

TOWNSHIP 1, RANGE 1
OUR WESTERN FRONTIER
POLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORY

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POLAND TOWNSHIP

OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR -- OUR SOCIETY -- COME ON HOME!

To remember when, start again, or start
anew.....

The Bicentennial celebration will be July 18, 19, 20, and 21 of 1996, celebrating 200 years of history.

OUR HISTORY

Connecticut relinquished its rights to the vast Western Claims, and once the land was sold, surveying parties plotted the Western Reserve Land into Townships. Poland was known as "Town 1, Range 1," since it was one of the first lands to be surveyed in the Western Reserve Area. It is said that the name Poland was bestowed in honor of a young Polish Revolutionary War hero who won the hearts of the community. The community has retained its colonial appearance, which came from new England settlers who brought their heritage and culture with them. Many of the old homes have been preserved and blend well with the new growth of homes in Poland. The township has its own Police and Road Departments and is a member of the Western Reserve Joint Fire District. With a concern for the future of our environment, Poland Township began a recycling program in the spring of 1991, adopting the theme, "Working Together to Become a Part of the Solution." Poland still retains its distinction of being a family community, with only small businesses in the area.

Poland is designed with you in mind to promote a safe, residential atmosphere for family living.

THE POLAND TOWNSHIP BICENTENNIAL SOCIETY, INC,

When the Poland Township Bicentennial Committee started the organization for the Bicentennial, we realized a need for a museum to preserve the history of Poland Township and Poland Village. Pictures and history were being passed on to the committee to save, in the hope that a museum would be a reality. Many people expressed an interest in donating old documents and historical pieces to our museum, if one could be founded.

Out of this was born the Poland Township Bicentennial Society, Inc., which is incorporated through the State of Ohio, and has the necessary paperwork completed and accepted by the Internal Revenue Service as a nonprofit organization.

The purpose of the Society will be to raise money to purchase (or have donated to them) a century-old home that can be refurbished and used as a museum. A membership drive is under way:

Lifetime member	one-time dues of	\$1,000.00
Donor member	annual dues of	\$100.00
Patron member	annual dues of	\$50.00
Sustaining member	annual dues of	\$.00
Junior member	annual dues of	\$3.00

An Honorary member needs the signed recommendation of a member in good standing, seconded by another member, and by a 3/4 majority vote by a ballot at the annual meeting, honorary membership may be conferred upon an adult resident of Poland Township, who has rendered notable service to the Poland Township Bicentennial Society. All honorary members will have no obligations of membership in the Society, but will be entitled to the privileges, except those of making motions, voting, and holding office.

All the residents of Poland Village and Poland Township are invited to become members of the Society. For more information, or to send checks, write to the Poland Township Bicentennial Society, 3339 Dobbins Road, Poland, Ohio, 44514

INTRODUCTION

The theme of this book centers around our first settlers and their roots and the institutions that forged Poland Township into a part of history. Our ancestors had diverse backgrounds, interests, and expectations. They have interacted and influenced the direction of our land, and we are, today, the result of our forefathers' dreams.

The year was 1796. George Washington decided to retire from the office of President of the United States. The election ballot that year listed John Adams and Thomas Pinckney running against Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr. The electoral college, without experience, did not foresee opposing parties running against each other. The members of the college voted for president and vice-president; the nominee who had the highest number of votes became president; the nominee with the second highest number of votes was vice-president. And so, the new officers, John Adams as president, and Thomas Jefferson as Vice-President, once close friends, now became political enemies. It was not until 1804 that the 12th amendment to the Constitution allowed the electoral college to vote for a political party.

With the beginning of a new century, a new nation was developing, a nation of migrating people, a nation celebrating its independence and freedom. By 1800, the population was shifting east to west. Marietta, Cincinnati and Louisville were established settlements along the Ohio River. Settlers traveled from the east to Pittsburgh and then north to the Western Reserve.

