

JAMES HERVEY COOK.

James Hervey Cook, an honored and upright citizen of Mansfield whose entire life was spent in Madison township, died December 2, 1897, at his home in Mansfield, Ohio. He took to his bed November 23, having had a slight stroke of paralysis the day before, but retained consciousness until his death. He had been identified with Mansfield's interests for many years.

Mr. Cook was born on a farm two and a half miles south of Mansfield, September 3, 1816, a son of Jabez and Hannah Cook and a twin brother of Dr. Thomas McCurdy Cook, who died at his home in Sandusky, March 14, 1896. The family lineage is traced to Francis Cooke of the Mayflower, the deceased being the eighth generation from him. The following article, from the Mansfield News at the time of his death, gives succinctly his history and shows the prominence he occupied in our community:

"The Cooks trace their lineage back to the twelfth century, when Walter and Richard Cok served in the wars in the Holy Land, in 1191. In 1462 a Cook was the lord mayor of London. Later William Henry Cooke was the recorder of Oxford, judge of the county courts and a historian of note. In 1543 Sir Anthony Cooke was a tutor to King Edward VI. In 1612 a Cooke was the chancellor of the Irish exchequer. (The name, whether spelled Cok, Cooke or Cook, refers to the same family.) Sir Thomas Cook, of Worcestershire, founded Worcester College at Oxford; and Sir Thomas Cook, of Middlesex, was the governor of the East India Company. The History of Essex, England, contains favorable mention of the Cook family—men of influence by birth and marriage—filling positions in the army, the navy, the church, in literature and in learned professions.

The founder of the Cook family in America was Francis Cooke, who came over in the Mayflower, and was the seventeenth signer of the Mayflower

compact. It is supposed that the ancestors of the Cooks were Romanists; and there are no data to show when Francis Cooke espoused the doctrine of the Separatists; but his name was in the list of those designated as exiles from Scrooby, joining Brewer and Bradford in worship there, and going with them to Leyden and on to their haven of rest on Cape Cod.

Francis Cooke was born in 1577, and was about forty years old when he came to America in the Mayflower. He died in 1663, aged eighty-six years. His wife survived him several years. The position Francis Cooke occupied in the Plymouth colony is attested by the fact that he held positions of trust and honor, and his social standing was high, his home being on Leyden street and adjoining the residence of Edward Winslow and Isaac Allerton.

Of his lineal descendants we note his son (2) Jacob Cooke, who was born in 1618; (3) Jacob Cooke, born in 1653; (4) Jacob Cooke, born in 1691; (5) Jacob Cooke, born in 1725; (6) Noah Cook, born in 1758; (7) Jabez Cook, born in 1792; (8) James Hervey Cook, born in 1816; and (9) James M. Cook, born in 1859.

Jacob Cooke, of the fifth generation from Francis Cooke, born in 1725, in Plymouth county, Massachusetts, removed with his father's family to Morris county, New Jersey, in 1744, and emigrated with his family to Washington county, Pennsylvania, in 1767, and died there in 1808. He was the father of Noah Cook, who came to Richland county, Ohio, in 1814, and died in Lexington in 1834.

Jabez Cook, the son of Noah Cook, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, July 11, 1792; came to Ohio in 1815, and died February 6, 1875. His wife's maiden name was Hannah Pierson. Jabez and Hannah Cook were the parents of the following children: James Hervey and Thomas McCurdy, twins, born September 3, 1816; Alice, January 13, 1819; Abba Ellen, August 7, 1821; Emily, December 22, 1823; William Mortimer, September 15, 1826; Elizabeth, July 19, 1828; Willis Merriman, August 5, 1830; and Lydia Jane, November 20, 1832.

Noah Cook served several terms of enlistment in the war of the Revolution, and was also with Colonel Crawford in his march and defeat. His pension certificate was dated October 30, 1832. He did much to promote the religious interests of Troy township. He announced a meeting for a religious service at a schoolhouse, but at the appointed hour "Uncle Noah" was the only one there; but he held the service! Some passers-by heard him singing and stopped to listen; then he prayed and read and preached as though the benches were listeners with ears to hear and souls to save! The report of

this service was noised abroad, with the result of good congregations of people at subsequent services.

