

From the Thursday, October 13, 1955 Wellington (Ohio) Enterprise
Huntington Settlers Used Sleigh for Trip Westward

John Sage, the pioneer of Huntington-twp selected lands in the southwest quarter. In 1818 he induced several families to emigrate from their old homes in the east, with a view to cultivating for themselves farms in the wilderness of the Western Reserve. These included John Laborie; his son-in-law; the wife and two children of Laborie; four young men and a hired man.

The company started for Ohio from their old homes in the east, February 12, 1818. The winter was severe. At Buffalo the snow was drifted to the chamber windows and not until they reached Hudson in Portage-co, Ohio were they forced to abandon the sleigh, having found snow aplenty up to this point in their journey.

After leaving Stow-twp on *March 15*, the journey was over a path that had nothing but an occasional marked tree to indicate the course. At Westfield they put up at the one-room log-house of a Mr. Brainard, who already had three families living with him.

First Lived At Sullivan

On arriving in Sullivan they took up their abode in a log cabin built by Henry Chase. This was 11/2 miles from the lands selected in Huntington. The house was a cheerless affair, without chimney, door or windows; and the wide spaces between the logs, not being chinked, afforded easy access for clouds of snow.

On April 13 after the new house had been constructed the family moved to Huntington Twp lands. Being anxious to get a piece of ground ready for planting the floor was not put down, nor the doors, windows and chimneys constructed until weeks later.

During the first spring and summer food was scarce and the settlers were, at times, obliged to subsist on a very small quantity of the poorest of nourishment. Deer, turkeys and other game abounded but they were too poor to eat.

The Laborie Family

Anthony Laborie, who was a mere babe when his family came to Huntington, afterward married Laura A. Darrow, and had six children. Myra, of the same family married William S. Preston. They had four children. James, another son of John Laborie, married Louisa Cook. Alinza, the youngest of the settler's family, married Edwin W. Williams; they had four children. The other children died early or moved away.

Isaac Sage, a brother of Joseph, arrived the following June and settled near the Labories. Isaac Sage's children were Charles, Polly, Lucetta Alzina, Isaac and Jackson.

Benjamin and Oliver Rising arrived from Connecticut the subsequent September and settled one mile south of the center. Isaac soon exchanged his first locations for lands near the Risings.

Abner Chapman and wife came from Montgomery, Mass. in 1833. Six of their twelve children came with them to Huntington. Delos Phelon, came from Cooperstown N. Y., in 1833. His home was at the center of the township.

The Wyandot and Seneca Indians caused little trouble. Game was the only thing that brought them from their home farther to the west. Here, as in the rest of the county it is reported that they took their final departure in about 1828.

First White Child is Born

A child was born to Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Tillotson in December 1818. His name was Enos but his career can not be traced. Benjamin Rising was born the following January. The first death was that of the son of John and Marilla Laborie, who passed away sixteen days after birth in March 1819.

On January 1, 1820, the first marriage occurred. Miss Polly Sage was

united to John Munson of Harrisonville.

First Homes, Businesses

Isaac Sage put up a barn, the first frame building. It stood near the former residence of H. P. Sage. Reule Lang built the first frame house. Isaac Sage Jr. operated the first store. Sage also operated Sage's Inn. The township was incorporated as a part of Medina Co. in 1822. Its name was derived from Huntington, Conn., the former home of John Laborie.

The first religious meetings were held in the log school house spoken of in connection with the school, by the Rev. Nathan Smith, one of the Pittsfield pioneers. The first church was that of the Methodist although there appears to be no record of the date.

The Congregational church and society was organized May 1, 1839. The Universalists and Wesleyan Methodists also had organizations in the township for a while.

The winter of 1821-22 saw the first school house built. In the following spring sufficient money was raised by subscription to pay a teacher.

Cheese factories were begun in the township about 1866 by J. C. and C. W. Horr.

The first manufacturing was done by Benjamin Rising, who had a lathe operated by a spring pole, for turning wooden bowls. The device was quite a curiosity.

Urban Kelsey erected the first saw mill on Charlemont Creek near the west line of the township.

One of the big events in the history of Huntington occurred July 4, 1868 when a monument to the boys of Huntington who gave their lives for the cause of the union was dedicated. The names of the eighteen men still may be read on the stone that was erected that Independence Day