



The Mahoning Valley Historical Society

305 Wick Avenue

Youngstown, Ohio



Organized September 10, 1875

Incorporated November 19, 1909

84th

A N N U A L
M E E T I N G



September 10, 1959



NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

In accordance with Article III, Code of Regulations, as amended September 10, 1957, the regular annual meeting of the Society will be held in the City of Youngstown on Thursday, September 10, 1959, the anniversary of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's victory in the Battle of Lake Erie, 1813. The purpose of the meeting to elect officers, directors, hear reports, transact any other business that may come before the membership, and in accordance with Article VI, supplement or amend the Society's regulations.

MISS ADA M. ROGERS
Corresponding Secretary

August 26, 1959



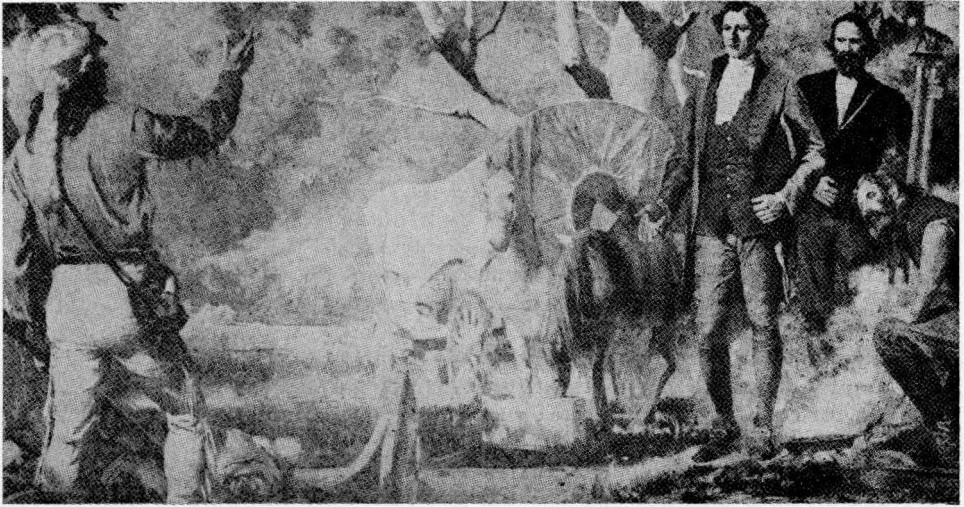
The meeting will be held

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1959

at 3:30 P. M.

in the Society's Headquarters
Reuben McMillan Free Library
305 Wick Avenue

The Beginnings of Youngstown



This reproduction of the beautiful mural from the east wall of the Home Savings and Loan Company depicts the meeting on June 27, 1796, at "The Spring" on the east bank of the Mahoning River at what has always been known as Spring Common, of Col. James Hillman and John Young. Hillman was on his way to his home on the Ohio River three miles below Pittsburgh. John Young was proprietor of the township and had in his party his surveyor, Alfred Wolcott, his guides, Abram Powers and his son Isaac, and Daniel Shehy and Phineas Hill.

On August 30, 1796, Daniel Shehy purchased the first land and became the first bona fide settler in the township. Hillman and Wolcott also bought land, but it was not until near 1800 that Colonel Hillman erected the first frame house and moved to Youngstown from Pittsburgh. (Vol. F, p. 227, Trumbull County Records of Deeds.)

Alfred Wolcott, Young's surveyor, was instrumental in founding the pioneer settlement but did not remain to witness its growth. On February 11, 1800, he was married to Mercy Gilson, daughter of a pioneer family of Canfield, but a short while later returned to the East. Phineas Hill, one of the original purchasers from John Young, likewise, was but a temporary resident. Like Wolcott, Hill married while residing at Youngstown but a few years later removed elsewhere.

The following is taken from Henry Howe's Historical Collections of Ohio published in 1848, pages 338-339.

"The following sketch from a resident of the county, not only describes interesting incidents in the life of one of the first settlers on the Reserve, but gives facts of importance connected with the history of this region.

"Col. James Hillman of Youngstown was one of the pioneers of the west, and rendered essential service to the early settlers of the Western Reserve. He is still living,

We acknowledge gratefully the permission given by Mr. J. Russell McKay to reproduce a copy of this mural.

and at the age of 84 enjoys good health and spirits, and walks with as much elasticity of step as most men 30 years younger. He was born in Northampton, Pa., and in 1784, was a soldier under Gen. Harmar, and was discharged at Fort M'Intosh at Beaver Town on the Ohio in August, 1785, after the treaty with the Indians.

"His acquaintance with the country, now known as the Western Reserve, commenced in the spring of 1786, at which time he entered into the service of Duncan & Wilson of Pittsburgh. They were engaged in forwarding goods and provisions, upon pack-horses, across the country to the mouth of the Cuyahoga, (now Cleveland), thence to be shipped on the schooner Mackinaw to Detroit. During the summer of 1786, he made six trips — the caravan consisting of ten men and ninety horses. They usually crossed the Big Beaver, 4 miles below the mouth of the Shenango, thence up the left bank of the Mahoning, crossing it about three miles above the village of Youngstown, thence by way of the Salt Spring in the township of Weathersfield, through Milton and Ravenna, crossing the Cuyahoga at the mouth of Breakneck, and again at the mouth of Tinker's Creek in Bedford, and thence down the river to its mouth, where they erected a log hut for the safe keeping of their goods, which was the first house built in Cleveland. At the mouth of Tinker's creek were a few houses built by the Moravian missionaries. They were then vacant, the Indians having occupied them one year only, previous to their removal to the Tuscarawas River. These, and three or four cabins at the Salt Springs were the only buildings erected by the whites between the Ohio River and Lake Erie. Those at the Salt Springs were erected for the accommodation of persons sent there to make salt, and the tenants were dispossessed during the summer of 1785 by order of Gen. Harmar. During this year, 1786, Kribs, who was left in one of the cabins to take care of goods belonging to Duncan & Wilson, was murdered by the Indians, and his body was found by Hillman's party, shockingly mangled by the wolves. During the same season, James Morrow and Sam Simerson, returning from Sandusky, were killed by the Indians at Eagle Creek, west of Cleveland. Mr. Hillman was married in 1786 — and in 1788, settled at Beaver Town, where Duncan & Wilson had a store for the purpose of trading with the Indians.

"From 1788 to 1796, Mr. Hillman resided in Pittsburgh and traded with the Indians in Ohio, principally on the Reserve, bringing his goods in canoes up the Mahoning. His intercourse with the Indians during these eight years and before, afforded him the opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of their language, and gaining their confidence, both of which he obtained, and by means of which, he was enabled afterwards to be of great service to the early settlers of the Reserve.

"In 1796, when returning from one of his trading expeditions, alone in his canoe, down the Mahoning river, he discovered a smoke on the bank, near the present site of the village of Youngstown, and on proceeding to the spot, he found Mr. Young (the proprietor of the township) who, with Mr. Wolcott, had just arrived to make a survey of his lands. The cargo of Mr. Hillman was not entirely disposed of, there remaining among other things some whiskey, the price of which was to the Indians, \$1.00 a quart, in the currency of the country, a deer skin being a legal tender for one dollar, and a doe skin half a dollar. Mr. Young proposed purchasing a quart, and having a frolic on its contents during the evening, and insisted upon paying Hillman his customary price for it. Hillman urged that inasmuch as they were strangers in the country, and just arrived upon his territory, civility required him to furnish the means of the entertainment. He, however, yielded to Mr. Young, who immediately took the deer skin he had spread for his bed (the only one he had,) and paid for his quart of whiskey. His descendants in the state of New York, in relating the hardships of their ancestors, have not forgotten that Judge Young exchanged his *bed* for a quart of whiskey.