During the time that Poland was first settled, other events were taking place in our nation. In 1803, Thomas Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark to explore the country all the way to the Pacific Ocean. In 1804, Jefferson was re-elected president and more people became interested in politics. Most of the people migrating west earned their living by farming; small shops and businesses were run by those working a trade. Manufacturing was relatively unknown, although the first textile mill was built in 1790 in Rhode Island. The age of cheap labor was ushered in with the growth of this industry. Industrialization and mechanization soon followed.

In 1800 the frontier formed a line from western New York through Kentucky and Tennessee; by 1820, the frontier moved west through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi. By 1860, it moved to the West Coast. In 1800, only 33 towns were listed; population was about 2,500 each. Only 3 towns boasted of a population of more than 25,500.

It was in this era that Poland Township was born.



Western Reserve Boundry Marker
located on State Line Road

THE CONNECTICUT WESTERN RESERVE THE SALE, SURVEY, AND SETTLEMENT OF NORTHEASTERN OHIO

In its cession of 1786, Connecticut retained its claim to a great section of western lands, while surrendering to the Federal Government its claim to title in, and jurisdiction over, "all other lands northwest of the Ohio River." This section held by Connecticut lay in the northeastern part of what is now the State of Ohio. It was a tract of approximately 5,700 square miles, bounded on the east by the Pennsylvania state line, on the south by latitude forty-one, on the west by a line running from latitude forty-one to the international boundary paralleling the Pennsylvania line, 120 miles west, and on the north by the international boundary. This was the Connecticut Reserve, so called because the land was reserved. After 1786 it was the only stretch of American soil claimed by Connecticut outside the state's own boundaries.

Working rapidly, the surveyors reached the southeast corner of the reserve on July 21, 1796. It was from this spot that the actual work of surveying the land purchase began. As the Western Reserve was to include only lands lying north of the forty-first parallel, the surveyors believed they had located the spot where this parallel intersects the Pennsylvania state line. They were mistaken by one-half mile or more. When the south line was surveyed to the extreme western end of the Reserve, the southwest corner was located on the forty-first parallel.

On July 23, 1796, Moses Warren and Amos Spafford, with their assistants, arrived at the same spot, and a marker was set up at the starting point of the survey: Township One of Range One, now Poland Township, Ohio.

In a report to the Connecticut Land Company directors in the fall of 1796, specific reference was made to the advantages of Township One of Range One by saying that, "About twelve miles below the (Pennsylvania) line of Big Beaver there was an excellent set of mills, and about twenty-five miles below the line there was a town building rapidly, where provisions of all kinds could be procured and carried up the river into the heart of the Connecticut Reserve." Township One was the first township within the Northeast Territory, and the nearest to the rapidly growing settlement of Beavertown.

Poland Township was behind Youngstown Township in permanent occupancy, because the settlement could not be made until after the Western Reserve lands had been distributed in January, 1798. When the drawing was held, Township One went to Titus Street, William Law, Turhand Kirtland, Benjamin Doolittle, Samuel Doolittle, Andrew Hall, Daniel Holdbrook, Seth Hart, and Levi Tomlinson.

In its first few years, the growth of Poland Township was astonishing. Turhand Kirtland and Jonathan Fowler wanted a name for Township One Range One that would not be duplicated or be similar to the names of other settlements, in order to avoid confusion in mail delivery or in other matters.

In the summer of 1798, Turhand Kirtland and William Law visited their new possessions, but made no permanent settlement. Kirtland was the western agent for the Connecticut Land Company and was commissioned to survey a highway from Lake Erie to the Mahoning River. He reached the Mahoning Valley with his surveyors and helpers about August 1, 1798 and assisted John Young in laying out the village that he had planned. Kirtland then surveyed the Township now known as Poland in Mahoning County. Early in May, 1799, Kirtland was back in Youngstown.

