

WILD TURKEYS
AND
TALLOW CANDLES

Growing Up in Granville
Before the Civil War

ELLEN HAYES

Formerly Professor of Astronomy and
Applied Mathematics in Wellesley College.
Author of *Calculus with Applications*,
Letters to a College Girl, etc.

GRANVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Granville, Ohio

INTRODUCTION

THE WORLD'S WANDERERS

Cras ingens iterabimus aequor.

—HORACE.

The morning twilight of human history reveals man as a migrant. That primitive creature could hardly have been anything else, considering that he must have inherited from his prehuman ancestors not only the habit of moving from place to place, but also those material conditions which initially induced the habit. Climatic changes, failure in food supply, the lure of better hunting-grounds, better fishing-waters, were no doubt the earliest causes of wide wanderings. Closely related to these causes was the friction between groups or races, more powerful groups dispossessing weaker ones and occupying their lands.

Whatever the minor to-and-fro motions, east and west, north and south, in Eurasia the migrations which were primary both in order of time and of importance were from east to west. Thus the mighty Cro-Magnon race of some 25,000 years ago either drove out or exterminated the Neanderthal men and occupied the region that is now southern France. These hunters and artists built their hearths and chipped their flints quite unmindful

that the grottoes which were homes to them were to become museums of prehistoric material. But the skull preserved beside the hearth was Asiatic, declaring in the fulness of time not only that the Cro-Magnon had been a migrant, but also that he had come from a land far to the east.

These paleolithic men of Western Europe were not the last, even as they had not been the first, to enter a land that was either one of refuge or conquest. By the land-bridges and the valley ways, by mountain passes and island stepping-stones, in the Eurasian part of the globe race has followed race, checked by nothing but the "wet sea," the Atlantic, and probably not even by that in a time so early that a land-crossing could be found by way of Greenland. The conquest of the Atlantic itself was reserved for a later day and a modern world.

Man's migratory activities fall, broadly speaking, into two classes: the moving bands go either as plunderers or pioneers. In the former case the action, on whatever scale conducted, is essentially a raid and is made with intention of return; that is, it is reversible. The operations of Attila and of Jenghiz Khan were of this type. On the other hand, migration proper, or colonizing, is distinctly non-reversible. The home-hunting journeyings of the Hindus as they may have poured through the passes of the Hindu Kush into the valley of the Indus furnished a fair example of permanent colonization. In true pioneer enterprises men have always taken their women and little ones with them, they have taken their house-gear, their folkways and folk-lore, and the places of advance in

INTRODUCTION

3

human culture have been determined by these colonizing movements.

The adventure which consisted in the trans-Atlantic migration though a very recent one must be regarded as coordinate with the east-to-west land migrations which began at least three hundred centuries ago. Other thousands of years will no doubt need to slip away before history can adequately portray the effects of that Atlantic leap, shared in as it has been by most of the races to whom modern Europe has been home. We may know history in the making, but the scroll which is as yet so completely rolled only allows us to guess that the fates of races and the nature of new civilizations are bound up with the spread of Europe over America.

The story of the early West Atlantic seaboard colonies is too familiar to require rehearsal here even if there were space and purpose for telling it. The object of this book is to deal in narrative fashion with a single thread of that transcontinental weaving of colonization which proceeded from the Atlantic to the Pacific in the latter part of the eighteenth and first part of the nineteenth centuries. This particular thread of the continental fabric was tied in 1805 to a certain point in Central Ohio to be known from that year as Granville.

The reverse side of migration is invasion. The Indians of the Mississippi Valley and beyond were called upon, first of all, to face an invasion represented by individual explorers, hunters, trappers, and traders. Through the report of this unorganized advance-guard the white settlers east of the Alleghenies learned something of the regions

beyond. It was inevitable that daring companies should set out for the great West with other purposes than those that governed the hunter and trader. The day of the colonist followed that of the vagrant adventurer. To secure, however, the proper political and social background of even one colony it is necessary to sketch briefly the outlines of the early history of the Middle West.

