

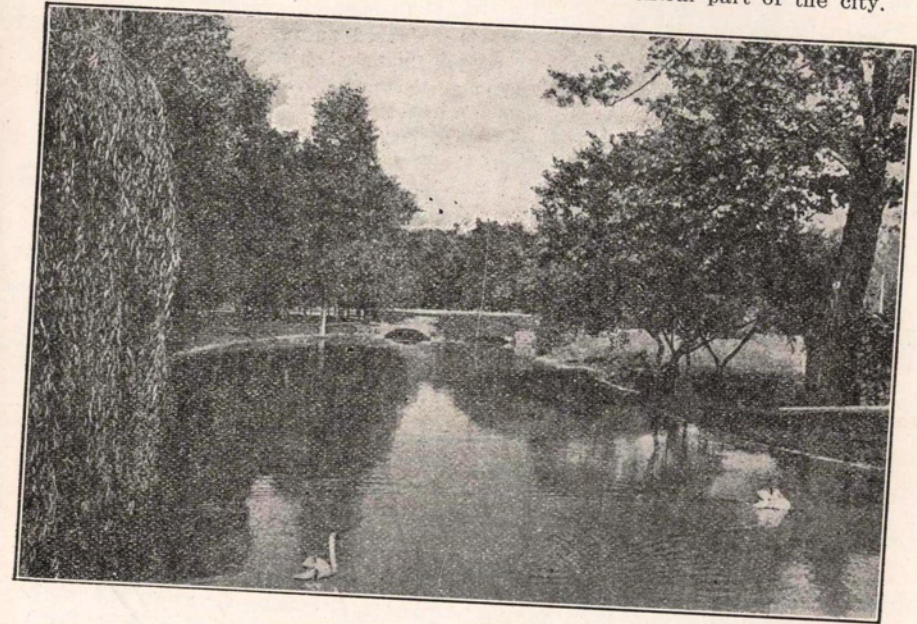
be in force from and after the first Monday in March, 1813." Under this act an election was held April 1, 1813, resulting in the election of Samuel McCluer, Samuel Watson and Melzer Tannehill as commissioners; John Wallace, sheriff, and Hugh Cunningham, coroner. On Monday, the 7th of June, following, the commissioners appointed William Winship, clerk; Andrew Coffinberry, recorder, and William Biddle, surveyor. The county was declared duly organized June 7, 1813.

The earliest settlers of Richland County were from a thrifty, hardy race of people, who came from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia and began a settlement in the wilderness which has been far-reaching in its results. They came slowly the first few years, and at the election held in 1809 but seventeen votes were cast in the county. The following year this number was increased two votes, making nineteen. August 9, 1814, the county was divided into four townships—Madison, Jefferson, Green and Vermillion. By 1816 it was divided into fifteen townships. Other townships were created, Congress being the last, which was organized June 6, 1825, and completed the sub-divisions of the county, making twenty-five townships, each six miles square, except Hanover, whose southeast corner lacked a little of being complete, on account of the Greenville treaty line. Richland contained at that time nearly 900 square miles of territory, one of the largest and best counties in the state, with the county seat near its center.

The county remained intact until 1845. In February of that year Wyandot county was created, largely from the western part of Crawford county. In order to compensate the inhabitants of Crawford for the territory taken from them a portion of Richland, four miles wide and nineteen miles long, was given to Crawford County. The next year, 1846, Ashland county was erected, taking from Richland the entire tier of the most eastern townships and two-thirds of Clear Creek and Milton, and over one-third of Mifflin, in all about 240 square miles of territory. Two years later Morrow county was created, which took from Richland all of Congress and Bloomfield townships, the west half of Perry and the west half of Troy, save sections 28 and 33. By these changes Richland was reduced from an area of 900 to 485 square miles, and the townships as re-organized and created are Bloomington, Butler, Cas, Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Madison, Mifflin, Monroe, Perry, Plymouth, Sandusky, Shtaron, Springfield, Troy Washington, Weller and Worthington.

THE PARKS.

Another feature of enterprise of a municipal character is found in the general provision that has been made for providing the people with attractive parks and there is perhaps no city equal in size that is so well provided in this respect. There are two parks, the Central, so called because of its location in the very heart of the city, a beautiful bower of shade where rest and recreation may be enjoyed at one's sweet will. There is here a beautiful fountain of handsome design and ornamentations, the soldiers' monument and a band stand where concerts are given on summer evenings by one of the best bands in the state. The Sherman-Heineman park is another favored spot which contains eighty acres, twenty-five of which are densely wooded. This is a charming resort for picnic parties, family gatherings and society socials, with artificial lakes for boating, well kept walks and over six miles of beautiful improved drives. It can be reached by two lines of electric car within ten minutes from the central part of the city.



A VIEW IN SHERMAN-HEINEMAN PARK.

THE MANSFIELD PARKS.

The Hon. M. B. Bushnell, Member of the Mansfield Centennial Commission, Read the Following Paper Before the Amity Club at a Recent Meeting—
Mr. Bushnell is One of the Park Commissioners and Knows Whereof He Speaks.

In an address on the Park System of Mansfield, recently delivered by M. B. Bushnell, the following interesting points in regard to the prettiest pleasure spots owned by any Ohio city were brought out: