

THE STORY OF  
**HASKINS, O.**  
1869-1969

\$1.50



#### FIRST BOY SCOUT TROOP OF HASKINS

Left, seated in front: Clarence Daniels, Francis North, Arthur Brand, Walter McKee, Melvin Genson and Earl North.  
Standing in rear: Theodore Dauer, Harry Brand, Charles Moore, Roy Helzer, Homer Genson and Orville (Cute) North.



DAVE AND WALTER RUPP IN FRONT OF STORE, ABOUT 1905

## THE HISTORY OF HASKINS, OHIO

The history of Haskins would not be complete without a brief description of the man who gave his name to our town. Whitcomb Haskins was one of sixteen children of the twice-married Henry Haskins of New Salem, Massachusetts. His mother, Eunice Pierce Haskins, a woman of great character, was a cousin to the President of the United States, Franklin Pierce. Whitcomb was born at Montague, Massachusetts on June 6, 1805. When he was nine his mother died and his father remarried. About 1822 Whitcomb and his brother migrated to Waterville. His brother, Collister, moved on to Wood County and became one of the earliest settlers in the county. He was instrumental in the founding of the Village of Portage. Whitcomb remained in Waterville and served in public office in that area many years. Records do not disclose that he ever lived in Haskins although it appeared that he held the land from 1846 to 1860 on which Haskins was built. The old home built by his son, Liberty, still stands high on a hill overlooking the northern edge of Waterville. In the Village of Haskins lives the great granddaughter of Whitcomb, Velma Haskins Walker.

It is almost impossible to write a history of Haskins without first giving an account of the beginning of Middleton Township and its two small settlements of Miltonville and Hull Prairie. The origin of these three settlements is so closely related that only God and the faded pages of our old records can say which really came first. We learn as we read these old records that long before the incorporation of Haskins several settlements had been made in what was to become Middleton Township.

Let us go back to the beginning, to the day that the first settlers arrived on the Maumee River in Northwestern Wood County. It was a wild country, with heavy timber and few open prairies and was inhabited by Wyandot Indians along with tribes of Ottawas, Miamis, Hurons and Iroquois, all most certainly unfriendly toward the whites.

In 1810 Jesse Skinner, Samuel Ewing and the Race brothers, David and Andrew, arrived on the Maumee River to take up land in what later became Middleton Township. These early settlers must have traveled up the river in boats to the territory that is now Miltonville. Here they each selected a homesite, staked out their claims and returned to New York State to bring their families back to the new world. This was two years before the War of 1812, and the bitter fighting which ensued between the Indians and Whites in this area. This must have been the beginning of Middleton Township and its three settlements.

It was early in 1812 that these pioneer men arrived back in Middleton Township with their families and took up their pre-selected homesites. Their stay, however, lasted only two months when they were forced to flee to escape the hazards of the war. It is said that a Major Spafford rigged a scow and, after loading the pioneers and their families as well as belongings onto the scow, sailed out to the Maumee Bay and then on to Cleveland.

It is thought that the pioneers remained in Cleveland until the war was over although some may have returned to New York. They were a determined group and the thought of giving up their homes on the Maumee never entered their minds. After the war had ended they all arrived back at Fort Meigs where they stayed for about two months before setting out on the journey back to Miltonville. The return was a happy one and the beginning of settlement of what is now Middleton Township.

In 1822 the Old Indian Mission was founded. It was a large log and frame building on the east bank of the Maumee some  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles above what was to become Miltonville. This seems to indicate that the original pioneers were joined by others, for names like the Rev. Isaac Van Tassel and the Rev. Alvin Coe, the first ministers at the Old Mission, appear in the old records as well as a Mrs. Sackett, who was the first teacher at the Mission. It is said that as many as thirty or forty Indians at a time attended her classes soon after they were opened in 1823.

It was about this time that Guy Nearing entered the pages of our history. The pioneers all called him "Uncle Guy", which seems to indicate he was well respected in addition to being very influential in the growth of Miltonville. It is likely that he brought about the establishment of the township as well as the platting of the town. It was he who was the moderator at the organizational meeting on the seventeenth of November, 1832, when plans were laid for the establishment of Middleton Township, which took place on December 3, 1832.

Three years after the establishment of Middleton Township the Town of Miltonville was surveyed and platted by Fowler and Baird. The platting was completed and became official record on August 10, 1835. The records reveal names like Jacob Bernthisel and James Rutter who were appointed overseers of the poor. Isaac Van Tassel was elected the first township clerk in May 1833.

During these first years of formation the arms of progress had begun to reach out, for as early as 1822 a David Hull had taken up land on the prairie to the east of Miltonville. He was later joined by James Robertson who can be called one of the earliest settlers in the eastern portion of Middleton Township. However, it is the name of David Hull that fits into the story of the founding of Hull Prairie. He was a bachelor who took up land east of the old trail that later became the Miltonville Pike. It was for him that Hull Prairie took its name and not the General Hull that marched through the township sometime during the War of 1812.

Among the other early settlers were Henry Hood, James Johnston and Andrew Pargillis who all took up land on the prairie. The W. H. Wetmore farm was another settlement south of the prairie made in June, 1842, near what was destined to become Haskins. Old records indicate that these three settlements were born of the same pioneers.

Perhaps the whole story of this beginning is contained in this poem written by Georgia Twining sometime before her death. Written in long hand and presented to the mayor, it is indeed one of the most cherished of old records:

Would you like to hear the story of our township Middleton,  
Of the struggles and the triumphs at the time it was begun?

Well, a band of bravest settlers started out from old York state  
'Twas in the spring of 1810, our scrapbook gives the date.

Here are the names of some of those who finally reached the place  
Jesse Skinner, Samuel Ewing, Andy and David Race.

Each selected a homesite then went back for his fam-i-lee  
By 1812 they had returned to live on our own Maumee.

For just two months they dwelt in peace and then were forced to flee  
For the Indians wearing war paint were approaching rapidly.

So Major Spafford rigged a scow and they sailed without delay,  
Sailed with their few possessions out to the Maumee Bay.

This harassed crew of people went to Cleveland and remained  
Until the war was over and peace had been proclaimed.

They then returned to old Fort Meigs and lived for most a year  
Till the danger from the Indians the settlers ceased to fear.

After packing their belongings they bid the fort "adieu"  
Headed back to their location and started life anew.

I'll state, since in this history you're only a beginner,  
That Middleton's first settler was a man named Jesse Skinner.

Next we hear of Capt. Hull, he was a bach-e-lor  
Girls - don't you wish that you had lived a century before?

A little later came Guy Nearing, they called him "Uncle Guy",  
For his many sterling qualities the settlers ranked him high.

Now here's an important feature I'll hand on down to you  
The Old Mission House was founded in 1822.

And the first school at the Mission, where they learned their A-B-C,  
Was commenced by Mrs. Sackett in 1823.

The school had an attendance of Indians young and old,  
Sometimes as high as forty upon the books enrolled.

The first preachers at the Mission I think perhaps you know  
Were Rev. Isaac Van Tassel and Rev. Alvin Coe.

There are many things of interest that I'll not mention now,  
For I want to tell when Middleton was organized and how.

On the seventeenth of November in 1832  
A group of early settlers met to see what they could do.

Toward setting up a township the first around this part  
And the business that was done there gave our district a fine start.

Uncle Guy was chosen chairman, the judges numbered three,  
They needed men responsible for coming business, see?

In '35 Old Miltonville, the first town laid out then,  
Was started with a store and mill, by two ambitious men.

The first road in the township was called the Miltonville Pike,  
Yes, schoolmates, 'tis the same old road o'er which we like to hike.

The ferry line was run at first by oars and old rough scow,  
Then by a new rope ferry - an improvement, you'll allow.

This antiquated ferry was used we find until,  
They built the present three-span bridge across to Waterville.

In '36 James Robertson made the first east settlement,  
And to its future welfare his greatest efforts lent.

The first school in the settlement was built in '44,  
Mrs. Robertson, as teacher was the first within its door.

'Twas here the settlers gathered to sing and scriptures search,  
For this little old log schoolhouse was also their first church.

These sturdy settlers stepped aside for the younger generation,  
Their sons and their son's sons were a credit to our nation.

May we keep pace with advancement, responsibility don,  
Take the line of improvement - the world is moving on.

Georgia Twining

During the years between the founding of Miltonville and the platting of Haskins, many pioneer families migrated into the area. Their hopes were high at the thought of free land offered by the government to those with the courage to face the hardships. Many arrived to find their land under water and were forced to move closer to the river to find drier land before they could build their homes. Middleton Township at that time was a part of the great black swamp, infested with mosquitoes. Disease was prevalent and many became the victims of ague and fever.

By 1840 Miltonville had become a bustling settlement. There was a store, a mill, a hotel, and a post office. Pioneers came for miles around to get their mail. Grain and furs as well as lumber were transported across the Maumee River by ferry boat. There is little doubt that the ferry, operated by Wm. Ewing and Whitcomb Haskins and later sold to J. W. Ovitt, was responsible for the growth of Miltonville.

Between 1840 and 1850 the town of Miltonville was at its peak. During these years a new three-span bridge was built across to Waterville. This sounded the first death tolls for the once very popular Ferry Boat. Its usefulness was at an end and no longer would the pioneers be coming to Miltonville to cross the river. During this period also a new road was cleared from Bowling Green to connect with the east approach of the bridge and the road running north to Fort Meigs and Perrysburg. There must have been rumors that a railroad would be built to connect central and southern Ohio with Toledo and its shipping ports on Lake Erie. The railroad was built, to the detriment of Miltonville, for it did not pass through the settlement but some two miles to the east. We can reasonably guess that there was speculation that where this railroad crossed the new road from Bowling Green would most certainly spring the shipping point, as well as the trading and religious center, of the township.

There was already a settlement on this very point consisting of several dwellings. Much of the land surrounding this settlement had been taken up by pioneers, some of the first being Jacob Bernthisel and W. H. Wetmore. The records indicate that some of the land was under grant to the Wabash and Erie Canal, whose land offices were located at Perrysburg. Also among these pioneers was the aforementioned Whitcomb Haskins who prior to 1856 sold his

interest in the Miltonville ferry to J. W. Ovitt. About this time Whitcomb and his wife, Mary, were granted ownership from a Mr. Charles P. Hunt, the receiver of Wabash and Erie Lands at Perrysburg, of the South West Quarter of section 22, town 6, range 10, and containing 80 acres of land. This indeed is Haskins, and seems to indicate that the person who wrote the name Whitcomb and Mary Haskins on that deed unknowingly wrote for the first time the name of our fair village.

Whitcomb and Mary Haskins were the owners of this land for only fourteen years, for on January 9, 1860, a Mr. Samuel Johnston acting as assignee, was given the deed and ordered to sell said land for payment of debts of said Whitcomb and Mary Haskins. In September of that year Mr. Johnston sold the land to Mr. Wm. King who according to the record of deeds became the owner of 200 acres of land in section 21 and 22. This includes the land in section 22 that is in our corporation.

This is the beginning of the story of Haskins. Mr. King hired Mr. D. D. Ames, county surveyor, to survey and draw a plat of the town of Haskins. This plat was filed on July 25, 1862, and included the lots facing Watts, Maple, Main and Mary Streets.

By 1862 all the land including the present corporation had been taken up by early settlers who were to become key figures in the development of Haskins. Joining the land on the east taken by Whitcomb Haskins in 1846 was the land taken by Darius Bridges, a native of Massachusetts who migrated to Perrysburg in 1838. About five years later he entered his farm on what was then known as the prairie. It is the land which now makes up the eastern side of the corporation and includes all lots and land east of Route 64 to the east line of the corporation.

Of the five children of Darius Bridges we are concerned with three: Caroline, who was the wife of G. Chase of Hull Prairie; Nancy, who became the wife of Richard Carter; and Samuel, who was one of the founders of our village. The Bridges cabin was somewhere to the east of our present Findlay Street and a great part of the land later became the Bridges addition to Haskins. This family will always be remembered as the one most responsible for the organization of the Presbyterian Church.

To the south and east of the Bridges land was the farm taken by a seafaring man in 1842. W. H. Wetmore was thought to be the first to settle on the land near the village, and although his land never was included in the corporation, he did play a part in the founding of the village. His family was closely associated with the Cobley family who later held land near his.

Also on the southern boundary of the corporation, the land facing Route 582 on the south was taken up by a man who migrated through the Black Swamp with five small children in 1849. This was the Hoagland family, and the five small children remain in our memory as the ancestors of several families living here today, including the names of Watts, Austin, Brand, Armitage and Davisson.

On the western side of the corporation the land from our West Main Street north to the King Road was taken by a David Whitney on October 16, 1843, and on April 2, 1859, sold to a man who came here from Sandusky. This man was Jonathon Ames who later became the first express agent in Haskins. He sold this land however to Daniel D. Ames on September 1, 1860. (This was the D. D. Ames who was hired by Wm. King to make the original survey in 1862.)

The land from our West Main Street south to Route 582 was taken up from the State of Ohio on January 15, 1845, by Robert Clark. This man can be

remembered as one of the first to sell land to the Dayton and Michigan Railroad for their right of way. This transaction took place on April 9, 1853. G. N. Thorton bought this land on December 24, 1868, and although the land has changed hands many times this name and family has remained with us through the century.

The land to the north was held by H. P. Bernthisel and Wm. King. Although not within the corporation, the land is still held in some part by these families today. The King family has migrated to other parts but the Bernthisel name has remained and its descendants remain to celebrate the passing of the first century.

Here then, we had the Whitcomb Haskins land surrounded by the Bridges, Hoagland, Ames, Bernthisel, and King lands. The Dayton and Michigan Railroad had been completed, as well as the Bowling Green-Waterville Road. It was only natural for Mr. King as well as others to think that this land would be in demand. It would most certainly become the center of the township. Then in 1860 when the Haskins land was ordered sold, Mr. King became the owner. Almost immediately he hired Mr. Ames to survey the lots facing Mary, Maple, Watts, Main, and the Miltonville Pike. By 1862 the survey was completed and recorded. It became known as the Ames Addition.

