

Besty Newman. He came down the river with all his effects in a canoe, and after two years settled at Keelersburg, where only two acres had been cleared.

Previous to 1817 all travel had been over the old military road constructed by General Sullivan during his expedition against the Indians, which crossed the farms of Martin Bruhges and Asa Keeler, and came upon the bank of the river in Eaton. During this year the turnpike was constructed on the bank of the river, and the old road was no longer used. On the establishment of the turnpike Mr. Keeler began to keep a tavern, the first one kept in the township; also a store, which is now kept by his son. Whiskey was then one of the staple articles of trade, at the regulation price of two straight fence rails per glass. Asa Keeler was appointed postmaster at Keeler's ferry January 23d, 1812. The mail was carried on horseback, on the east side of the river, and the postmaster had to cross for it. This was the first post-office in the township, and the office was held by Mr. Keeler until his death, in 1867—an unbroken term of fifty-five years. His son Heister succeeded him and still holds the office.

The first school-house was at Centre Moreland corners, where the guide-board stands, and the first schoolmaster was Jeremiah Fuller. The building was used as a place of general assembly, including religious services and Sunday-schools.

Chester and Anson Brown erected a tavern and store combined at Centre Moreland in 1827; the building is still in good preservation, and is the only hotel in the township.

The first mortar for cracking corn stood on the farm of James Harrison, and the place was known as St. Domingo. Ambrose Fuller, son of Jehiel Fuller, built the first saw and grist-mill near where the mill of Milo Keeler now is.

Among the early inhabitants were John Bruhges and his wife Rachel, who came to this place in 1812. Mrs. Bruhges was a woman of indomitable will; having business in New York she walked there and back, leading one of her sons by the hand.

#### LODGES.

*Centre Moreland Lodge, No. 838, I. O. of O. F.* was chartered May 12th, 1875, and instituted on the 22nd of July that year. The following officers were then installed: J. M. Carey, N. G.; L. W. Avery, V. G.; John W. Wilson, Sec.; J. H. Snyder, Treas. The present board consists of Horton Wood, N. G.; A. J. Bell, V. G., and Moody Whitwell, Sec.

*Lodge No. 338 P. of H.* was instituted in September, 1875, with 60 members, C. J. Reed being the first presiding officer. Regular meetings have been discontinued.

#### CHURCHES.

*Methodist Episcopal.*—The M. E. church of Centre Moreland grew from a class organized before 1820 and including members of the Brown, Pace, Hallsted, Vincent, Snyder and Weld families. The class met at the

houses of different members, and preaching generally occurred during the week, the first Sabbath preaching being at the house of Mr. Pace in 1819. By contributions of labor and time as well as money the first church was built. It was dedicated in 1829. It became too small and was removed, and in 1870 the present house of worship was erected, at a cost of \$3,000. The society owns a parsonage, which was purchased about forty years ago.

A class has existed a number of years at Vernon as a branch of the Centre Moreland church. It was formed into a church and built a house of worship in 1873, and is in a flourishing condition.

*Baptist.*—The Baptist church of Centre Moreland was set off from the church of Exeter and North Moreland in 1849. For some years meetings were held at the houses of the members. The present commodious church was dedicated in 1857. The organization is now prosperous.

A Baptist church was dedicated at Vernon December 18th, 1873. The members of this society were formerly with the church at Centre Moreland, but, residing at a distance, erected this building as a matter of convenience. They are presided over by the minister at Centre Moreland.

The *Presbyterian* church was organized Sunday, December 9th, 1821, with Daniel Locke and Leonard House as elder and deacon; Jehiel Fuller, Ebenezer Brown and Isaac Harris as elders, and a membership of fifteen. About this time was formed the first Sunday-school in the township, and the meetings were held at the school-house in Centre Moreland. The present church building was erected in 1820. The pastors have been Rev. Messrs. Rhodes, Todd, Oliver, Evans, Snowden, Van Allen and others. Regular services are not now held.

## OVERFIELD TOWNSHIP.

**I**N 1795 Abel Patrick located a little south of Lake Winola. Paul Huber owned a clearing a mile east of the lake. In 1830 Azor Philo came and settled at the east end of the lake. Thomas Overton and the family of John Wilson settled nearly a mile south of it, and Edward Schofield a mile west. In 1803 Zuriel Sherwood located on the north side of the lake, and in 1804 John C. Williams at the southeast corner. In 1803 William Rogers built a saw-mill for Thomas Overton at the outlet of the lake. Caleb Avery located on the property now owned by Charles Frear. The farm where John C. Williams located in 1804 is now owned by Martin Sickles. Here also lived Elisha Armstrong.

The old "block" school-house was built many years ago, of logs, by a few of the settlers, the Williamses, Patricks, Posts, Agers and others. About ten years ago it gave place to a larger and more convenient framed struc-