Later, in May of 1799, Jonathan Fowler and family from Guilford, Connecticut , became the first permanent settlers of Poland Township. With Fowler was his wife and infant daughter. Mrs. Fowler was a sister of Turhand Kirtland. The Fowlers traveled overland to Pittsburgh, and then traveled by canoe to Youngstown. They were met by Kirtland, who brought them to the present site of Poland Village. They spent that night under an Oak tree on a spot a few yards west of Yellow Creek. On February 16, 1800, a daughter, Rachel Fowler, was born, the first white child born in Poland Township.

In 1799, David Arrel purchased property in Poland Township, including what is now Arrel Farms on Arrel Road. Arrel then went to England, returning in 1802 with a wife and child.

On August 25, 1800, Trumbull County was formally organized in the Northwest Territory, and in 1802, Poland Township was included in the civil Township of Youngstown for governmental purposes. Later Poland Township was separately incorporated. The County Court entry reads:

"On the motion of Judge Kirtland, the court ordered that Jonathan Fowler be recommended to the Governor as a suitable person to keep a publick house of entertainment in the town of Youngstown on his complying with the requisites of the law." The proposed tavern, or "publick house," was actually located at the newly founded settlement on Yellow Creek.

In 1800, the first settlement was made by John Struthers after he purchased from Turhand Kirtland 400 acres of land and a mill site on Yellow Creek. On October 19, 1800, Struthers settled with his family on this land, which is now within the current limits of the City of Struthers. In August, 1800, Ebenezer Struthers was born to John Struthers

and his wife. He was the first male child born in Poland Township. In 1800, John Struthers built his first grist mill in the township, located on Yellow Creek below the Village. In 1801, Jonathan Fowler built the first sawmill and grist mill within what is now the Village.

In 1800, John McGill settled in what is now Lowellville Village, followed by Thomas Love, John Miller, Stephen Frazier, John Arrel, William Buck and family, Adair and John Dickson, the Rev. James Duncan, Thomas Jordan and John Jordan and families, and Samuel Lowden. In 1801 and 1802, the Rev. Nicholas Pettinger, Francis Henry, Robert Smith, Benjamin Leach, Patrick McKeever, the Cowden Family, Francis Barclay, William McCombs, Peter Shoaf, Robert Lowry, Stephen Sexton, David Loveland, and James McNab all families located in Poland Township.

In 1803, Turhand Kirtland returned and permanently located in Poland Township. His brother Jared Kirtland came with him. John Truesdale and his wife, Hannah Robinson Truesdale, came in 1804. Other early settlers included James Russel and family, Thomas McCullough, William Guthrie, Ludwig Ripple, James Stewart, Gilbert Buchanan, John Hineman, William Brown, Nathaniel Walker, Isaac Walker, Josiah Walker, James Blackburn, William Campbell, James Moore, William Reed and family, Andrew Dunlap, John McConnell, William McConnell, Brian Slavin, John McCully, John McClelland, John Hunter, Joseph Porter, and David Loveland; all of these families had located in Poland Township prior to 1807.

In 1804, Jonathan Fowler erected a stone tavern building in the settlement. In fact, the settlement was known as "Fowler's" for some time. For many years it was the historic "Sparrow Tavern," with a frame front of recent vintage, and was the home of Charles Austin. It was on the porch of this tavern that William McKinley enlisted in the Union Army in 1861. In 1804, Jared Kirtland also erected a tavern in the same area.

John Hezlep, who opened a small mercantile establishment in a room in the Fowler Tavern, was the first storekeeper. The first tannery was operated by John McConnell, and the first cooperage plant was operated by John Hineman. Dr. Isaac Cowden, Dr. Jared P. Kirtland, and Dr. Ira Brainard were the earliest physicians.

Coal and iron ore were plentiful in Poland Township in the early days. Today, coal is still being mined in Poland Township. The presence of these minerals was responsible for the beginning of an industry that was destined to become the commercial backbone of the great Mahoning Valley. Poland Township also had limestone deposits in its southeastern corner, which are still being mined today. Industrialization began in Poland Township in 1802 or 1803, when Daniel and James Heaton built the Hopewell furnace, a small charcoal stack, on the banks of Yellow Creek. The brothers arranged for the rights to dig ore and make charcoal from surrounding timber.

