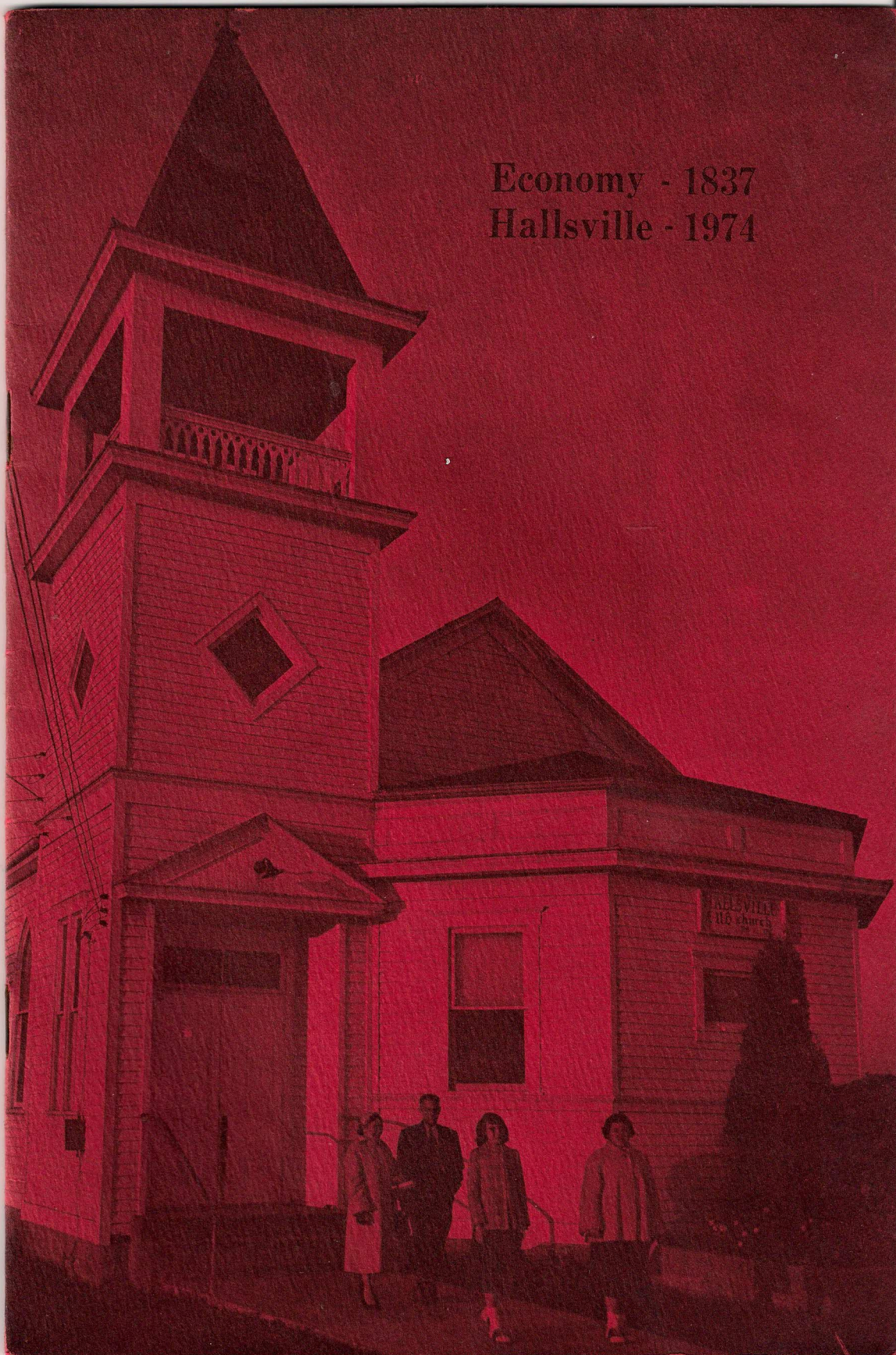


Economy - 1837
Hallsville - 1974



SOURCES OF INFORMATION

History of Ross and Highland Counties - Deeds and records in the Ross County Recorder's Offices.

