

Guernsey County In 1846

being a reprint of the Guernsey County section of Howe's "Historical Collections of Ohio", 1848 Edition

GUERNSEY COUNTY

Guernsey was organized in March, 1810. The upland is hilly and of various qualities, and the soil clay or clayey loam. There is much excellent land in the bottom of Wills' creek and its branches, which cover about one third of the county. The principal crops are wheat, corn and tobacco. Wool is a staple product of the county, together with beef cattle, horses and swine. The following is a list of its townships in 1840, with their population.

Adams,	866	Millwood,	1722
Beaver,	1686	Monroe,	1098
Buffalo,	1025	Oxford,	2133
Cambridge,	2033	Richland,	1772
Center,	976	Seneca,	1356
Jackson,	1155	Spencer,	1669
Jefferson,	755	Washington,	1008
Knox,	538	Westland,	1077
Liberty,	835	Wheeling,	769
Londonderry,	1629	Wills,	1887
Madison,	1569		

The population of Guernsey in 1820, was 9,292; in 1830, 18,036; and in 1840, 27,729, or 45 inhabitants to the square mile.

Previous to the first settlement of the county, there was a party of whites attacked by Indians on Wills' creek, near the site of Cambridge. The particulars which follow are from the pen of Col. John M'Donald, author of the Biographical Sketches.

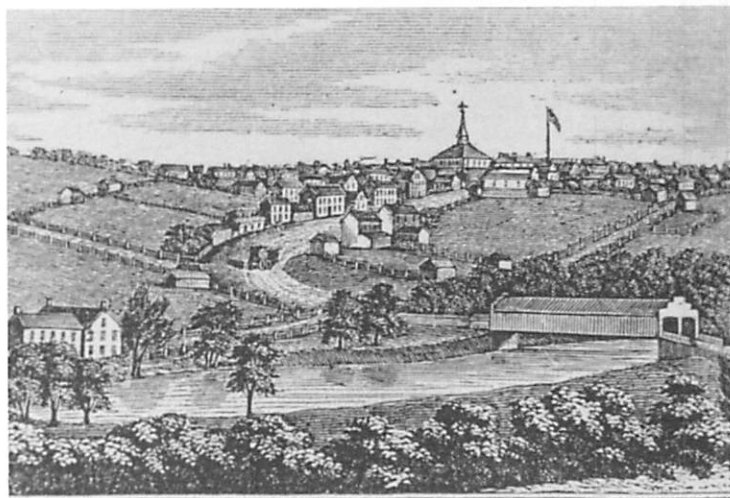
(Same account as described in The Wills Creek Incident on page 14.)

Cambridge, the county seat, is on the national road, 77 miles east of Columbus and 24 east of Zanesville. It is a flourishing village and contains 1 Presbyterian, 1 Seceder, 1 Methodist Episcopal and 1 Reformed Methodist church, an academy, 9 mercantile stores, 2 carding machines, 1 flouring and 2 fulling mills, 1 newspaper printing office and about 1000 inhabitants. The view represents the town as it appears from a hill on the west, about 300 yards north of the national road: the bridge across Wills creek is shown on the right, and the town on the hill in the distance.

In 1798, soon after "Zane's trace" was cut through the county, a Mr. Graham made the first settlement on the site of Cambridge. At this time, the only dwelling between Lan-

caster and Wheeling was at Zanesville. He remained about two years, and was succeeded by George Beymer, from Somerset, Pennsylvania. Both of these persons kept a house of entertainment, and a ferry for travellers on their way to Kentucky and other parts of the west. Mr. Beymer, in April 1803, gave up his tavern to Mr. John Beatty, who moved in from Loudon county, Virginia. Mr. Wyatt Hutchinson who, until recently, kept a tavern in this town, was a member of Beatty's family, which consisted of eleven persons. The Indians then hunted in this vicinity, and often encamped on the creek. In June, 1806, Cambridge was laid out; and on the day the lots were first offered for sale, several families from the British isle of Guernsey, near the coast of France, stopped here and purchased lands. These were followed by other families, amounting in all to some fifteen or twenty from the same island; all of whom settling in the county, gave origin to its present name. Among the heads of these families, are recollected the names of Wm. Ogier, Thos. Naftel, Thos. Lanphesty, James Bishard, Chas. and John Marquand, John Robbins, Daniel Ferbroch, Peter, Thomas and John Sarchet, and Daniel Hubert.