"Mr. Hillman remained with them a few days, when they accompanied him to Beaver Town to celebrate the 4th of July, and Mr. H. was induced to return and commence the settlement of the town by building a house. This was about the first settlement made on the Western Reserve.

"In the new settlement Hillman became immediately a leader. When Trumbull County was organized in 1800 he was made constable of Youngstown Township and later served as tax collector, justice of the peace, tavern keeper in the village, sheriff of Trumbull County and member of the legislature from that county in the session of 1814-15. During the War of 1812 he served as a volunteer under Col. William Rayen. Not only in actual term of residence but in leadership, Col. James Hillman was the first citizen of Youngstown in its youthful days."

In fixing the date for the actual settlement of Youngstown, history and tradition conflict, as they have done on many another occasion. Tradition, and, to some extent, even written history, records that it was in the early summer of 1796 that John Young and his party of settlers reached their western acres to remain permanently.

However, at the Pioneer Reunion of old citizens, which took place in the then new opera house on Thursday, September 10, 1874, Esquire John M. Edwards, in his address of welcome, stated that the first meeting of John Young and his party with Col. James Hillman depicted on Page 3 occurred according to tradition in 1797. (Why did he contradict Col. Hillman's statement as recorded in Henry Howe's Historical Collections of Ohio published twenty-six years earlier and quoted above as 1796?)

The exact date at which John Young purchased from the Connecticut Land Company the tract of land that now bears his name, and the circumstances surrounding that purchase, are unanswered questions. Young was not a member of the Connecticut Land Company, nor even a resident of the State of Connecticut. Born at Petersborough, New Hampshire, on March 8, 1763, John Young migrated to Whitestown, or Whitesboro, New York, about 1780. There, in June, 1792, he was married to Mary Stone White, the youngest daughter of Judge Hugh White, the founder of Whitestown. Judge White was a New Englander of English descent, who had removed from Middletown, Connecticut, to the wilderness of New York State, having purchased a tract of land there large enough to provide a good farm for each of his eight children. Four years after his marriage, or in 1796, Young caught the prevailing fever for westward migration and while not a Connecticut man, it was natural that his footsteps should have been directed toward the Western Reserve.

There were several considerations that probably influenced Young in his decision. These settlements of Eastern and Central New York State were made up largely of New England people and there was a close association between them and their neighbors across the line in Connecticut and adjoining states. The purchase made by the Connecticut Land Company was probably known to New York State settlers soon after it was negotiated and further interest and enthusiasm must have been awakened by the westward journey of the land company's surveying party in the spring of 1796, for this party passed Whitestown in making its way slowly up the Mohawk, poling the clumsy batteaux or flat boats against the river's current. Furthermore, a direct connection is established between Young and the Connecticut Land Company when it is understood that Young did not act alone in making the purchase of township two, range two, of the Western Reserve, but was joined in this purchase by his brother-in-law, Philo White, and by Lemuel Storrs of Middletown, Connecticut, who was one of the original members of the Connecticut Land Company and a signer of the articles of association and agreement of the company on September 5, 1795.

The original contract between Young, White and Storrs on one hand and the Connecticut Land Company on the other cannot be found and undoubtedly was destroyed. In a letter to John M. Edwards, read at a meeting of pioneers of the Mahoning Valley on September 10, 1875, Charles C. Young of Brooklyn, New York, son of John Young, says that, "after my father's death in 1825, and my mother's sale of her home farm a few years later, the old tin case containing the Ohio title, deeds, surveys, maps, etc., was mislaid and finally lost. * * * A small package has, however, come to me from which I will select a few and send you."

Only one of these documents throws any light on the purchase made from the Connecticut Land Company, and this one document is not the original contract for the land purchase. It is merely a map of the township divided into lots. On one of these lots, which includes about one-third of the entire township, on the east side, is an entry reading:

"Five thousand, five hundred acres disposed of to Hill, Shehy and others, by contract with John Young, on which they are to settle with seventeen families."

On the margin of the map is the following entry:

"This may certify that we, being equally interested in township two in the second range in the Connecticut Reserve, do agree to the above sale of the five thousand, five hundred acres to the actual settlers as above, and do likewise agree to the division of the remainder in the manner to which our names are annexed in the above sketch. Middletown, January 30, 1797."

"The names of those signing the agreement are cut off but they were undoubtedly John Young, Philo White and Lemuel Storrs.

"Annexed to this map is a conveyance from Philo White to John Young of White's interest in the land. This conveyance is dated February 9, 1797, the consideration paid by Young to White being \$1,050. There is no record of the conveyance of Storrs' interest to Young but it is apparent that this was executed about the same time, and with their release White and Storrs pass out of existence insofar as Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley are concerned. Their interest appears to have been merely that of investors anyway. It is not likely that either one of them ever visited the Western Reserve, and that they did not expect to locate here is apparent from the fact that they were at all times silent partners in the transaction. In the letter above quoted Charles C. Young touches on this by saying that

" * * * It appears that my mother's brother, Philo White of Whitestown, New York, together with Lemuel Storrs of Middletown, Connecticut, a lawyer by profession, * * * were at first equally interested with my father in the purchase; that a private company-article was entered into between them in regard to it, but the contract was made by my father alone with the Connecticut Land Company, to whom only they executed their deed for the township * * * THAT THE DATE OF THE CONTRACT MUST HAVE BEEN IN 1796, IF NOT IN 1795, TO GIVE TIME FOR THE SURVEY, INSPECTION, AND LOCATION OF THE LAND, WHICH MY FATHER, AS A PRACTICAL SURVEYOR, WOULD HARDLY HAVE THOUGHT OF BUYING WITHOUT; AND THEN FOR THE SALE TO SHEHY AND DIVISION OF THE BALANCE ON PAPER, FOR WHICH PRELIMINARY SURVEYS MUST HAVE BEEN MADE, ALL BEFORE JANUARY, 1797, AND FEBRUARY 9, 1797, THE DATE OF WHITE'S CONVEYANCE BACK TO MY FATHER OF ALL HIS INTEREST THEREIN."

Thus, on February 9, 1797, John Young became sole owner of the yet unnamed township in the Connecticut Western Reserve, his claim of course being subject to the PURCHASES MADE BY DANIEL SHEHY, Phineas Hill, "and others." These sales, including as they did, about one-third of the township, did not figure in the negotiations between Young and the Connecticut Land Company, so that title was to be delivered to him alone. At this time Young was a purchaser only by land contract. The actual conveyance of the deed for township two, range two of the Western Reserve from the Connecticut Land Company to Young was not made until April 9, 1800. This conveyance shows that John Young purchased the 15,560 acres of land in the township — now practically identical with the City of Youngstown — for a consideration of \$16,085.16. Young at that time executed a mortgage on the township to the Connecticut Land Company for the purchase price, or part of that price. The negotiations between Young and the Connecticut Land Company were conducted during the year 1798 to 1800 by Turhand Kirtland, agent for the land company.

While the actual settlement of Youngstown Township was not made in 1796, John Young and his party, including Alfred Wolcott and Daniel Shehy, made a preliminary trip here that year. Pioneer tradition tells of such a visit, and this tradition is supported by the statement of Young's son, given above, that "he (Young) would hardly have thought of buying without a survey, inspection and location of the land."

Further corroboration is found in the legend that surrounds Council Rock, an immense granite boulder that attracts the attention of passersby in Lincoln Park, in the East End of the city. The legend of Council Rock was set down in print almost twenty-five years ago, about 1896, by William G. Conner, a pioneer resident of the Dry Run Valley, of which Lincoln Park is a part.