Cemetery tombstones, Family records, Sunday School minutes, Church records, Christian Endeavor minutes, old newspaper accounts, personal diary, and personal interviews.

I was there when it happened!

Mrs. Earl Cryder, September . . , 1974

Ada H. Cryder

CENTENNIAL

The birthyear of a little Church calls out
Long memories and the dust from history books.
Menfolks wear bristling beards, the grisly looks
Of plainsmen; and the women talk about
Poke bonnets and the day great-grandma wed.
Vast wonders have been wrought these hundred yrs.
Out of bright hopes, hard work, and stinging tears.
They say, "Look what we have - instead
Of covered wagons over Indian trails!"
The birthday of a Church is more than this
It is enduring faith in Genesis,
Man muscles pounding on the shining rails
Of progress while a kindly God looks down
To hear the steady heartbeat of a town.

Helen Baker Adams

HALLSVILLE-COUNTRY & ITS SETTLEMENT

History, according to Noah Webster, is a story of events. Some are dull, some are interesting. It is with this idea in mind to chronicle events that to us today are well known, and by tomorrow may be forgotten, that we gather together these items for your perusal.

To a stranger today, the village of Hallsville, located on State Route 180 in Colerain Township, Ross County, Ohio, is a typical country town. To the people living there it is "Home". In its stores, you can buy all necessary commodities and its post office dates back to the date of its establishment by William Hall, September 30, 1830. Joe H. Clark was the postmaster with the longest service tenure. Mrs. Damon (Betty) Haynes is the postmistress today. This however, is a tale starting "yesterday!"

Hallsville, in Colerain Township, Ross County, Ohio, was laid out as a town by Ambrose Grafton, Ephriam Dresbach, and John Buchwalter. It was surveyed by P.N. White on June 22, 1837, and was given the name "Economy" by Mr. Buchwalter in pleasant memory of the thrift and enterprise of his home town of that name in Pennsylvania. William Hall, a hatter, was appointed the first postmaster in "Economy" on September 30, 1830, and people chose Hallsville as the name of the post office. The name seemed to suit the popular ear, (Mr. Hall himself probably had a little to do with it!) so that the name "Economy" is now found only on old legal documents. Russell D. Rockwell, who kept the first store in Hallsville, was also postmaster from September 21, 1831, to April 30, 1833. Mr. Rockwell went east over the mountains and brought thence in a horse drawn wagon the goods necessary for opening a store. Among other things, he brought the first installment of skates, which at that time were so rare that only one boy in the neighborhood, Levi Buchwalter, could boast of the possession of them.

Colerain Township, woods-covered and undeveloped, was set off from Green Township June 11, 1804. Heavy timber, mostly of the hardwood varieties, shrubs, and berries, covered its hills and slopes. Wild animals were also found here and were so numerous that it was a favorite hunting ground for the Indians even after Wayne's successful treaty in 1795 with these former residents. The treaty gave them permission to return annually to hunt. By 1796, Zedekiah and Thomas Dawson, brothers, emigrated from Virginia and built a cabin on the East Bank of the Second Stream of Water east of Hallsville. The house now occupied by Glenn Cryder stands one rod to the west of the spot.

Early settlers were Isaac Dawson and Bros. Thomas & Zidekiah. Before coming to Ohio he had previously purchased land in Bourbon County, Kentucky, but the titles were so defective that was obliged to pay for it twice and would have had to pay for it again had he retained it. He decided to abandon it and move northward. All travel then was on foot, marking trail by notches on trees or following the rivers. Mr. Dawson was guided up the Scioto River by an Old Indian. He settled in Colerain Township where he purchased a Large tract of land. Some of this he divided with his relatives, but he kept one section (640 acres) for himself. Eventually he sold a part of this section to Abraham Buchwalter who came in 1819. This farm is now (1974) owned by Mr. Howard Buchwalter.

