Wheeling Register.

OLD TIME WHEELING

ONLY A SMALL GROUP OF CABINS HERE ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

And a Population of Between 200 and 300—The Early Pioneers—Soldiers of Revolutionary Fame—The Progenitors of People Who Are Now Living.

Wheeling is not one hundred years old. It became a town in 1806, and on the 15th of April in that year the first town election was held. In 1793, however, Col. Ebenezer Zane laid out the first lots, 112 in number, between what is now known as Eighth and Eleventh streets and between Market street and the river.

A century ago to-day between 200 and 300 people lived in what is now the city of Wheeling. It then consisted of cabins and log houses scattered from what is now Eighth street to Tenth street. Only Col. Zane's house—a block house—was below Tenth street. Between Tenth and Eleventh streets, on the west side of Main street, stood the memorable Fort Henry. Between the fort and the river was a sloping pasture.

By the close of the last century, a few changes had been made. The frontier had been removed by Gen. Wayne's victory over the Indians, a long distance westward. The popoulation had increased somewhat. A few clearings had been made here and there for cornfields. An orchard planted a few years before had grown forth, and on the west side of Main street, between Ninth and Tenth streets, the pioneers buried their dead. On every side was the wilderness.

In 1803, Jacob Gooding built for himself a brick house, on the present site of the Windsor Hotel—the first brick building to be erected in Wheeling. It was used for a hotel for many years.

With her early settlers who lived nearly a hundred years ago the people of Wheeling are pretty familiar. Yet, on such an historic occasion it may be well to hastily sketch a few of them.

COL. EBENEZER ZANE.

Among those identified with the early history of this vicinity during the Revolutionary war, and the subsequent organization of the Government of the United States, whose Centennial is to-day to be celebrated, there are few indeed who deserve more grateful remembrance for valuable and various service than Col. Ebenezer Zane, the first settler and founder of Wheeling.

He was the son of William Zane, and was born on the South Branch of the Potomac, Berkeley county, Virginia, October 7th, 1747. The family is of Danish origin, but being of an enterprising turn early moved to France, subsequently to England where they became identified with the Quakers, and finally emigrated to America with William Penn.

It was in December, 1767, as Weather's Chronicles correctly states, that Col. Zane, "who was among the first to explore the country from the South Branch of the Potomac, through the Allegheny glades, to the Ohio river, set out an expedition thither to make a location." He was accompanied on that expedition by Isaac Williams, two men named Robinson, and some others; but setting off "rather late in the season, and the weather being very severe, they were compelled to return, without having penetrated to the Ohio river." One of the party died from the extent of the cold on the way home.

In the spring of 1768 Col. Zane finally left the south branch with his family and household effects, migrating as far west as Redstone Old Fort, now Brownsville, Pa. The subsequent year, 1769, he left his family at Redstone, and in company with his brothers, Jonathan and Silas, sought to penetrate the unbroken wilderness to some eligible location on the Ohio, The story of his arrival at the hill overlooking the river near the mouth of Wheeling creek, and of his immediate determination to stake out his claim and make a permanent settlement here has often been told and is entirely familiar to our readers.

Together with his two brothers he built a cabin, cleared some land, and leaving his brothers in charge, returned for his family. In the succeeding spring he brought his wife and child and took possession of his new home, where he remained the balance of his life.

Thus in September, 1769, was laid the foundation of what is now the populous and prosperous city of Wheeling.

The settlement thus made was but the precursor of many others, and within the succeeding year or two quite a large population had gathered on the waters of the Monongahela and Ohio, and was already stretching out toward Kentucky. The effect was to make the Ohio river, for a time, the extreme frontier, and the consequent collisions between the settlers and the Indians all along the border were frequent and bloody. Our local annals are full of these incursions and massacraes, and show the bravery and fortitude of the early settlers of this vicinity to be unsurpassed in the history of the nation.

The Wheeling settlement suffered frequently from these attacks of the Indians, but repelled them with much courage and not a little skill. Col. Zane took an active and prominent part in many of these encounters, and often saved the settlement from attack by his wise and conciliatory attitude toward several of the leading tribes. Had his counsel been heeded it is quite probable the Dunmore war would have been entirely averted.