In 1806, John Struthers and Robert Montgomery erected a second furnace on Yellow Creek below the Heaton stack, an enterprise in which Robert Alexander, James Mackey and David Clendennen also became interested. In 1807, these new furnace owners bought the Heaton stack and all of Heaton's ore and wood rights. These furnaces operated until 1812 -- sometime during the War of 1812 -- it was permanently abandoned, and the manufacture of iron was shifted to the Mill Creek and Mahoning River valleys. The furnaces were not permanently abandoned until the 1930s.

Early Days

At one time, Youngstown was referred to as "a small settlement near Poland." Poland was located on Yellow Creek and had a splendid mill, making it an ideal location. By 1810, the township had attained a population of 837, while Youngstown Township boasted only 773 inhabitants and Cleveland only 547. Warren, with its population of 875, was the only Trumbull County Township that exceeded Poland in number of residents.

Poland's population may be estimated from the liberality with which it responded to the call for soldiers during the War of 1812. As early as 1802, the militia had been regularly enrolled, with John Struthers as captain and Robert McCombs as lieutenant. Two militia companies were formed in the township. Some of those who served from the Township in the second war against England include Alexander McKeever, who was killed in service; Capt. Isaac Walker, John Strain, Alexander Buchanan, Elijah Stevenson, and Alexander Struthers, all of whom died in the service; James Strain, Major John Russell, William Brown, John Arrel, Isaac Buchanan, Walter Buchanan, Eli McConnell, Francis Henry, William Reed, James Jack, John Sexton, William Lowry, Johnston Lowry, Hugh Truesdale, Alexander Truesdale, John Cowden, and William Love. Love was the last Poland Township survivor of the War of 1812, dying on October 31, 1884, aged ninety-one.

In the civil war, and again in the First World War, Poland Township lived up to its reputation for patriotism, gained more than 100 years ago.

By 1820, Youngstown Township had a population of 1,025, while Poland Township had but 990 inhabitants. The opening of the Pennsylvania & Ohio canal in 1839-40 directed industrial progress to the Mahoning River Valley. With this improvement, and the later construction of the railroads, Struthers and Lowellville claimed industrial precedence over Poland Village within the township, while Youngstown flourished to an even greater degree. The old mill, long abandoned, was torn down in the summer of 1920.

Hamilton Lake to the north and Burgess Lake to the southeast furnished industrial and domestic water supplies to Struthers and East Youngstown via the Mahoning Valley Water Company.

Political History

Poland Township was included in the civil township of Youngstown when that subdivision was erected in 1802. John Struthers of Poland was one of the first Trustees of Youngstown Township. Later, Poland Township was separately incorporated.

Poland Village became an incorporated municipality on August 7, 1866. A petition signed by 63 voters had been presented to the county commissioners and was acted on favorably. The temporary officers elected that year were Andrew Campbell, mayor, and Seth H. Truesdale, recorder. The first regular village election was held in April, 1867. Those elected were John A. Leslie, mayor; B.B. Stilson, recorder; C. B. Stoddard, W. J. Ogden, Adam Case, John Barclay and Henry Burnett, councilmen; Michael Graham, marshal. The officers at present are mayor, marshal, recorders, treasurer, street commissioner, and six councilmen.

Poland Township was part of Trumbull County until February 16, 1846, when Mahoning County was organized officially on March 1, 1846. History, documents, wills and deeds can be found in the Warren Library Genealogy Department.

EXCERPTS FROM AN ABSTRACT OF THE TITLE OF BOARDMAN TOWNSHIP

1.