In his story Mr. Conner relates that while on a hunting trip in a sparsely settled section of Illinois in 1865 he met a veteran trapper, Cyrus Dunlap by name, who showed a familiarity with the Dry Run Valley. In explanation of this, Dunlap, then a white-haired man of eight-five, told his auditor that he was a boy of sixteen years residing in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, when a surveying party headed by Alfred Wolcott passed through Fayette County in the summer of 1796, en route to survey and inspect township two, range two, of the Connecticut Reserve for John Young. Dunlap was eager to accompany the surveyors, and when permission to do so was refused by his parents, he and a boy companion stole away from home two days after the surveyors had gone on, and overtook Wolcott's party. The lads journeyed on to the Reserve with the surveyors and spent the summer of 1796 helping the men who were laying out John Young's township. On completing the work about December 1, Dunlap said, the surveyors went back East, his boy companion returned home, but Dunlap himself had become enamored of the free life of the wilds and remained behind, only to move ever westward as civilization overtook him.

When John Young or his representatives visited the site of his future town in 1796 their stay could not have been for more than three or four months. That Young was in Connecticut during the winter of 1796-97 is certified to by his dealings there with Philo White and Lemuel Storrs in February of that year and his sales, made in conjunction with White and Storrs, to Shehy and Hill, on January 30, 1797, at Middletown, Connecticut. But with the survey of the township completed by the Connecticut Land Company — and probably by Young's own surveyors — and with Young given sole ownership early in 1797 of the western lands that he had contracted for, the stage was set for the settlement and occupation of the wilderness territory.

Daniel Shehy was born in Ballaforen, Tipperary County, Ireland, in 1759. He was

given a classical education, having been destined for the law or the priesthood, but early in life left his native land to carve out a fortune in the New World. His decision was hastened by the fact that he was an outspoken enemy of the British government, and, impulsive in temperament, plunged wholeheartedly into the movement for Irish freedom. With two of his near relatives executed for opposing British domination and his own life certain to be forfeited if he remained in Ireland, Daniel Shehy and his brother Roger Shehy came to America and enlisted in the Revolutionary Army.

Serving until the end of the Revolution, Daniel Shehy located in Connecticut or New York State and met John Young at Albany, New York, in 1796. Shehy had \$2,000 in gold which he wished to invest in land and he accepted John Young's proposal to emigrate to the Western Reserve.

According to a condition of his purchase of land from John Young, Daniel Shehy immediately erected a one-story 16x20 log cabin on a hillside overlooking the river on a site now the northwest corner of Edgewood Street and South Truesdale Avenue.

The one room cabin made of rough logs served as a kitchen, sitting room and bed room. The spaces between the logs were filled with clay mortar, making it warm. The big, open fireplace, five or six feet wide, was a great devourer of wood. The chimney, outside the walls, made of split lathe was well mortared. The roof was made of clapboards, three or four feet long, weighted down with round logs. Shingles were a thing unknown, nor were there any nails to put them on. The floor was made of split logs, dressed level. There was one door and one window. The first season the only door was a quilt, as there were no boards to make one. When a door of boards was purchased, it was hung with wooden hinges and a wooden latch, with a string through to the outside. No locks were needed in those days except to pin over the latch at night to keep out wild animals. As the Shehy family increased, they built near the same place a double house, two stories high, or rather two houses with a six-foot hall between them, a plan much in vogue in that day. This hall was a regular curiosity shop and always open at one end. There were hung the riding saddles, pack saddles, axes and other tools, and an endless assortment of bric-a-brac. Several years later saw-mills furnished lumber for floors and doors, but the roof was still of the same primitive style. It was the first home erected in Youngstown.

Daniel Shehy contracted with Young for 1,000 acres of land on August 30, 1796, a contract that later caused difficulty between Shehy and Young. Not having a title himself until 1800, Young could not give title at that time to sub-purchasers and Shehy alleged that in 1799 Young made a second sale of part of Shehy's land at an advance of 50 cents an acre. To prove his rights Shehy was forced to make two trips to Connecticut, both of these being made afoot through the wilderness in the dead of winter. On the evening of January 13, 1801, Daniel Shehy called on John Young at his dwelling house and gave him a severe bodily chastisement. Shehy was arrested.

United States v. Daniel Shehy Trumbull County

"The grand inquest for the body of said County of Trumbull, on their oaths and affirmation do say and present that Daniel Shehy of Youngstown, in the county aforesaid, yoeman, not regarding the laws of his county, nor the social rights of his fellow citizens, did on the evening of the 13th day of January, A. D., 1801, at Youngstown, aforesaid in the dwelling house of John Young, Esq., an assault make upon him, the said John Young and in a violent, angry and menacing manner did threaten the life

of him the said John Young (whose life the said Daniel Shehy had frequently and at sundry other times threatened to other people before this affidavit) against the peace of the United States and the Statute laws of this territory and so the jurors aforesaid on their oaths and affirmations do say that the said Daniel Shehy in manner aforesaid willfully and maliciously broke the peace against the dignity of the U. S. and the State laws of this territory.

SOL GRISWOLD

U. S. Attorney for County of Trumbull

"Note: Daniel Shehy pleaded not guilty, was tried — found guilty and ordered to pay a fine of \$20 to the Treasurer of the County of Trumbull and the costs of prosecution taxed at \$25.53 and become bound with surety to the Treasurer of the County in the sum of \$100 conditioned that he keep the peace and be of good behavior for the term of one year and stand committed until sentence is complied with.

"May 28, 1801, Daniel and Roger Shehy appeared and gave a personal bond of \$100.00 conditioned on Daniel Shehy keeping peace and be of good behavior for the term of one year then this sentence to be void; otherwise to remain in force. Later discharged by order of court having fully complied with sentence."

An adjustment was finally reached by which Shehy retained title to 400 acres of land but relinquished his claim to another 600 acres. But that their differences were later settled amicably is apparent from the fact that Shehy's second son, born in 1805, was named John Young Shehy, after the founder of the city. According to one account this action so pleased John Young that he deeded to his namesake the town lots on which is today located the Central Square Garage at the N. W. corner of Wick Avenue and Commerce Street and the lot on the N. E. corner of Front and Champion Streets. According to one account this naming of the young boy after the founder of the city was a feminine wile adopted by Shehy's wife, Jane McLain Shehy, and really brought about the adjustment of the dispute.



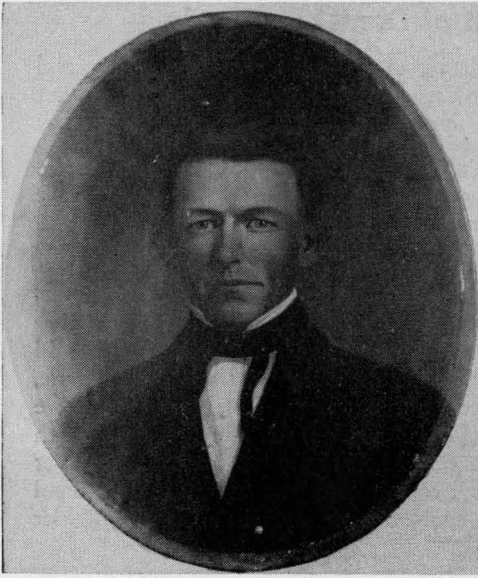
JANE McLAIN SHEHY
1775-1856

This pioneer woman was born at Ligonier, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, in 1775, a daughter of Robert McLain, a Revolutionary War soldier, who had served in Company 7, First Battalion, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, (Vol. 23, Series 3, Pennsylvania Archives). In 1797, she married Daniel Shehy. Both rode the same horse to their home in Youngstown. They had nine children. Catherine, their first child, was born on February 17, 1799. She was the second child to be born in Youngstown. The first child, Elizabeth Dabney, was born in 1798. Shehy died at Youngstown on January 20, 1834, age 75, and his widow in 1856, age 81, leaving numerous descendants here.

