MOUNT PLEASANT.

Most fitly named of all the towns is Mount Pleasant. No one can ride over its gently sloping hills and through its long valleys at any time from seed time to harvest, without blessing the good taste of those who first described it in its name.

A part of the first land broken in the county was in this township, but as the house and furnace belonging with the farm were in Exeter, the honor of being the first settler in Mount Pleasant was reserved for John Mitchell, an Englishman, who came to the county with Camp and Collins. He had made important improvements when Mr. Pierce came to Washington in 1837. Leonard Ross and Elias Luttrell had also cultivated land in Mount Pleasant when Mr. Pierce came, but their home was at the Skinner diggings. When but one or two settlers had purchased land, the fairest portion of the township was seized by speculators. One man, Caleb Hopkins by name, bought 2,240 acres in
Mount Pleasant and Washington, the greater part of it in Mount Pleasant.

John Burt, Chester Bushnell, and perhaps Samuel Robb settled in Mt. Pleasant as early as 1840. Michael McNutt, Edward Raymond, John, Daniel, and Benjamin Rima went in 1842, and found there John Lewis, James and Thos. Gillett, Foster Steadman, and Lewis Nixon. Visitors of the township in '43 remember seeing, on their claims, Wm. Boyles jun. (at whose house the first town meeting was held), Thos. Morton, Josiah Munts, Leonard Heacox, Lyman Smith, Lewis Vincent, Geo. W. Barks, John Manley, Abner Aikens, Edward Gillis, John McLany, John Sergent, and —— Whaley. Many of these men, like many who came after them, spent their first years in the county at Exeter. They followed each other into Mount Pleasant in such quick succession that the oldest inhabitants are unable to agree on the order in which they came. Among the settlers of '44 were Ira Foster, Benjamin and W. W. Truax, Abraham Pratt, Porter Pratt, Samuel Hopkins, Geo. Rogers, Barnett Sunday, Wm. Kessler, John Bain, James Cassle, James Bedell, Lewis and Artemus Silver, Pliny Colton, Wm. Fulton, —— St. John, and —— Baker. Various states were represented among them, but a majority of those named were from Ohio.

On the tenth of July, 1844, there was discovered in Mount Pleasant a murder, which caused the greatest excitement in the county at the time, and which has remained a mystery ever since. The murdered man was Mr. Arthur Smith. His body was found in his field in
the eastern part of the township, where he had been breaking prairie. The ground still bore the marks of a struggle for life, and, though the remains were so changed by the wolves and the summer sun as to be recognized only by the clothing, yet upon the skull, found some rods from the body, could be seen several fractures made by a small hatchet which had hung on the plow and which showed, when it was found on the ground, the use last made of it. Mr. Smith must have been killed the 28th of June, as he was seen about sunset that day, and the next morning his oxen were running about in the yoke. He had sold his claim for $200 in gold, and he was probably killed for his money. The contents of a trunk in his cabin were scattered in a way that showed there had been a hasty search there for something; but the money escaped the eye of the murderer, and was found, after the discovery of the murder, done up in the cloth intended for a wedding suit. Suspicion attached itself to several, but nothing was proved against any of those arrested; and some of those who attempted to ferret out the murderer became convinced that the deed was done by some one living out of the county. Thirteen years after this murder, an old man, whom trouble had made insane, shot and killed his son-in-law. He was tried and acquitted, and these two make up the record of violent deaths in Mount Pleasant.

Like Adams, Mount Pleasant had in old times a claim society which sometimes had exciting work to do. A man in Cadiz once entered eighty acres in Exeter that Mr. John Troy had claimed. The circumstances were
such as to excite general indignation against the speculator; and the society, most of whose members were Mount Pleasant men, sent him a summons to appear in Exeter at a specified time, with a specified sum of money to pay Mr. Troy for the improvements he had made. Instead of going himself, the purchaser of the land sent Mr. Noah Phelps, to make some compromise. Mr. Phelps proposed to the members of the society, most of whom were assembled to enforce their demands, that Mr. Troy should buy the land of the speculator, paying the government price. They grimly made answer that they had not a hundred dollars among them, but to the proposition that they should all sign Mr. Troy’s note with him, in case some one could be found to lend him the money, they readily agreed. There was one man in Monroe who had the money—Mr. Alanson Corson. To him, Mr. Phelps and Mr. Gardner, would-be-peace-makers, betook themselves. It was night, but they called him up, obtained the money, and hastened on to Cadiz. The speculator was awakened and easily persuaded to deed the land to Mr. Troy; but, when he called his wife, she refused to sign the deed without a present of a new dress from Mr. Troy. By this time the patience of the sleepy and half frozen peace-makers was exhausted. They intimated that, previous to the bestowal of such a gift, Mr. Troy would observe the lady’s sojourn in a country so warm that dresses suitable to the climate of Cadiz would be quite out of place. Still the wife insisted that a dress for a deed was one of the rights of women. She was strengthened and encouraged by
the example of a determined matron who, rather than sign without a dress, had suffered "him" to lose a sale, and by the knowledge that sometimes in such cases the husband secretly paid for the dress himself. But history records few victories for human rights achieved at four o'clock in a winter night. It was hard to stand for a principle (or a dress), when three men were telling her that if she did not yield her husband would be killed; and just as the day was dawning, she wrote the words that to Mount Pleasant and Exeter were only an assurance of peace, but to the writer were two black warnings that she had prepared the way for a total loss of her time-honored tax.

