



Death of Tecumseh - 1813. The last great Shawnee leader to oppose white settlement in Ohio was named *nila ni tekamthi, manetuwi msi-pessi* - called *Tekamthi* by the Shawnee, *Tecumseh* by whites. His life's mission was uniting the trans-Appalachian tribes to evict immigrant settlers. Overwhelmingly outnumbered, he failed, and by 1841 the last Indian was deported from Ohio. [Cincinnati Historical Society: *Used by Permission*]

Chapter 14

West to Ohio 1800 - 1860

The Savage Frontier

Had the third generation of American Van Tuyls then living in the Watchung Mountains of New Jersey been able to view the year 1768 with the benefit of hindsight available to us today, they might have remarked on two particular events of the year - each with an important consequence for the settlement of America's northwest and for their family. The first event was the treaty of Fort Stanwix, in which the Iroquois Nation - in return for £10,000 - allowed the British authorities to remove the much-hated *Proclamation Line*, a north-south demarcation beyond which The Crown had forbidden its subjects to settle. The northwest would now be open to legal settlement by whites.¹ The second key event of 1768 was one which would impede, rather than aid, western settlement. In a *chillicothe* in the Miami Valley of the Ohio River Basin - home to the warlike, seminomadic Shawnee - a remarkable man was born. He would come to be called *Tecumseh*.² Some 40 years later, his arch-enemy, General William Henry Harrison, would write in a confidential report to the United States Department of War:³

[He is] *one of those uncommon geniuses which spring up occasionally to produce revolutions and overturn the established order of things.*

Like the Ottawa chief *Pontiac* before him, Tecumseh grew to be convinced that the white man was the real enemy, and that he must be expelled from the territory west of the Appalachians if the tribes were to have any hope of maintaining the life of their forefathers. Mounting an amazing campaign of intertribal diplomacy during the first decade of the 19th century, this charismatic Shawnee traveled from New York to the Ozarks, from Iowa to Florida, seeking allies and converts to his rebellious cause.⁴ As it turned out, he never stood a chance.

At the beginning of the 19th century, the United States population stood at 7 million people, with 1 million of them living west of the Appalachians. In contrast, there were fewer than 100,000 indigenous people living in the vast area over which Tecumseh was attempting to organize his tribal federation. Many of them felt - rightly, as it turned out - that resistance would be futile.

¹ Gilbert, B. "God Gave Us This Country," 1989, p. 59-60.

² Gilbert, pp. 4, 11. *Chillicothe* is a Shawnee word meaning "settlement". The Shawnee leader known to us as *Tecumseh* was named *nila ni tekamthi, manetuwi msi-pessi* - sometimes shortened to *Tekamthi*.

³ Gilbert, pg. 4.

⁴ *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 15th edition, volume 11, pg. 602.

Many established chiefs feared loss of power.⁵ To tribes such as the Shawnee, war was a sort of high-risk sport, something to do during the fall months of plenty - a matter for honor and glory, not for territorial gain.⁶ The very survival of tribes like the Shawnee depended on being able to range over vast territories to forage for natural plants, animals and minerals. They practiced agriculture, but only as a supplement to hunting. As a result, the eastern woodlands natives required as many *square miles* per family as the white man required *acres*.⁷ With their intensive agriculture, superior organization, and rapidly-evolving technology, the white man clearly had the battle won before it began, though fear of the natives - and of Tecumseh in particular - caused many Americans to hold back from westward migration. October 5, 1813 marked the day when this psychological barrier to western settlement was lifted. That day, Tecumseh was defeated and killed by the army of General (later President) William Henry Harrison. Van Tuyls had already moved into the land of Tecumseh's youth, and more would soon be on their way.

Settling The Miami Valleys

Tributaries of the Ohio River, the Great Miami and Little Miami rivers drain some 5700 square miles of prime Ohio farmland, their waters eventually joining the Mississippi and flowing to the Gulf of Mexico. In the first half of the 19th century, the region was renowned mainly for its production of corn, but also for wheat, rye, flax, hemp and tobacco. But just 50 years earlier, this land had been covered with virgin woodlands of rich variety - including "*giant walnut trees whose first limbs were often seventy feet above the ground, towering sycamores, tall ashes, and great elms with limb spreads of 160 feet.*" Before the American Revolution, there were only a few scattered settlements of whites, but by 1830 nearly a quarter of a million Americans of European descent had settled the valleys, and the State of Ohio's population was nearing one million.⁸ Among the immigrants were representatives of the two major branches of the Van Tuyl family: those descended from Abraham and from Isaac, the twin sons of Jan Otten Van Tuyl.

As far as we know, the first Van Tuyls to settle in the Miami Valleys were the family of Michael Van Tuyl and his wife Sophia Cubberly.⁹ Michael's father - also Michael - had been a Tory who forfeited his property in the Revolution. Michael, Jr. had apparently grown up in the flatlands of Somerset County, New Jersey and there married Sophia, who bore him two surviving sons before they headed west between 1805 and 1808.¹⁰ In 1790, a New Jersey man named Daniel Doty had discovered a beautiful area on the banks of the Great Miami River, and in 1797 he moved his family there. Doty established a hand-powered corncracker, and fellow settlers Bambo Harris and

⁵ Gilbert, pp. 3-4.

⁶ Gilbert, pg. 7.

⁷ Gilbert, pg. 15.

⁸ Smith, W., "History of Southwestern Ohio - The Miami Valleys," 1964, vol. I, pp. 7, 54, 56, 185.

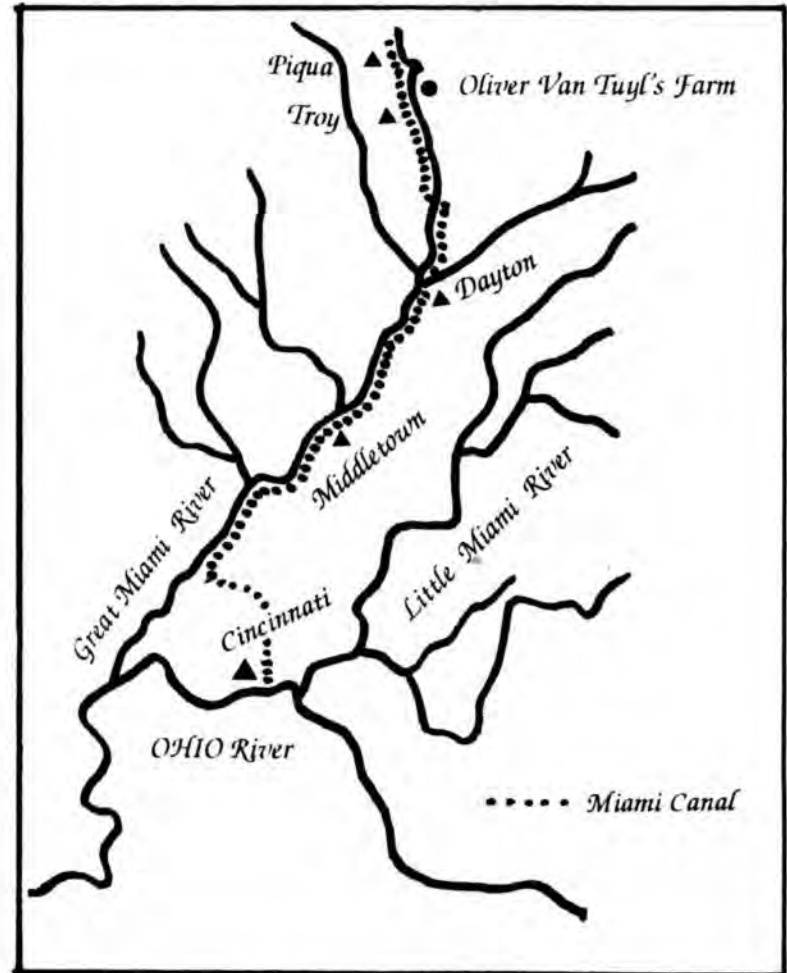
⁹ See *American Van Tuyl Genealogy*, Generation 5. Michael Van Tuyl [1.7.6.2.1].

¹⁰ One source says they came in 1814 [see genealogy].