Many homes sprang up on these lots. Many men with their families migrated to the new community. Businesses rapidly came into being, and by 1863 it was a well known spot on the Bowling Green-Waterville Road. To the fast growing Dayton and Michigan Railroad it was known as a shipping point as well as the mail center of the township.

Shortly after the survey was made, Mr. King applied and was appointed the first postmaster, saving the residents the walk to Hulls Prairie to get their mail. Mail was delivered by train and the bags were marked for Haskins Station. Freight shipments also were marked for Haskins Station and it was clear to all that the name of Haskins Station had been accepted for our village.

Among the early businesses that flourished here, before as well as during the Civil War, were these:

Jonathon Ames, U.S. Express agent and dealer in grain  
Daniel Ames, Surveyor and Civil Engineer  
Ames and Worth, Owners of steam hominy and feed mill as well as  
dealers in flour, hominy, pork and groceries  
S. D. Bingham, Harness and saddlery  
Mrs. Jennie Greighton, Milliner and dressmaker  
Joseph Debacher, Blacksmith and repairer  
Feagles and Cuning, Dealers in dry goods, groceries and hardware  
D. B. Gedney, Eclectic Physician  
David P. Knapp, Wagon maker  
Gurdeon Pitcher, Proprietor of hotel and stable  
John Stevens, Cooper  
J. A. Watts & Son, Proprietors of steam saw mill and dealers in lumber.

Among the names appearing in the poll books of 1860, or the year that Abraham Lincoln was elected president, were these: Woodruff, Bemis, Ewing, Duncan, Hanford, Genson, Russell, Carter, Bernthisel, Ovitt, Wetmore, Browne, Austin, Downs, Cobley, Rush, Robinson, Barnes, Tibbetts, Tribble, Johnson, Bridges, Hoagland, Decker, Wilson, Spafford, Meagley, Dawson, Armitage, Yount, Clark, and Wickham. Many of these families were represented by their sons in the Northern Army in the Civil War. There were those who never returned.



It might be interesting to note here some of the ads that appeared in the Wood County Sentinel Tribune between 1865 and 1869. These were taken from the Micro-film copies of the early editions, and all concern the Village of Haskins:

1867

New and commodious hack between Bowling Green and Haskins. Easy riding and enclosed by a good cover from storm and mud. 50 cents saved by this route. J. Ames, Agent.

Feagles and Cunning, Dealers in dry goods and groceries.

Prairie House of Haskins for sale cheap. Inquire J. Ames.

Mr. Charles Browne unmarried, died and was possessed of a considerable fortune.

1869

The proper papers have been filed with the Secretary of State for the incorporation of Haskins.

"We learn that James M. Cunning has been appointed postmaster of Haskins to succeed Mr. H. Brown of Hull Prairie. These two railroad stations are but a few rods apart and the postoffice had been vibrating between the two places for several years without any fixed or permanent abiding place. The question is one of locality. The defeated village never gives up."

November 10, 1870

Presbyterians have raised the frame of the new church.

October 10, 1871

New grain market at Haskins. Fred Foote and J. M. Cunning have leased the warehouse formerly used by Ames and Worth and propose to pay the highest cash prices for every bushel of grain brought to them.

These old records and newspaper entries seem to indicate that at the close of the Civil War, Haskins Station was indeed a thriving settlement. The depot was the center of town and the only addresses we are able to furnish on the old business places are those given in the old records, "Near Depot". However, from stories handed down, we know the location of some.

The Watts Saw Mill, founded by Joseph Watts, who settled here in 1864 with his wife and two children, J. G. and Elizabeth, stood just south of the present Farm Bureau elevator. The engine block of heavy concrete remains to give proof of the location of the old "factory", as it was called in days gone by. Near the factory was the saw mill where the logs were sawed into the boards that still remain in some of our homes today. The lots to the south, facing Watts Street between Sugar and Mary Streets, was the lumber yard. Also here stood the old and well-remembered lumber shed, long since destroyed by fire. The grist mill was also a part of this thriving business that can never be forgotten in any stories of Haskins.

Near the present Sunoco Station stood the old Worth Hotel. This may have been the original Prairie House mentioned so many times in old records. Taken over by the Worth family during the early part of the century, it was to become the rooming house for many men who came to Haskins to seek their fortunes in the oil fields. Few records or pictures of the old hotel remain although descendants of the Worth-Hoagland marriage are still with us.

Next to the Worth Hotel and near the present home of Earl Browne was the livery stable. It may have been here that Gurdoon Pitcher started the livery business although there is no record. However, this building housed the Clark Keeler livery and horse barn in the years that followed. Mr. Keeler became well known throughout the area as a breeder of fancy horses.

Directly across the street, in the building owned by Howard Sautter, was the Johnston Hardware. Mr. Johnston was the father of the late Dr. Henry Johnston, Mrs. Grace Garrett, and Mrs. Edith Twining.

Only a vacant lot remains where the Feagles and Cuning general store once stood. It was at the southeast corner of Findlay and East Main Streets. In the latter part of the century it was owned by David and Susie Rupp. J. N. Cuning later operated a store in the building owned by Robert Priest.

The Old Tribble House stood next to Feagles store. It still stands today, a pleasant reminder of the days gone by. The many old pictures tell us of the thriving business that this old boarding house must have done. Now owned by Herb Stevens, it will always be to many of us, "The Tribble House".

Next to the Tribble House was the doctor's office. This stately old home was built around the turn of the century by Dr. Greenfield, and served many years as his office and the offices of Dr. Wilson and Dr. Orlo Canright before becoming the home of Wilbur and Jessie Myers.

The center of the business area must have been the old depot. Jonathon Ames became the first express agent, and the train stopped at the depot the day the railroad was completed, loaded with barrel staves bound together on flat cars. The depot stood directly across the tracks from the present Farm Bureau Elevator. It was a two story frame building and served as a ticket office, telegraph office, and living quarters for the agent and his family. From the bay window one could see the approaching trains for miles in both directions. The well-kept platform in front of the depot was the scene of much action in the old days and the arrival and departure of the old trains must have been the center of interest for all the children as well as adults. The many old pictures tell the story well. With the smoking engine grinding to a stop, one can almost feel the excitement so well recorded in these priceless photographs. They show groups of small boys waving wildly, and awe-stricken adults gazing in wonder at this new marvel that had come into their lives.

To the south of the depot was the mail crane, where the sack containing the first class mail was attached and held in a position so that it could be caught by a special device in the door of the mail car. This made it possible for the train to take on the mail without stopping. It was indeed exciting to watch those sacks of mail disappear into the fast moving train.

Across the tracks from the depot was the old freight house, with its long loading dock on the north end. Many of us can remember the old red freight house but there are few who recall the platform to the north which was built in the early days of the oil boom. It accommodated the large shipments of supplies and heavy equipment so vital in those boom times, for in those days Haskins was a thriving station on the Dayton and Michigan Railroad.

It must have been near the depot that the daily hack arrived from Bowl-  
ing Green. At that time this was considered a very up-to-date method of travel. Enclosed by side curtains it protected the passengers from storm and mud.

On the present site of the firehall stood two frame buildings. These buildings were used for several businesses including stores and saloons. Across

the back of these two buildings was the bowling alley. Before the Good Templars petitioned for the outlawing of the sale of alcoholic beverages within the corporate limits, this must have been the scene of many early altercations.

The building now owned by Wilmer Garrett was, in the early days of Haskins, Bassett's General Store and Meat Market. Will Starkweather also was in this business for a number of years and many of the old timers will recall it as the Howard Bassett and Will Starkweather Meat Market. The building has served several thriving businesses down through the century including the Earl Browne Grocery and the original Browne and Brooks Store. The large room on the second floor served for many years as the home of the Odd Fellows Lodge. This gracious meeting room will long be remembered by many of us as Rushtaboo #530.

Across the street from Bassetts was the wagon shop. This may have been the home of the wagon maker mentioned in the early newspaper advertisement, David P. Knapp. However, in the years that followed it was operated by the Unkart family. It stood slightly west of the present site of Brooks and Brooks store.

On the main corner was the P. G. Garrett residence and meat market. Before the turn of the century this was the market that furnished the fresh meat for the early residents of Haskins. The doctor's office was located just north of the Garrett market. It was here that D. B. Gedney performed his miracles of healing. He was known as an Eclectic Physician and practiced a number of years here in Haskins. His powers of healing were well known throughout the area. His name appears on the abstracts of title to a number of homes here today. In the years that followed this was also the office of Dr. Greenfield, and the kindly Dr. Dauer whom many of us recall. A small cottage stood near the doctor's office. This was the Burleigh home and in this very cottage in the years that followed was started one of the most terrible panics that Haskins has ever known, which we will presently relate.

Between the Burleigh home and Johnston's Hardware stood two frame buildings. These buildings stand out in all the old photographs. One was a saloon owned by Wm. Downs. The wide plank platform in front which extended out over the ditch made this a favorite place to relax on the benches. The other building is now the attractive and well kept home of the North & Son Jewelers. This is thought to be one of the oldest buildings in town still standing on the original foundation and in the same location. It has served the public in some form down through the century. It may have been originally one of the five saloons that dotted the main street of this pioneer town. Used for many years as a restaurant, it was also the first barber shop that many of us moderns ever visited.

On the east side of Findlay Street on the present site of our post office stood a large frame building. This became Woodford's Store shortly after the town was incorporated. It was also occupied by the Van Buskirk Meat Market. Mr. Van Buskirk was the father of Mrs. Eva Asmus. This building was destroyed by fire in 1903 and replaced by the present brick building.

To the north of Woodfords, in the years that followed, the present brick building owned by Mrs. Anna Pope was occupied by the Wittes Hardware. It later became the Brand and Moore Hardware, and may also be recalled by many as the Maccabee Hall.

These brief descriptions should give some understanding of what was here in Haskins on that day in early September of 1868 when the petition for incorporation was signed. No proof has been found as to who the circulators were or where the meetings were held for the discussions that must have preceded it; however, the following dates and information might lead one to arrive at some conclusions.

We are already familiar with the original survey by D. D. Ames in 1862. This became known as the Ames Addition and in the five years that followed two other additions were made. On May 17, 1867, A. V. Perry filed with the county recorder the plat of what became known as the Perry Addition, which included the lots now facing High Street and Perry Street as well as the land to the north line of the corporation. About the same time, Sam Bridges filed his plat for what became known as the Bridges Addition. This included the lots facing Church Street, East Main and Rushtaboo Street as well as the land to the east and south line of the corporation.

Here we have three men who seemed to be very much interested in the founding of our town. Their meetings may have been held in the old Baptist Meeting House at Five Points. No other meeting places are mentioned in the old records except the school to the south of town in what was then called the "Two Mile Woods". However, this is pure speculation and the petition may have been signed in the old depot, as the first name on the petition was none other than Jonathan Ames, the express agent.

Among the other signers of the petition on that day in September are these names: D. D. Ames, Howard Piper, Thurston Tibbetts, Wm. Bear, Philip Meyer, George Miller, David P. Knapp, H. C. Worley, George Pitcher, R. H. Alexander, M. G. Wetmore, G. J. Pitcher, A. Knapp, George F. Sherwood, J. N. Cunning, and others.

The petition was presented to the County Commissioners in early September, 1868, and after their approval the papers were forwarded to Columbus for final approval. This final approval was given and became public record on January 1, 1869.

After the notice of approval was received it became necessary for the board of elections to cause a special election to be held to elect officials for the new village. The election was held in April, almost three months after the approval of incorporation was given. At that time there were 243 inhabitants in the village and it is thought that some eighty men gave their support to the following officers: Hezekiah N. Rush, Mayor, A. V. Perry, Sam Bridges, P. J. Feagles, J. S. Pope, Jacob Davis and D. D. Ames, elected first councilmen. The clerk and treasurer not mentioned in the old records held offices for which there was little or no duty; however, these offices were filled and the officers received their legal pay.

Problems facing the new council were numerous. Among the most pressing was the construction and upkeep of the many bridges. The wide and deep ditch that cut through the center of town made it necessary to have a number of foot bridges as well as wagon bridges. At the corner of West Main Street and Findlay was the largest of these bridges and probably the one that was used the most. Its high "A" frame support shows in many of the old photographs. Near the corner of High Street and Findlay was another bridge. This was located in front of Johnston's Hardware and served mostly as a foot bridge for the customers who came by horse and buggy.

Between these bridges were the board walks and these, too, were a town problem. The oil lamps that lighted the street were few but their upkeep was also somewhat of a problem for the new council. It was necessary to buy oil which had to be shipped in, and to hire a lamplighter as the lamps had to be lit at dark and turned out at sunrise.

The railroad brought another problem. The slow-moving trains provided good transportation for the many hobos in the early part of the century. The hobos sought shelter in Haskins and became a problem for the council, as they had to be fed and lodged, as well as watched, until they were again on a freight and on their way.

The hobo problem probably brought about the construction of the old "Calaboose". This old building was built on the land near the crossing of Rush-taboo Street and the railroad, almost directly east of the Fred Huss home. In the years that followed, the building was moved to the town property at the rear of Garrett's Store where it still serves the public as the garage and workshop of the Board of Public Affairs. It was built in the summer of 1896, as many of the bills are recorded by the regular council meeting held on November 2, 1896. Persons receiving pay for services and material used in this construction were: James Cunning, Frank Tibbits, Thomas Yount, William Peter, J. L. Wilson, William Coble, John Kurtz, J. G. Watts, and Asher Demuth. This building became the town headquarters upon completion. Here the town council met in the large room at the front. To the rear of the building was a comfortable and secure cell complete with barred door. This solved the tramp problem.