In 1843, Robert Witter built a saw-mill on Little Sugar river, in the western part of Mount Pleasant. The mill was built for Chester Witter, who soon sold it, however, to Mr. Steadman, by whom it was sold to Mr. Truman. In 1845, John Williams, who had built Shobar's mill, the first mill on Richland creek, began to build a grist-mill on Little Sugar river, near the central part of Mount Pleasant. The next year was the "sickly year," when nearly all the inhabitants of the Sugar river valleys were victims of the "chill fever," a fever described as differing from ague in the absence of "shakes," well days, and appetite. All of Mr. Williams' family were sick, he died in August, 1846, and the mill was never finished. In 1845, Mr. Steadman was made a postmaster on the mail route from Monroe to Madison. The most striking peculiarities of the surface in that part of the county are the mounds bordering "long hollow," a long
valley which extends from Mt. Pleasant far into Washington. In reference to these mounds or bluffs, Mr. Steadman named the office Monticello, meaning little mountain. A year or two later, he laid out, on the south side of the river, near the mill, a village to which he gave the same name. Jacob and Mathias Marty bought the whole village, vacated the greater part of it, and then extended it on the other side of the river. The only buildings in the vicinity of the village were the mill, the dwelling known as the mill house, and the house on Mr. Steadman's farm. To induce him to settle there, the new proprietors of the village gave a lot to Mr. Peter Wilson, who in 1851 built the first house on the north side. The same year Sylvester Hill built a house which was both store and dwelling, and the Marty Bros. built a hotel. Several dwellings were built in 1852. O. R. Bacon's flour mill was built in '54 and Sweeting Taft's saw mill in '56. New stores and shops have since appeared from time to time to meet the demands of the two towns, Washington and Mt. Pleasant, from which the village draws its support, and with which it is steadily growing. Among the successors of Mr. Hill in the mercantile business in Monticello were George Campbell now of Portage, Garland and Noble now of Santa Barbara, Cal., and Messrs. Robert Godfrey, A. Jennison, R. Bridges, and O. R. Bacon. Prominent among those in trade there at the present time are A. Witter, S. Dunbar and J. Berkey. One of the few stores in the county conducted by a grange is at Monticello.

For a brief period beginning in 1874, Monticello
History of Green County.

had a newspaper, the Monticello Items, published by Stair & Lane. A more successful enterprise is that undertaken in 1866 by the Monticello Manufacturing Company, a stock company organized with the following officers: O. R. Bacon, president; Thos. Sears, secretary; and Samuel Johnson, treasurer. The company built a woolen mill in 1866, and two years later another building was erected for a store house. Fourteen persons have constant employment at the mill, which consumes on an average twenty thousand pounds of wool in a year. Yarns, blankets, balmoral skirts, and all kinds of woolen cloths are made. There is also a saw mill connected with the woolen mill. The officers of the company are at present, Orrin Bacon, president; Thos. Sears, secretary; Benjamin Chenoweth, treasurer.

LARGEST FARMERS IN MOUNT PLEASANT IN 1876.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names</th>
<th>No. of Acres</th>
<th>Names</th>
<th>No. of Acres</th>
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<tr>
<td>R. Aylsworth,</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>John Marty,</td>
<td>300</td>
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<td>Isaiah Babbler,</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>L. W. P. Morton,</td>
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<td>R. Barlow,</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>Charles Parkins,</td>
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<td>Joseph Chandler,</td>
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<td>Henry Rhiner,</td>
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<td>James Richards,</td>
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<td>Richard Dooley,</td>
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<td>Elijah Evans,</td>
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<td>C. Silver,</td>
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<td>E. Fenton,</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>Anton Staffaucher,</td>
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<td>Dietrich Staffaucher,</td>
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<td>N. Swager,</td>
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<td>Siloa Tone,</td>
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<td>Mary Hutchins,</td>
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<td>Cyrus Troy,</td>
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<td>John Hurlbut,</td>
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<td>D. H. Walling,</td>
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<td>E. Layton,</td>
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<td>Wm. Wood,</td>
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<td>John Lewis,</td>
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LARGEST STOCK GROWERS.

Thos. & Wm. Fenton.             Jesse Gist,
Gideon Gillet.                   B. L. & Wm. Wood,

The Chicago papers gave Mt. Pleasant the credit of sending the largest flocks of sheep sent to Chicago in the spring of 1877. They went from the farms of B. L. and Wm. Wood and numbered 1,800.

PROPRIETORS OF CHEESE FACTORIES.

Henry Babbler, Swiss Cheese.     A. Staffancher, Swiss Cheese.
Cheese.

TOWN OFFICERS FROM 1849 TO 1877 INCLUSIVE.

CHAIRMAN.

Henry Adams, 2 years.
Arunthus Thomas.
Thos. Fenton.
Henry Adams.
Thos. Fenton.
Samuel Johnson, 2 years.
Jesse Gist, 2 years.
James Broderick.
C. F. Thompson.

Jesse Gist, 4 years.
John F. Van Slyke.
Jesse Gist.
G. W. Baker, 4 years.
A. H. Pierce, 3 years.
F. K. Studley, 2 years.
G. W. Baker.
A. H. Pierce.

CLERKS.

James L. Powell, 2 years.
Alonzo H. Jennison.
James Broderick.
Alonzo H. Jennison.
F. R. Drake.
Cyrus Troy.

Henry Adams.
John F. Van Slyke, 2 years.
W. E. Noble, 3 years.
B. C. Baker.
S. Johnson.
F. K. Studley, 9 years.
David Sears, 2 years.
Henry H. Bissell, 2 years.