The Van Tuyls Move West to Ohio



The Miami Valleys ~



Elijah Mills set up gristmills there by 1800.¹¹ In 1802, land speculator Stephen Vail, Jr. platted the town and advertised back East that mills were already in operation and that his village - called *Middletown* - would surely become the county seat.¹² Very likely, it was Vail's ads that attracted Michael Van Tuyl, a man in his early 30s, to head west to Ohio to raise his large family. In 1827, Michael's son Thomas married Orpha Doty - probably Daniel Doty's daughter - and together they raised a second generation of Middletown Van Tuyls.¹³

By 1820, Middletown boasted 314 inhabitants. During the following decade, the town became a profitable exporter of grains, whiskey, pork products, iron, pelts, and timber - most of which was shipped via Cincinnati to New Orleans by boat. Thus, the chief reason for the town's - indeed the whole area's - prosperity was not just fertile soil, but also the river highway to southern markets.¹⁴ What role the Van Tuyls played in the Middletown story is not known, but most likely, they were among the farmers who raised the corn, wheat, and pigs on which the region's livelihood depended.

A Farmer's Paradise

The success of places like Middletown, Ohio was made possible by a system of land distribution that became the prototype for 19th century settlement of the American Midwest. To bring some order to the process of settlement and governance west of the Appalachians, the U. S. Congress passed a series of *Northwest Ordinances* in 1784, 1785, and 1787. These ordinances provided for systematic subdivision of lands (640 acres minimum, \$1 per acre minimum). They also established a judicial system, and set conditions for ultimately achieving statehood. The *Northwest Territory* that was formed by these ordinances ultimately became five states: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin.¹⁵ In addition, the Harrison Land Act of 1800, which established land offices near settlers so they could buy land with clear title for \$2 per acre, attracted serious settlers to the Ohio towns.¹⁶

These new settlers would not risk improving their land without a clear title to it. But their predecessors - the *squatters* - had used a different approach. Often, squatters were societal misfits, or refugees who had been burned out of their homes during the Revolution. Some 17,861 of them moved down the Ohio River in 1786 alone. Many were canny speculators who built, sold out, then moved on.¹⁷ They would establish *Tomahawk Rights* to as much land as possible, and to

¹¹ Harris was one of the first "colored" settlers of the Miami Valleys. Mills had been an early "squatter".

¹² Smith, pp. 153, 162, 204.

¹³ See: *American Van Tuyl Genealogy*. Thomas and Orpha had a son named Daniel, possibly named after grandfather Daniel Doty.

¹⁴ Smith, pp. 188, 206.

¹⁵ *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 15th edition, vol. 8, pp. 795, 797

¹⁶ Smith, pg. 184.

¹⁷ Smith, pg. 156

protect their claims, were ready to fight the Indians - or other squatters - if necessary.¹⁸ As soon as the 1800 Land Act took effect, a flood of permanent settlers were attracted to villages along the Great Miami - places like Middletown, Dayton, Troy, and Piqua - all of which were virtually nonexistent at the turn of the century. By 1815, the farmers occupying these agricultural villages fell pretty much into three categories: squatters (poor farmers without land title); small farmers (with limited capital on 40-160 acres); and wealthy farmers (many with greater than 300 acres of well-improved land).¹⁹ Whatever the level of success enjoyed by these 19th century American farmers, they clearly were land-rich compared to their European relatives, and it was western settlement that enabled them to become landowners at all.²⁰

The Rise of Dayton

Major Benjamin Stites explored the Miami Valleys in 1788 and liked the land so much he bought it all for 83 cents an acre, on speculation. However, the continued Indian resistance in the area - chiefly by Tecumseh's tribe, the Shawnee - destroyed his settlement scheme. Another group of land speculators, which included Jonathan Dayton, was more successful. They bought a range of townships between the Mad River and the Little Miami, where they laid out a new town in 1795. A hardy group of settlers arrived the next spring, in 1796. But the speculators' title proved faulty, so the settlers petitioned the U.S. Congress and were allowed to buy the land they'd already improved for \$2 an acre. A few did so, and by the winter of 1802-3, there were five families and a few single men officially living there, at the confluence of the Mad River and the Great Miami. The town - called *Dayton* - was incorporated in 1805, and continued to grow throughout the 19th century's first decade, registering several hundred people by 1810.²¹

During the War of 1812, the village of Dayton became a major rendezvous point for Ohio militia, and after the British - aided by Tecumseh and his confederation - took Detroit, the *Dayton Rifles* marched off to do battle. There were profits to be made during this war, and Dayton got its piece of the action. By the spring of 1813, war-driven real estate speculation in the Miami Valley fueled the area's growth spurt.²² In the decade following the war, the town expanded to the point where its 1825 population reached 1100.²³

¹⁸ *The History of Miami County Ohio*, W. H. Beers Co., Chicago, 1882, pg. 290. *Tomahawk Rights* refers to the case where a squatter would mark some trees at prominent places within his claimed territory, but not actually occupy it.

¹⁹ Smith, pp. 182 - 183. Land prices fell off away from the thriving port city of Cincinnati. Land there was \$50-\$150 per acre; 3-12 miles up the Miami it was \$10 - \$30 per acre; near principal villages it cost \$20-\$40 per acre, though some unimproved farms could be had for \$3-\$8 per acre, and cultivated ones for \$12 per acre.

²⁰ Van Tuyl farmers in 19th century Garamen owned closer to 1 acre.

²¹ *The History of Montgomery County Ohio*, W. H. Beers Co., Chicago, 1882 pp. 547 ff.

²² *The History of Miami County Ohio*, pp. 568-569.

²³ *The History of Montgomery County Ohio*, W. H. Beers Co., Chicago, 1882 pg. 580.



Head of the Miami Canal, Dayton Ohio - 1831. Since 1827, this water highway had linked Dayton with Cincinnati, easing transportation of farm products to markets as far south as New Orleans and South America. The boats shown here are *Packets* - a popular form of transportation for people and goods. By 1846, this canal connected Dayton - via Lake Erie, the Erie Canal, and Hudson's River - to New York City. [T. K. Wharton, 1831. Deak Collection, NY Public Library. Used by Permission.]

But the growth had not been steady, or without problems. Basically, the region was so fertile that it could produce more than it consumed. When there was an army to buy their produce, farmers, packers, and shippers profited. But when peace returned, the lack of a ready market drove prices down dramatically. A crash came in 1820. The best way to get produce to market in those days was to put it on a flatboat to New Orleans, which was 1500 miles down river. But boats from a multitude of Mississippi tributaries tended to arrive in New Orleans all at once, saturating the market and driving prices still lower. As a consequence, Miami Valley pork prices fell to \$1 per hundred pounds, corn to 12.5¢ a bushel, and wheat to 25¢ a bushel. Cattle were fetching only 1/3 cent per pound and hogs 2/3 cent, forcing some farmers to actually drive their stock over rutted roads and mountain passes to eastern markets.²⁴ Clearly, what the Miami Valleys needed was a highway to the east, and in those days that meant only one thing: a canal.

The Water Highway

In the winter of 1799-80, David Lowry built a flatboat of hewn oak, loaded her in Dayton, and spent the next 2 months drifting down river to New Orleans. After selling his boat and cargo, Mr. Lowry returned home, overland on horseback.²⁵ The same method of transport was still the mainstay of Dayton commerce in the 1820s, as described by one slightly disgruntled correspondent:²⁶

I was employed last year [1826] taking pork for Phillips and Perrine. We took upwards of eighty thousand pounds at [\$]1.50 per hundred. I started with it about the middle of February, and took it to New Orleans....I think I shall not [go again] to New Orleans...unless they give me higher wages. I went for them the other trips for fifty dollars the trip, the distance by water being over one thousand five hundred miles. I was gone each trip nearly ten weeks.

But the visionaries of the time had a solution to the transport problem. It was a bold solution that promised to connect Dayton, Ohio to New York City. Perhaps the earliest, and therefore most important, visionary was Elkanah Watson, who as a young New York man had served during the Revolution as a aide to Benjamin Franklin in Paris. After the war, he spent several years studying French and Dutch canals, then returned home with the idea of building a canal across New York State. He convinced New York Governor George Clinton, among others, of the wisdom of his proposal. But it would be years until the politicking would come to an end and George Clinton's son, Governor DeWitt Clinton, would see the construction begin. Finally, in the spring of 1817, men started working on America's greatest construction undertaking of the era: the Erie Canal.²⁷

²⁴ Drury, A., "History of the City of Dayton and Montgomery County," 1909, pg. 132. Actually, one of the best export commodities was corn whiskey: it could be easily transported to the east.