CHURCHES

413. We have considered the country, its settlement, its settlers, and their homes, so now last, but not least, we come to the churches. The oldest church still standing west of the Allegheny Mountains is the Etam Church located southwest of Hallsville on the Walnut Creek Road. This

church was built in 1810 of logs and is still standing by the side of the Walnut Creek Road on the same foundation. Various additions have been made viz new siding, covering the logs, and better heating arrangements. A bely was added and a bell (contributed by the trustees of the Hallsville United Brethren Church). On June 21, 1970, the Etam Church was dedicated as a National Denominational Shrine.

Next, coming north on the Walnut Creek Road we come to the Mount Review Church, now called Walnut Valley. It was built of logs, with boarded shutters, in 1882. This church originally stood east at the top of the hill, but when the new road was built, about 1903, popular opinion and the will of the people rebuilt the church in 1905 where it now stands. Lewis Waller and Elmer Miller, contractors, and other helpers accomplished this job. The Rev. O.V. McFadden pastors both of these churches.

In 1842, about three miles southwest of Hallsville (mentioned in 1842 conference minutes) stood a log church near the end corner of Franklin Dresbach's lane on the present Dana Ziegler farm. It was a "Dresbach" church established by the family of Martin Dresbach. The Land therefor was purchased for \$25.00. Martin Dresbach, Benjamin Dresbach, and Thomas McGrady, trustees, for the use of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ.

Colerain: On January 15, 1892, the officials of the Colerain United Brethren Church met with the trustees of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church for the purpose of buying a church. A contract was made to pay \$600 for the Cumberland Church and it was 'at once' to take the name of Colerain United Brethren Church on Monday, April 30, 1892. Having received deed for same, the treasurer paid \$400 collected by subscription and borrowed \$200 from William L. Bower, (father of Kelson Bower, et al.) for one year, at 6% interest. April 14, 1893, the note held by William Bower was taken up by the treasurer, E. N. Hinton.

MOUNT REVIEW CHURCH

Rev. James Windom of the Hallsville charge was, I am told, the first preacher to stop in this locality. He boarded and stayed at the home of Josiah Shoemaker and Virginia, his wife. The schools in the valley of the Little Walnut were established early, and a great revival was held in the school house at Mount Review by Rev. Windom. He met his death several years later in an accident when he was run over by a mowing machine. We met his widow, an elderly lady, tall and slender, also her middle-aged son and daughter about fifteen years ago when we went to the Otterbein home. They then lived at Mowrystown, Ohio. As a result of this revival, it was decided to build a church in this section of Colerain Township, so Salem Waller, Henry Kerns, and William Barnes became three of the first trustees of the church, land for which was sold for

\$5.00 by John Drake. The entire community of men turned out, cut down the trees, made logs, and a community log-raising "raised" the church ready for roof, doors, and windows. A bargain was struck with Mr. Gatwood to furnish door, windows and flooring for \$60.00 in 1882. Rev. Jesse McLaughlin was the pastor at this time and was the first preacher in the new church. This sum, \$60.00, seems to have been about the only cash outlay and, I am told, was supplied by the trustees. Joe Keller helped to build the church (this was told to me by Myrtle Gray June 23, 1968).

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Services were held in this log building until the year 1905 when the school house just across the road, burned to the ground and was replaced in by a new building at the foot of the hill west of the old location along the new pike (built 1902-03). The old road leading to the church was kept open for a time but then it was decided to locate the church at the foot of the hill. Lewis Waller and Elmer Miller headed the carpenter work. Again, volunteers were pressed into service and the present frame structure was built (September 16, 1905). The name Mount Review probably came to the church because it also was the name of the school. Now, 1905, the name of the church in the valley was given as Walnut Valley. This it is called today by practically everyone except some of us 'old-timers' who remember the meetings attended in the church on the hill.

Many revival meetings have been held here six weeks 'long.' Maynard Worstell was licensed to preach in 1902-1903. Gerald Dunkle received his quarterly conference license to preach in the Southeast Ohio Conference on May 31, 1931 along with Charles Fox and Clayton Lutz.

Land for the church on the hill was sold by John Drake in 1882 to the church trustees for \$5.00. Land for the church in the valley was donated by Levi Tatman on condition that when it is no longer used for church purposes it be returned to farm. Ralph Patterson later purchased the Tatman farm and during the winter of 1967 Walter Gray purchased an acre or so. This same provision is recorded in the deed.