The State of Connecticut claimed title to the lands between the forty-first parallel and the parallel of forty-two degrees two minutes north, and extending from the western boundary of Pennsylvania one hundred and twenty miles due west (afterwards called the Connecticut Western Reserve,) by virtue of the grants by James I., King of England, to the Plymouth Company (November, 1630); by the Plymouth Company to Robert, Earl of Warwick (1630); and by the Earl of Warwick to Viscount Say and Seal and others, called the Patent of Connecticut (19th March 1631); confirmed by Charles II., 25th April, 1662.

2.

These claims of the State of Connecticut were confirmed in pursuance of an act of Congress by PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES, executed 2d March 1801, by John Adams, President, to the Governor, for the time being, of the State of Connecticut, for the benefit of said State and its grantees, confirming in them the title to the soil of the said Western Reserve; which patent is on record in the office of the Secretary of the State of Connecticut, at Hartford; "State Records for Deeds, Patents of Land, &c., No. 5" p. 197.

3.

The State of Connecticut sold 3,000,000 acres of the Easternly end of the Connecticut Western Reserve, to Joseph Howland and forty-seven others, for \$1,200,000 (2d September, 1795). The deeds therefore are recorded in the Office of the Secretary of the State of Connecticut; "State Records for Deeds, Patents of land, &c., No. 5." pp. 1-69 inclusive. Copies therefore are on record in Trumbull County, Ohio, in "Western Reserve Draft-Book," pp. 5-73 inclusive.

4.

Joseph Howland and his associates, as members of the Connecticut Land Company, joined in a deed of trust to John Caldwell, John Morgan, and Jonathan Brace, the survivors and survivor of them and the heirs of the survivor, conveying to said Trustees the whole of said 3,000,000 acres of land, with power to survey, plat and sell said lands (5th September, 1795). This deed is on record in the office of the Secretary of the State of Connecticut; "State Records for Deeds, Patents of Land, &c., No.5," p. 97. A copy therefore is on record in Trumbull County, Ohio, in "Western Reserve Draft Book," p. 75, and in Records of Deeds, Vol. A. Page 418.

5.

By Act of the Congress of the Confederation adopted July 13th, 1787, the lands lying Northwest of the Ohio River and West of Pennsylvania were erected into the Northwest territory with Chillicothe as the seat of government and provision was made for its government by the territorial officers and legislature.

6.

By proclamation of the Governor of the Northwest territory dated July 27th, 1788, the County of Washington, comprising the Northeast part of the present State of Ohio, and including the lands within the territorial limits of the County of Mahoning, was established with its County seat at Marietta. This attempt on the part of the territorial government to gain jurisdiction over the lands of the Connecticut Western Reserve, however, was not recognized by the Reserve Settlers, and in as much as they claimed title to their lands under grants from the State of Connecticut. By the Governor's proclamation dated July 29th, 1787, Washington County was subdivided and the Northern portion thereof, including all of the present County of Mahoning, became known as Jefferson County, with Steubenville as its County seat.

13.

By proclamation of the Governor of the Northwest territory, dated July 10th, 1800, that part of Jefferson County which lay within the limits of the Connecticut Western Reserve was erected into the County of Trumbull with Warren as its County seat. This County included all of the present County of Mahoning except the Townships of Smith, Green, Goshen, Beaver, and Springfield. See Section 23-95 Revised Statutes of Ohio.

14.

On April 30th, 1802, the Congress of the United States passed the Enabling Act authorizing the organization of the present State of Ohio, and its admission to the Union "when formed." In November 1802, the First Constitution of Ohio was adopted, signed and approved and under its provisions and in accordance with the terms of the Enabling Act of Congress, Ohio was organized as a State and admitted to the union on March 1, 1803.

24.

By an Act of the Ohio Legislature, passed February 16th, 1846, the County of Mahoning was organized by taking part of Trumbull County, to-wit: Berlin, Ellsworth, Canfield, Boardman, Poland, Coitsville, Youngstown, Austintown, Jackson, and Milton Townships and uniting said Townships with certain Townships taken from Columbiana County. This Act took effect March 1st, 1846. See Ohio Sessions Laws, Volume 44, page 116. Also Section 23-70, Revised Statutes of Ohio.