²⁵ *The History of Montgomery County Ohio*, W. H. Beers Co., Chicago, 1882 pg. 555

²⁶ Drury, A., "History of the City of Dayton and Montgomery County," 1909, pg. 145.

²⁷ Drago, H., "Canal Days in America," 1972, pg. 161 ff.

Transport canals date from 50 A.D. in the Netherlands. The entire country was connected by long-haul canals starting in the 15th or 16th century.²⁸ But Dutch canal builders had one big advantage over their American counterparts: theirs was a flat country. American engineers had to surmount elevation changes of over 500 feet, and to cross mighty rivers with their canals - and all this took time and money to accomplish. But when the Erie Canal finally opened in 1825, its effect on the fortunes of New York's farmers and New York City's merchants was evident. Canal fever gripped the west.

The same year that his state's Erie Canal was finished, New York Governor DeWitt Clinton (who was enormously popular in the west) traveled to Middletown, Ohio to preside over the beginning of the *Miami & Erie Canal*, a waterway which would eventually link the Ohio River to New York City via Lake Erie and the Erie Canal. The Van Tuyls of Middletown, along with everyone else in town, must surely have turned out on July 21, 1825 for the great occasion. And 2 weeks earlier, when DeWitt Clinton visited Dayton along with Ohio's governor, another Van Tuyl was probably there to see him: Oliver Van Tuyl, age 27, from Seneca County, New York.^{29, 30}

Oliver Van Tuyl Comes to Dayton

Oliver had come to Seneca County, New York as a boy of 6 or 7, and undoubtedly the news of the Erie Canal's progress filled his young mind and captured his imagination as he was growing up. The canal passed just north of Waterloo, where his uncle John was sheriff. Eventually, a spur canal would connect Waterloo with the great water highway to the west. Newspapers of the day - like the *Waterloo Gazette* - were full of enticing advertisements for western towns, so a young man hoping to get a farm of his own would have been well advised to notice that the new Erie Canal pointed directly toward the state of Ohio and territory of Michigan. Seneca County Van Tuyls would flock to both places over the next couple of decades, and Oliver was in their vanguard.³¹ Oliver had probably arrived in Ohio by the early 1820s, but the first record of him in Dayton was in 1826, when he bought some property in town.³² Also, there was the fascinating mention of him as a volunteer fireman in 1827:³³

A hook and ladder company was also organized...and the following officers elected: Joseph Hollingsworth, Captain; Thomas Morrison, First Director; Oliver Van Tuyl, Second Director...The hooks and ladders were kept in the market house,

²⁸ Van Es, W. "De Romeinen in Nederland," 1972, pg. 96. Also, Fuchs, J., "Shell Journaal van Hollands water," 1970, pp. 39-43.

²⁹ Smith, pg. 255. Clinton spoke July 9 in Dayton.

³⁰ Because he married an Ohio-born girl by 1823, we believe Oliver had come to Ohio by then.

³¹ Oliver's brother Henry, and his nieces Evaline and Theresa moved from Seneca County to Dayton. His brother Isaac and all his sons removed to Michigan. His nieces and nephews David B., Isaac, Charles and Anna - the sons and daughters of older brother Abraham I. Van Tuyl - also came to Montgomery County, OH. [See: *American Van Tuyl Genealogy*]

³² *Montgomery County Deeds*, Book M1, pg. 265. On 8 Dec., 1826, he bought the eastern half of lot #178 for \$150.

³³ *The History of Montgomery County Ohio*, W. H. Beers Co., Chicago, 1882 pg. 736.

where, at a time of alarm, the members of the company would rally, take the hooks and ladders on their shoulders, and carry them to the fire.

The town of Dayton was a bustling place then, with something like 2000 people all told. Oliver may well have been employed as one of the town's 12 carpenters, 3 millwrights, 5 cabinetmakers, 4 chairmakers, 3 coopers or 4 wagonmakers [see box: *Dayton, A Growing American Town*], but in fact, we don't know exactly what his occupation was at the time - only that he and his wife Mary were then the parents of 1 son and 2 daughters, and that they lived in Dayton.³⁴ The family apparently resided in a house located on the north side of Fourth Street - between Main and Ludlow - right in the heart of Dayton.³⁵

Oliver, whatever his main business may have been, tried also to turn a profit in the Dayton real estate market. In July of 1833, he bought - at public auction for \$10 - two lots on Canal Street (the canal had reached Dayton in 1827). This was a bargain-basement price, it seems, given that he was able to unload them in 1835 for \$150.³⁶ Oliver granted a \$200 mortgage on some suburban property in 1836,³⁷ and in December of that year sold a property for \$250 which he had purchased the year before for \$180.³⁸ With this modest capital, he was finally able - at age 41 - to buy what he had probably come west for in the first place: a farm of his own.

Oliver Moves to Miami County

In the spring of 1838, Oliver Van Tuyl bought 56 acres of land in an excellent location on the east bank of the Great Miami River just north of Troy.³⁹ The Miami & Erie Canal, after linking Dayton to Cincinnati in 1827, had finally been authorized for extension northward in 1833, and would ultimately connect to Lake Erie by 1845.⁴⁰ The canal proceeded up the eastern bank of the Great Miami for the first 9 miles north of Dayton, then crossed over to the river's west bank on the Great Miami Aqueduct. Continuing north, the canal paralleled the mill race through Troy, then ran northward beside the river for some 3 1/2 miles, where it passed through the farm of Abraham

³⁴ See: *American Van Tuyl Genealogy*. Given the subsequent family history [4 generations of professional or semi-professional carpenters], plus the fact that Oliver's two sons were cabinetmakers by trade, it seems plausible that Oliver was engaged in some sort of building occupation.

³⁵ Lot #178 [see note above] is located on Fourth St. [See: *John Van Cleve Map of Dayton, 1839*, in: Steele, M., "Early Dayton," 1895, appendix].

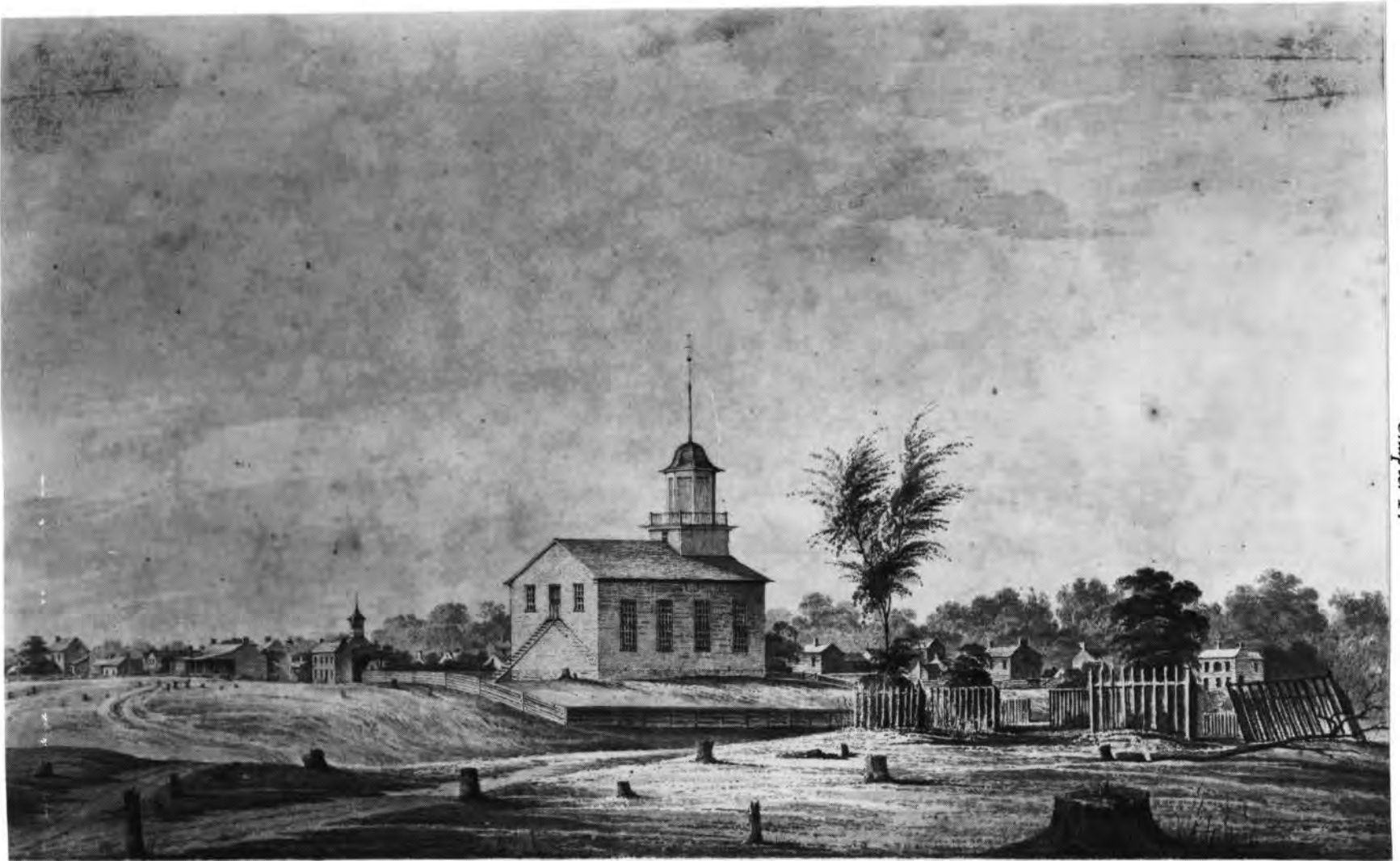
³⁶ *Montgomery County Deeds*, Book S, pg. 65, and Book V, pg. 314. Of course, he may have improved the lots before selling them.