It might be interesting to insert here in our history the minutes of one of the early council meetings. From a faded page in the old record come these words:

"At the regular meeting of the council of the incorporated Village of Haskins, Ohio, the members present at roll call were, William Coble, Mayor, Thomas Yount, Charles Osterhout, E. L. Jones, A. F. Chase, Jacob Casler, and George Hoagland, Councilmen. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. On call for petitions and memorials, none were presented. At this meeting the following bills were granted and orders drawn for same:

A. M. Wickham, Part pay on salary.....	\$5.00
Standard Oil Co., for BBL. of Gasoline.....	3.79
S. Genson, for cleaning crossings.....	1.50
M. S. Graves, for lighting street lamps.....	7.10
George Osterhout, Marshal, for keeping tramps.....	1.20

"It was moved by E. L. Jones and seconded by Thomas Yount that the corporation furnish tile to J. P. Schied to put through road. The motion was carried. It was moved by E. L. Jones and seconded by Thomas Yount that the Mayor purchase one copy Ohio Municipal Code, for the use of the corporation officers. The motion carried. It was moved by Thomas Yount and seconded by E. L. Jones that the corporation loan Three Hundred Dollars to the school board. The motion was carried. It was moved by A. F. Chase and seconded by Charles Osterhout, that the clerk ascertain the amount of shortage of W. A. Williams as treasurer of the corporation. The motion was carried. It was moved by E. L. Jones and seconded by George Hoagland that A. M. Wickham build J. G. Watts' sidewalk and move street lamp from depot to corner of street by J. B. Thomas. The motion was carried. Clerk was ordered to notify McKee, May, and Hollington to remove dams in ditch along their premises. There being no further business council adjourned. A. M. Wickham, Clerk".

As early as 1865 the word "oil" had cast its magic spell on Haskins. Many abstracts of title contain the old leases entered into between the land owners and the early speculators. One such lease was dated August 17, 1865, and gave one Samuel Howard the right to drill for oil and hold his legal share in all that was taken from the land then owned by D. D. Ames. This is presently the north acres of the Clarence Asmus farm, all within the Corporation of Haskins. However, it was not until later that the great rush for oil settled around Haskins. Wells had been drilled at Turkey Foot and North Baltimore. Drilled to a depth of about one thousand feet, the wells were not too promising. It was not until the discovery of the secret held in the Trenton Rock, some twelve hundred and fifty feet deep, that one of the greatest fortune hunts in the nation at that time came

to this area. It was then that the Sucker Rod Belt was explored and developed, and it was the Sucker Rod Belt that pioneered the search for oil at Haskins.

The first well in town was drilled about 1885, and was near the original site of the old Calaboese, near the crossing of Rushtaboo Street and the B & O Railroad. Many derricks sprang up almost overnight and the resounding thump, thump, of the drill in the Trenton Rock echoed through the village night and day. Many of us still recall the old "Gold Mine" with its gas flame that burned continually. This was one of the best wells drilled in the area and produced many barrels of the best grade of crude oil. It was located about one hundred feet south and west of Home Plate on the present ball diamond.

Many of us recall, too, the many men that it took to keep these wells producing. The pumpers, the gaugers, and the well pullers took over soon after the drillers were finished. This caused over-crowding of the hotels in the village. An interesting story concerning this is one told by Thomas Enright, who came to this field from the east in the early days of the boom. He related that the old Tribble House was so crowded the beds never cooled off, that as soon as one man went on tower another man went to sleep in his bed.

Law and order became difficult with the expanding oil boom. The population of the village grew with every new well and it is said that as many as one thousand people called Haskins their home at various times during the great search for oil. It can hardly be said that Haskins was a refined or quiet place to live during those early days of the rush. Many strangers were suddenly in the midst of the group of sturdy pioneers who founded the town. Saloons flourished on the once quiet street, and there is some mention of the tipping houses that operated in the shadows of the churches. Between the lines of the old record one can read the unrest among the citizens. A petition was soon presented to council praying for a night watch to patrol the streets between the hours of 11 P.M. and 4 A.M. It was apparent that the end of an era was near at hand.

It was during these hectic days that a fire broke out in the Burleigh cottage next to the doctor's office and turned the night of September 25, 1895, into one of the most frightening that Haskins has ever known. It is not written just how the fire started but much has been told of the panic that came with it. There was no fire fighting equipment in those days and once started fire could and did rage completely out of control. The cottage was soon in flames and to save it was impossible. Men, women, and children alike fought side by side as the flames spread to Dr. Greenfield's office. Bucket brigades were formed and the wells pumped dry. Water was passed up from the ditch in the frantic effort to stop this terrible thing that was happening. The P. G. Garrett home was next. Nothing could save it and the flames spread on to the meat market. By now there was panic. The whole center of town was burning out of control. It spread westward and soon the blacksmith shop and Unkart's Wagon Works were gone, joining those other pioneer buildings in our memory. Only the ashes remained by morning; ashes and those sturdy smoke-stained ancestors of ours, who never once throughout that terrifying night lost that hope and determination that has kept Haskins our Home Town down through the century.

At the next regular meeting of council on November 4, 1895, a petition to purchase a Champion Fire Engine, to cost six hundred dollars, was presented. However, the motion was tabled and no record of the purchase has been found.

At the turn of the century Haskins was quite a busy town. It had as many as five grocery stores, a hardware store, a thriving blacksmith shop, as well as a harness and shoe shop. Amid all this was the always busy depot and

freight station, plus the Tribble House and the Worth Hotel.

Many of us recall the old "Titanic". This was the drug store operated by Twining and Challen. It came into existence about the same time as the great ship disaster. The name stayed with us for many years and although it is now the home of Brooks and Brooks Red and White Store the building still remains in the memory of many of us as the "Titanic".

We recall also Earl Browne's grocery store and later on Browne and Brooks that operated so many years in the building now owned by Wilmer Garrett. Fred and Susie Bemis were in the grocery and meat business in the building next to the post office, and it is hard to forget Dave and Susie Rupp. Here in their store at the corner of East Main and Findlay Streets, long since torn down, was the building where many of us bought our first school books. Many of us, too, have shinned up the pipes that supported the ceiling. Fred Pope had the Nation Wide Grocery for many years in the building now owned by Doris and Bob Priest. It later became the first self-serve store in Haskins. One of the best known of the grocers of Haskins was Clyde Brooks, Sr., who founded the present Brooks and Brooks Red and White Store. This business grew out of the old Browne and Brooks Grocery that was started shortly after the turn of the century.

The Brand and Moore Hardware Store operated many years in the building that is now Juel's Beauty Shop. It was here that many of us got to know Bill Moore and Albert Brand. It was here also that Gurdy Garrett advanced to become the area's leading Maytag dealer, after the coming of electricity.

We remember Arthur Slatts as the blacksmith. The blacksmith shop was in the building now owned by Paul Browne and after the coming of the automobile this building became the home of the Cameron Oil Co.

Who can forget the old town pump with its rusty tin cup? Or the sweet apple tree near the home of Elmer Gibbs under which we sat to watch Jim Bemis making violins? These memories are well recorded in a poem written by Emma Billings which concludes:

If you searched the whole world over  
This old town would surely win,  
You'll never find a more wonderful place  
For a child to grow up in.

It's a wonderful town to grow old in  
With its memories of long ago,  
Where neighbors have time to be neighbors  
In Haskins, Ohio.

In the next volume of Haskins' history, we find that the practice of personal hygiene increased greatly in the late 1800's. Many people even changed their linen daily, yet these same people actually bathed but once or twice a year. Later they were advised "just bathing your eyes" was not enough and that plain water was advisable, but not more than a quart to a bath. Reading further, one finds that many soon were taking a weekly bath, the "Saturday Bath". Along about this time a law was passed and the Haskins Council appointed their first Board of Health in 1894.

In 1896, the same year Henry Ford's first car appeared on the streets of Detroit, Haskins struck oil. The first well was located just east of the property of Fred Huss. The second and third wells were on the Ted Fisher farm. This was a boon to Haskins as most of the men worked in some line of the oil industry.

Things really buzzed this year with the building of the first telephone lines through the town. The town council was also kept busy lighting the village, keeping the sidewalks in repair and cleaning the streets and gutters.

In 1899 the town lost their first law suit. A well known citizen fell from the plank bridge over the main street. He sued the town for \$200.00 damages. He was awarded \$175.00. Could this have anything to do with the council then ordering the marshal to close all saloons on time and to see that they are kept closed on Sundays?

In 1900 Mayor Samuel F. Bridges signed a petition to sewer the north and south ditch through town. In May 1901, a levy of 1.9 mills was passed to pay for the sewer. Later that month Mayor Bridges died while in office, and in respect for the family a resolution was passed to close all businesses the day of the funeral. However, his efforts were not in vain as the ditch was filled in October of that year.

According to the census taken in December 1902 the population of Haskins had grown from a beginning of 181 to 449. After yearly hassles over fireworks the town council finally passed an ordinance prohibiting the firing of firecrackers and firearms inside the village limits except on the Fourth of July. The town was growing and another street was required so council appropriated the property for High Street, the name being derived from the cost the village had to pay for the property. The town well in Findlay Street was to be protected by a stone curb and iron railing, and was to have a concrete trough put in, by resolution of the town council. Apparently there were juvenile problems in 1905, for a curfew was passed requiring all minors under sixteen to be in their respective homes after 8 P.M. On September 25, 1905, the village held a local option election and the town was voted dry by a vote of 90 to 55.

Since Findlay Street had been improved with a paving of macadam, the town fathers found it necessary to pass an ordinance to set the size of wagon tires and impose load limits. After five or six years of trying to get the Toledo Lima Traction Company to put their electric railroad line through town, the council cancelled their check, which had been deposited to show good faith, until such a time as the electric railroad company would guarantee the line through the village. Haskins was faced with its own traffic jam now that one or two cars were owned in town and there was the ensuing clutter of traffic signs in this year of 1907!

Labor costs were skyrocketing, too. Ordinary labor was getting 20¢ an hour and the state auditor earned \$2.00 a day for auditing the village record book. Council passed its first appropriation budget for the town this same year and its first tax levy of 7 mills for operation. The old plank walks were rotting away and in the fall of 1908 the town council decided to construct and/or repair the sidewalks all over town, the biggest undertaking since Findlay Street was paved. After about ten years of having telephone lines in town the city fathers passed an ordinance to have a public telephone, the town's first. Also at this time the village had its first railroad crossing watchman.

Trouble over the height of the grade of the railroad crossing was recorded as early as 1911 and has continued until 1968 when council allowed the railroad to put in a crossing according to the B & O specifications. With the advent of the automobile traffic and more trains through the village, council at that time had to pass an ordinance requiring the C. H. & D. Railroad to light its crossings within the village limits. By the year of 1912 the village of Haskins was a growing community with a population of 475 and a valuation of \$388,660.00.



Before electricity came to Haskins in 1917, kerosene lamps were used to light the streets. The kerosene lamps were lit by men who were called lamp lighters. These men were paid \$1 for each night's work.

The first automobiles appeared on the streets of Haskins in 1912. Several different styles could be seen; some had high wheels, some had no tops, and some were steered with a rod. Naturally, with the invention of automobiles speed laws had to be made. The speed limit in Haskins was set at 12 miles per hour.

Another big change that took place in 1915-17 was macadam streets. Perry Street was one of the first ones to be macadamized. Next came Main, Church, and High Streets. Everyone in Haskins thought this was one of the biggest improvements the town had made, until in 1926 when the town purchased asphalt at 5¢ a gallon to pave Watts, Sugar, and Mary Streets. The Street Committee then hired the Haskins Farmers' Grain Company to steam the asphalt for \$1.50 an hour and for \$20 they hired a street sweeper.

In 1917, the town council decided that Haskins should keep up with the changing times. They appointed a committee to get an estimate of wiring the village for electricity. A bid of \$325 was submitted by the Froelich V. Emery Energy Co. to erect wires and poles and distribute the electricity. Soon the town was aglow just by the flick of a switch.

One day the people of Haskins won't forget is the day World War I ended. Church bells rang and school was dismissed. The students picked up flags and noisemakers and paraded through the town shouting "The war is over". The older boys even hung the Kaiser in effigy in the middle of town. It was a very joyous day.

In 1921, Inter-County Highway 283, better known today as Findlay Street, was widened.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad constructed the siding track in 1923.

A Model T Chemical Fire Engine was purchased for \$2070 in 1924. It proved to be quite a change from the bucket brigades. The fire truck was insured against fire for \$1500.

A very important landmark in Haskins was the old town pump which was located right in the center of four corners. In 1920, the pump had to be moved to Main Street across from the post office when they put the street in.

A very serious tragedy occurred in Haskins in 1924. On the most important night of any school year, the night of the Junior-Senior Banquet, three junior girls were killed when their car was struck by a train at the Liberty Hi crossing. Everything in Haskins came to a standstill as the people mourned the tragic death of Helen Scheid, Leona Hofner, and Blanche Hickie.

Haskins was really put on the county map when the Haskins High School Basketball Team won the Wood County Tournament in 1923-24 and 1924-25. The winning coach was Sam Emery.

Something Haskins had in the 1920's that they don't have today was operators. The switchboard was above Brooks' store, and located nearby was a bedroom which was used by the night operator.

Suddenly good times were over; the depression hit our nation, our town, and our people. Everyone was hit hard. Our bank closed. Prices fell. The housewife was helped some by the Township Trustees who handed out free sugar, corn meal, beans, jowl bacon and cotton material. Prices were low but there was little money

to buy even necessities. A man would work all day for \$1.00. Eggs were 12¢ a dozen, the same price as a bushel of oats. A whole wagon load of corn brought only \$14.00.

In 1931, the macadam road on Miltonville Pike between Main and Perry Streets was constructed.

An interesting story has been told of a young couple who were married in the Old School, soon after it was completed in 1883, and returned in 1933 to celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary. This young couple was Harriet Hoagland and Charles Cummings, who spent almost their entire lives in Haskins. Their home still stands at the corner of Route 582 and the Liberty High Road.