Children of Daniel and Jane McLain Shehy

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date Born</i>	<i>Married</i>
Catherine	1799	Neal Campbell
Robert	1801	Died, 1818
Mary*	1803	William Woods
John Young	1805	Anna Kimmel
Daniel, Jr.	1808	Charlotte Pearson
Margaret	1810	Daniel McAllister
Lucius McLain	1813	Julia Bedell
James	1816	
Jane	1818	John Lett

(*Their son, A. J. Woods, was a member of the Executive Committee of the Pioneer Reunion of 1874.)



DANIEL SHEHY, JR.
1808-1864



CHARLOTTE PEARSON SHEHY
1807-1893

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society has had the above portraits in its possession for some time. They were thought to be the pioneer Daniel Shehy and his wife Jane. However, in the preparation of this pamphlet the portraits were removed from their frames and on the back of the one was found the following statement written in long hand:

“A portrait of Daniel Shehy, Jr., who was born in Youngstown, 1808, was the fifth child of Daniel and Jane McLain Shehy. He married Charlotte Pearson. He was a merchant in Mecca, Trumbull County, for some time.

“He died August 25, 1864. Aged 56. He left a will which after providing for his wife and adopted daughter, Harriet A. Starr, gave the remainder of his estate to become a trust for the education of the poor children of Youngstown, his native place. It is requested that this portrait be hung in a suitable place in the school benefited by his gift.

HARRIET A. STARR
Hudson, Ohio.”

The 1855 map of Youngstown shows his residence on East Federal Street between Walnut and Watt Streets. It was immediately east of the Daniel Johnson Wick residence which is pictured on this map. Both properties had frontage on East Federal and East Boardman Street.

Last Will and Testament of Daniel Shehy, Jr.

I, Daniel Shehy of Youngstown, Ohio, being of sound mind and memory and mindful of the uncertainties of human life do make, publish and declare this my last will and testament in manner following:

First, After the payment of my just debts and funeral expenses, I give, devise and bequeath to my wife the one half of all my property both real and personal to have and to use the same during her natural lifetime, and to take immediate possession and use of the same.

Second, Subject to my just debts and my funeral expenses, I give, devise and bequeath to my adopted daughter, Harriet Ann Sobdell, alias Harriet Ann Shehy, the other half of my property both real and personal during the natural life of my said wife, my said adopted daughter to have immediate possession and use of the same. And on the death of my said wife, I will that my said adopted daughter shall receive out of my estate the sum of ten thousand (\$10,000.00) dollars. But the sum which my said adopted daughter shall receive from her said half of my property as the availer therefrom during the life of my said wife shall constitute a part of said ten thousand (\$10,000.00) dollars. But no interest shall be enacted from my said adopted daughter on the money received by her as such avails.

Third, I will that in the event of my adopted boy, Jehial Curtis, remaining with my wife and daughter, or with my wife if she should be left alone and being subject to their or her control and conducting himself in a manner satisfactory to them until he shall arrive at the age of twenty-one years, he shall receive from my estate the sum of three hundred (\$300.00) dollars. And I further direct that he be placed in position to learn some trade or livelihood.

Fourth, I will and direct that at the death of my wife the residue of my property remaining inexpended and undivided shall be made a permanent fund and securely invested by my Executor and Advisory Committee to be hereinafter named, and the interest of said fund to be used every year for the Education of the poor children of the Township of Youngstown, under the direction of the trustees of said Township of Youngstown, and in case of the death of my said adopted daughter, Harriet, without issue, then it is my will that the sum so willed and devised to her shall constitute a like fund and be invested in a like manner by my said Executor and controlled in a like manner by said trustees.

Fifth, It is my will that after my death that my wife and adopted daughter shall erect a suitable family tombstone over my grave.

Sixth, It is my will that none of my real estate be sold until after the death of my wife.

Seventh, I do hereby nominate and appoint Lewis Montgomery, Executor of this, my last will and testament, hereby authorizing and empowering him to compromise, adjust, release and discharge, in such manner as he may deem proper the debts and claims due me.

Eighth, I do further nominate and appoint Abraham Powers and Augustus Hine as an Advisory Committee to my said Executor and to have Executor's powers when he (my Executor) is away from the County.

Ninth, It is my will that my Executor and Advisory Committee be not required to

give any bond, and that there be no appraisal of property. And I do hereby request the Judge of Probate to direct the omission of the same, in accordance with the Statute.

Tenth, When this will shall go to probate, if within one year, I request that my said Executor, Lewis Montgomery, shall take charge of my personal property and use the same for the benefit of my wife and adopted daughter for the term of five years or longer as may be deemed best by my said Executor and Advisory Committee, in conjunction with him.

Eleventh, It is my will and desire that my said Executor and Advisory Committee be liberally paid for their labor and troubles.

Twelfth, I do hereby revoke all former wills by me made.

In testimony hereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 25th day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four.

/s/ Daniel Shehy (seal)

Signed and acknowledged by said Daniel Shehy as his last will and testament, in our presence; And signed by us in his presence.

/s/ J. R. Kennedy
Youngstown, Ohio

/s/ Halbert B. Case
Youngstown, Ohio

Memorandum Re Daniel Shehy Fund

The records of the Trust Department of The Dollar Savings and Trust Company disclose that the Bank acted as Agent for the Trustees of the Daniel Shehy Fund for a period of twenty-five years, beginning with 1915 and ending in 1941. On May 16, 1941, The Dollar Savings and Trust Company was appointed as Testamentary Trustee of the trust created under the Last Will and Testament of Daniel Shehy. Prior to the time that The Dollar Savings and Trust Company became custodian of the Fund and acted as Agent for the Trustees, the Fund was administered by the Township Trustees of Youngstown Township and for the year 1905, the Township Trustees were listed as D. J. Morgan, Martin Moreman and George W. Henry.

The value of the trust assets at the present time is approximately \$60,000.00. Due to the absence of any discretionary investment powers in the Will of Daniel Shehy, investments are confined to Ohio Legal securities. The income beneficiary is and has been for a considerable period of time, The Youngstown Free Kindergarten Association. Since 1941, The Dollar Savings and Trust Company, as Trustee, has distributed net income to the Youngstown Free Kindergarten Association, in excess of \$29,000.00. August 24, 1959.

J. M. MacINTOSH
Trust Officer
The Dollar Savings & Trust Co.

The Youngstown Free Kindergarten Association was organized in 1892 and incorporated in 1895. The organization has had one objective—that of giving little children intelligent and loving guidance in right paths that lead to fine American citizenship.

For many years the kindergartens were conducted in donated buildings and rooms. During the depression school rooms were made available to the Free Kindergarten Association.

Today, the Association sponsors three kindergartens, in Butler School, Thornhill School and Jefferson School. Milk and crackers are supplied each day.

The Association receives funds from the trust established by Mr. Daniel Shehy, Jr., in 1864. Income is also received from Trust Funds set up for the kindergarten by the late Miss Sallie Tod, Miss Timp Pollock and Mrs. Daniel Stambaugh. The work is under the direction of the following Board of Trustees:

Mrs. David E. Jones, President; Mrs. E. Carroll Thornton, First Vice-President; Miss Helen Boyd, Second Vice-President; Mrs. William Bunn, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Bertram S. Parker, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Phillip Schaff, Treasurer; Miss Florence Thompson, Mrs. Paul Bunn, Mrs. Alfred Clark, Mrs. John Noll, Mrs. Bruce Carpenter, Mrs. Bertram Huestis, Mrs. John W. Smith, Mrs. Donald McClure, Mrs. Thaddeus Woodman, Mrs. Frederick Jones, Honorary Member.

**Officers of
THE MAHONING VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
for the year 1958-59**

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President and Treasurer Mr. James L. Wick, Jr.
Recording Secretary and Assistant Treasurer Mrs. E. A. Goodman
Corresponding Secretary Miss Ada M. Rogers

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IN MAHONING COUNTY**

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Reference

JOHN YOUNG'S TOWN

in the

CONNECTICUT WESTERN RESERVE

by

James L. Wick, Jr.