Washington is 8 miles east of Cambridge, on the national road. It is a very thriving village, and does an extensive business with the surrounding country, which is very fertile. It has 1 Lutheran, 1 Presbyterian, 1 Methodist, 1 Union and 1 Catholic church—the last of which is an elegant and costly gothic edifice; 6 mercantile stores, 1 woollen factory, and a

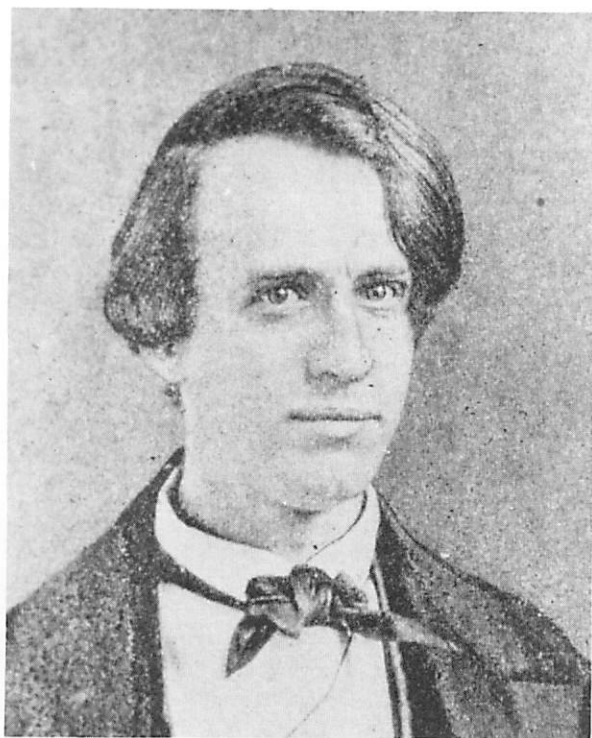


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population nearly equal to Cambridge. It was laid out about the year 1805, by Simon Beymer, proprietor of the soil, and a native of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania. There were two companies raised in this county, and which entered into service, in the war with Great Britain—one of which was commanded by Simon Beymer, and the other by Cyrus P. Beatty. The first cannel coal found in this country was discovered several years since, five miles west of Cambridge, near Wills creek. This bituminous coal does not materially differ from the common slaty coal of the country; it contains rather more bituminous and less carbonaceous matter.

Middletown, 14 miles east of Cambridge, on the national road, has 4 stores, two or three churches and about 250 in-

habitants. On and about the Salt fork in this vicinity, there were twelve or fifteen families settled about the year 1803; the names recollected are, Hite, Burns, Cary, Smith, Masters, Hall, Wilson and Warren. Fairview 6 miles east of the above, on the national road, is a larger town, containing several churches and stores and about 425 inhabitants. Senecaville 10 miles south-east of Cambridge, is a flourishing town, containing several churches and stores, and about 300 inhabitants. Cumberland, Claysville, Williamsburg, Mount Ephraim, Liberty, Winchester, Londonderry, Birmingham and Antrim are villages, the largest of which may contain 70 dwellings. At Antrim is Madison College, which has 40 pupils: at Cambridge is a high school, a female seminary and a printing office.



Henry Howe

Ohio's Greatest Historian

Born October 11, 1816 in New Haven, Conn. Traveled by horseback and by foot collecting historical miscellany, and then publishing the "collections." New York (1841); New Jersey (1842); Virginia (1845). Then he came to Ohio. Traveling through the state in 1846-7, he published his "Collections" in 1848. He moved to Cincinnati, and later to Columbus. In 1885 he journeyed throughout the state again, and published another "Collections" in 1888, incorporating all of the 1848 edition, and much more. These works are easily the best history of the state that has ever been written. He died at Columbus on October 14, 1893, and is buried in Greenlawn Cemetery.