Franklin Roosevelt was elected President in 1933 and gave the people new hope. Factories had shut down, stores were closed and all business slowed down. Many new programs were started, including the C.C.C., that some of our young men joined to do road, flood and forest work. The A.A.A. paid subsidies to farmers.

Women made most of the clothes for the family, often making over clothes an older child had outgrown. During the summer, they had a big garden and canned hundreds of quarts of fruits and vegetables. Meat, both pork and beef, were butchered by the family. Some of the meat was canned, some was cured and some was smoked. During the winter, fresh beef was hung in a summer kitchen or back room, where it was cold, then fresh meat could be cut daily as it was used.

The home was heated with one or more stoves, usually located in the living room or dining rooms. Bedrooms were not heated and you moved fast on a below 0° morning. The kitchen of the early 1930's was very different from today. The cookstove was used for heating the kitchen, cooking, baking and keeping a supply of rain water in the reservoir warm for washing. Wood was usually the fuel in the stoves. If you were lucky there was a pitcher pump and a sink in your kitchen. Some homes had ice boxes. Home baked bread was a part of every meal. Battery operated radios provided entertainment with Amos 'n Andy, Bing Crosby, Kate Smith, Eddie Cantor, Burns and Allen, Edgar Bergen with Charlie McCarthy. Family entertainment revolved around the home, church, school, Grange and visiting friends and neighbors.

Farming in the early 30's was done with a team of horses. A binder was used to cut the wheat and oats, tie the grain into bundles and kick them off in a row. Then the farmer would shock the grain, setting up 9 to 11 of the bundles and then covering them with one or two bundles to protect the grain. When it was your turn the threshing machine moved into your barnyard. All of your neighbors, members of the threshing ring, came to help load the wheat or oats. It was pitched by one man on the ground to a second man on a wagon drawn by a team of horses. The bundles of grain were stacked carefully on the wagon and then they headed for the barn. In back of the barn the threshing machine was run by a big steam engine. The bundles of grain were pitched with a fork into a conveyor that sent the bundles into the machine. Inside the machine the grain was separated from the straw. The grain came out a spout on the side of the thresher where it was bagged. The straw was blown into a large pile called the straw stack. Sometimes these stacks were over 20 feet high. The kids were always warned not to play on the straw stack until after a good rain or they might get covered up with loose straw. This was the farmers supply of straw for bedding his animals during the winter. Water for the horses, cows and other livestock was pumped into a big tank that took a long time to fill on a hot day. Some farms had a windmill that let the wind do part of the work. Water for the chickens always had to be carried by the bucketful. Morn-ing and evening chores including milking the cows, feeding and watering cows,

chickens, horses and sheep, putting in fresh straw for bedding, slopping the hogs, gathering the eggs and then the house chores. There was wood to chop and carry in to fill the wood box behind the cookstove, and to bring in for the living room stove. There was water to carry in a bucket from the well for drinking and to fill the reservoir on the cookstove. If you sold milk it was cooled in a cooler in the barn. If you sold cream, the milk was run through a separator that was a complicated device of discs and spouts, that separated the cream from the skim milk. The skim milk was often fed to the hogs and the cream sold. This cream money usually bought most of the groceries for the family. Cream and egg money was often used to run the expenses of the home.

Slowly conditions improved. Prices started to raise. Great changes could be seen on the farm. Corn had always been picked by hand and thrown into a wagon drawn by horses, then hauled up to the corn crib where it was shoveled in. Now corn pickers were doing this hard work. Slowly, men who had great pride in having a handsome team of matched horses with well cared for harnesses were taking pride in their fine new tractors. One of the first combines in the area was bought by Wayne Walker about 1935. Combines ended the threshing rings and those big diners the women prepared for the threshers.

Machinery was making work easier for the farmer and for his wife. Some farmers installed Delco systems to make their own electricity before lines were built to their homes. Electric lights were a big improvement over kerosene and Aladdin lamps.

During 1938-1939 a new sewer was built for Haskins.

Then came December 7, 1941, a Sunday afternoon all remember. The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Islands. The United States declared war on Japan, Germany and Italy. Soon shortages were noticed. No new cars were built for the automobile factories were making jeeps, tanks or airplanes. New industries sprang up all over the country as we mobilized for war. Many women went to work in defense plants for wages were high. Young men from our town and community enlisted or were drafted. Some left for service before finishing high school. Soon rationing started for shoes, sugar, gasoline, and canned goods. Ration books were issued to each member of the family. To buy the rationed goods you had to present the required number of coupons. Price ceilings were set on many items so the prices would not get too high. There were a few test "black outs". At night all windows had to be covered if there was a light in the room. Every house had to look completely dark. Many wives followed their husbands to camps before the men went overseas. Finally, the war was over, our men returned home. Rationing and shortages were lifted as civilian goods became available. Many of the servicemen went to college under the "G. I. Bill" to prepare for good jobs.

The country remained prosperous and life returned to a peacetime economy.

In 1949 the city of Bowling Green requested the privilege of running a waterline through Haskins. The council agreed if a clause was added giving Haskins water rights. Four fire hydrants were to be installed on the main line. On August 29, 1950, a bond issue was passed to finance our subsidiary waterlines.

Since 1950, many changes have been made in the occupancy of businesses in downtown Haskins. There have been a blacksmith shop, a Dairy Queen, a vault manufacturer, a Teen Town, a sporting goods shop, and an auction sales. Along with these are the businesses existing in Haskins today: a grocery store, a beauty shop, a gas station, a barber shop, a hardware store, a jewelry store, and a plumbing establishment.

In the early 50's the decision was made by the Baltimore and Ohio Rail-

road to discontinue the agency in Haskins. Shortly thereafter, the depot was torn down. Another building razed was the old Rupp Store located just east of the railroad tracks.

Talk of a new firehouse in Haskins began in January 1953. After much planning the cornerstone was laid in 1955. The fire department had only one truck at this time. Since then a rescue truck and a pumper have been added to the equipment. In the last five years, three major fires in the Haskins area were fought by the department. On October 23, 1965, the residence of the Howard Baumbarger family was severely damaged by fire and had to be rebuilt. Only a month later, the barn on the farm of Paul Asmus was burned completely to the ground. The Gordon Wenig barn was consumed by fire on September 28, 1968.

In 1958, a Civil Defense System was installed in the firehall. This system keeps the town in touch with all Civil Defense units. Civil Defense headquarters in turn will alert us to any severe weather conditions or nuclear attacks. Members of the fire department were trained to operate the equipment.

The town took on a new "bright look" in 1963 when its fluorescent lights were turned on for the first time.

Also cause for excitement in Haskins was the erection of the cob burner in 1965 by the Wood County Farm Bureau. New innovations in Haskins were rare and many stopped around to see the progress. Little children thought a space ship was about to be launched. At countdown, the only thing that took off were smoke, chaff and peoples' tempers. After the smoke and debris settled (mostly on freshly laundered clothes) specific burning times were scheduled. In all seriousness, the cob burner has efficiently disposed of the enormous amount of cobs produced in our agricultural community.

The sound of oil drills through the night not too long ago brought back memories of yester-years to many of the old timers of Haskins. An oil company began drilling on the Clarence Asmus farm in 1965 in hopes of reviving the "Black Gold" industry around Haskins. Although oil was struck, the quantity hoped for was not forthcoming.

#### LAST COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CENTURY, DECEMBER 16, 1968

Roll call: Mayor Genson, Clerk-Treasurer Sullivan, Marshal German.  
Councilmen: Murray, Priest, Asmus, Baumbarger, Riggs, and Pruden.

..... Councilman Murray made the motion that the council of the Village of Haskins adjourn the last meeting of the Village Fathers after one hundred years of continuous government. In hope that the starting of the next one hundred years will continue to bring good government and progress to the Village, the motion was seconded by Councilman Riggs and unanimously passed.

#### POST OFFICE

HASKINS, WOOD COUNTY, OHIO

Established as Miltonville on September 29, 1835  
Discontinued on October 10, 1859  
Reestablished on August 10, 1861  
Name changed to Hull Prairie on May 30, 1862  
Name changed to Haskins on February 15, 1864  
Name changed to Hull Prairie on September 26, 1866  
Name changed to Haskins on March 17, 1869

<u>Postmasters</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>
Ekaphroditus (sic) Foot	September 29, 1835
George W. Baird	January 13, 1846
Jeremiah Case	August 8, 1849
William Ewing	February 17, 1852
William Ewing (Reappointed)	August 10, 1861
Jonathan Ames	February 15, 1864
Myron G. Brown	September 26, 1866
James M. Cunning	March 17, 1869
Pierson J. Feagles	November 11, 1872
William Cobley	August 26, 1885
Frederick Peinert	July 31, 1889
Charles S. Woodford	July 29, 1893
Harvey A. Twining	September 23, 1897
Loten A. Challen	March 16, 1915
Mary M. Enright	August 3, 1916
Walter E. Rupp	February 3, 1920
Susie G. Rupp	March 29, 1931
(Name changed by marriage to Mrs. Mae H. R. Tibbits on Nov. 9, 1932)	
Grace Garrett	April 8, 1931
Mrs. Mae H. Rupp	September 1, 1931
Mrs. Rhea Genson	February 4, 1936

#### A SIDELIGHT TO OUR HISTORY

##### MY NEIGHBOR, "BILLY THE PAINTER"

In the spring of 1930 the people of Haskins got the shock of their lives when they received a news item with a picture of one of our citizens. The caption read: "Masquerade of Woman Who Lived 50 Years As a Man Ended by Death".

The article continued, "Sunday morning the quavering voice and shaking hands of the 68-year old interior decorator were stilled by death in a tiny hall bedroom in a rooming house in Phoenix and 'Billy' Leggand was revealed to an embalmer as a woman.... As if to add a final touch to the drama that was her earthly career, the woman who spurned her sex will be laid to rest clad in a man's black suit." I would add that the mystery of her life, the reason for her masquerade, went with her to her grave.

It must have been in 1924 that "he" decided to go west. He came across the street to our house one day and said, "I guess I'll go out to Arizona to see 'Hank' Twining.". He hitched his horse to his old spring wagon and left our village in the same manner he had come here twenty years earlier.

As far back as I remember (1910) Billy lived across from us on High Street. He was of small stature and had a leathery brown skin that made him look Oriental. His hair was short and stubbly and he wore small gold-rimmed spectacles. He seemed to complain a lot about his health and was often in a sulky mood. He would laugh and joke with us at times, but more often he would be moody and complaining about something or other. Nobody knew anything about him except that he was a very good painter. He talked to us about a sister who had come with him from Alsace Lorraine, France. He said she died a short time after they came to America.

I remember he always kept a flock of chickens, and he had a horse and

wagon. In the summer he would plant a garden. His was the last house on the south side of High Street. On west there was orchard and farm fields. His yard was fenced in and had a high gate studded with spikes. He kept the gate securely fastened with twisted wire. No one was encouraged to visit his house. We kids used to make darts out of shingles and sail them like gliders. If one soared high and landed in Billy's yard, nobody in the crowd was brave enough to retrieve it.

Billy earned his living by painting and doing interior decorating in the community. I can remember my folks moving the furniture out of a room to get it ready so Billy could hang wallpaper and then he would come over and say, "I guess I won't work today, Soph. My stomach hurts me", or, "I'd better work my garden". There was nothing to do but move furniture back and wait until he felt like hanging paper. One thing though - he always did good work.

Sometimes in the summertime Billy would lie all day on his porch which was shaded by wild cucumber vines. I can remember the neighbors saying, "Billy the Painter is on another drinking spree". The oil boom days were over by 1910 but there was still some drilling and pumping around the area. After pay day some of the fellows would go to Toledo and stay two or three days. They usually came home broke and with stories of the "high times" they had. Billy often went with them on these trips but no one ever suspected his masquerade.

In spite of his drinking and his moodiness and the fact that he guarded his privacy fiercely, he was not a mean person. We considered him a friendly neighbor and my mother would invite him to come over and eat with us many times. I can remember him showing me how to draw pictures and I have a drawing instruction book he gave me. I guess my first attempt at painting was done by Billy's prompting.

One warm June day Billy was painting my father's house and had taken out the attic window. We never used the attic but my mother always hung a curtain at the window. Billy said, "Why don't you paint a curtain on the glass? Then you won't have to bother with it any more." He painted a tied-back curtain, then gave me a feather and showed me how to make a lace pattern in the wet paint. The window with Billy's lace curtain is still in the house on High Street. After nearly sixty years it is a reminder of the strange, lonely woman who lived for twenty years as our neighbor and kept her secret so well that not a single person had ever suspected.

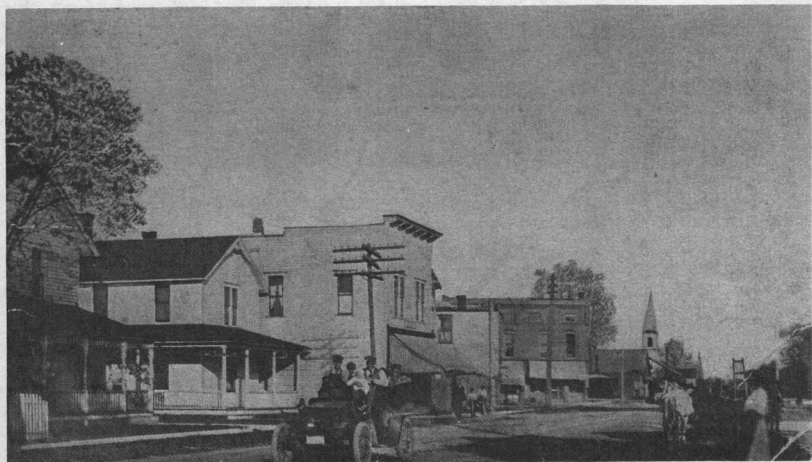
#### EMANUEL REFORMED CHURCH

The Emanuel Reformed Church was built in 1875. The church was dedicated on October 17, 1875. Prior to the building of this new church, services were held in the school house on the point of Findlay Road and Miltonville Pike (now called Liberty Hi Road).