³⁷ *Montgomery County Deeds*, Book W, pg. 241. Oliver was granted some legal judgment against Peter Lehman, and took the \$200 mortgage in lieu of payment. The mortgage was repaid in 1856.

³⁸ *Montgomery County Deeds*, Book Z, pg. 324; Book X, pg. 140.

³⁹ Miami County Deeds 1807-1902. Oliver bought the following properties from James H. Mitchell: 20 Apr., 1838, Sec 21, Twp 1, Range 11 - 10 acres for \$1800 [vol. 16, pg. 283]; 20 Apr., 1838 - for \$500 - Sec 21, Twp 1, Range 11 (46 acres) and Sec 27, Twp 1, Range 11 (10 acres) [Vol. 16, pg. 284].

⁴⁰ Gieck, J., "A Photo Album of Ohio's Canal Era, 1825-1913," pg. 125.



Troy, Ohio - 1831. Pioneer's log cabins [right, background] were just being replaced by frame construction and brick buildings at the time. Evidently, Troy had recently been a forest (the Shawnee would have hunted here) as evidenced by the many tree stumps in the foreground. [T. K. Wharton, 1831, Deak Collection, NY Public Library. Used by permission.]

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Beedle, which was just across the river from Oliver Van Tuyl's 56 acres.⁴¹ Just 4 more miles north brought the canal to the sharp loop in the river that had once been *Piqua*, Tecumseh's home village, and was now the town of Piqua, Ohio. Farmers like Beedle and Van Tuyl could now carry their crops just a few miles by road to either Troy or Piqua, there to be loaded aboard a canal boat for transport to Cincinnati - or, after 1845 - to New York via Lake Erie.⁴² No longer would poor transport along rutted roads or low-water rivers limit produce prices for farmers in the Miami Valleys.

Oliver Van Tuyl was apparently a man who liked men's clubs. The hook and ladder company of Dayton was probably as much a social club as it was a public safety organization. When Oliver moved to Staunton Township north of Troy, he joined the men's club of all men's clubs in the United States of America: the Free and Accepted Masons.⁴³ A secret society originating with British working stonemasons, the order of Freemasonry had evolved by the late 18th century into an organization which propagated itself into the far corners of the British Empire. In America, it enrolled such political luminaries as George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison.⁴⁴ Nowhere was 19th century Masonry stronger than in the farm towns of the American Midwest:⁴⁵

By 1826-1827 probably a majority of public officeholders throughout New York were Masons...Masonry was as much a part of rural life as it was of the village social structure...[Also,] New York governor DeWitt Clinton [was] one of the highest-ranking Masons in the United States.

Normally, a Midwest farmer's Masonic connections would warrant but a passing notice in his obituary.⁴⁶ But we mention Oliver's Masonic affiliation because, as we shall see, despite their shared family background and lifelong association, this was something on which he and his brother Henry just didn't see eye-to-eye.

Oliver and Mary Van Tuyl raised three daughters and two sons on their farm. Oldest son Isaac died at age 17, daughters Elizabeth, Lettie, and Catherine married local men (Elizabeth married neighbor Abraham Beedle), and sons Henry and Erastus J. both married at age 21 and moved to Troy, where they became carpenters. Like most small farmers, Oliver apparently never had much

⁴¹ Abbot and Matthews Map of Miami County, 1885: Library of Congress Land Ownership Map #654. In 1846, Abraham Beedle married Oliver's daughter, Elizabeth. [See: *American Van Tuyl Genealogy*]

⁴² Glick, pg. 125.

⁴³ "History of Miami County, Ohio," 1880, W. H. Beers Publishing Co, pg. 381. "*Secret Organizations...Franklin chapter R.A.M. Charter granted at Lancaster, Ohio, October 22, 1841, to James H. Briston...Oliver Vantryle, ...James H. Briston, first High Priest...Franklin council R&S.M.-Charter issued at Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 18, 1847. ...Oliver Vantryle, George Kiefer..G.M.*"

⁴⁴ Vaughn, W., "The Antimasonic Party in the United States," 1983, pg. 11.

⁴⁵ Vaughn, pg. 6.

⁴⁶ Among Oliver's last acts was to order a tombstone inscribed with the Masonic emblem [Miami Co. Probate Court Records, 3 Nov., 1871]. The tombstone was to be a 6 ft. obelisk inscribed to "Our Father and Mother", erected in Raper Chapel Yard at a cost of \$165, plus \$5 for the Masonic emblem.

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ready money. So, when Mary died in 1861, she was buried under a simple stone - it was all that Oliver could afford. But when Oliver was dying ten years later, he first sold his farm to son-in-law Abraham Beedle for \$5000, then went about the business of specifying his last wishes in some detail, which included authorization of a fancy monument for himself and Mary:⁴⁷

It is my will that...my executor shall cause to be erected over my grave a tombstone or monument to cost two hundred dollars...

He also saw fit to remind some of his children about loans he had made to them:⁴⁸

...my property shall be divided equally among the heirs of my five children...[and] that the following deductions be made for advancements made to the following named of my children: ...Erastus Van Tuyl, three hundred dollars, with ten per cent interest, on notes given to Abram Beedle by said Erastus Van Tuyl on which I am surety..

But he didn't think of everything. The ever-practical heirs of Oliver Van Tuyl had their own ideas about who should get what among the old man's possessions:⁴⁹

Piqua Ohio, Aug. 1st 1871

Judge W. W. Foster

Dear Sir;

Herewith find bond in the Oliver Van Tuyl Estate. Please send up letter &c.

W.P. Bennett suggested as appraisers Benj Dye, Isaac Rollins & Rolph Petersen.

The heirs want, I am informed, to divide the household goods & farming utensils among themselves without sale. In fact they want to divide every thing that would have to be sold at public auction.

If so authority had better be given if it can be, to sell at private sale.

I write in haste.

Respectfully, J. F. Mc Kinney {executor}

Doctor Henry Van Tuyl

Oliver Van Tuyl had established the family beachhead in Dayton by 1826. Soon after, various members of the Seneca County clan would join him to build their lives in the land of opportunity. Surely the most interesting and important member of the family to settle in Ohio would be Oliver's younger brother, Henry Van Tuyl.⁵⁰ Born in Seneca County, New York soon after his family came there from New Jersey, Henry had grown up on the family farm in Ovid Town. As a lad of 11, he had probably seen his older brother's wife Hester die after giving birth to her son David Bartholemew Van Tuyl. It does not stretch the bounds of credulity too far to imagine that this tragic event may have had a formative influence on young Henry, an influence that attracted him to the medical profession. By 1826, when he was 21 years old, he had reportedly joined his brother Oliver in Dayton, and by 1828 was associated in practice there with Dr. Edwin Smith.⁵¹ As to

⁴⁷ *Miami County Wills*, C364, 311 July, 1871.