ITEM FROM SECRETARY'S BOOK, JUNE 25, 1907 (Mt. Review)

Item from Secretary's book, June 25, 1907 (Mount Review)

We, the trustees of the Walnut Valley United Brethren Church met at the church and re-organized by electing Joseph Wagner, president; W. O. Thornton, treasurer; L.J. Evans, secretary. We, the trustees, agree to drop all former accounts and begin accounts new from this date, there being no report from the treasurer. We, the trustees, authorize W.O. Thornton to secure the deed for the church lot, which is now in the hands of James Buchanan and collect funds and record the same as soon as

possible. We, the trustees, contract with Levi Hall to care for the church for regular church and Sunday School for .50 cents per month beginning April 1 to November 1 and from November 1 to April 1, \$1.00 per month, taking charge of the house July 1, 1910. Levi Hall was authorized to furnish oil for lights and wicks also, and present bill to trustees. We agree to make settlement for the above expenses every three months. W.O. Thornton was appointed to collect for expenses for the following three months. Members present, board of trustees: Joseph Wagner, L.J. Evans, H.H. Norman, W.O. Thornton.

Miscellaneous Items of Interest:

8-22-1911: Rec'd from trustees of the Walnut Valley Church, \$4.50 for peanuts. Floyd Francis.

Hallsville, Ohio, November 26, 1904: The United Brethren Quarterly Conference at Hallsville, Ross County, Colerain Sunday School accepted and approved the request of the trustees of the Mt. Review Church to change the name of their church and class to the name of Walnut Valley, the same officers to continue in office until their successors shall be elected or appointed as the said Walnut Valley Class may see proper. C.H. Faulkner Chairman; Joseph Bower, Secretary pro tem. The proceedings were copied by David Jones, clerk of the trustees of the Walnut Valley Church.

SCHOOLS

Next after the establishing of homes and churches in this area came the question of schools. The earliest schools in the Hallsville area were subscription schools and often the teacher held the school in her own home. Parents, individually, paid the teacher for this privilege. The first subscription school, as nearly as can be ascertained, stood across the road to the east of Hallsville from whence the frame school building was later built. The first real school house was built in 1827 on the south side of the road between the two creeks east of Hallsville. It was constructed of logs. Susanna Holderman (Cryder) was one of those who attended the school. Her first teacher was Mr. Thad Minshall. Subjects taught were reading, writing, and arithmetic. Geography was special. The seats were of planks built with auger holes drilled in them for the legs'

The second school house was a frame structure which was located on the south side of the road east of Hallsville (between Hallsville and the first creek on the south side of the road). Some of the teachers who taught in this school are Captain Rufus Hosler, Keziah Buchwalter (Mrs. Hosler), Alice Halsey, Carrie Jones, also Lyman and John Throckmorton. One morning at the start of the Civil War, Mr. Rufus Hosler stood before his school and said, "Children, war is declared. I will have to go. School will have to close!"

After a number of years, the building became inadequate and it was decided to build a new school house at the east side of Hallsville. While its location was under discussion, Ephraim Dresbach, a bachelor, agreed to give \$800.00 for its erection provided the building be strong enough for a second story. This offer was accepted, and the 'Big Room' of Hallsville's new brick school house was built about 1875. A short time later it was found necessary that a further addition be made so about 1880, a room was constructed at the west of the 'Big Room'. This was known throughout the years as the 'little room'. Hallsville School district was changed from a township school to the Hallsville Special District. The two-room school served as a grade school for several years. Then one year of high school was offered. In 1907, Mr. Whiteside arranged for the first commencement to be held in Hallsville. It was held at the Methodist Church. Another commencement was held at the Hallsville town hall on Saturday evening, June 22, 1907 - that same year - with but one Boxwell graduate in Colerain Township ready for high school in the fall Mr. B.F. Wharton was the teacher in charge. Ada Hough (Cryder) was the graduate.