France's claim to North America, due to Cartier's discovery of the St. Lawrence in 1534, naturally conflicted with the claim made by England which was based on Cabot's discoveries in 1497. Cartier's discoveries were strongly supported by those of the intrepid LaSalle made more than a hundred years later (1670) when he reached the Ohio River. In 1682 LaSalle floated down the "Messipi." His explorations of the Ohio and the Mississippi may deservedly be called the discovery of the great Middle West although De Soto had reached the Mississippi before him. The French government always based its claims to the Ohio Valley on the exploration made by LaSalle. Thus the official instructions sent to M. du Quesne in 1752 recited:

The River Ohio, otherwise called the Beautiful River, and its tributaries belong indisputably to France by virtue of its discovery by Sieur de la Salle; of the trading posts the French have had there since; and of possession, which is so much the more unquestionable as it constitutes the most frequent communication from Canada to Louisiana.

The struggle between France and England for ownership ended in 1763 when France formally

INTRODUCTION

5

ceded to England her possessions lying east of the Mississippi. Great Britain held these possessions only twenty years, that is, until the close of the Revolutionary War, 1783, when by the Paris Treaty of peace, British America was limited to the region north of the Great Lakes. Virginia, rather than the United States, technically acquired the Northwest through its several charters granted by James I, with dates ranging from 1606 to 1611. In 1783 the General Assembly of Virginia passed an Act authorizing the Virginia delegates in Congress to convey to the United States all the right of that Commonwealth to the territory northwestward of the river Ohio. March 1, 1784, Thomas Jefferson and three others, Virginia's delegates in Congress, did, as per deed of cession, "convey in the name of and for, and on behalf of, the said Commonwealth transfer, assign and make over unto the United States in Congress assembled, for the benefit of said States, Virginia inclusive, all right, title, and claim, as well of soil as of jurisdiction to the territory of said State lying and being to the northwest of the river Ohio."

After such language as this, one may feel reasonably sure that the said territory is well and truly conveyed; though any holder of a deed to real estate in that region, considering the origin of his title, may be tempted to ask how James came by the land.

It is impossible that France or England or the United States could have realized in the eighteenth century either how vast or how valuable was that territory northwest of the river Ohio. The New World was too new to Europeans for the full

significance of its possession to be clear to them. Even in the second decade of the twentieth century, having been overrun rather than occupied, its possibilities are unrecognized by the majority of its inhabitants. The practical end of some forms of its exhaustible natural resources may be alarmingly near, but with a thriftier and more scientific system of agriculture, including reforestation, the old Northwest Territory shall yet afford prosperous homes to additional millions of citizens.

Having thus secured title to this Virginia territory the United States published in July, 1787, "An Ordinance for the government of the Territory of the United States north-west of the river Ohio." This document came to be known as the "Ordinance of '87," and for internal reasons it was also sometimes called the "Ordinance of Freedom." It provided a property qualification for the electorate and assumed that women were automatically politically outlawed through the circumstance of being women.

This Ordinance of Freedom concludes with six "Articles of Compact" between the original States and the people and States in the said Territory "to remain forever unalterable unless by common consent."

Article 1 relates to religious liberty and provides that "no person demeaning himself in a peaceable and orderly manner shall ever be molested on account of his mode of worship or religious sentiments in said territory." From which we may infer that similarly he shall not be molested on account of lack of any mode of worship or absence of religious sentiments.

INTRODUCTION

7

Article 2 is substantially a bill of rights. “The inhabitants of the said territory shall always be entitled to the benefits of the writ of habeas corpus and of trial by jury, of a proportionate representation of the people in the legislature, and of judicial proceedings according to the course of common law. All persons shall be bailable unless for capital offenses. All fines shall be moderate and no cruel or unusual punishment shall be inflicted. No man shall be deprived of his liberty or property but by the judgment of his peers or the law of the land.”

Article 3 provides that “religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged. The utmost good faith shall always be observed toward the Indians: their lands and property shall never be taken from them without their consent; and in their property, right and liberty, they shall never be invaded or disturbed unless in just and lawful wars authorized by Congress; but laws founded in justice and humanity shall, from time to time, be made for preventing wrongs being done them, and for preserving friendship with them.”

Article 6 declares that there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted. This article, however, concludes with one sinister proviso under which a fugitive-slave law might have been framed and justified.

On the whole the Ordinance afforded a dependable basis for the constitutions of States that were to be formed out of the great Territory. Barring its

8 INTRODUCTION

stupendous, albeit unintended, injustice to women it was a document of “civilization, and therewith citizenship—the skill to behave in a civilized world,” as Professor Myres, author of the Dawn of History, so felicitously defines citizenship.