⁴⁸ *Miami County Wills*, C364, 311 July, 1871.

⁴⁹ *Miami County Probate Court Files 1807-1910*, vol. C, docket #1-172.

⁵⁰ See: *American Van Tuyl Genealogy* for details about Henry Van Tuyl.

⁵¹ Conklin, W., "The Pioneer Doctor and Other Addresses," Dayton Public Library Collections, pp. 10-11.

young Henry's training, we know nothing at all. He may, in fact, have learned most of what he knew by apprenticing himself to a senior physician. Also, he may have attended one course of lectures in Cincinnati.⁵²

Whatever his own level of education - or lack of it - Henry was interested in public schools. As a school board member, the 26 year old doctor was instrumental in getting Dayton's first free school off the ground in 1831.^{53,54} He must also have been an eloquent man, and interested in history. He lectured occasionally before the *Mechanic's Institute*, and read a "formal paper" before the learned Dayton School Board which he entitled: *The State of Medicine in Montgomery County Fifteen or Twenty Years Ago*.⁵⁵ In the early 1830s, he became active in the number-one public health issue of the time: cholera prevention:⁵⁶

The first Board of Health of Dayton was formed in the fall of 1832, when cholera prevailed extensively throughout the country. In view of the danger of a local visitation of the disease, Mayor John W. Van Cleave [sic] invited the local physicians to suggest sanitary precautions. The report of the committee which was signed by doctors John Steele and H. Van Tuyl, advised formation of a board of health, the establishing of a temporary hospital, and a general abating of nuisances.

The board of health seems to have been established, as Henry had suggested, with representation from each ward of the town. But the board must have disbanded when the crisis abated, because Henry was back before the City Council in 1841, begging - without success - for its re-establishment.⁵⁷

The Candidate

Henry Van Tuyl seems to have been not only a man of learning and influence, but also a man of strongly-held opinions, especially when it came to politics. In the early 1830s, there was no hotter topic politically - on both a state and national level - than Antimasonry, and Henry was right in the thick of it. What, exactly, was political Antimasonry? Born of resentment aimed at the political power of local Masons - generally the more successful and powerful men in a given community - the movement was given a boost when:⁵⁸

On the night of September 12, 1826, William Morgan, an obscure and derelict stonemason, disappeared outside the jail at Canandaigua, New York...Morgan had just finished writing an exposé of the secret rituals of Freemasonry...

⁵² Conklin, pg. 10.

⁵³ Drury, pg. 431.

⁵⁴ Steele, M., "Early Dayton," 1895, pg. 157. "The tax levy for school purposes was so small that frequently the schools could only be kept open a few months. The teachers taught at private schools in houses the remainder of the year."

⁵⁵ Conklin, pg. 10. Unfortunately, the speech is no longer extant.

⁵⁶ Drury, pg. 271.

⁵⁷ Conklin, pg. 10.

⁵⁸ Vaughn, pp. 1, 11.

Dayton - A Growing American Town

Two small camps of Indians were here when the settlers arrived [on] April 1, 1796. The Indians were made friendly, and left within a day or two without trouble.

- Beers' 1882 History of Dayton

At the close of the winter of 1802-03, there were but five families living in the settlement.

- Beers' 1882 History of Dayton

There are now [1810] a brick court house, an academy and five other brick houses, twenty-six frame houses, nineteen hewed log houses and seventeen cabins containing families. There are a printing office, six licensed taverns, five stores, two cut-nail factories, a tannery, a brewery, three saddler's shops, three hatter's shops, three cabinet-maker's shops, one rifle gunsmith, one jeweler, one watchmaker, one sickle maker, one wagonmaker, besides smiths carpenters, masons, tailors, weavers and dyers. Population males over 16: 131. Total population: 282.

- From Freeman's Almanac, as quoted in Drury's 1909 History of Dayton

During the year 1828, thirty-six brick buildings and thirty-four of wood have been put up. The whole number of brick buildings in Dayton on the 1st of January, 1829, is one hundred twenty five - of stone, six, of wooden buildings, two hundred thirty-nine. The dwelling houses alone amount to two hundred thirty-five. The public buildings are a court house, jail, public offices and Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist and New Light. In sight of town are a gristmill, a fulling mill, a carding house, a cotton factory, a double sawmill, a single sawmill, a shingle and lath factory, a cornmill and an iron foundry. There are in Dayton five taverns, sixteen drygoods stores, thirty groceries, twelve carpenters, eight masons, three millwrights, three tan yards, two breweries, two sickle factories, four hat factories, five saddler shops, five cabinetmakers, four chairmakers, three painters, three coopers, four wagonmakers, one coachmaker, five blacksmith shops, four watchmakers, one tinner, one coppersmith, ten tailor shops, one ropewalk, two tobacco factories, two stone cutters, one gunsmith, seven doctors, thirteen lawyers, two printing offices, with many other items too numerous too mention. [1830 population of Dayton: 2954. Over 1237 were added in the two years previous to 1830].

-1829 Dayton Journal, as quoted in Drury's 1909 History of Dayton

The members of the [negro] colony had their gentry, their diversions, their churches and had much sympathy from the larger proportion of their white neighbors. Yet, in many respects conditions were unfavorable to them. Twenty-four of the seventy-three colored people in Montgomery County left Dayton for Hayti in 1824.

- Drury's 1909 History of Dayton

First District school will be open December 5, 1831, by Sylvanus Hall, approved teacher in the schoolroom on Jefferson St., between Water and First Sts.

Luther Bruen
Nathaniel Wilson
Henry Van Tuyl
Directors

- Drury's 1909 History of Dayton



Drawn by Henry Howe in 1846.

MAIN STREET IN 1846, LOOKING NORTH FROM BELOW THIRD.

Dayton, Ohio in 1846 - *Main Street, looking north from below Third.* The public market of the time was just to the right of the observer in this view, and the medical office of Dr. Henry Van Tuyl and Dr. David B. Van Tuyl was on Third Street, just around the corner to the left, opposite the courthouse. Henry Van Tuyl served on the Board of Directors of Dayton Bank - shown here to be the second business on the north side of Third Street, to the right. [Drawing by Henry Howe, 1846; from *Early Dayton*, by Steele].

Naturally, Masons were suspected of the foul deed, and a legal witch hunt proceeded over the next few years, with a series of trials for Morgan's "abductors", starting in 1827. The results were never conclusive, but political opportunists seized their moment, playing on the anti-Masonic feeling to develop a political party antithetical to DeWitt Clinton, an eminent Mason and then-ally of Andrew Jackson.⁵⁹ In the summer and fall of 1829, the Antimasonic Party held a state convention in Canton, Ohio. By 1831, they had elected some representatives to the State Legislature, and by 1832 were nominating candidates for national office.⁶⁰ In 1833, the year when the party's fortunes went into decline, young Dr. Henry Van Tuyl of Dayton, Ohio accepted the Antimasonic nomination for state legislature. He would be defeated.⁶¹

The Antimasonic movement left some scars on society, and on the Masonic organization. In 1830, there were approximately 104 Masonic Lodges in Ohio, but by mid-decade that number had declined to 63. Clearly, the movement was succeeding, however temporarily.⁶² Apparently, there was little effect, if any, of this crusade on the personal relationship between Henry Van Tuyl and his brother Oliver, the Mason, whose home was located directly behind Henry's medical office.⁶³ In 1834, Henry named his first son for brother Oliver, and the next year, Oliver reciprocated by naming his second son Henry M. Van Tuyl.⁶⁴ Perhaps this was the brothers' way of making peace with one another.

The 19th Century Physician

Did doctors in the 19th century cure more people than they killed? Perhaps not. These hardy pioneers of the healing arts were abysmally ignorant of even the basic causes of infectious diseases, which were, after all, their main enemy. Common treatments they administered included: bleeding, leeching, making blisters, inducing sweat, administering emetics to cause vomiting, and giving purgatives to empty the intestines.⁶⁵ Henry and his peers had their share of ills to diagnose and treat, none being more deadly than the cholera plague - which was what killed Henry, as it turns out.⁶⁶ The year 1832 visited the scourge of cholera upon Dayton, Ohio. No sooner had the

⁵⁹ Vaughn, pp. 7-9.

⁶⁰ Vaughn, pg. 154-5.