Harriet Wick Schaff

THE MAHONING VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Youngstown, Ohio

1970

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JOHN YOUNG

1763-1825

The war was over! In 1783 the Treaty of Paris was signed and young America was at last free to lay down her arms and look to her future. Impoverished by the war and anxious that the new confederation of states become a harmonious and prosperous nation, one of her first concerns was to clarify and seek the release of the claims of the various states to their western holdings—claims which were overlapping and contradictory, based as they were on the old royal charters and vague ideas of the geography of the chartered lands. The new country had debts to pay and a destiny to fulfill.

One by one the states yielded to this overriding destiny. "The pressure of the war, the wisdom, forbearance and patriotism of those times, and the financial difficulties which oppressed the nation, all conspired to make discussion temperate and finally secured a happy result."¹ New York, Virginia and Massachusetts gave up their claims as did New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. And finally, on September 14, 1786, Connecticut, the last hold-out, ceded to Congress 'all right, title, interest

jurisdiction, and claim . . . to certain western lands' with the exception of a strip of land south of Lake Erie, sixty-two miles wide and one hundred and twenty miles long. Congress accepted the reservation and thus the Connecticut Western Reserve was erected. A month later, in October of 1786, the General Assembly of Connecticut directed that the land in the Reserve be surveyed and sold, hoping that prompt settlement would reinforce her claim.

There were at the time two main routes into the country known as the Western Reserve. The southern route led through Pennsylvania along a rough wagon road made many years before, in 1758, by General Braddock and Brigadier General John Forbes, from Philadelphia over the Alleghenies to the forks of the Ohio at Pittsburgh, then by boat up the Beaver river, past the town of Beaver, up the Mahoning river to the southern line of the Western Reserve. The northern route into the Reserve was much more difficult. It led from Schenectady up the Mohawk river past Whitestown,² into the Oneida lake, on to the Oswego river, into Lake Ontario and along the southern shore to Irondequoit Bay just north of Rochester, then an apparent back track to Canandaigua in order to pick up an old Indian trail to Lake Erie at Buffalo, then by water along Lake Erie to the Pennsylvania line, touching at least once at Presque Isle and at last turning south at Ashtabula.

Living in Whitestown directly along the northern route into the Reserve and undoubted hosts to many of its travelers were Hugh White, the founder of the settlement, and the man who was to become White's son-in-law and who was to make his own foray into the Reserve—John Young.

John Young, who gave his name to Youngstown, Ohio, was born in Peterborough, New Hampshire on March 8, 1763, the same year that his father moved there from Worcester, Massachusetts to become Peterborough's first physician. Dr. Young had an extensive practice and was a widely respected member of the community. He served as moderator of town meeting for seven years and as selectman for five years. In later years his practice declined as a result of his intemperance and he was forced to apply to the town for financial assistance but he retained the affectionate regard of the townspeople until his death in 1807 from a facial cancer.³ John was the oldest child. Dr. Young and his wife, the former Elizabeth Smith of Worcester (1740-1825) had seven children, all of whom "left Peterborough early, but one daughter, Jane, who was unmarried, and lived and died there"⁴ and with whom her mother ended her days. Although his son later spoke of him as being a "practical surveyor"⁵ we do not know what kind of education John received. He was thirteen or fourteen years old when his father went off to war to serve as surgeon of Colonel Moses Nichols' regiment in the Bennington campaign in 1777 and of Colonel Stephen Peabody's regiment in Rhode Island in 1778. He was too young to fight but too old not to be affected by the excitement of the times. John was left behind to take care of his mother and small brother and sisters and to tend their farm at Carter's Corners on the east side of the Contoocock river. The family had little money; even in the best of times doctors were paid in goods more often than in cash and wartime made cash even scarcer. "Not much given to manual labor,"⁶

by the time the war was over John had had his fill of farming the rocky hillsides of New Hampshire. In 1783, the year the peace treaty was signed, John Young was twenty and preferred to make his fortune somewhere else and in some other way. At about this time he left home.

'Western fever' was contagious and spreading fast in those post-war years. Many who had served in the Continental army came home unpaid with years of privation behind them and poverty before them. In Middletown, Connecticut, Hugh White, a retired lieutenant of the colonial militia, found that the war had ended the profitable West Indian trade, the land had been tilled since the 1650's, and the country was rapidly filling up. During the war seven pairs of brothers from Plymouth, Connecticut families had served in upper New York and developed a great liking for that section. When the war ended they lost little time in returning and neighbors and friends followed them, Hugh White among them. In 1784, at the age of fifty-one, with four grown sons accompanying him, White left Middletown, Connecticut for a large tract of wild land in Oneida County, New York. The property he purchased was large enough to provide a substantial farm for each of his children—five sons and three daughters—and there he was joined by the rest of his children and his wife, the former Lois March Davenport, widow of Reverend Ebenezer Davenport of Greenwich. (Hugh White's first wife and the mother of his family, Mary Clark, had died in 1774.) White had already raised a family, served his community as selectman and his country as a soldier, but with sturdy strength and courage, he started all over again. With his children settled down in farms around his own, the family itself created a fairly sizable village and it was called, appropriately enough, Whitestown (or Whitesboro). White sent back to Connecticut samples of his fine New York wheat, potatoes and oats and the display was enough to cause many of his old friends and neighbors to pack up and move to Oneida County.⁷ By 1785 John Young had also arrived.⁸

In that year or the next, one of the travelers through Whitestown on his way either to or from the Reserve was the surveyor, Andrew Ellicott. He had been commissioned by the state of Pennsylvania to extend the line from the north bank of the Ohio to Lake Erie and thus to establish the western boundary of that state, and incidentally, the eastern boundary of Connecticut's Western Reserve. Ellicott's surveyors, astronomers, and mathematicians cut a swath twenty to thirty feet wide through the forest, marking the line at intervals with stone monuments with the letter "P" carved on them. Their line was amazingly accurate considering the circumstances of the survey, bending only a few seconds in one or two places, and it, with other later surveys, stands behind all land records, maps and titles.⁹ But Connecticut still made no attempt to execute her own surveys. All through the winter and spring of 1786-1787 the legislature continued to deliberate a variety of proposals for surveying, setting up townships, and making conveyances. Only one sale of land was made—to a highly unusual man.

General Samuel Holden Parsons had left the army at the close of the war and settled down with his wife, the former Mehitable Mather, in Middletown, Connecti-

cut to practice law. Parsons was the son of a distinguished clergyman and a graduate of Harvard. An early friend of John Adams, he was, from the first stirrings of rebellion, actively interested in colonial politics and he proved to be one of America's boldest generals. (To him are attributed the plans for the siege of Ticonderoga, one of the first moves of the Revolutionary War.) Serving several terms in the Connecticut state legislature where the subject of the disposition of the Reserve was uppermost, he too caught the western fever. In 1785 Congress appointed him one of the commissioners to treat with the Indians for a cession of their claims to certain western lands. The following year he purchased from the state of Connecticut a 25,000 acre tract of land including the salt springs in the valley of the Mahoning river which had long been known by the Indians and the few white settlers and was shown on a map as early as 1755. Parsons knew the Reserve and southern Ohio very well and he selected his land with an eye toward making his fortune.¹⁰ He was on fire with western enthusiasm. There can be no doubt that his Middletown neighbors, including Hugh White, were well aware of it. Nevertheless, Parsons' 25,000 acres were the only ones sold for almost ten more years.

