.**

There are no taverns in Pike, nor never as yet a saloon; but the necessity in those early days for a stopping place for the weary emigrant, in his long and tiresome journey westward, was supplied by the genial and warmhearted Robert A. Howard, and his ever-willing wife, some time in the thirties. At times, it was necessary for the traveler to spend several days resting and repairing. The 'latch string' was ever out, and a bountiful table and needed rest ever to be found beneath that hospitable roof.

Mrs. McClaren's article has covered most of the essential history of Pike Township. Verity records that the Poplar Grove church was built about 1848, by United Brethren members, and the Bueler Church, in 1881, by the same church sect; that the St. Paul's Church, of the Evangelical faith, was built in 1881, in which year also a church of the Disciples was "rigged up for worship," in the Trowbridge school district; and that a church of the Seventh Day Adventists was built in 1881, in the Whitcomb school district, under the labors of A. Bigelow. The two present churches are moderately strong in membership, there being about one hundred members of the Disciples Church, and about seventy-five of the United Brethren.

The present schools of Pike Township are about equal to those of similar townships. There are no high schools, but the excellent school of Delta is within easy access to those elder scholars of Pike Township people who seek high school education. There are seven one-room schoolhouses of rural class, in the township. These are valued at \$8,700, and are adequate for the elementary education of the children of the township. The enrollment in 1919 totaled to 170.

The following are the present members of the Pike Township Board of Education: Frank Waldeck, president; W. B. Denius, clerk O.S. Geer, W. L. Campbell, D.B. Gook, Harry Double, directors.

### **POPULATION**

All the statistics for Pike Township are not available, but such particulars of population as have been verified are given.

They are:

1870, 878	1880, 1147	1890. 1142	1900, 1147	1910, 1099
1920, 1001				

It is obvious, therefore, that, as a purely agricultural community, Pike Township was fully settled in the '70s; and as a railroad does not touch any part of the township it has had little opportunity of developing in other industrial lines. It is, in places, however, beautiful country in which to live.