Early in 1774 the first mutterings of the storms of war between the colonies and the mother country were heard even on the remote frontier and are referred to in a letter from Valentine Crawford, then present with the Colonial Governor, Lord Dunmore, and his army at Wheeling, en route for the campaign against the Indians at Chillicothe. It is dated Fort Fincastle, (name of the Wheeling Fort before the war,) October 1st, 1774, and is written to General Washington, in which he says they were anxious that Dunmore should "accommodate a peace, which we all hope for, in order that we may be able to assist you in relieving the poor, distressed Bostonians—if the report here is true, that General Gage has bombarded the City of Boston. This is a most remarkable circumstance and calls on every friend of the liberty of his country to exert himself at this time in its cause."

In the Revolutionary war which followed the Indians were induced by British emissaries to constant raids on the border, and these culminated in the severe attack by nearly 400 Indians on Fort Henry in September, 1777 In this encounter the settlement suffered the severe loss of twenty-five men in the first onset outside the walls of the fort. The subsequent defense of the fort was valiant and successful, and was participated in by Col. Zane with much zeal and ability.

The final siege of the fort in 1782 by a large body of Indians and a detachment of British soldiers was in reality the best battle of the Revolutionary war, and was actually fought after the preliminary articles of peace had been signed. The defense was conducted by Col. Zane with great success and without the loss of a man. The day after the fight he sent his official report of the siege to Brig. Gen. William Irvine, at Fort Pitt (Pittsburg), who was in command of the Western Department. It is as follows:

"WHEELING, 14th September, 1782.

Sir:—On the evening of the 11th instant a body of the enemy appeared in sight of our garrison. They immediately formed their lines around the garrison, paraded British colors, and demanded the fort to be surrendered, which was refused. About twelve o'clock at night they rushed hard on the pickets, in order to storm, but were repulsed. They made two other attempts to storm, before day, to no purpose.

About eight o'clock next morning, there came a negro from them to us, and informed us that their force consisted of a British captain and forty regular soldiers, and two hundred and sixty Indians. The enemy kept a continual fire the whole day. About ten o'clock at night they made a fourth attempt to storm, to no better purpose than the formers. The enemy continued around the garrison till the morning of the 13th instant, when they disappeared. Our loss is none! Daniel Sullivan, who arrived here in the first of the action, is wounded in the foot.

I believe they have driven the greatest part of our stock away, and might, I think, be soon overtaken.

I am, with due respect,
Your obedient servant,
EBENEZER ZANE.

To William Irvine, Brigadier-General, Commanding Western Department, Fort Pitt.

In the subsequent history of the southwest, Col. Zane took an active and influential part. During the Colonial rule he was the disbursing officer of the Station under Lord Dunmore, was one of the Judges, after the war; was a member of the Virginia Convention in 1787, called to consider the Federal Constitution, and the organization of the colonies into a Federal Union, and when the Convention came to its final action recorded his vote in favor of the adoption of the Federal Constitution by the State of Virginia, although he had been strongly opposed in Convention by some of the ablest men of the State, among whom was Patrick Henry.

Mr. Zane married Elizabeth McColloch, the sister of Major Sam. McColloch and Major John McColloch, the celebrated borderers, They had thirteen children. Of those who survived infancy, Noah was a prominent and influential citizen of Wheeling; Samuel moved to Belmont county, O; Daniel lived many years on Wheeling Island; Catherine married Captain Absalom Minter, of the U. S. Army; Sarah married Captain John McIntire, and after his decease married Rev. David Young at Zanesville, O; Rebecca married John Clarke, Esq., and after some years removed to Belmont county, O; Hetty married Elijah Woods.

Col. Zane died in 1811, and lies buried together with his wife and others of his kindred, in the Walnut Grove at Martin's Ferry, Ohio.

SILAS ZANE AND ANDREW ZANE.

Little can be gathered of these two brothers, who were also brothers of Colonel Ebenezer Zane.

In 1776 two companies were authorized to be raised by Ohio county for service in the Revolutionary War under Washington, and Charles Simms, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia, in a letter to Col. John McColloch, under date of November 9, 1876, gives directions about raising these. Under this authority a meeting was held on December 8th, at the house of Ezekiel De Witt, and two companies were ordered, and Capt. Silas Zane and Capt. John Lemmon appointed to the command.