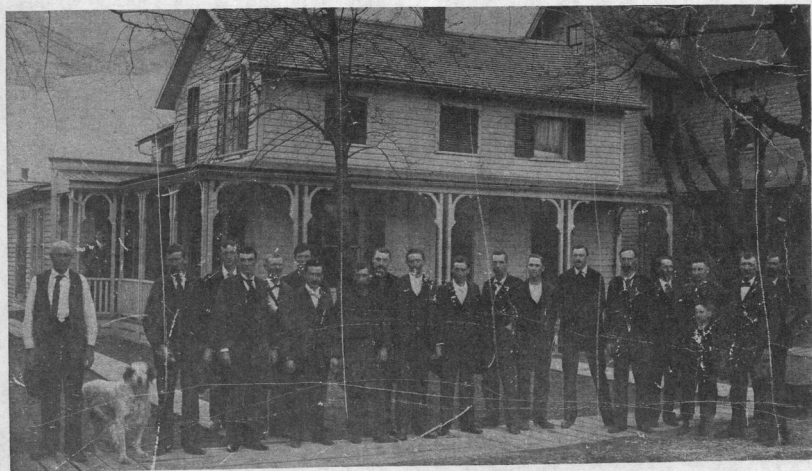
At first, all services were in German. In 1909 it was decided that during the winter season all services should be conducted in English.

In 1909 the church was remodeled. A partial basement, a choir loft, a pulpit area, and a Sunday School room were added. The clear-glass windows were replaced with three large and five small stained-glass windows. The church was then rededicated. According to the church constitution, each person had to pay at least \$1 annually to hold membership in the church. A new method of financing began in 1913 with the adoption of the budget system and the every member canvass.

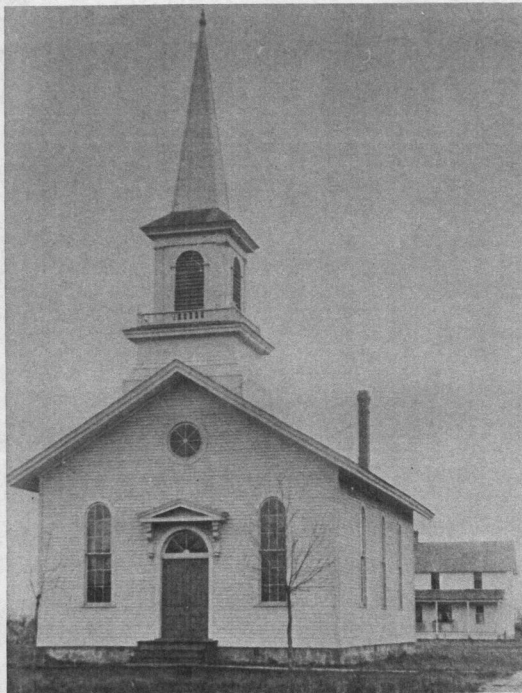
Another step forward was taken in 1918 when electric lights were installed at the parsonage and church at a total cost of \$200 for fixtures and wiring.



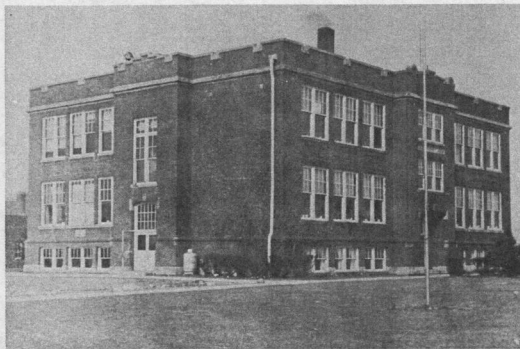
WEST MAIN STREET, LOOKING EAST, 1910



OIL BOOM DAYS AT THE TRIBBLE HOUSE



HASKINS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1910



HASKINS SCHOOL BUILT IN 1916





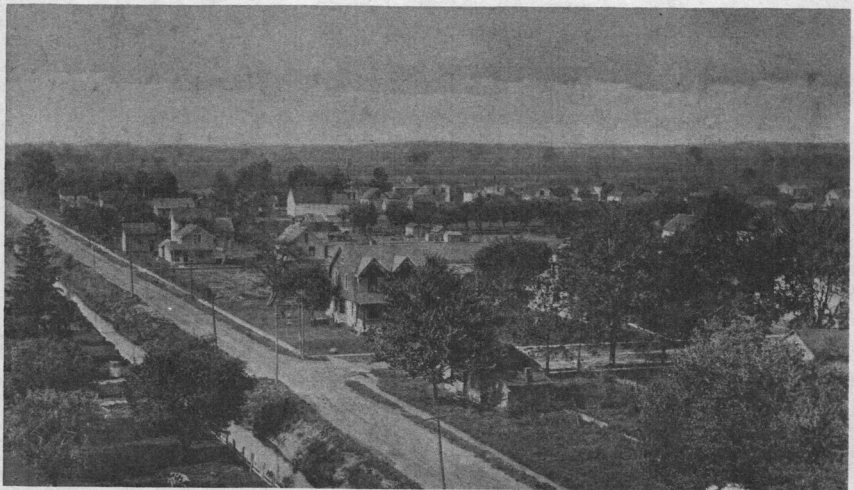
HASKINS FEDERATED CHURCH



ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH



BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF OLD SCHOOLHOUSE, ABOUT 1900



LOOKING NORTH ON THE MILTONVILLE PIKE (LIBERTY HI ROAD), ABOUT 1910

In 1946 the Emanuel Reformed Church federated with the Baptist Church to become the Haskins Federated Church.

#### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The First Presbyterian Church of Haskins was organized July 25, 1869, in the home of Samuel Bridges. Elders elected were S. Bridges, John Fox, William Chandler and William King. For a time services were held in the Haskins School, Crooks School, and Pargillis School houses.

On January 14, 1872, the present church building was dedicated. The constituent members were Samuel Bridges, John and Emma Fox, William and S. A. Chandler, Lucy Chandler, Sarah and John Hoagland, Martha and James Chandler, Roxanda and Arthur Perry, Andrew and Hattie Rush, Alzena Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. William King, Henry and Fannie Sarvis, and Elizabeth Pargillis. The Rev. Perry C. Baldwin was the pastor. The amount of claims against the church was \$858.00 which was raised at the dedication.

In the fall of 1964 the church was dissolved and services were discontinued. On February 28, 1965, fifty-five members of the Presbyterian Church joined the United Church of Christ of the Haskins Federated Church by a blanket letter. The former church building has been acquired by the town of Haskins to be converted into a Town Hall.

#### HASKINS FEDERATED CHURCH

On the eighth day of February, 1862, five devout Christians facing the winter's chill and traveling over mud roads, gathered in the old school house at Five Points to organize a Baptist Church as a branch of the Perrysburg church. The Five Points school house was located one-half mile north of Haskins.

During the winter of 1863, a Baptist missionary, the Rev. G. D. Oviatt, held revival meetings.

In the winter of 1866, the Rev. Almiron Browne was called by the church without salary and accepting the call, became its first pastor. He began his ministry and secured the services of G. N. Thornton to help him conduct revival meetings. Fifteen members were added to the church roll. The Rev. G. N. Thornton was ordained to the work of the Gospel ministry on February 15, 1866.

On May 12, 1866, at a Covenant meeting it was moved by the Rev. Thornton that the church disband as a branch of the Perrysburg church and reorganize as an independent church named "Haskins". In the year 1870, the Baptists, Presbyterians, and Methodists conducted a union Sunday School in the Presbyterian Church which all helped to build. In 1873 the Baptist Church withdrew and organized its own Sunday School in the old Haskins school house, then just completed.

It was in 1873 the church became a legally functioning body through its incorporation as a religious organization named "Regular Baptist Church of Haskins". On April 4, 1874, the Rev. Thornton suggested each member pay \$1.00 a year to defray the expenses of the church and Sunday School. On June 6, 1874, a committee was appointed to select a lot "for to build a church house on". The church building committee was authorized to build a meeting house on April 3, 1875; the cost not to exceed \$1800.00. The members met for a covenant meeting in the new church on December 4, 1875. The first mite society was organized and Albert Piershall was hired as the first sexton for \$48 a year. On December 19, 1875, the Baptist Church of Haskins was dedicated.

The Rev. A. Browne was willing to labor for the church as long as able at a salary of \$150.00 a year beginning February 2, 1878. A member of the church was requested to pay, pray, and attend or he was dropped from the roll in disgrace. It was decided on February 7, 1880, to take up a collection every Sunday morning. The church partook for the first time officially recorded of the Lord's Supper on April 4, 1881.

In July, 1887, a parsonage was purchased. Gas lights were installed on October 5, 1907, at a cost of \$87.15. The Rev. H. C. Gillespie and the Rev. Zo D. Browne were ordained on May 29, 1914. The church was wired for electricity on March 21, 1918.

On January 12, 1921, the church granted to Charles Roadarmel a license to preach while continuing his studies. On February 15, 1931, a motion was made and carried that Kenneth Roadarmel be licensed as a minister by the Haskins Baptist Church.

In January, 1941, the church auditorium was redecorated and floors were varnished. The Rev. Hayden helped organize a Vacation Bible School that enrolled 100.

In 1945 a new organ was purchased.

A committee was appointed to explore the possibility of federating our church with others in the village. On September 12, 1948, the church became a part of the Federated church with the Evangelical and Reformed Church. In 1950, the Rev. McLeese was called and the Federated Church was dedicated.

The Rev. Robert Childs and Mrs. Childs were taken into the church by letter in July, 1952.

The Haskins Federated Church observed the tenth anniversary of the federation on May 7, 1956. In 1962 the 100th anniversary of the church was celebrated. In August, 1963, the Rev. Childs and his family left Haskins and moved to Kodiak, Alaska. The Rev. Charles O'Connor became our pastor in 1964. He left in 1966. In 1965 the Presbyterian Church joined the Federated Church becoming members of the United Church of Christ denomination. In early 1967, Rev. Roger Stutesman was called as pastor. He left in January, 1969.

Rev. Raymond Combs accepted the call as pastor of the Federated Church beginning June 22, 1969.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1862 by the Rev. Thomas N. Barkdull. The building of a house of worship was completed in 1872.

On October 26, 1879, the Methodist Brethren were granted the privilege of holding their Sabbath School and preaching in the House each Sabbath afternoon and paying one-half the expense. It is unfortunate that historical records end at this point and further developments of the Methodist Episcopal Church are lost to us.

## ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH

In the year 1868 the Rev. C. F. Kaeding of Perrysburg, Ohio, who is acknowledged as being the "Father of Lutheranism" in Wood County, Ohio, met with a few earnest and inspired men of the community of Haskins for the purpose of establishing a Lutheran Church in their midst. The first meetings of this small group were held in a log schoolhouse located at the intersection of the present Liberty Hi Road and State Route #64. This site was about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north of Haskins. Later services were conducted at the frame schoolhouse in Haskins Station. The Rev. Kaeding served this congregation for thirteen years during which time he either walked the D. and M. Railroad from Perrysburg or rode a pony to Haskins.

The church at its present site was dedicated in the fall of 1881 and was a plain rectangular structure. It was of frame construction and built at an approximate cost of \$900. Then pastor Theodore Meier served churches at Custar, Haskins and Waterville, the Waterville-Haskins parish being served jointly. Services were still held in the German language in 1900.

The Ladies Aid was organized on February 24, 1916, with twenty-eight charter members. Mrs. Charles Dauer, Mrs. Albert Dauer, Mrs. William Wehl and Mrs. Lewis Schaller were leaders in its organization.

On September 18, 1932, St. Paul Congregation belatedly celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. Several former pastors and the Rev. Norman Menter, president of the Michigan District of the American Lutheran Church, participated in this service which marked fifty years of continued service in this community.

In 1948 the joint Haskins-Waterville parish was dissolved and Haskins became a self-supporting congregation for the first time. Remodeling had been undertaken with the church sanctuary enlarged, an addition to the rear of the building made, dining area added and furnace installed. At about the same time a parsonage located at the corner of High Street and Findlay Street was purchased.

The church's seventy-fifth anniversary was celebrated on September 16, 1956. At the special service Dr. Norman Menter, President of the Michigan District American Lutheran Church was the principal speaker, and many congratulatory expressions were received from former pastors and friends in the church and community.

Three of St. Paul's native sons have become Lutheran ministers: the Rev. Harold Wehl, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Wehl; the Rev. John Place, son of Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Place; and the Rev. James Petteys, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Petteys. The Rev. Robert Corl from Maumee also became a Lutheran minister through the efforts and encouragement of the Rev. Carl Heller and St. Paul also considers him one of its sons.

On November 3, 1968, the Rev. John Stevens became the pastor and is continuing to give his valuable service to God and community at the present time. In gratitude for the blessings showered so abundantly upon them, the members of St. Paul's Church extend the hand of fellowship to all people of the community of Haskins and have committed themselves to greater service in the coming years.

### DOCTORS OF HASKINS

The first doctor is thought to be a Dr. H. B. Gedney but no record has been found of his being a resident of Haskins. The Wood County Physicians Society, which was founded in 1889, mentioned Dr. Greenfield who came to Haskins around 1884. He was followed by Dr. Holst whose descendants live at Rossford. Dr. Henry Johnston practiced here for several years then moved to Tontogany.

Dr. Dauer was the next physician and was the first one to use an automobile for his calls. His car was a Cadillac and was known as a "one-lunger" which chug-chugged along and scared chickens and horses (and some timid people). He was a kind-hearted man who often took small boys along on calls for the ride.

Dr. Wilson bought Dr. Dauer's practice and about the same time a Dr. Gregg moved to town but did not stay long. The gay young blades of that era will remember Dr. Gregg's popular daughter, Maizie.