In 1918, Mrs. K.B. Hosler gave the United Brethren Church a Liberty Bond, with Morris Buchwalter and Charles Diehl as trustees of the bond Hallsville school was discontinued in favor of the centralized school at Centralia in 1934. This left the building stand empty and unused. It is sometimes strange how community events move slowly but surely toward a destined end.

In October of 1929, the U.B. and M.E. churches of Hallsville jointly purchased the Hallsville Town Hall, just across the road from the school building, for \$300.00. It was used as a community facility. In the spring of 1937, the hall property was sold by the two churches to Mr. Harley Pontious. As the old school building and grounds were to be sold, the U.B. Church (using Mrs. Hosler's \$100 bond plus \$150, the U.B. share of the hall money, and subscriptions made by various members of the church) bought the school house property for the sum of \$590 (Lots 20 and 21) The school house committee was composed of Mrs. Earl Cryder, Mrs. Harley Diehl, and Mrs. Malvin Dawson. On the night of December 28, 1937, a farewell party for the Diehl family was staged at the school house and the note for the purchase of the school property was burned with all due ceremony. Herman and Ada Dresbach had stood as guarantees therefor.

The property was bargained for February 26, 1937

Amount paid down: \$210.00

Amount borrowed: \$380.00

Total: \$590.00, amount paid for property and building. We could pay off \$25.00 at any one time. Note burning: December 28, 1937. The church trustees were Harley Diehl, president; Earl Cryder, secretary-treasurer; Oscar Kellenberger, Alfred Dunkle, Bert Fox. The school board members were James Tootle, President; Arthur Crago, clerk; Louis Hertenstein, Earl Cryder, James Cutright. This purchase

has provided a social room and recreational outlet for the church throughout the years. Organization meetings, county and township elections, family gatherings, fish fries, and other social events are held there.

PARSONAGE

The first parsonage records we have are dated April 19, 1856. Trustees: Perry Hinton, Isaac L. Buchwalter, Daniel Dresbach. (From Vol. 58, page 485, Ross County Recorder's Office)

Bought $\frac{1}{4}$ acres of land, bounded on the north by South Alley at the rear of In-Lot #3 from Michael and Suzan Metzger for \$500.00 for parsonage purposes.

On May 15, 1894, Moses Jones, John C. Hinton, John Ortman, Joseph Bower, and W.R. Friece, trustees of the Hallsville Circuit of the United Brethren Church, sold this same property to John Carnes for \$350.00. It was transferred June 2, 1894. This property, September, 1974, is occupied by the Jerry Woodward family.

Then on February 15, 1896, the following U.B. trustees bought of Harrison Bookwalter and Martha A. Bookwalter, his wife, all of Lot #23, for parsonage purposes, \$200.00 was the amount paid. The trustees were E.N. Hinton, John C. Hinton, B. Hinton, John Ortman, Joseph Bower, Moses Jones, and Willis Friece. It was signed in the presence of J.E. Maag and Arthur Buchwalter. And so in 1896, under the pastorate of the Rev. Joshua S. Turbin, the present parsonage was built. Much of the carpenter work there on was done by the pastor. Cost of materials was approximately \$600.00. The building originally consisted of 4 rooms downstairs and two upstairs rooms with a small veranda in front and a small back porch. It was new, compact, and paid for! Various changes and additions have since been made. Mr. Shields and Alfred Dunkle built the porch. In 1901, under pastorate of J.W. Martin, gas was installed. In 1937 electricity became available. New walks were laid by the men of the Hallsville and Colerain churches in 1944.

About 1925, (pastor, C.A. Walter) a garage and chicken house were built. In-Lot #22 was added . . . November 20, 1919, the Ladies Aid met at the home of Mrs. Earl Cryder and it was decided that the Aid would buy the Shoemaker lot (22). In 1920, we paid \$100 of the amount due. In 1921, an additional fifty was paid, total cost \$350.00 which was shared equally by Hallsville and Colerain.

Plans for remodeling the parsonage were considered during the pastorate of the Rev. E.B. White. The Building Committee, Earl Cryder, Ollen Swepston, and George Harker, and Bert Fox. Plans were to install a study and bath, also a new kitchen. Costs were not to exceed \$2,000.00.