It is known also that Capt. Silas Zane had the direction of the defence of Fort Henry at the siege of 1782, subordinate to the command of his brother, Col. Ebenezer Zane.

Andrew Zane was killed by the Indians while crossing the Scioto.

JONATHAN ZANE

was born in Berkely county, Virginia, and accompanied his brother, Col. Ebenezer Zane, to the West and settled at Wheeling with him in 1769. He was a man of great energy of character and resolution; was fearless and brave with an unsurpassed courage. His woodcraft, knowledge of Indian warfare, and cool, wise counsel made him the favorite guide of most of the military leaders who sought to pursue the Indians to their homes in punishment of some daring incursion. He was the guide of most of the campaign from the commencement of the Dunmore war to the close of the Revolution; was guide of the Wakatomica Company of 1774; accompanied the exposition of Col. Broadhead against the Senecas 1779, in which he was wounded. And in the memorable campaign of Col. Crawford against Sandusky he was one of the guides through the wilderness, and had his advice been *promptly* acted upon, the terrible calamity which befel that unfortunate expedition would have been averted. Butterfield, in his history of the campaign, says: "Crawford, stopping the march, immediately called a council of war, consisting of the captains and the field officers. Knight and Rore were also invited, as were Slover and Zane. The opinion of the latter had great weight with Crawford, who knew Zane to be exceedingly well versed in Indian strategy. Zane advised an immediate return. He was of opinion that the Indians would, in the end, bring an overwhelming force against them. A further march into their country, he reasoned, even though the army had abundant supplies, would only be giving the enemy more time to gather reinforcements. That move of the Indians had as yet been discovered in the plains, was a sure evidence, in his judgment, that they were concentrating at some point not far away for a determined resistance," &c. These views were shared by Crawford, but the council concluded to continue the advance, and soon met overwhelming numbers and terrible disaster.

Mr. Zane died at his residence in North Wheeling and left large landed possessions.

His children were Catherine, who married a Mr. Wells, and subsequently at his death a Mr. Green; Eliza, who married Mr. Williams; Cynthia, who married Daniel Zane; Sallie, who married E Hildreth, and whose sons, the late Dr. E. A. Hildreth, Philander and Samuel P. Hildreth, are well known; Hannah, who married a Mr. Fawcett, and at his death a Mr. Smith; Nancy, who married John Miller, and of the children who survive her there are but two, John R. Miller, of this city, and Miss Ann, of Martin's Ferry.

ELIZABETH ZANE

was the youngest daughter of William Zane, and sister of Col. Ebenezer Zane. She is noted in our local annals, and indeed in the history of the nation, for her exploit of carrying a supply of gunpowder from Col. Zane's house to the fort—whose stock of that article had been exhausted—during the hottest part of the action, when the fort was beseiged by the British and Indians in September, 1782 The story is quite familiar to all and does not require repetition here, but it will always be a marked incident of our early history and carry her name in honor to succeeding generations. She was but 17 years old at the date of this courageous action and had but recently returned from Philadelphia where she had been receiving her education. She married a Mr. McLaughlin and had four daughters—Polly, wife of Edw. Hatsell, Hannah, wife of Ebenezer Martin, Rebecca, wife of Wm Brown and Betty who died young. Subsequently she married Jacob Clarke and had a son Ebenezer and daughter Kate who married Mr. Thomas

NOAH ZANE

was the oldest son of Col Ebenezer Zane, and until his death by cholera in 1832, was the most prominent citizen of Wheeling. While he had been educated as a lawyer, his wealth was such that he never followed it as a profession. He was a member of the Virginia Legislature, and took some part in general politics but preferred his own ease and except in rare emergencies did not take an active part in any politcal campaign.

He was a devoted friend of Henry Clay, and it was through his means that Mr. Clay obtained the first knowledge he had of the celebrated letter of Beverly Tucker, which disclosed the name of General Jackson as the the author of the charges against Mr. Clay that were then current. A gentleman who was present at Mr. Zane's mansion, where Mr. Clay first saw and read the letter, said to the writer that although he had often heard Mr. Clay in the Senate and on the stump when he thought his eloquence unsurpassable, declared that for fifteen or tweenty minutes he spoke to the party of gentlemen present in a strain he never heard equalled by mortal man.