Dr. Orlo Canright bought the practice of Dr. Wilson, and brought his family from Wisconsin about 1916. He was here until his retirement in 1922 and the town has been without a resident physician since then.

#### HASKINS PUBLIC SCHOOL

The very early history of Haskins School is quite unknown except as it exists in the memory of those who have heard it from their fathers. Memory tells us that our fathers said the first log schoolhouse was located at the point between the present Liberty Hi Road and State Route #64, or about one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) mile north of Haskins. Here children from Hull Prairie and Haskins Station attended. Great rivalry existed among the pupils as to which town was the better and this caused frequent fist fights, snow ball fights, and chasing with sticks. Dorothy Garrett Elser reports that her grandmother, Mrs. Bill Garrett, taught in this school and the hand bell she used is still in the possession of Mrs. Elser.

The next schoolhouse seems to have been located south and west of the present B. & O. Railroad, then known as the D & M. This building could have been located near or slightly beyond the present Shelter House. Here Miss Carrie Bridges taught school. Her parents had been early residents of Haskins, having come across the Appalachian Mountains in a covered wagon. Miss Esthel Asmus has in her possession a brass hand bell which Miss Carrie Bridges used in calling her children. This building seems to have been of frame construction with two rooms, which besides serving as a school was considered as a social center for gatherings, and the Lutheran Church and Baptist Church seemed to have used this schoolhouse for services before their churches were built.

The next schoolhouse was built in 1882 and was a brick building of four rooms which stands at the corner of Sugar Street and Liberty Hi Road. It was built on land surveyed by D. D. Ames and was built by Sam Bridges. Memory tells us that the building had been begun by another contractor (name unknown) and when he was unable to finish it, Sam Bridges undertook the completion of it. To do this he found it necessary to mortgage 40 acres of land which he held somewhere in the vicinity of State Route 582 and State Route 25. For some reason completion of the building spelled financial ruin for him and resulted in his losing title to his farm.

At first, only three rooms of this building were used and not until about 1904 were the sliding doors opened making two rooms upstairs. One room was used for the 7th and 8th grades and the other one was used by Grades 9, 10 and 11.

I. N. Van Tassel was an early superintendent as was A. J. Torrence, Baker and Shad Bowman. At the time Van Tassel served in 1888, the school had an enrollment of one hundred twenty-one pupils. Teachers' salary was \$15.00 a month. Mr. Shad Bowman years later became one of Wood County's successful lawyers with an office on Main Street, Bowling Green, which he maintained until his death just a few years ago.

This first brick building holds many memories. To this building the

writer of this article walked one and a half miles along a path beside a big ditch and at the side of a mud road. Shortly after starting school the first stone road was built parallel to the mud road, the mud road being maintained because horses' feet could not stand the wear of pulling heavy loads over the stoned area.

From this school belfry a bell rang out at 8 o'clock in the morning and was known as the "First Bell". It was to alert the town children and those walking in from the country that it was time to be on their way to school. At 8:30 A.M. the "Last Bell" rang. This was the signal that school would begin.

About 1902, Mr. V. M. Riegel came to head our school and made many improvements as he was a very able educator for his time. He was assisted by Marshal Shepherd as principal. Mr. Riegel and Mr. Shepherd organized the first baseball teams. The diamond was the space behind the schoolhouse and sometimes the enthusiasm ran so high that the recess bells were long delayed. Mr. Riegel served here several years. After leaving Haskins he became editor and publisher of the "Educational Outlook", a magazine of new educational ideas, poetry, nature stories and book reviews. This magazine was published at Tontogany and two copies in possession of the writer are dated 1909. Later V. M. Riegel became Superintendent of Education for the State of Ohio, serving in this capacity for eleven years. After retiring from the office of education he established a Teacher Placement Bureau in Columbus. He resides in Columbus at present and still keeps in touch with friends in the Haskins area. V. M. Riegel upgraded the Haskins School and had a course of study adopted. During his term as superintendent the Alumni Society was organized by Loten Challen and a few young people. It is still an active organization.

In 1904 the Elson series of Reading and the Hamilton Arithmetic series were adopted. In those days each child had to buy his own books. Therefore, a First Grade Reader might have become very well worn, for the theory was that to know every word in one book is better than to have read many books to learn it. The phonetic method of reading was taught and memorization used to a large extent in teaching all subjects. The subjects taught in grade school were Reading, Writing, Spelling, Arithmetic, Geography, History, and English.

All country children who attended school at Haskins carried their lunches either in small granite pails or heavy cardboard-like boxes. Lunch boxes often had to be set on window sills and in winter when lunchtime came, it was not uncommon for the children to find that the contents were thoroughly frozen.

Noontime diversion for the small children was meandering uptown to buy a penny sucker or just to pick up bright colored leaves in autumn or to enjoy the picking of dandelions in spring. It was common in those days to hear the zing of the saw in the J. G. Watts sawmill located where the Elevator now stands. Sometimes the sawing made such a noise as to be quite distracting. A well with hand pump stood in the yard of the schoolhouse (just out from east porch) and since there was only one cup at the well much pushing for drinks resulted. All ages drank at this well and from the common tin cup. In later years each one was encouraged to have his own little folding drinking cup. Playing "witch" on the back porch was everyday fun.

In the years from 1907 to 1915, grades 1, 2, and 3 were in one room called the primary room; grades 4, 5, and 6 were known as the intermediate room; grades 7 and 8 as the grammar room; and grades 9, 10, and 11 as the High School. Until 1915 only three years of high school were offered. If an 8th grade student successfully passed the State Boxwell Examination which any eighth grader might take by appearing before the County Board on a Saturday in April at the County Seat, then his tuition would and must be paid by the local board so that he could

complete his twelfth year in a First Grade High School nearest him. The tuition amounted to about forty dollars per school year. Availing themselves of this opportunity, several local students completed the twelfth year at Bowling Green High School during the years 1911-1916.

Before 1915 there were several one room schools in Middleton Township School District. Among them were Dunbridge, Dowling, David School on the river, Moore School located on Hull Prairie Road, Brand School located on Route 64 across from the Emiel Brand property, Keeler School near the river, Hull Prairie School and the Hood School located across from the Victor Asmus farm. Two of the early District Superintendents were W. W. Miller and C. E. Stinebaugh.

On November 2, 1914, it was announced by the Haskins Board of Education, composed of Loten Challen, Brand, Bobel, Dr. Wilson and Dr. Virgil Carter, that a Community Meeting would be held at Dunbridge on November 16, 1914, for the purpose of discussing consolidation of the above named schools. On March 15, 1915, it was decided that the above named schools should be consolidated with Haskins. At this meeting it was voted that the Haskins Board purchase a site and erect a new school thereon. A bond issue of \$35,000.00 for purchasing the site and erecting a building was agreed upon. Also that a Special Election be called for this purpose of submitting bonds in the amount of \$35,000.00. On March 31, 1915, the following election results were recorded: votes cast, 201; in favor of bond issue, 151; against, 50. On April 7, 1915, the Board entered into a contract with Architect Stapplet for making plans for the new building.

At a special meeting on April 8, it was determined that the site selected for the schoolhouse should contain not less than five acres of ground. (This was considered as being unnecessarily large at the time.) It was also decided at this meeting that the Board would purchase a site for the building on the north edge of Haskins along State Route #64. Also that three acres be purchased for the sum of \$700.00 from Joseph Garrett. Mr. Garrett reserved the right to sow oats upon as much of the land as would not be used for a ball ground and a further provision that the Board erect and maintain a suitable fence sufficient to turn poultry from the said three acres and certain lots of Garrett's immediately south of and adjoining such acres. Lucy Cummings Piper and James E. Piper offered to convey two acres of land along Findlay Road (now Route 64) for the sum of eighteen hundred dollars, reserving the right of possession until May 15, 1915. Attorney S. W. Bowman was authorized to draft all contracts and deeds and to generally look after the interests of the Board. The sale of \$35,000.00 in bonds at 5½% interest was awarded to Spitzer, Rorick & Co., of Toledo on April 15, 1915. On May 21, 1915, it was moved by the Board that the bid of \$27,525.00 by C. A. Watts (local contractor) for the building be accepted, and that the contract for heating be awarded to the American Warming and Ventilating Company for the sum of \$3,586.00. The plumbing contract was awarded to the E. Ehinger Company.

During the period of construction of the new building, G. F. Putman was serving as Superintendent. School was held in the old building during 1915, and a small building known as the "Barber Shop" and taught by Helena Bernthisel housed the first grades.

As proposed by Supt. Putman the dedication of the new building took place on September 29, 1916.

On the 8th day of August, 1916, it was determined by majority vote to issue bonds for Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) at 6%. This amount was deemed necessary to complete the contract for the new building, furnish it and improve the school site.



Upon completion of and operation of the new school all the one room schools in the Middleton Township School District were gradually closed and the children who lived at a distance were transported to school by horse drawn jitney busses. W. H. Bernthysel and W. G. Heiman were early drivers receiving from \$46.00 to \$75.00 per month depending upon the number of pupils carried and the distance traveled. It is interesting to note teachers' wages of that time: Supt. Putman, 9 months at \$1050.00 per school term; Assistant Principal Arthur C. Hagg, \$750.00 per year; Ruth E. Brand, Principal, \$652.50; Loretta Twining, 7th and 8th grades, \$517.50; Marie Demuth, 5th and 6th grades, \$472.50; Clerk of the Board, Carrie A. Bridges, received \$52.00 per year and the janitor, G. C. Keller, received \$70.00 per month.

In 1918-19 an eight month school year was authorized because the Board was short of funds. But in the memory of this writer who was teaching her first term in the Fifth and Sixth grades, the school actually covered about six months as a vacation of about a month was called in the fall of 1918 due to an epidemic of a very virulent Spanish Influenza. Later in the year it was impossible to get enough coal for heating since the First World War was drawing to a close, and transportation and supply of coal were both a problem. These were the days when patriotism ran high and children were encouraged to love and sacrifice for their country. Small amounts of money were sacrificially saved by them to be used in buying savings stamps for victory. During this year the writer marched her 5th and 6th graders, dressed in Red Cross uniforms and carrying U. S. flags, to the post office where the stamps were purchased. A careful record was kept before the children, and keen interest and rivalry within the group was shown by trying to attain a selected goal at a specified time. At one time a photographer took a picture of this patriotic group as they arranged themselves in marching order to return to their classroom after one of these spirited trips. The picture remains in the possession of our Mayor Charles Genson who participated in the march.

When the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918, the children were wild with delight. It was the greatest day ever as brothers and fathers would be coming home from a terrible but victorious war in which they fought to "Make the World Safe for Democracy". Because there was no telephone at our school, a Mr. Harvey Twining (town druggist) brought the good news down to us. He shouted it to the High School rooms upstairs first, and then burst into the lower hall shouting and yelling, "The war is over, the war is over". Then began yelling, shouting and even jumping up and down from the desks and for once the teacher didn't even care. Immediately everyone grabbed any flag, banner or noise-making instrument he could find and the whole school fell in line and marched about the town. School was dismissed for the day and in the evening the Kaiser was burned in effigy and there was dancing in the streets.

From 1921 to 1942 School Records seem to have been lost and only memory serves as our authority. However, this seems to have been a rather quiet and uneventful period when school was just school.

Melvin Genson was hired by the Board in 1942 and has been especially praised for his long and faithful service as he is still in service at the same building.

In 1943 the Board for the first time decided to pay substitute teachers (in case the regular teacher was sick) the sum of \$5.00 per day but this was not to exceed three days duration.

Regular cafeteria service was begun at the school in the fall of 1949. This service was suggested and begun by E. E. Andrews, an able Superintendent who gave long service to the school. Mrs. Ed Austin and Mrs. Dave Ennis were first

cooks to be employed and they were good cooks so the program got off to a good start.

In 1954 the first action was taken by the School Board composed of Paul Browne, Donald Dauer, Ernest Bobel, Dennie Enright, and Mildred Walker toward reorganization of certain school districts. Each school district contributed \$100.00 and a survey team from Ohio State University was hired.

On May 2, 1955, the Board authorized that a questionnaire be prepared and mailed to the residents of the school district asking for their opinion on whether Haskins District should consider consolidation in any form.

November 1955 a report was made by the superintendent on the results of a card survey which had been made in the district regarding consolidation. Ninety-one cards were returned with forty-six voting for a large addition to the present building; thirty-nine for consolidation, and six voting for a small addition.

On July 14, 1956, the following people were appointed as a study group to consider possible reorganization plans for the school district: Mrs. Ernest Carter, Mrs. Milton Kinker, Mr. Gordon Wenig, Mr. Robert Watts, Mrs. Richard Hofner, Mrs. Earl Browne, Mrs. Roy Ryder, Mrs. Chas. Ziss, Mr. Clyde Brooks, Mr. Bruce Roadarmel, and Mr. Victor Asmus.

December 1956 Robert Bobel proposed to have a joint meeting with Washington Township Board (Tontogany) as soon as possible at Middleton and to invite Weston also. At the Board meeting on January 30, 1957, Dennie Enright made the motion, seconded by Bobel, to authorize a proposal for a reorganization study of Middleton, Washington Township, and Weston Schools.

On October 10, 1954, Supt. Boyd Case reported to the Board that Weston had petitioned the Wood County Board of Education to create a new Local School District consisting of Middleton (Haskins), Weston, and Washington Township. Later a survey report showed one hundred and eleven for the reorganization and forty-two against. The Board acted upon these results with the announcement that the Board would create a new school district to consist of Middleton (Haskins), Washington Township (Tontogany), and Weston. This combined district to be known as "Otsego". A "yes" vote was reported.