⁶¹ Conklin, pg. 11.

⁶² Vaughn, pg. 160. By 1842, Ohio Masonry took off, and by mid-twentieth century Ohio led the country in number of Masons.

⁶³ *Montgomery County Deeds*, Book M1, pg. 265. On 8 Dec., 1826 Oliver Van Tuyl bought the eastern half of lot #178 for \$150. This lot lies on fourth St. between Main and Ludlow. Henry left to his widow the eastern 1/3 of lot 178, an improved property on 3rd St., immediately behind Oliver's property.

[*Montgomery County Estate #2670*, Probate Court Records]. In 1850, Henry's medical practice was on "Third St. bet. Main and Ludlow," exactly where this property lies. Henry probably lived in the same building where he kept his office, since this was the only improved property in his estate.

⁶⁴ See: *American Van Tuyl Genealogy*.

⁶⁵ Carter, J., "Disease and Death in the 19th Century: A Genealogical Perspective," in *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, vol. 76, no. 4, Dec., 1988, pg. 289.

⁶⁶ Conklin, pg. 11.

health board recommended by Drs. John Steele and Henry Van Tuyl been established, than an arriving canal boat on December 17 brought to Dayton a load of 25 German emigrants - all sick with cholera. The board took "...all sanitary precautions..." keeping the town's death toll to 33 souls for the year 1833.⁶⁷ These public health measures were surely the right thing to do in the 1830s, a time when:⁶⁸

The suggested causes [of cholera] varied from "evening mists" to "a lack of electricity in the victim's system." The preventatives were equally imaginative, including "Captain Paynter's Egyptian Cure for Asiatic Cholera" and "Dally's and Connell's Magic Pain Extractor."

The epidemic returned with a vengeance in 1849, with Dayton losing 200 people during the summer.⁶⁹ According to a contemporary account:⁷⁰

The cholera is making havoc all over the country in all large places. Cincinnati and St. Louis have been as yet the greatest sufferers...It has carried off many of our great men, as well as many of the lower classes. There have been two or three cases on the [Eric Canal] boats going through....The President of the United States has recommended Friday the third day of August as a day of fasting and supplication to the Almighty to arrest the destroyer and restore the health of the nation... The papers are filled with cholera, cholera, cholera.

Besides taking some basic sanitary precautions, there was little that Henry Van Tuyl or his fellow physicians of the time knew to do in the way of treatment for the deadly disease. Dayton's cholera victims were housed in a makeshift "hospital" located in the local orphan asylum, but what treatment they received is unknown.⁷¹

But there was at least one area of practice for Henry where the outcome was more often happy than sad: obstetrics. Henry had seen for himself the suffering associated with often-fatal childbearing diseases - his sister-in-law Hester had likely as not died of some childbed fever. Henry probably practiced the midwife's art from the beginning of his professional career. He was quite popular with his clientele, it seems, owing to his custom of presenting each new mother in his care with a brand-new calico dress!⁷² But surely there were deaths among his new mothers due to infection transmitted by Henry or his assistants. It was not until 1843 that Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes of

⁶⁷ Steele, pg. 159.

⁶⁸ Holliday, J., "The World Rushed In," 1981, pp. 58, 71. The cause of Cholera - *Vibrio Cholerae* - was not known until 1883. Infection is usually through the mouth, most often from tainted water. Had the 19th century doctors known the relatively simple modern cure of rehydration therapy with alkaline saline solution - a low-technology, but effective, treatment - they could have save many lives.

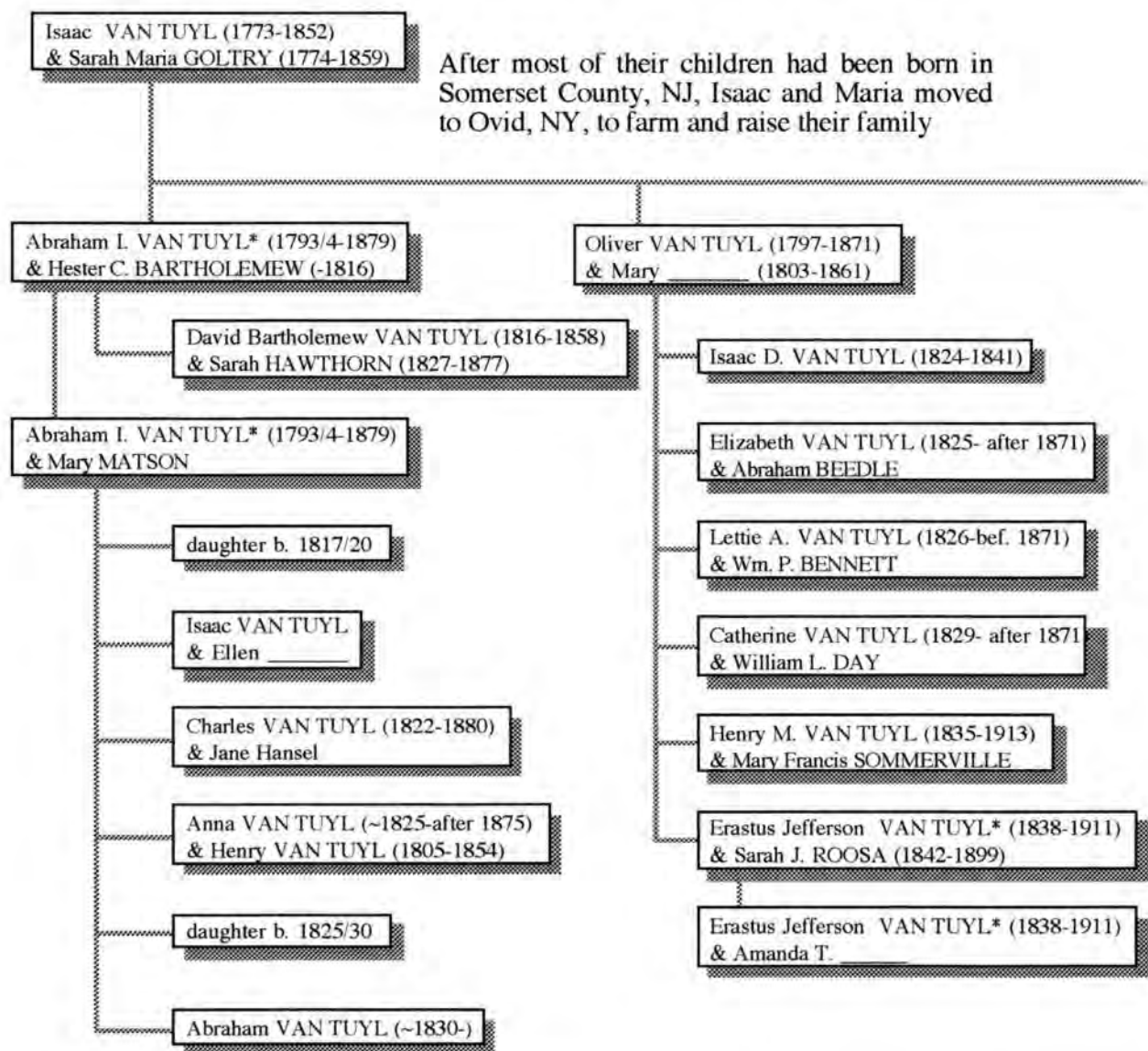
⁶⁹ Steele, pg. 192.

⁷⁰ Holliday, pg. 197.

⁷¹ *Odell's Dayton Directory, 1850*, Dayton, Ohio, pg. 55. [FHL Fiche 6043854]. The orphan asylum, housed in a "neat brick building about a mile south of the Court House," was desperately in need of money. Apparently, some public funds were provided to induce them to house contagious cases on the same premises as orphans.

⁷² Conklin, pg. 11. Henry's competition was apparently displeased with the "unfair" tactic.