But at last events conspired to provoke the Connecticut legislature to act again. In 1794 General Anthony Wayne finally defeated the Ottawas, Miamis and Iroquois at the Battle of Fallen Timbers. In 1795 a treaty was signed and the peace pipe passed. The menace of Indian attack was finally removed from the Reserve. The legislature deliberated again. This time it devised a scheme for selling and settling the Reserve which met with general acceptance.

On September 2, 1795 a group of thirty-five men negotiated the purchase of the entire Reserve. They formed themselves into a kind of syndicate under the name of The Connecticut Land Co. and they bought 2,500,000 acres for the sum of \$1,200,000.00.¹¹ The largest share was that of Oliver Phelps, with \$168,185.00 of his own capital and \$80,000.00 in association with Gideon Granger, later Postmaster-General of the United States. Moses Cleaveland's share was \$32,000.00. Elijah Boardman's was \$20,000.00. Turhand Kirtland's interest of \$4,750.00 was associated with and represented by Caleb Atwater. The directors of the company were empowered to reserve for sale six townships of sixteen thousand acres each, the proceeds from which sale were to help defray the costs of the company. These six townships were eventually to be known as Cleveland, Euclid, Mentor, Madison, Willoughby and Youngstown. They were offered for sale very early.

In 1792 John Young had married Mary Stone White, "Polly," the youngest daughter of Hugh White. He was settled in Whitestown, farming his wife's land, but his dreams of making his fortune were still bright, fed as they had been by the talk of Andrew Ellicott's surveying party and the reports of General Parsons' enthusiasm. Through his brother-in-law, Philo White, and a friend, Lemuel Storrs of Middletown, a lawyer and a member of The Connecticut Land Company, John Young learned all the details of the proposed sale by the Land Company of the six excepted townships. Township No. 2 in the second range in the southeastern corner of the Reserve—the nearest to Pittsburgh via the Ohio, Beaver and Mahoning

rivers—was available for no cash down payment, with interest at six per cent which was to begin in two years on September 2, 1797. The other five townships attracted no buyers, but John Young, thirty-three years old and tired of farming, saw an opportunity to make some money.

He agreed to buy, subject to inspection, Township No. 2 in the second range and in the spring of 1796 he left for the Reserve. He took with him a surveyor, Alfred Wolcott, and Phineas Hill. In Albany he met Daniel Shehy, a young Irishman who had left his native land to carve out a fortune in the new world and to escape the imprisonment or execution which would have been his reward for his outspoken opposition to the British government. He had \$2,000.00 in gold which he wished to invest in land and Young persuaded him to accompany him to the Reserve. At the same time Moses Cleaveland, who had been appointed its general agent, left to conduct The Connecticut Land Company's survey. Cleaveland and his party took the northern route; Young took the southern. At the junction of the Beaver and Ohio rivers Young was met by Abram Powers and his son, Isaac, who guided Young and his party up the Beaver and Mahoning rivers to the southern line of the Western Reserve and on to what we now call Spring Common. They arrived there on June 27, 1796, a week before Moses Cleaveland and his party arrived at Conneaut Creek on July 4th.

The very night that Young and his party arrived at the spring on the east bank of the Mahoning river and made their camp, they were surprised by the arrival of someone in a canoe. This stranger was Colonel James Hillman, an ex-Revolutionary soldier who had become a packer and trader for the firm of Duncan and Wilson of Pittsburgh and who knew the area as well as any Indian. Hillman was on his way back to Pittsburgh after a trading trip and still had a quart of whiskey in his cargo. Young purchased this with the deerskin he had already spread upon the ground for his bed—deerskin being legal tender and one deerskin the going price for whiskey—and invited Hillman to join them in their celebration. Hillman stayed with Young's party several days, when they went with him to Beaver Town to celebrate the Fourth of July. Anxious to see his town quickly settled, John Young made a gift to Mrs. James Hillman of six choice acres on the east bank of the Mahoning river (later known as Lot No. 2) if she would consent to come to the area and build a dwelling house, and later in the summer she and her husband did just that. In the meantime Young and his party built a cabin on the north bank of the Mahoning river, west of Spring Common, opposite what is the beginning today of North Avenue at its junction with West Federal Street. This cabin became Young's busy real estate office and in it he made his contracts to sell his land to those who came to buy and settle in Youngstown.¹²

Later in the summer, on August 30th, Young arranged to sell to Daniel Shehy a tract of 1000 acres for a consideration of \$2,000.00. Four hundred acres were on the east side of the Mahoning river and six hundred acres were on the west. Young stipulated that Shehy build a dwelling house on the property and Shehy started a large cabin, sixteen feet by twenty feet, which he finished the following year. Young

also arranged sales to Isaac and Abram Powers during that first summer. He could not have stayed too long into the winter, however, for on January 30th, 1797 he was back in Middletown, Connecticut certifying the sales he had made in conjunction with his brother-in-law, Philo White, and Lemuel Storrs to The Connecticut Land Company. On February 9, 1797 Young signed a contract to purchase 15,560 acres of land in Township No. 2 for \$16,085.16 with Turhand Kirtland conducting the negotiations. At the same time Young bought out the interests of White and Storrs and became the sole owner, subject to the purchases of Shehy, Phineas Hill, the Powers and others.

Later in that spring of 1797 John Young returned to his surveyors' cabin west of Spring Common to direct the survey of the portion of his township that lay north of the Mahoning river. He built another rude cabin on elevated ground on the south bank of the river about at the south end of the Main Street bridge in Warren. Opposite this cabin on the north side of the river were approximately twenty acres of meadowland which had apparently been cleared by Indians many years before. Young grew corn there and stored it in his cabin until he could move it down to Youngstown before the snow fell. This cabin was frequently used as a stopping off place by travelers making their way to Lake Erie.¹³ But most of the time Young remained at his cabin in Youngstown. He was not himself active in the work of surveying so when he was not negotiating with prospective land purchasers he passed his days cutting the underbrush with a 'bush hook.' Around his cabin it was very thick and about the height of a man's head when on horseback. By the fall of 1797 Young had cleared two to three acres of ground.¹⁴

In the spring of 1798 Young was back again. Also in that spring of 1798 Turhand Kirtland, who succeeded Moses Cleaveland as agent for The Connecticut Land Company, left Wallingford, Connecticut to survey and settle the lands which he and his associates had drawn in the Land Company's first draft. 'Young's town' was already well enough established by this time to be a recognized settlement for members of Kirtland's party to go there for information and provisions.¹⁵ On August 3rd, 1798 Kirtland and his party were on their way from Kirtland (Township No. 9 in the 9th range) to Poland (Township No. 1 in the 1st range). They found John Young at the salt springs and inquired about the possibility of finding another surveyor, but Young was able to furnish only one—Alfred Wolcott, who had done Young's previous surveying. Wolcott went with Kirtland's party and they ran the township lines between Poland and Youngstown.¹⁶

Kirtland made fairly frequent journeys from Poland to 'Young's town' for provisions, to buy a horse, to have it shod, to hear the news.¹⁷ One of his frequent stopping places back and forth was the log dwelling of Robert and Hannah Stevens near the Isaac Powers' fording of the river at the south line of the township. Other settlers trickled in during that summer of 1798: John Swazy bought land on Flint Hill (South Avenue and Indianola) and Frederick Ague had a hut made of poles there. Phineas Hill raised his mill at Lanterman's Falls. Nathaniel Dabney

bought 400 acres at Westlake's Crossing. Thomas Kirkpatrick had a blacksmith shop. 'Young's town' was beginning to be a real community and when he came back in the spring of 1799 he built a log dwelling large enough for himself and his family. To it he brought his wife Mary and their two young sons, John and George. This house was on the west line of Spring Common, located on what would now be the middle of Federal Street if it were extended at Fifth Avenue. Later that summer Caleb Baldwin of Washington County purchased land and built a double log cabin on West Federal Street (now the eastern half of McKelvey's) and opened a tavern. There, on September 1st, the first church service on the Reserve was held when Reverend William Wick of Washington County preached to every settler for miles around who could get there.¹⁸ (Mr. Wick had only recently been licensed to preach—on August 28, 1799—so it may have been his first service, too.) Just a few weeks later the first funeral was held—for Samuel McFarland, a young music teacher from Worcester, Massachusetts. "This funeral was largely attended and he was buried in the . . . graveyard,"¹⁹ the land for which had been designated on the original town plot and given to the town by John Young. In October Kirtland left again for the east and home but the John Young family stayed for their first winter. On November 25th William C. Young, the third child of John and Mary Young, was born in his parents' log dwelling on Federal Street in his father's already well-established, flourishing town.