The Otsego District existed as such for several years when on January 1, 1968, a further consolidation of schools became operational. Grand Rapids by choice added itself to the Otsego District. So that at present Elementary Schools are maintained at Haskins, Weston and Grand Rapids; Intermediate Schools (Grades 6, 7 and 8) are maintained at Tontogany and Grand Rapids and a high school at Tontogany. The principals serving presently are: Miss Nancy Buchanan at Haskins and West Elementary; Mr. Thomas O'Connor, Grand Rapids, Elementary and Intermediate; Mr. Joseph Sproul, Tontogany Intermediate; Mr. David Aschenbach, High School Principal; and Gordon R. Hoffman, Superintendent of Schools. Total enrollment of all Otsego Schools is one thousand nine hundred and twenty-five.

We remember Miss Carrie Bridges, Mr. Joe Shepherd and Mr. Oliver Browne for their exceptional length of service as clerks; Mr. Gordon Keller, Mr. Charles Brandon, Mr. Melvin Genson who served at the present building and Mr. Oliver Decker who served many years at the first brick school. As teachers, Miss Myrtle Bemis, Miss Lois and Miss Thelma Mercer, Miss Marie Demuth, Miss Rita Twining, Miss Charlotte Hutchinson who organized the first orchestra; Mrs. Myrtle Bengston, Miss Eloise Moore, Mrs. Mary Lippert, Mrs. Eva Browne, and Miss Esthel Asmus who spread her service over forty-one years in the same building, beginning her service in 1918 teaching the Fifth and Sixth Grades and ending it in 1960 by teaching the Second Grade, having taught the Third and Fourth Grades in intervening years.

As superintendents we especially remember Mr. Vernon M. Riegel, Mr. Sam Emery and E. E. Andrews who served long and well.

To these and all others who served at Haskins Village School the community extends grateful thanks.

#### HASKINS PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION

The Haskins PTO was organized in November 1954. The same officers who had served the Band Boosters headed the new organization. Mrs. Ethel Huss was President.

They held a pancake supper to make money. Swimming classes were sponsored at B.G.S.U. for the summer. The P.T.O. have always presented corsages and boutonnières to the faculty each year at the first meeting and introduced them to the members of the P.T.O. For several years the December meeting was a Christmas program given by the students. The P.T.O. set up and has maintained the school library, besides purchasing new books every year.

Other projects of the P.T.O. have included a Christmas Bazaar and supper, "Carnival", candy sales, fish suppers, spaghetti supper, family dances, teas and book reviews to make money. They have sponsored Scout Troops, purchased playground equipment and an aluminum Christmas tree with trimmings. They helped pay rental payments on the intercom system that was purchased jointly by the Board of Education and the P.T.O.

A variety of educational programs was given at the monthly meetings, with a large number of the speakers coming from B.G.S.U.

Starting in September 1969, the group will be called a Mothers Club.

#### HASKINS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

This year the Haskins Alumni Association will be sixty years old. During the past years membership has ranged from 86 people in 1928 to 232 people in 1948. There has been a variety of entertainment including historical events of the Association and some of the highlights of past years have been: 1937 the fiftieth anniversary of the first graduating class was held; 1942 flag dedication honoring those in service from the school; 1953 special recognition was given Miss Esthel Asmus for her service to the pupils; 1955 celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the Class of 1905.

Since the Class of 1958 was the last to graduate from Haskins High School, it was voted that Otsego graduating seniors from Haskins would be honored until such time as an Otsego Alumni Association is formed.

#### A T H L E T I C S

##### BASKETBALL

Records were never kept of athletic competition before completion of the new school in 1915. Bleachers were jammed for the basketball games in 1916-1917 to watch Milton Watts, Charlie Roadarmel, Richard Genson, Ralph Dauer, Bruce Roadarmel, Calvin Heiman, Wayne Challen, Clarence Bobel and Herbert Moore.

This year also boasted one of the finest of girls' teams coached by Ruth

Brand and composed of Leona Keifer, Martha Dauer Noward, Ruby Walker Roadarmel, Edith Garrett Roe, Nellie Brown Asmus, Ethel Browne Roadarmel and Dorothy McKee Ryder.

The Scarlet and Gold won many laurels in the following years: the Boys' Consolation Cup in 1921; first place in Wood County in 1924; first place in Wood County in 1925; Girls' District Championship of West Wood County in 1928 coached by Mrs. Mary Lippert; and Boys' West Wood County Championship in 1930. Good basketball teams continued throughout the '40's and there were several league winners in the '50's.

#### TRACK

In 1960 Tom Bridgett won the Wood County Track Meet as well as the District event and went on to win the State Track Meet, Class A. He ran the half-mile in 2:02.4.

Three of the sons of Robert Bobel won awards in low hurdles: Robert, Ronnie, and Dave. Robert went on to State.

Dick Fox won North West Meet in low hurdles in 1960, and in 1966 Larry Asmus won the County Track in hurdles with a time of 20 - 5.

#### BASEBALL

In 1958 the Haskins team in the Class G Hot Stove Summer Baseball League participated in the state tournament for ten and eleven year old boys. En route to the state tournament the team placed second in the district tournament at Lorain. In earning their trip to the state tournament held at Alliance, they defeated three Lorain County teams by the scores of 7-4, 9-4, 6-5. In their final game in district play, they were defeated by Janey Oil of Oberlin. Nevertheless, the team received a second place trophy and the right to participate in the state tournament consisting of eight teams. Haskins was eliminated in the first round of the state tournament by the East Akron Cubs.

That season the team won the five team Waterville Hot Stove Class G League. Members were Larry Longstreet, Jim Bushong, Philip Sworden, Donnie Rife, Ron Bobel, Tom LeGalley, Terry Styer, Larry Asmus, Forest Sheely, Jerry Limes, Don Limes, Bill Baumbarger, Karl Brown, Gary Dauer and Bob Priest. The team was managed by Ron Asmus and his brothers, Dean and Dale.

In the early 1960's, the Wood County Hot Stove League was started by John Winters. The age groups are broken down so all players have a better chance to play. The H team is for 9 and 10 year olds, the G team for 11 and 12 year olds, the F team for 13 and 14 year olds, and the E team for 15 and 16 year olds. Each year there are at least 5 teams with about 15 boys on each team, so about 75 boys enjoy a summer of baseball. Some players started as young as 7 and are now playing on the E team.

The League Tournament was won in 1965 and 1967 by the team coached by Jack Allen and John Winters, respectively. Players included Dave Fretter, John Grolle, Gordon Wenig, Dale Limes, Bob Bernthisel, Rick Hennen, Rick Hartman, Bob Flemming, Rick Asmus, Mike Streicher, Tim Schutzberg, John Crispin, Bob Allen, Tom Sanders, Lee Fretter, Dave Dauer and Steve Bloomfield.

## THE VILLAGE PARK

The original small Village Park was purchased about 1946. The Haskins and Township Firemen, headed by Councilman Dave Ennis, were instrumental in effecting the purchase. William Morlock collected donations and play equipment and picnic tables were purchased for the park in 1950.

In the summer of 1951, Tony's Roller Skating Rink came to town. How the music from that tent livened things up! Young and old couldn't resist the challenge of the "flying wheels".

A cement slab was poured for play activities in 1953. Tennis, shuffle board, ice skating, skate boarding, picnics, and ice cream socials are some of the activities that have been held on this slab which is now the floor of the present shelter house.

In the spring and summer of 1959 additional park land and flood lights were dedicated and a ball diamond laid out. The first lighted ball games were held in the spring and summer of 1960. Summer recreation for children was held at this time, and somewhat later there were Donkey Ball Games. For many summers the Recreation Council has sponsored a supervised play program in the park, Easter egg hunts every spring, and teenage dances.

Many Little League teams were formed as well as church and community teams. Still in the possession of the village council is the first baseball from the initial Little League game played on the new diamond. It was autographed by many people and thrown into play by the town's oldest resident at that time, Mr. Charlie Bemis.

The scene of much wholesome activity, Village Park has become a fine recreational asset to Haskins.

## ORGANIZATIONS OF HASKINS

In the history of Haskins, the first organization mentioned was The Good Templars who petitioned the town council in 1870 to close the saloons and tipping houses.

Roche de Boeuf Lodge No. 530 (written Rushtaboo on the charter) was instituted November 7, 1872. Charter members were John Ovitt, A. J. Ovitt, F. Zimmerman, M. Wetmore, A. J. Orme, and Geo. Downs.

Columbia Lodge No. 387 Rebekahs was chartered August 6, 1893. Members were Wm. Coble, E. Thornton, Jacob Casler, Ash Wickham, M. Manley, Missoria Robinson, Electa Pitcher, Mary Yount, A. J. Ovitt, Clark Keeler, Gurdon Pitcher, Katie Garrett, Anna Keeler, Henry Bernthisel, W. W. Bernthisel, Perkins Garrett, and Sophia Ovitt.

Harry Carter Post No. 56 Grand Army of the Republic was chartered April 16, 1881, and was named in honor of Harry Carter who volunteered in the First Wood County Company (21st O.V.I.) and served until his death. Original members of this Post were Wilber Williams, W. Barr, Shepard Bemis, David Bash, John Current, James Carter, Clark Cummings, Reuben Stevens, Amos Twining, McDowell Wilson, James Cuning, Lewis Downs, Moses Graves, Perkins Garrett, Ephraim Johnson, Alonzo Keeler, Clark Keeler, Joseph Shepard, Valentine Schwind, Lyman Wilson, M. Manley, William North, A. Pargellis, R. Pargellis, M. Plotner, Gurdon Pitcher, Girard Repass, Geo. Stevenson, Robert Wallace.

Wickham Camp No. 188 Sons of Veterans was chartered August 10, 1887, with 15 members.

Harry Carter Relief Corps was organized November 20, 1889, with 27 ladies. Electa Pitcher was chosen President.

Wickham Camp No. 188 Ladies Aid was chartered August 10, 1891, with 17 ladies.

Order of the Maccabees No. 149 was instituted with 22 members in 1890. M. Combs was Commander and F. Pienert was the first record keeper.

Ladies of the Maccabees Excelsior Hive No. 123 was organized in February 1893. Members were Amy Cummings, Carrie Bridges, Susie Rupp, Emma Tibbets, Mina Pienert, Martha Enright, Artemesia Bemis, Virginia Greenfield, and Emma Osterhout. This Lodge had a crack drill team, led by Susie Rupp and they visited neighboring towns.

#### HASKINS MUSICAL ART CLUB

One of the most interesting organizations of Haskins which existed for about two decades, from the mid-thirties to the mid-fifties, was the Haskins Musical Art Club. It consisted of a group of women singers, about 20 of them, who gathered in the Evangelical Reformed Church on Mary Street and sang classical and semi-classical songs, with now and then a popular one, for their own entertainment. All were music lovers, and their monthly meetings grew to be delightful, and their musical fame so wide-spread that it was only a short time until they were receiving and fulfilling requests to sing in Haskins and nearby places, for public and private gatherings.

The first director was Miss Lydia Dauer, who led the Club for several years. Miss Charlotte Hutchinson, the Haskins School music teacher, took over the direction and led the group until it disbanded. The Club had become victim of changing times and the advent of television. Although the personnel changed from time to time the roster remained rather constant at 20 and included charter members still living in Haskins or nearby: Mae Halbert Coen, Jessie North Myers, Eva Garrett Browne, Helen Moore Comber, Eloise Rower Moore, Fern Garrett Brand, Dorothy Garrett Elser, Rhea Enright Genson, Kathryn Decker Fox, Dorothy McKee Ryder, and Merle Neal Halbert. Also included in the membership were: Margaret Brooks Neal, Frances Howe, Rachel Browne, Marion Ziss Kellermeier, Marie Genson, Alma Shuffelt Zellman, Neva Ziss Porter, Ethel Garrett Burns, Betty Browne Bernhisel, Alice Pope Mawer, Madelyn Armitage, Henrietta Flatter, and Mable Philo.

#### MIDDLETON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Middleton Township Fire Department No. 1 was organized into the department it is today in the late thirties. A Model T Ford, purchased on March 25, 1924, at a cost of \$2070.00, was the first mobile piece of equipment. There are still four of the original members active in the department today.

The present firehouse was built in 1955. The first regular meeting was held on February 14, 1956, with the dedication held in April.

Lawrence Browne was made Chief of the Haskins Fire Department in 1941 and served in that capacity until 1969 and continues to be an active member of the force. The fire department honored Mr. Browne at the annual fireman's supper with all of the fire department members, their wives, township trustees, and members of Mr. Browne's family in attendance.

The annual project of the department was the Gala Days until 1957 when

the Chicken Barbecue was first held. It was so successful that it has become an annual event with Lawrence Browne as its chairman.

The fire department today remains an essential part of Haskins under the leadership of Chief Robert Watts.

#### FIREMAN'S AUXILIARY

The Fireman's Auxiliary was organized in 1953. The meetings were held in the old firehouse until it became so cold that the meetings were held in the members' homes and in the old school house. The purpose of the Auxiliary was to assist the firemen by taking coffee and cookies out to the fire. However, if the fire lasted very long, food was also taken.

As the fire department outgrew its old quarters, work began on a new building. The Auxiliary held its first meeting in the new firehouse on March 19, 1956.

The Auxiliary has had many fund raising projects such as dinners, carnivals, cookie sales, saving sales tax stamps, etc., with proceeds having gone to the building fund and to furnish the kitchen at the firehall. Members have visited the Mental Health Clinic, entertained auxiliaries from other towns and have helped organize auxiliaries. At present, they hold a birthday party in February honoring all the active members' birthdays.

#### LAMBDA OMEGA

Lambda Omega Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi held their first meeting on March 15, 1960. There were 17 members in the first Chapter. Today there are 25 members.

Mrs. Edith Roe was the first sponsor of the sorority. After her passing, Mrs. Bess Baumbarger became the sponsor and is so at present.

One event the Chapter is noted for by all in the community is the painting of Christmas decorations on the merchants' windows in Haskins and Waterville at Christmas time. In addition to purchasing the bells which hang at the four corners during the Christmas season, the Chapter has helped in many ways in the community.