Seneca County, NY Van Tuyls

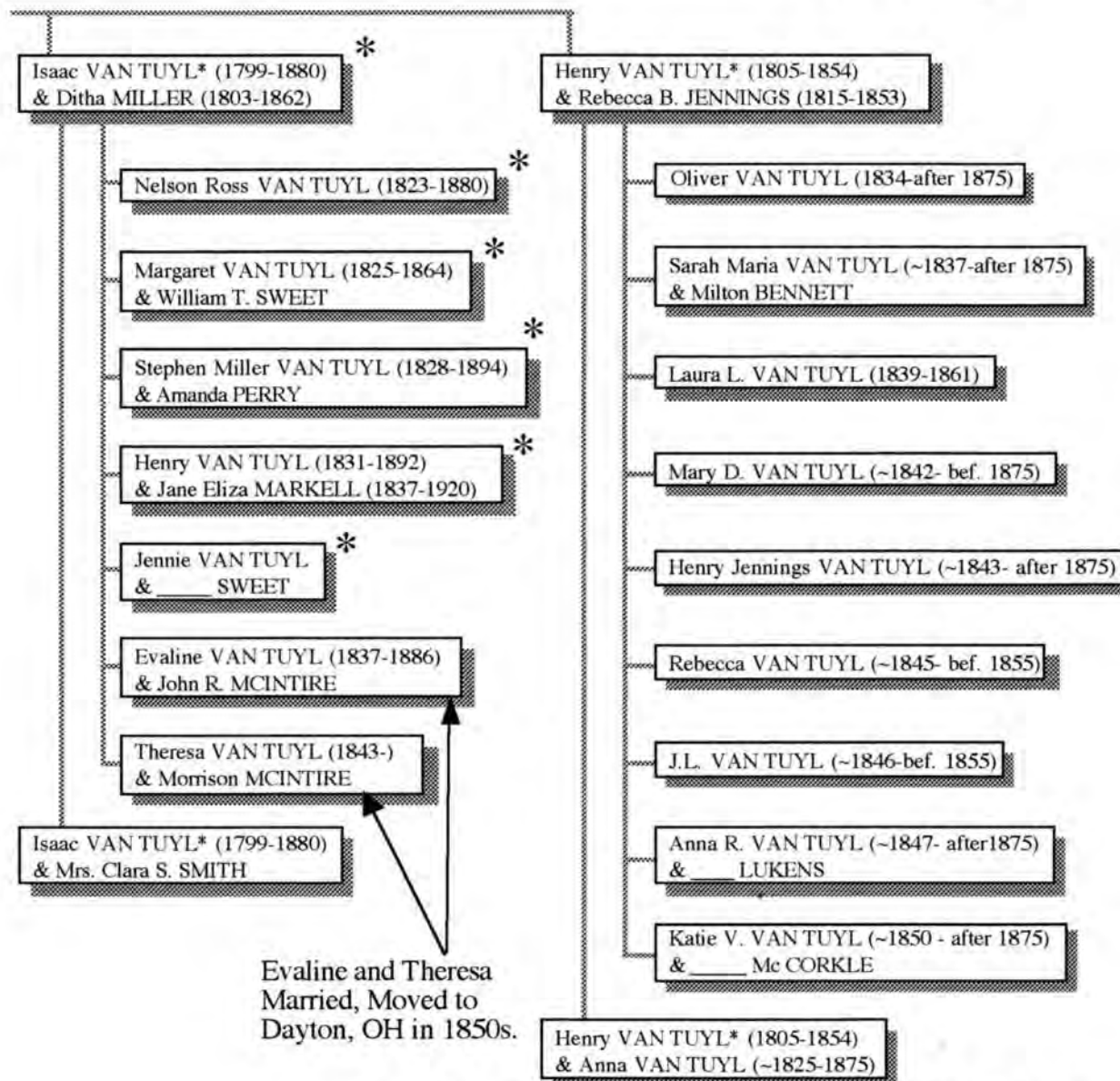


Abraham I. Van Tuyl moved to Philadelphia after his first wife's death. Though David was born in New York, Isaac, Charles, and Anna in Philadelphia, they all came west to Ohio.

Oliver Van Tuyl came to Dayton by about 1823/4 and married an Ohio girl. Their children were born in Dayton, OH.

Move to Dayton, Ohio

* These Van Tuyls
Moved from Seneca
County, NY to
Southern Michigan.



Henry Van Tuyl followed his brother Oliver West to Dayton, where he married and raised children. His second marriage was to his niece: Anna Van Tuyl, daughter of Abraham I. Van Tuyl.

Boston drew the attention of the nation's doctors to the fact that *puerperal fever* could be prevented if they would simply disinfect their hands and clothing before delivering babies.⁷³ His advice was generally scorned.⁷⁴

Perhaps Henry got wind of the latest developments in 1843 from his young associate, freshly educated at the Cincinnati Medical College (probably at Henry's expense). He was Dr. David Bartholemew Van Tuyl, Henry's 28-year-old nephew, the son of Hester Van Tuyl of Seneca County, who had died after giving birth. Both Henry and David must have been acutely concerned with the prevention of childbearing disease, and they undoubtedly did whatever they could, given their limited understanding.

The Doctors Van Tuyl were key figures in the founding of the *Montgomery County Medical Society*:⁷⁵

In the fall of 1849, when Dayton numbered about 10,000 inhabitants, 41 of whom were looking over the ills of others, the call for a preliminary meeting of the profession was issued over the signatures of ten doctors. The organization was completed on Sept. 13 with the following officers and members:

*President, Edwin Smith....
Treasurer, David B. Van Tuyl
Censors: Henry K. Steele, H. Van Tuyl...*

One function of a professional organization is the policing of its ranks to maintain an accepted standard of practice and ethical behavior among its membership. It soon became clear that this was perhaps the main force that drove Henry, his original partner Edwin Smith, and his protégé David Van Tuyl to establish the Medical Society:⁷⁶

The second meeting [of the Medical Society] was enlivened by the arraignment of an erring brother on charges of professional misconduct, and the crusade thus begun, did not end until four of the founders were expelled or resigned...

Henry, as a member of the *Board of Censors*, must have been one of the principal inquisitors in this business. In just a few years, Henry's role in this affair would undoubtedly have been remembered by his enemies, to Henry's great cost.

The Doctor's Family

David Bartholemew Van Tuyl was not the only one of Henry's close relatives to find his way to Dayton. Some time around 1850, Henry's other nephews and niece, the half-siblings of David B. Van Tuyl, came out from Philadelphia to try their luck.⁷⁷ The nephews - Charles and Isaac, sons of Abraham I. Van Tuyl and Mary Matson - settled in Clay Township outside of Dayton, working

⁷³ *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 15th edition, vol. 23, pg. 893; vol. 6, pg. 11.

⁷⁴ Carter, pg. 290. When Dr. Philipp Semmelweis first applied his knowledge in 1847, he was scoffed at.

⁷⁵ Drury, pg. 251.

⁷⁶ Drury, pg. 251.

⁷⁷ See: *American Van Tuyl Genealogy*.

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as sawyers and laborers. Their sister Anna probably lived with them and their families during the early 1850s. Undoubtedly, part of the reason they came to Montgomery County was to seek the assistance of their generous Uncle Henry, the man who had taken their half-brother David B. Van Tuyl under his wing. Henry responded with typical generosity, loaning his nephews some \$3000, which they were never able to repay.⁷⁸ At the time of her arrival in Montgomery County *circa* 1850, Anna Van Tuyl was 25 and unmarried. She probably depended on her brothers for support, and they, of course, depended partly on Henry's help. Judging by the census of 1850, Henry had quite a few people depending on him - not all of them necessarily his relatives. It appears that he offered temporary housing to a variety of people in need - such as Eliza Reed and her 3 year old boy, as well as 8 year old Edith Robbins, whose father's estate Henry administered.^{79, 80}

On January 18, 1853, Rebecca Jennings Van Tuyl, Henry's 35 year old wife, died. She left behind not only her husband, but also their six minor children for him to raise. Henry obviously needed help, and where better to turn than to those relatives he had helped so generously? Henry's niece Anna, age 28 at the time, was apparently ready, willing, and able to help. Henry probably accepted her assistance with relief and gratitude. By August of 1853, just 7 months after his wife died, Dr. Henry Van Tuyl and Anna Van Tuyl visited Reverend Jemison of First Church, who pronounced them man and wife.⁸¹ The clerk who recorded the nuptials noted: "*The Doctor says it is all right.*"⁸² As it turned out, all was *not* all right - at least in the minds of some people.