Finally in the spring of 1800 all ambiguities concerning Connecticut's claim to her Western Reserve were resolved. The Connecticut Land Company secured the attention of Congress through the efforts of the great lawyer, John Marshall (1755-1835), who made a masterful argument on the question of the ownership and political jurisdiction of the lands included in the Reserve.²⁰ The deliberations of Congress resulted in an agreement between the United States and the state of Connecticut under which the United States forever quit claimed all right, title and interest in the soil. President John Adams signed the agreement on the 30th of May, 1800. The next step was to establish legal government structures and to select a county seat.

On June 16, 1800 Young, Kirtland, Herman Canfield and Ebenezer King of Warren met in Youngstown to discuss and agree on the place where the county seat should be located. Again on the 19th they met with John Stark Edwards for further discussions.²¹

Youngstown was older and larger than Warren. It was also nearer the east side of the Reserve, and it was there that settlers halted to rest before making further explorations. It was, in fact, 'headquarters' for the surrounding country. But Warren had influence which Youngstown did not possess. Calvin Pease, John Leavitt, Ebenezer King and the Honorable Gideon Granger, Postmaster-General of the United States, all came from the same town, Suffield, Connecticut. They all had extensive real estate possessions in the immediate vicinity of Warren. At this time the Postmaster-General had the authority to select the county seat, so when General Arthur St. Clair, governor of the Northwest Territory, erected the whole of the Western Reserve into Trumbull County, Granger selected Warren as the county

seat. The personal influence of John Young and Turhand Kirtland was great but they could not overcome the political and personal opposition to the claims of Youngstown.²²

The twenty-fifth of August was set for the opening of the first Court of Quarter Session and Courts of Common Pleas. John Young was one of the presiding judges, Calvin Pease clerk, and George Tod of Suffield, Connecticut was appointed prosecuting attorney. Among the court's first tasks was the division of the county into eight townships, the appointment of constables for them, and the issuing of summonses for eighteen persons to serve on a grand jury. Immediately they were plunged into a murder trial!

On July 20th, at Salt Springs near the dwelling of Joseph McMahan, a squatter and hunter "little better or more civilized than the Indians themselves,"²³ a large party of Indians was encamped. The Indians had whiskey and were indulging in a general drunken revel in which they were joined by McMahan and some other whites. Matters went from bad to worse. McMahan shot and killed the Indian "Captain George" (or George Tuscara).²⁴ Another settler, Richard Storer, fatally wounded John Wimlow, a Seneca also called "Spotted John" because he was partly white, and injured his squaw and two children.²⁵ Wimlow's squaw took her two children in her arms, and although wounded herself, started for the place of James Hillman. Reports of the fracas spread like wildfire. The whites supposed that the Indians would be upon them for vengeance; the Indians were so much frightened that they fled to the woods near Newton Falls and dared not hunt. John Young, among others, prevailed upon James Hillman, the Indian trader, to follow the Indians and make some sort of peace. Taking the wounded Indian boy with him Hillman followed the Indians and persuaded them to return for a conference. Ten days later at John Young's an Indian chief, his lady, an interpreter and ten other Indians met with three hundred whites and all agreed to make peace and live as friends with their brethren.²⁶ As one contemporary account had it, "It is hard to see how the poor creatures could have arrived at any other decision under the circumstances."²⁷

At the first court both McMahan and Storer were indicted for murder. Fearing from the first that he might be arrested and put on trial, and "believing that it would be inconvenient,"²⁸ Richard Storer picked up his gun, put on his hat and walked off into the woods. A few days later his wife and their three children, with what goods and clothing they could carry, left for their former home in Washington County. McMahan, however, was taken prisoner and removed to the garrison at Pittsburgh to await trial. (There was no jail available yet in Warren. Turhand Kirtland was a member of the committee appointed at that first court to provide a temporary jail and to plan for the erection of a permanent jail.)²⁹ A month later a court of Oyer and Terminer was held in Youngstown, on September 18th, 1800. The trial lasted four days and McMahan was acquitted.³⁰

The decision of Congress in 1800 and the action of General St. Clair confirmed the sale by the state of Connecticut of the Western Reserve to The Connecticut

Land Company and it was now possible to issue land titles and proper deeds but the ambiguities of the past few years were to cause more legal troubles—for John Young himself.

On August 30, 1796 Daniel Shehy had contracted with Young for 1000 acres of land. Not having a title himself at the time, Young couldn't give a title to Shehy. This was one of the hazards acknowledged and accepted by the early purchasers and settlers. But a year after his sale to Shehy, John Young made a second sale of part of Shehy's land to James Gibson and his wife for fifty cents more an acre than Shehy had paid. Shehy twice went to Connecticut to straighten out the confusion and to prove his claim—two trips on foot in the dead of winter through the wilderness! Hot-tempered at best and thoroughly exasperated, he called at John Young's dwelling house on the 13th of January in 1801 and in a "violent, angry and menacing manner . . . threatened Young's life."³¹ He beat him up. Although the sympathies of many in the community were with him, Shehy was arrested and put in jail, jail being the Quinby house in Warren. He pleaded not guilty but the court ruled against him and he was fined \$20.00 and costs. It was to be several more years before the breach between the Youngs and the Shehys was mended, and then it was accomplished by the supreme tact of Shehy's wife, Jane, who in 1805 named her second son John Young Shehy.

Later in the spring of 1801 George Tod, the prosecuting attorney, determined that 'Young's town' had a promising future and brought his wife, Sally Isaacs, and their two children, Jonathan and Charlotte, from Suffield, Connecticut to join him. Their wagon was stopped by the "swamp," as the very muddy road from the southern line of the Reserve up to Yellow Creek was called.³² Tod sent to his friend and associate John Young for help. Young rounded up his friend James McCay and each with a pair of oxen came and pulled the family through.³³ When they finally arrived in the center of town Mrs. Caleb Baldwin welcomed them with a loaf of bread. With the nearest flour mill thirty miles away in Beaver, this was indeed a generous present.³⁴ Tod bought Lots No. 5 and No. 6 with a frontage on West Federal Street and also 80 acres of farm land.

