

## PREFACE.

Compiling the history of a county like Knox, containing 324,404 acres of land, three-fourths of which are under cultivation, with all the wood land, as it is on each farm up to the present date, shown on maps, accompanied by a carefully prepared survey of the same, such as has been made by us for this work, requires patience, care and accuracy, to reconcile the thousand and one locations of all the farm lines, with the number of acres, also showing the wood land, springs, streams, roads, cemeteries, churches, school districts and school houses thereon, owners of land, Congressional township boundaries, wagon roads, railroads, post roads, creeks, dwelling houses, cities and towns, showing houses in brick and frame—brick in colors—post-offices, shops, stone quarries, coal banks, coal shafts, Nos. of sections, lots, etc.

In this work we have been aided by every farmer in the county to make all corrections and to locate their orchards, springs, wood lands, etc., and have been approved by them.

History should be preserved and studied, because the only light we have is the maps to guide us in the future. By their light, we can trace to the very spot, the history of nations that have grown to prosperity and power, and their people made happy and prosperous, or we can trace the cause that has led to the downfall of governments and reduced their people to poverty, degradation and misery.

It was from the history of the nations of the past that we gained the knowledge that enabled us to form the best system of government the world has ever known.

Without this light thrown on our pathway by maps, guiding us in the history of gone-by ages, the world would leave us groping our way in darkness, without a ray of light to guide us through the future ages. This perpetuates the record, revised and approved by all the land owners, and verified by records, which is a lasting history for all time to come.

The importance of preserving the early maps, with the histories of nations, States and communities, can hardly be estimated. The facts thus preserved will enable the future generations, with their historians, to account for many things that might otherwise appear obscure. The origin of the character of nations, States or communities may often be explained by tracing back on the maps to the influence exerted upon them by some one or more individuals, who have preserved the record for generations past. This record is a lasting record for all history, both civil and military.

Besides this, it is a duty that we owe to our forefathers, who have borne the toil and hardships of clearing away the forest and establishing institutions that have given us the best government ever

known to man; to preserve and keep their names and deeds in everlasting remembrance. Their bones are moulding to dust, but their memories have the greenest spot mapped out in the American history. The man with a soul so small, or a mind so uncultivated or indifferent as not to desire to perpetuate the record and preserve the names and work of their forefathers, who have left him such a priceless heritage, hardly deserves to enjoy the blessings bequeathed to him.

To the man of cultivated tastes, or appreciative mind, there is no surer or better pleasure than to recall to mind the early scenes which are mapped out, and the early incidents of the very ground he now occupies. In his imagination, he sees the forests and the old pioneers at work clearing up their farms and building their cabins—some of which are standing to the present day. He can, to-day, on the maps, view the actual localities made memorable by the deadly assault of the Indians, or the capture of some early settler by the wily savages. Local maps, combined with history, if preserved, will point out the spot and location of all the adventures and incidents of the early pioneer times, bringing before the cultured mind a complete map, or, we might say, a vivid panorama of scenes of farms, timber and cleared lands, with location of all the improvements to date, which shows the great change which have taken place since that time.

We hope, after the labors of eighteen months in making the survey of this county, that we have been the means of gathering information, and making the survey so complete as to make it a lasting history of the county and a ready reference.

We have not gone into the detailed history of the county—the field having already been gone over by two historians—but we give some unwritten history of the early divisions, showing the different land grants made in Ohio, which can also be found on the State maps and as this comes directly in our line of work, we have tried to give it as full, in detail, as we can, for the benefit of the public.

In conclusion, we beg to tender our kindest thanks and acknowledgments to the people of Knox County, for the generosity and kindness so uniformly extended to us in furnishing the information and aid so much needed by the engineer and surveyor, in the prosecution of a work of this magnitude.

We would be pleased to mention the names of those who have taken so deep an interest in our work, but the number is so great it would occupy too much space. We hope, therefore, that they will accept this general acknowledgment, which is none the less sincere.