Mr. Zane was married to Mary L. Chapline and left a large family. Ebenezer, whose children Edwin P. and Mrs. Loughborough, one now living in California; Platoff, whose widow and children reside at Pleasant Valley; Platoff, Noah and Mrs. Carr and Mrs. Euston of St. Louis; Sophia married Mr. Johnston of Louisville; Mary married Mr. M'Clean and left a son James and daughter, Mrs. Ward of Louisville; Caroline married W. W. Shriver and now lives at Pleasant Valley with her daughters, Marian and Nina; her son H. Z Shriver lives on the Island; Elizabeth married Mr. Pitts, a noted lawyer, and lives in Louisville; Cornelia married W. L McAfer; Hampden Zane, the youngest son, resides in Washington City. His daughter married the Hon. Mr. Cockburn, of Canada, a prominent and influential member of the government of that Province.

DANIEL ZANE.

Daniel Zane, born in Wheeling, Virginia, August 3d, 1792, was the youngest child of Col. Ebenezer and Elizabeth Zane, his wife.

When nineteen years of age he married his cousin Cynthia, a daughter of Jonathan Zane. She was a lady of refinement, taste and the most exalted piety, and died as she had lived in the full hope of a glorious immortality, on Sunday, June 5, 1842, thus exchanging the luxuriance of an earthly June for the enduring beauty of a heavenly. In early life Daniel Zane connected himself with the M. E Church and for one year he entertained in his house, at his own expense, the first Methodist minister with his family, ever stationed in Wheeling. He was under Providence the main instrument in securing a house for public worship for that denomination, and through his efforts and with his means more than those of any other individual, the commodious and comfortable edifice—which occupied the site of the present church building—was erected.

He built the bridge which spans the back river, connecting the Island and Bridgeport. Thus, through the failure of others, involved him financially to some extent, from which, however, he subsequently recovered. He was also the proprietor of the ferry which plied between the Island and the city proper, which was retained by him until he sold his franchise to the Wheeling and Belmont Bridge Company.

Like his wife, he died on the Sabbath day. On the eighth day of July, 1860, just as the evening shades of that holy day were gathering around the world and the echoes of the voices of God's worshipping children were still lingering od the sense his soul was wafted on angels' pinions to the rest of that heavenly Canaan where the loved ones who had preceded him were waiting his coming.

Mr. Zane was twice married. By his first marriage he had ten children, all of whom lived to reach manhood and womanhood except one, a daughter. Their names are as follows: Noah, Orion, James W., Edwin E., Clarke L., Daniel T., Indiana, who married Amon McSwords, deceased; Ann Elizabeth, who married H. W. Phillips, deceased; Oella, who married G. L Cranmer; Hannah, who died in infancy. His second marriage was with a Miss Tomlinson, by whom he had one son, Edward Everett. He did not long survive this marriage, dying about a year thereafter.

CAPT. ABSALOM MARTIN

was a native of New Jersey, and graduated at Nassau Hall, (now Princeton College, N. J) He was a captain in the Army of the Revolution, serving in that position, which was under the immediate command of Washington.

After the war he removed West, where he married Catherine, the eldest daughter of Col. Ebenezer Zane. He died before reaching middle life, leaving two children. Ebenezer Martin, the founder of the present town of Martin's Ferry, and a daughter Patty, who died in early life.

JOHN CLARKE

was a native of Delaware. He came West at the time of the Whisky Insurrection in Pennsylvania, and commanded a company of light horse cavalry under General Daniel Morgan, of Revolutionary fame, when the Government suppressed that incipient rebellion, He was present at the battle of Brandywine. He married Rebecca Zane, daughter of Col. Ebenezer Zane. After residing a few years in Wheeling he removed to Belmont county, where he lived until his death in 1855, at the age of 90 years. He was one of the first settlers of that portion of Ohio.

He had a large family—Geo. W., who died in early manhood; John F., who resided in New York; Ebenezar Z., now living in Zanesville, O.; Dorcas, who married Job Stanbery; Sarah Z., who married Rev. S. B Brockunier; Elizabeth, married D Hull; Maria, married Daniel Lamb; Helen L., married Alex. Sullivan, of Zanesville; Leander, removed to Louisville, where he died; Julia and Rebecca, now living in Belmont county, Ohio.

CAPTAIN CRESAP.

Captain Michael Cresap, son of Colonel Thomas Cresap, of Maryland, was born and lived in Oldtown, not far from Cumberland. When migration westward began he moved to Old Redstone, now Brownsville, Pa., where he built a cabin and lived for several years. Then he set out with a party to take up land below Wheeling. He went as far as Little Kanawha, where the city of Parkersburg now stands, and the present site of Cresap's Grove, below Moundsville, was taken up by him. Rumors soon reached Captain Cresap's party through the traders that the Indians were about to begin warfare against the whites, and they speedily returned to Fort Henry at Wheeling. There a letter from Captain Connelly, under Lord Dunmore, declaring that an Indian war was inevitable. This war, which broke out in 1774, was precipitated by the massacre of the family of Logan, the Mingo Chief, at the mouth of Yellow Creek. When peace was finally declared, the Indians having been defeated, Logan did not appear among the suppliants. As recorded by Thomas Jefferson in his "Notes on Virginia," Logan sent his famous speech, known to every school boy in the land, to be delivered to Lord Dunmore. In this eloquent speech he charged Cresap with murdering his people. The later historians, however, have reasonably established the fact that Capt Cresap was not present at the Mingo massacre. After his death, Capt. Cresap's widow married Rev. John J. Jacobs, of Hampshire county, and was the mother of Hon. J. J. Jacobs.

REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS.

As to the Revolutionary soldiers and the names of their descendants, some of which latter are still living in this city and county, the writer does not undertake to name all, but only such as occur to him on the spur of the moment.

Col. David Shepherd, the first Lieutenant-Colonel of Ohio county, was a prominent actor in the early history of the county, which is a part of the revolutionary history of the country. He commanded a company in the expedition against the Indians, known as the Broadhead campaign. He was always recognized as a brave and judicious officer. In 1781, through the intervention of Col. Shepherd, seconded by General Broadhead, a company of militia were restrained from destroying the villages of the Moravian Indians.

He married a sister of old Dr. McMechen, who died a short time before her husband. He was buried in the Stone Church Cemetery. He left, we believe, one son only—Col. Moses Shepherd, who married Lydia Boggs, who subsequently married Col. Cruger.

There are still living the descendants of the McColloch and Wilson families, who were intimately connected with the Revolutionary period of our country's history. The Wilsons originally emigrated from New Jersey, and the McCollochs from the South branch of the Potomac.

Their lives and characters closely identified with the struggles encountered in the early settlement of the frontier.

Capt. John Clark was an officer during the Revolution in the Delaware line. There are three daughters and one son of his still living, one of the daughters being the wife of Hon. Daniel Lamb. The two other daughters were never married, and reside on the National Road a few miles west of Bridgeport, Ohio. Capt. Clark married a daughter of Col. Ebenezer Zane, each of whom died a few years ago

There are also still living descendants of the Sprigg family, but concerning whom, by reason of the limited time allotted in making this sketch, we have been prevented from making the necessary investigation.

For a like reason we can give no particulars concerning the McMechen family, whose ancestors were among the pioneers of this section.

John Caldwell was also among the early settlers of this portion of the State. He lived and died on Middle Wheeling Creek.

There are some descendants of the Biggs brothers still living at West Liberty. The Biggs' were noted men in their day, and one of them was a captain in the Revolution.

G. L Cranmer, of this city, is a descendant of John Cranmer—his grandfater—who was a member of a company of Virginia troops commanded by Poesley Neville, stationed at Fort Pitt. This company joined the forces of General Washington at Middle Brook, New Jersey, in the spring of 1777, and Cranmer was killed at the battle of Brandywine.

Vincent Vanmeter, of this county, is also a descendant of one of the pioneers of this county, who was distinguished in his time as an Indian hunter and scout.

We regret that time will not permit us to give a more extended sketch of those connected with the revolutionary period of our country and of this county, but perhaps some one will add to this imperfect list and thus recall the names and memories of our early patriots from oblivion.

[*Washington's Life and the First Cabinet. See Third Page*]