Another year went by. More and more settlers arrived. In February of 1802 the Youngs had another baby, Mary, their first daughter and fourth child. In that same month Young sold his house to James McCay with the stipulation that the Youngs might continue to live there. McCay intended to operate an inn or 'publick house,' but he in turn sold it to William Rayen, who did so. It was there that the first township meeting was held on April 5, 1802 with John Young presiding. The house was enlarged from time to time until in 1811 it was described as "a two story white house shingled on the sides instead of weatherboarding. There was a log house attached to it on the north [probably the Youngs' original dwelling] and a kitchen at the back built of round logs. Between the log and frame part was a wide hall, open at both ends, and wooden benches on the sides for loungers."³⁵ This was hardly a serene household for Mary Young to take care of her new baby, a toddler and the two older boys in. Indeed, in 1803 she found the trials of her country life

"with the latch-string always out and a table free to all, too great with her young family, for her power of endurance"³⁶ and she persuaded her husband to close up his remaining business and return to Whitestown. The Indian scare, the murder trial and the attack on her husband added to the normal trials of pioneer life, not to mention the lack of privacy in her own home—which was of necessity open to any and all prospective land purchasers—must have made 'Young's town' seem very far away from the security of her father's settlement and her own farm. Back in Whitestown in July of 1804 John Young gave his power of attorney to Turhand Kirtland, along with the names of thirty-four persons whose land contracts were still outstanding in the amount of \$12,000.00. These were closed with reasonable dispatch and it was generally understood that Young profited from his purchase and the seven years he devoted to its development.³⁷

That John Young profited at all must have seemed miraculous to shareholders of The Connecticut Land Company who found themselves with a white elephant on their hands. Their surveying parties were slow and with no financial interest in the company had no incentive to get on with their tasks. The costs of the surveys were higher than expected. Instead of finding their purses getting fuller the shareholders had to put in more cash under levies and assessments. The land went unsold or sold for promises and mortgages instead of cash, but the taxes still came due. John Young's township was the only one of the six reserved townships that was sold, much less settled. In 1800 Cleveland had only three inhabitants whereas 'Young's town' had at least twenty families. Turhand Kirtland urged the Land Company to cut their prices for two-acre lots from \$25.00 to \$12.00 an acre. But the Reserve did not develop fast enough to save many of the shareholders. They could not convert their holdings into cash, their creditors closed in and many faced bankruptcy. Oliver Phelps, the heaviest investor, died in debtors' prison.³⁸ But Youngstown was firmly established and growing fast.

Back in Whitestown, John Young's nominal occupation was that of farmer, but, natural promoter that he was, he was too restless to find this any more satisfying than he had as a youth in New Hampshire. His interest turned to other projects. "For nine years he was supervisor and manager of the Seneca Turnpike which extended 112 miles from Utica to Canandaigua and these duties required incessant vigilance and compelled almost constant absence from home."³⁹ He returned to Youngstown occasionally, the last time in 1814 in his own sleigh in the company of his son John,⁴⁰ then in the navy and on his way from the lakes to Washington. A genial soul, needing, however, in the words of his son, "a double measure of grace,"⁴¹ he died finally at home in Whitestown in April 1825 at the age of sixty-two, twenty-two years after his return from Youngstown. He and his wife, who survived him for fourteen years, are buried in the Grand View Cemetery in Whitesboro (Whitestown), New York.

NOTES

1. Colonel Charles Whittlesey, *Early History of Cleveland* (Cleveland, 1867), p. 154.
2. Whitestown was a settlement on the Mohawk river just four miles west and north of what we now call Utica and at the time was much larger. There was only one dwelling in Utica in 1785. Letter from Charles Young to John M. Edwards included in *Mahoning Valley Historical Society, Historical Collections of the Mahoning Valley* (Youngstown, 1875), p. 61.
3. Jonathan Smith, *Peterborough N. H. in the American Revolution* (Peterborough Historical Society, 1913), pp. 392-394.
4. John Young's brothers and sisters were: William, b. 1768; Elizabeth, b. 1771; Jane, b. 1773; Susanna, b. 1776; David, b. 1779; Foster, b. 1784. Albert Smith, *History of Peterborough New Hampshire* (Boston, 1876), pp. 361-363.
5. Charles Young letter, *Historical Collections of the Mahoning Valley*, p. 65.
6. *Ibid.*, p. 62.
7. Albert E. Van Dusen, *Connecticut* (New York, 1961), p. 198.
8. According to his son, Charles, John Young went to Whitestown in 1780. However, the town was not settled until 1785 so this hardly seems possible. We do not know where Young was between 1780 and 1785; neither do we know how he heard of Whitestown, how he lived, when he came, whether he worked for someone else, whether he had property of his own, etc., etc.
9. Harlan Hatcher, *The Western Reserve* (Indianapolis, 1949), pp. 31, 32.
10. Unfortunately Parsons never realized his dreams of settling on his land. In 1789 Connecticut appointed him to treat with the Indians on her behalf and to conclude a treaty with the Indians on the Reserve. Returning from this conference his canoe overturned at Beaver Falls and he was drowned. Eventually most of his land reverted to the state of Connecticut although a portion was laid aside for his heirs, following litigation. Harriet Taylor Upton, *History of the Western Reserve*, 3 vols. (Chicago, 1910), Vol. I, pp. 586, 587.
11. The proceeds of the sale were placed in a special fund, the interest to be used for the support of the Connecticut schools, and this is still in effect.
12. Young did not sell this cabin, nor the tract of land on which it stood, until he himself left Youngstown for good in 1803. At that time he sold it to Joseph Townsend who built the first tannery. Townsend, in his turn, sold it in 1807 to a relative, John E. Woodbridge.
13. In the autumn of 1798 Ephraim Quinby and Richard Storer of Washington County, Pa., early settlers of Warren, camped in this cabin. Henry Lane, also from Washington County, stayed there in the spring of 1799. Eventually his daughter and son-in-law, Edward Jones, took possession of it. They were the parents of the first white child, a girl, born in Warren, in February, 1800. *Historical Collections*, pp. 175-179.
14. *Historical Collections*, p. 166.
15. Turhand Kirtland, *Diary, 1798-1800* (Poland, Ohio, 1903), pp. 8, 12, 14.
16. *Ibid.*, p. 17.
17. *Ibid.*, pp. 18, 19.
18. *Ibid.*, p. 28.
19. Upton, *History of the Western Reserve*, Vol. I, p. 595.
20. The following year, at the age of forty-six, Marshall was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. He served for thirty-four years, until his death in 1835.
21. Kirtland, *Diary*, p. 32.
22. *Historical Collections*, pp. 191, 192.
23. *Ibid.*, p. 174.
24. Kirtland, *Diary*, p. 37.
25. Account of Leonard Case included in *Historical Collections*, pp. 185, 186. Mr. Case was fourteen years old and present at the incident.
26. Kirtland, *Diary*, p. 34.
27. Leonard Case, *Historical Collections*, p. 189.
28. *Ibid.*, pp. 187, 188.
29. Court Records included in *Historical Collections*, pp. 194, 195.
30. Kirtland, *Diary*, p. 37.
31. *U. S. v. Daniel Sheehy*, Trumbull County, 1801.

NOTES

32. The "swamp" led from the line of the Reserve up to Yellow Creek. From there the road was through the woods to the log dwelling of the Stevens at the Powers fording of the Mahoning, then up the west side of the river to Hillman's place, and then through the woods over the Salt Springs Road. *Historical Collections*, p. 180.
33. *History of Trumbull and Mahoning Counties*, 2 vols. (Cleveland, 1882), Vol. I, p. 428.
34. Mrs. Gertrude Van Rensselaer Wickham, ed. *Memorial to the Pioneer Women of the Western Reserve* (Cleveland, 1896), p. 382.
35. *Historical Collections*, p. 22.
36. Charles Young letter, *Ibid.*, p. 62.
37. *Ibid.*, p. 66.
38. By 1825 unpaid interest accumulations on Phelps' holdings amounted to \$300,000.00. Hatcher, *The Western Reserve*, p. 93.
39. Obituary of Mary Louisa Young (John Young's granddaughter and William C. Young's daughter) in a 1916 Utica newspaper, Dunham Public Library, Whitesboro, New York.
40. John and Mary White Young had seven children, all of whom survived their father. They were John, b. 1793 or 1794; George, birth date unknown; William, b. Youngstown, 1799; Mary, b. Youngstown, 1802; Charles C., b. Whitestown, July 1804; two more whose names and dates are unknown. John Young had no brother John as indicated in his son's letter. *Historical Collections*, p. 66 and Albert Smith, *History of Peterborough*, p. 363.
41. Charles Young letter, *Historical Collections*, p. 62.

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