On September 1, 1964, several members of the Chapter expressed a desire to form an exemplar chapter. Permission was granted and the Xi Zeta Kappa Chapter was formed.

#### XI ZETA KAPPA CHAPTER

After being members of Beta Sigma Phi, Ritual of Jewel Chapter, Lambda Omega, for four years, several members were entitled to form an Exemplar Chapter, Xi Zeta Kappa, on November 18, 1964. Charter members of this Chapter are: Eva Browne, Ethel Huss, Jessie Myers, Juel Pope, Doris Priest, Dorothy Ryder, Sandra Streicher, Betty Wenig and Doris Winters.

Projects of the Chapter have included: erecting Beta Sigma Phi highway signs at the edge of town, canvassing for Red Cross, United Crusade of Mercy, and making donations to many charities. For Haskins, we helped purchase the Christmas Bells for the four corners of town, donated eggs for Recreation Council Easter Egg Hunt, and an urn at the Federated Church is kept filled in memory of a deceased

sponsor, Edith Roe. At Christmas time we sponsor the door decorating contest, awarding prizes to the best displays. A personal Christmas gift shower was held for a local lady and a magazine subscription was sent to a local boy who was an accident victim.

Recognition is given to all members with perfect attendance. This is usually a star charm for her Beta Sigma Phi bracelet.

Many social activities are planned each year. Cultural programs are presented in the areas of art, music, current interest and building better lives.

#### MIDDLETON GRANGE #2350

On May 7, 1921, Middleton Grange #2350 of Haskins was organized by Deputy Master Ray W. LeGalley and Lester Cole of Union Grange, Bowling Green. Present at this meeting in the new high school building were: Messrs. and Mmes. F. F. Asmus, Bruce Roadarmel, Gordon Wenig, W. W. Bernthisel, Andrew Snyder, Paul Dauer, Earl Browne, Sr., Dan Scheid, Arthur Long, Gust Ziss, George Emmerick, Harold Dauer, George Thornton, Wm. Asmus, Ed Shepard, Paul Schutzberg, H. Cunning, and brothers Luther Cheatwood and Albert Keifer.

In 1927 a number of members journeyed to Cleveland to receive the Seventh Degree, the highest degree of the order, and are charter members of the Wood County Seventh Degree Club, the first Seventh Degree Club ever organized in the United States. Thirty-four members of Middleton Grange have received this degree. In 1929 Middleton Grange initiated a class of ninety-six, the second largest class initiated in the state.

This Grange has had continuous successful exhibits in the Wood County Fair, has contributed to community services in many ways such as sponsorship of Memorial Day Services, 4-H Clubs, Boy Scouts, and Little League Teams. It has three Golden Sheaf members (fifty continuous years and now life members): Mrs. Arthur Rothgeb, Charles Teegardin, and Mrs. Edna Asmus.

Members have enjoyed meeting with their neighbors and friends through the years and believe the teachings of the Grange are the most suitable for the people in our community, the state and nation.

#### HASKINS LIVEWIRES 4-H CLUB

The Haskins Livewires 4-H Club is a very old organization. Originally called Haskins Variety Club, it was organized in 1931. Advisors at that time were Harold Asmus and Glenn Shaller and the membership consisted of Clifford Asmus, Ben Bartenslater, Charles Ziss, Ralph Osterhout, Frank Howe, Robert Rathbun, and Milton Wenig.

The boys and girls have a wide variety of programs from which to choose, from animal projects to gardening and electricity. There is particular interest in the Market Pig, Steer and Gardening Projects. The Club has done outstanding work and has had winning floats and projects at the County Fair. For four straight years the Junior Showmanship Award in the Swine Department has been won by the Club. We have had numerous champion animals at the County Fair.



#### HAPPY-GO-HASKINS 4-H CLUB

This Club was started in 1921 with twenty-five members who met in one another's homes. Advisors were Mrs. Loretta Harris and Mrs. Ruth Dauer. Mrs. Dorothy Elser won first place in the County Fair that year and went to Columbus.

Present advisors are Mrs. Howard Baumbarger, Mrs. Leonard Fretter, Mrs. Harold Murray and Mrs. Herbert Fischer.

#### FOUR LEAF CLOVER 4-H CLUB

The Four Leaf Clover 4-H Club was started in 1946, with Lawrence Cole as advisor. Wayne Michaelis and James Bostdorff are starting their 12th and 10th years, respectively, as advisors to the Club. Members include Gordon and Shirlee Wenig, Beth Ann and Randy Ziss, David and Sue Dauer and Denise Bostdorff. Their projects include raising pigs, steers and sheep.

#### BOY SCOUTS

The first Scout Troop in Haskins was started in the summer of 1917 by the Reverend George McKay, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, and was "Troop 1" Stag Patrol. Scoutmaster was Orville (Cute) North. Members were: Earl North, Homer Genson, LeRoy Helzer, Melvin Genson, Charles Moore, Walter McKee, Arthur Brand, Francis North, Harry Brand, Clarence Daniels, and Theodore Dauer.

#### GIRL SCOUTS

The first Girl Scouts recorded in Haskins were Brownie Troop 28 founded by Mrs. Emery Dauer, and Intermediate Girl Scouts Troop 298 founded by Mrs. Chester Potter and Mrs. William Price in September, 1957. Charter members of Troop 298 were Pat Price, Nancy Potter, Vivian Hennan, Harriet Brooks, Letah Childs, Ruth Glasgo, Becky Baumbarger, Linda Pratt, Barb Pruden, Kathy Stewart, Elaine Swanson and Christina and Madonna McCaig. At present, Haskins has Troops 28 and 867, Junior Troops 670 and 67, and Cadette Troop 998, with combined registration of seventy-five.

#### CUB SCOUTS

The first Cub Scout Pack in Haskins was organized in 1951 with fourteen members, and den mothers Mrs. Jack Bridgett, Mrs. Earl Browne, and Mrs. Dale Armitage. Many men of Haskins have served as cubmasters and Pack 350 has been sponsored by several organizations. The program has grown with this assistance to as many as forty-six boys and ten den mothers. Scouting is open to all boys, regardless of their capabilities, race, creed or color.

### HASKINS MOTHER-DAUGHTER 1928-1969

In 1928, Mrs. Earl Browne, Sr., started the Guild Girls in the Haskins Baptist Church (now Haskins Federated Church). The Guild Girls were the young girls of the church. They began a special observance in honor of their mothers every Mother's Day. About 1950 the Guild Girls opened to the public and the three churches in Haskins, The Presbyterian, The Lutheran, and The Baptist, took turns having the mother-daughter banquet. Large meetings were held at the Haskins School where business was transacted after supper. Programs included special recognition for the oldest mother, youngest mother, and youngest daughter. In addition, there were special gifts for other children. As many as two hundred attended these meetings and in 1968 the Lutheran Church served one hundred and six mothers and their daughters.

### BUTTERFLY CLUB

In 1930 Mrs. Caroline Armitage and Mrs. A. D. Meagley organized the ladies of the Haskins Baptist Church (now Haskins Federated Church) to form the Butterfly Club. They were to meet once a year at the church for a potluck dinner and to reveal the name of the person they had that year and to draw a new name. They were to give five gifts a year: for Christmas, Easter, wedding anniversary, birthday, and the annual meeting.

There were about seventy-five members and the Club was so successful it was opened to ladies outside the church. In 1935 the membership had grown to over one hundred and fifty persons.

Three ladies have been members for a long time, and Mrs. P. F. Younkin has been a member since 1930 (39 years). When the Club was opened to other ladies, Mrs. Mary North and Mrs. Lydia Kilmer joined and have been with us for thirty-four years each. Mrs. Mary North, at eighty-three, is the oldest member with us today.

In 1953 the annual meeting was held for the first time in the Lutheran Church. The two churches then took turns having the annual meeting. In 1969 they decided to have all the annual meetings in the Haskins Federated Church. We have 22 members in the Butterfly Club as of now.

### FRIENDLY TOWN AND COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB

For several years some of the ladies of the Haskins community have been exchanging bulbs and plants, and attending flower shows and exhibits as guests. Finally they decided to try to form a garden club of their own, thinking it would create more interest in the community and also give them a chance to do some community work. A meeting was called for November 17, 1948, for this purpose. The ladies met at the home of Mrs. Paul Schutzberg. Mrs. Sparrow and Mrs. Sanders of Bowling Green met with them and explained the purpose and benefits of belonging to a garden club. The name of the club became the "Friendly Town & Country Garden Club". The first membership enrollment was 12. The first officers elected were: Mrs. Lloyd Noward, President; Mrs. Paul Schutzberg, Vice President; Mrs. Paul Dauer, Secretary and Treasurer. Of the first 12 members, 5 are still members. The first flower show was held on August 9, 1951; there were 236 entries.

### PIONEER COUNCIL

During the early part of the twentieth century, farmers began to realize the need for some kind of an organization. In 1919, the Farm Bureau was formed to meet these needs and by the year 1936 it had grown to a leading organization in Wood County. Although it had progressed well in legislative and cooperative fields, there was a feeling that something should be done for the social and educational needs of its members.

In December, 1936, the need to form advisory councils resulted in the first such council in Wood County, later named Pioneer Council. Charter members were Messrs. and Mmes. Harry Smithers, Leslie Robertson, Albert Dauer, John Vermilya, Deloy Sattler, Harold Pienert, Charles Maurer, Bruce Roadarmel, Earl Harbauer, Alvin Ziss.

The results of council meeting discussions on state programs are sent by the secretary to the county, which then sends them to the state. Various projects and activities are undertaken by the council in addition to the meetings.

### VICTORY COUNCIL

Through the efforts of Alfred Robertson and Ernest Bobel, Victory Council was organized in February, 1938. This was the second council in Wood County with charter members Messrs. and Mmes. Alfred Robertson, Ernest Bobel, Tom Roller, Joe Carpenter, Elmer Lang, Harley Dauer, Harvey Moses, Phillip Hargesheimer, Asquith Howe, Deloy Sattler, Glen Carter, Paul Brown.

Dorman Cheatwood and Alfred Robertson served as County Farm Bureau Presidents. The Charles Clarks have been members for more than twenty years, and Deloy Sattler was the first organizational director of Wood County.

Victory Council has been responsible for starting twelve other councils in the county, and the first two All-Council Jamborees were sponsored by this council.

### HASKINS COUNCIL

On November 12, 1945, nine neighbors met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Noward to form a new Farm Bureau Council. Mr. and Mrs. Dorman Cheatwood of Victory Council met with the group as organizer. Charter members were: Messrs. and Mmes. Frank F. Asmus, Paul Dauer, Will Asmus, Phil Younkin, Paul Schutzberg, Lloyd Noward, Henry Bernthisel, Ted Fischer, and Gordon Wenig.

### MIDWOOD FARM BUREAU COUNCIL

The Midwood Farm Bureau Council was formed in April, 1945, by the Mid-County Council. Original members were Messrs. and Mmes. Dale LeGalley, Ivan Belleville, Emil Eilert, Robert Dunipace, Norman Brinker, Henry Lohman, Ossie Hentges and Louis Otte.

There have been many and varied activities in the Council and members have supported and participated in a number of civic improvements as well as charitable drives. The Council sponsored the Wood County Jamboree twice and took active part in the programs of others.

#### CLODCRUSHER FARM BUREAU

This Council was organized in April 1948, suitably being named "Clodcrushers" in keeping with the members' occupations. There have been many activities including Farm Bureau projects and contributions to worthy charities. Present members: from this community, Messrs. and Mmes. Don Dauer, Vic Asmus; outside the community, Messrs. and Mmes. Dick Britten, Dennie Enright, Robert Grolle, Earl Grolle, Barnard Schneider and Ralph Henschen. Former members: Messrs. and Mmes. Arlyn Asmus, Troy Thornton, Dick Bernthisel.

#### AG-WOOD FARM BUREAU COUNCIL

In February, 1968, the name Ag-Wood (Agriculture in Wood County) was chosen for the newly-formed Council. Material from the State Farm Bureau is used for the monthly program and the Council has various outside activities. Present members are: Messrs. and Mmes. Richard Emch, Les Euler, Allen Limes, Michael Lang, Eugene Hardy, Bernard Scott, and Morris Wenig.

#### HOMEMAKERS' FARM BUREAU COUNCIL

The Homemakers' Farm Bureau Council was organized in February, 1945, by Dorman Cheatwood. There were five couples attending the first meetings which were held once a month. The name "Homemakers" was chosen as all members were young couples starting their homes. A group of eight couples now enjoys the meetings: Messrs. and Mmes. Clarence Brinken, Lawrence Brinken, Gilbert Bockbraden, Floyd Carter, Jonathon Dauer, Wayne Michaelis, Kenneth Wenig, Charles Ziss.

#### MIDDLETON TOWNSHIP EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS

Extension Homemakers were re-activated in the Haskins area in the fall of 1956. The women meet on the first Monday of every month in members' homes.

Programs are prepared by the State Extension Specialists or the County Home Economics Agent and presented to a group of leaders from each club in the areas of nutrition, clothing, family life, economics, management, and home furnishings. Sometimes county-wide meetings are held on upholstering or decorating. Special interest classes are often taught on the various levels of sewing, from beginning to tailoring.

One of the charter members, Mrs. Morris Wenig, has held many offices, including President of the local club, county and district. She served as Vice President and President of the State Extension Homemakers' Council and represented

Ohio as a delegate to the National Meeting in Hawaii in 1964 and to the Associated Women of the World triennial meeting in Dublin, Ireland, in 1965.

There are more than twenty active members now. Each year they exhibit at the Wood County Fair, and have won first place with their booth twice.

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The Centennial Committee wishes to express its appreciation to all those who contributed to this story of Haskins. A great many people gave tirelessly of their time and effort in research; others supplied some of the material from memory; and all willingly assisted the committee. Our thanks!

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