From a practical point of view, Henry and Anna's marriage made complete sense. He needed a woman he could trust, and whom his children would accept, to fill the void left by Rebecca. Though 10 years Rebecca's junior, Anna would have been mature enough to manage the household and look after the children - a role she may have stepped into almost immediately after Rebecca's death. Furthermore, cousin-to-cousin marriages were not uncommon in those days, and many occurred in the Van Tuyl family, as we know. So why the fuss? Even by our modern 20th century morality - much relaxed from that of our 19th century predecessors - the marriage between uncle and niece is unusual, and likely to be regarded as incestuous. When 1850s Dayton, Ohio figured out what had happened, the moral outrage undoubtedly welled up among the good Christian folk. Dr. and Mrs. Van Tuyl must certainly have created quite a scandal!

One piece of evidence regarding society's condemnation of Henry was his abrupt, and surprising, resignation from the Montgomery County Medical Society, the organization he had helped to

⁷⁸ Montgomery County Estate #2670, Dr. Henry Van Tuyl.

⁷⁹ U.S. Census of 1850, Dayton W5 Montgomery Co., OH pg. 236.

Henry, age 46, Physician. Wife Rebecca B. [38], children Oliver[16] student, Maria [13], Laura [11], Mary[9], Henry [7], Rebecca[5], J.L.[4], Edith Robbins [8], F.W. Jennings [21, probably Mrs. Van Tuyl's brother] Teller in Bank, Eliza Reed [26], Geo. W. Reed [3], Rebecca _____[23, b. NY].

⁸⁰ Shilt, R., "Montgomery County Chancery Records," pp. 99, 204.

⁸¹ Beers, pg. II-671 places Rev. Jemison at First Church.

⁸² Montgomery County Marriages, vol. C, pg. 169.

found. He was one of the Society's original *censors*, but rather than face censure himself, he quit the Society by sending a brief note of resignation, which they accepted at their November, 1853 meeting.⁸³ Less than a year later, Dr. Henry faced his old enemy - cholera - for the last time. He died on September 30, "...after a few hours' illness...Like a soldier on the fighting line, he fell with his face to the foe."⁸⁴

The Aftermath

Henry Van Tuyl did not die without friends. Perhaps chief among them was Valentine Winters, a Dayton merchant and investor with whom Henry had entered into a number of business deals during his lifetime.⁸⁵ In 1838, Henry Van Tuyl and Valentine Winters were directors of the *Dayton Third Street Bridge Company*, which erected a span across the Great Miami River in 1839, opening a way west.⁸⁶ In 1845, the *Dayton Bank* was organized with Winters as cashier and Henry as a Director.⁸⁷ And Henry had participated in various land investments with other partners during his life.⁸⁸ Henry Van Tuyl's estate - when finally settled in 1875 by executors Valentine Winters and Anna Van Tuyl - had a value of less than \$200 in cash, plus Henry's home/office, and some unimproved lots near Dayton. Whatever the assets had been at the time of Henry's death, they had gone to the maintenance of his surviving children under guardianship arrangements during their growing-up years.⁸⁹ The estate also held more than \$3000 in uncollectable debts owed by relatives.⁹⁰

Henry's sudden death left his children to make do as best they could. Dayton records of the time are full of cases where children orphaned by their parents' sudden death came under the wing of a legal guardian, who arranged for their upbringing. Henry himself had been guardian in several cases - possibly for children whose departed parents had been Henry's patients.⁹¹ Throughout 1855, lawyer Y. V. Wood made the arrangements for Laura, Mary, Henry J., Ann R., and Kate

⁸³ Conklin, pg. 11.

⁸⁴ Conklin, pg. 11.

⁸⁵ Valentine Winters was a merchant, banker, and public-spirited developer whose premises were across 3rd St. from Henry's office. See: *Beers History, Steele, and Drury* for mentions of his affairs.

⁸⁶ *The History of Montgomery County Ohio*, W. H. Beers Co., Chicago, 1882 pg. 586.

⁸⁷ *ibid.* pg. 601. Winters moved on to other banking ventures in the 1850s. At the time of Henry's death, he was part owner of *Exchange Bank*, later *V. Winters & son*.

⁸⁸ He developed a property in the 3rd & Main block where his brother Oliver lived in 1829 [*Deeds*, M1, pg. 229]; he platted 80 lots near 3rd & Williams in 1845 [*Beers*, pg. 595]; and he bought and sold property in various parts of the city [1831-2, *Deeds*: Bk. O, pg. 216, Bk. P, pg. 435; 1836, Bk. Y, pg. 66; 1836, Bk. W, pg. 165; 1837, Bk. Z, pg. 162; and perhaps others].

⁸⁹ In the 1850 census, pg. 236, Henry claimed to own property worth \$30,000.

⁹⁰ Montgomery County Estate #2670, Dr. Henry Van Tuyl. Anna inherited the real property, and she squabbled over it in court for years with Henry's children.

⁹¹ Shilt, R. and Gilbert, A. "Montgomery County Guardians, 1805-1850," pp. 158, 167, 179.

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Van Tuyl - aged 16 down to 5.⁹² Oliver, Henry's eldest son, was old enough to be on his own, and Sarah Maria, the eldest daughter, had at age 16 seized her opportunity to marry: she became Mrs. Milton Bennett just a few months after her father's second marriage.⁹³ Second wife Anna Van Tuyl looked after the younger girls for some years, apparently taking young Kate with her when she moved back to live with her brothers and their families.⁹⁴ Sarah Maria - and her husband Milton Bennett - took in her younger sister, Ann R. Van Tuyl, in 1858.⁹⁵

But the person who suffered the most from Henry's passing was probably his nephew and partner, David Bartholemew Van Tuyl. It is not hard to imagine how dependent they had become on one another, after practicing medicine together for 11 years. One gets the impression that Henry may have had rather a controlling influence in David's life - guiding not only his professional, but also his personal affairs to the point of even arranging his marriage.⁹⁶ David was 38 years old when Henry died. He packed up his family and moved to South Bend, Indiana. They say he never could make ends meet very well there, and when he died just four years later, of pleurisy, he left his wife and children penniless.⁹⁷

The Gathering Storm

Throughout the 1850s, the United States - and the State of Ohio - were deeply divided over the question of slavery. Some 70 percent of Montgomery County's residents had come from slave territory, and the people of Dayton basically supported slavery where it was then established, though they would have opposed its extension across the Ohio River into their state.⁹⁸ While many Ohioans participated in the anti-slavery movement - aiding fugitives along the *underground railroad* that ran through their state - the State Supreme Court upheld the *Fugitive Slave Act* which forced return of Negroes fleeing the south. When the Republican Abraham Lincoln and Democrat Stephen A. Douglas visited the Miami Valley area in 1859 to support local candidates, Lincoln drew enthusiastic crowds, but Douglas' crowds were twice as large and equally partisan.⁹⁹ So the issue was by no means settled in Ohio until the national election of 1860. In Dayton and

⁹² Shilt and Gilbert, pg. 191.

⁹³ See: *American Van Tuyl Genealogy*. Note that Sarah Maria's cousin Lettie had married W.P. Bennett. The 1870 Census [pg. 77] mentions Oliver as a "stationary engineer" living in Eby's boarding house.

⁹⁴ Montgomery Co. census 1860 M653#1015 family #1234. Also: Montgomery Co. Estates 1803-1894 Case 2670. Board for Anna R. paid to A Van Tuyl, then Milton Bennett in 1859. B1-131.

⁹⁵ Shilt and Gilbert, pg. 203 [case #4084, pg. 9].

⁹⁶ David married Sarah Hawthorn, probably a daughter of Cassandra Jennings Hawthorn, a sister of Henry's wife, Rebecca Jennings.

⁹⁷ Family oral history provided by Joseph Van Tuyl Kempton, D.B. Van Tuyl's grandson. David may have been miscast in the role of physician. According to Conklin [pg. 11], he was an inventive man who patented a device "for regulating the heat of storerooms, saving of fuel, maintaining an equable temperature and conserving health."

⁹⁸ Smith, pg. 463.

⁹⁹ Smith, pg. 467.

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Cincinnati, it was the German immigrants who turned the tide - backing Lincoln over Douglas, and helping cement his victory in the state.¹⁰⁰ Lincoln took Ohio, and the Nation, thereby touching off the spark which ignited the War Between the States.

For the Van Tuyls of Miami County, Ohio, there was no equivocation about their sympathies in the matter of North-vs-South. The sons of Oliver Van Tuyl were soon to leave their wives and children at home, don the Union blue, and set off to kill or be killed.

¹⁰⁰ Smith, pg. 469.