Hannah (Pierson) Cook, the wife of Jabez Cook and the mother of James Hervey Cook, was a daughter of John and Sarah (Van Dyke) Pierson. John Pierson we trace back to Thomas Pierson, of Bonwicke, Yorkshire, England, a relative of Rev. Abram Pierson, the founder of Newark, New Jersey, in 1666, and one of the promoters of Yale College. John Pierson served eight years in the war of the Revolution. Through the Van Dykes the Cook family is related by marriage to the Schencks, of the same family as General Robert C. Schenck, one of Ohio's statesmen and warriors.

In taking up the personal history of James Hervey Cook, we note that his elementary education was secured at the Sandy Hill schoolhouse, after which he continued his studies at Granville. He worked on the farm in the summer months and taught school for several winters. In the winter of 1840-1 he came to Mansfield and has lived here continuously since. He taught school at the corner of Fourth and Mulberry streets in a little red schoolhouse. In the spring of 1849 he took possession of the Wiler House and was engaged in the hotel business there continuously for ten years. He then sold out, but later was again the proprietor of the Wiler House, from 1864 to 1869. He was one of the first conductors on the Sandusky, Mansfield & Newark Railroad, after that road was constructed.

Until within very recent years Mr. Cook was remarkably alert, both mentally and physically. During his years as a septuagenarian it was a matter of comment that he was one of Mansfield's very youngest old men. His constitution was a hardy one. His early life developed a perfect physical organism which in after years he retained by a regularity of habits seldom followed. Always punctual as to his hours of labor and of rest, and methodical in all his ways, he carefully conserved his strength and energy. He was seldom seen to wear an overcoat, as his splendid vitality needed none; but he was always carefully gloved. None knew him but to admire him. He was ever generous and charitable, but always without ostentation. His hearty, cheering "How do you do, sir?" with a marked accent on the "sir," will be remembered by all, and his greeting to the humble toiler was ever as cordial as to the man of wealth. His attitude toward his fellow men was ever that of one who felt

"The rank is but the guinea's stamp;
The man's the gowd for a' that."

Mr. Cook was an officer of the Richland Mutual Insurance Company for about thirty years, being for many years its president. He was also the president of the cemetery association for nearly that length of time. Besides four children, Mr. Cook left seven grandchildren.

On the 27th of March, 1842, James Hervey Cook was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ann Wiler, a daughter of John and Margaret Wiler. Her father was born in Herisau, Appenzell county, Switzerland, June 4, 1780, and was the eldest of a large family of children. When very young he learned the weaver's trade in his native town. While yet in his teens he concluded to see something of the world and for a number of years traveled through Europe, working at his trade as a journeyman weaver. During the campaign of Napoleon I in Austria Mr. Wiler enlisted in the Swiss army for duty on the frontier. Having concluded to seek his fortune in the new world, he sailed for America from Amsterdam on the 19th of May, 1817, and landed at Philadelphia on the 26th of August, after a voyage of ninety-nine days. Of the five hundred passengers on board the vessel, one hundred and five died of ship fever during the voyage. Selecting Ohio for his home Mr. Wiler resided for one year in New Lancaster and one year in Columbus, after which he located permanently in Mansfield, where he engaged in business and built the Wiler House, which still bears his name. He was married April 25, 1819, to Margaret Steyer. The couple lived happily together and prospered and left to their children a competence and an untarnished name. John Wiler died August 1, 1881, and his wife passed away May 25, 1868.

Their daughter, Mrs. Cook, together with her four children, survives the subject of this review. The daughters of the family are: Mrs. George W. Blymyer, Mrs. Laura C. Bunker, and Mrs. Clada Sturges. The one son, James M. Cook, was born December 14, 1859, and was married May 22, 1889, to Miss Janie M. Vennum. Mr. Cook is the secretary of the Mansfield Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He is a young man of fine ability and gives close application to business; is upright in character and maintains the reputation and dignity of a long line of worthy ancestors.

The death of J. H. Cook removes another citizen whose life was well nigh coextensive with that of the city. Nor was he one who simply aged with the city. His was an active, honorable business life. He did his full share toward the development of the city and his duty toward his fellow men. His life was a useful one and he leaves an unsullied name and an influence for good that will ever be of fragrant memory.