Note: This abstract was prepared by The Realty Guarantee and Trust Company of Youngstown, successor to The Mahoning County Abstract Company, and was recorded in 1933. The properties discussed in the abstract are located in Boardman Township. John and Samuel McCullough owned properties in Boardman Township. Thomas McCullough settled in Poland Township in 1803 at the northwest corner of North Lima Road and Western Reserve Road. His family is still represented in Poland Township.

The abstract was furnished by Diane Fodor, of Poland Township. The above excerpts were used with her kind permission.

POLAND TOWNSHIP--THE WESTERN FRONTIER

One of the earliest settled portions of Mahoning County was Poland Township One, Range One. A marker still stands today on State Line Road, marking the first survey in the Western Reserve. By 1810 Poland had a considerable population, which consisted largely of immigrants from Pennsylvania. Poland was well adapted to farming with its deep and fertile soil. Considerable coal and iron ore and limestone were found in the township. Some coal and limestone are still being mined today.

Mrs. Mary M. Maxwell wrote an account of the early history of Poland for a Columbus celebration October 21, 1892.

Mrs. Maxwell wrote, quote, "The first to lay out and take claim in this place was Turhand Kirtland, a surveyor named Woolcott coming with him. These men began work in 1798, remaining here during the warm weather and returning to the east in the winter, until 1803, when Mr. Kirtland brought out his family and settled on the spot where Isaac Walker now lives. This was done to the great sorrow of his beautiful wife, who declared that if she had to leave her eastern home, she would never return for even a visit, a promise she faithfully kept."

Mr. Kirtland and Mr. Woolcott had many strange adventures and endured many hardships. It is said that they slept under a large beech tree, "At night making a tent of bark and slept sweetly."

An amusing story was told, one being how he fetched, on one of his journeys west, a quantity of money in a box under the seat of his cart, marked "Bibles," leaving it safely wherever he stopped, no one showing any desire to rob a traveler so pious as to carry Bibles by the quantity.

One of the first acts for encouragement for his town was a gift by Mr. Kirtland of a portion of land "to be kept for a church, school and other purposes," and for a graveyard. Poland, the name of the young town, was chosen because the name was unlikely to be duplicated in other places.

On May 29, 1799, Jonathan Fowler, came from Connecticut on horseback, bringing his wife, a sister of Mr. Kirtland, their child, and their household goods. Part of the trip was made by canoe from Beaver, then called Mackintosh. They slept under a tree until their cabin was built. In 1804 they left their cabin for the stone tavern, a landmark still standing. Mr. Fowler had a store in part of the stone house. Once a year Mr. Fowler packed his horse with the goods the settlers furnished to Beaver Point, placed it on a raft and poled to New Orleans, the nearest market. The trip took three months. On one of these trips, in an attempt to save his assistants, he drowned.

The first white female born in Poland was Mr. Fowler's daughter Rachel. Ebenezer Struthers was the first male child born. The Indians had never seen a white child and would come and take Rachel for hours. This upset Mrs. Fowler but she didn't want to make the Indians angry so she would let them take the child. Rachel was married in 1820 to Thomas Riley.

John Arrel, Sr., and a man named Love, owned a cart and two horse between them. They packed their household goods in the cart, and with their wives and children, crossed the mountains from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, arriving in 1801. They lived in a shanty made of rough logs and covered with chestnut bark. Much of this original land still belongs to descendants of the Arrel family.

In 1800, Capt. Dunlap came to Poland, his father having proceeded him. In 1802 Jared Kirtland, built a tavern. The hostelry was noted for its commodious rooms, whose walls and woodwork were all hand-finished very handsomely; for its hospitality and for its choice of liquors. It was the halfway house between Cleveland and Pittsburgh. The proprietor of this famous house had two daughters who attracted the attention of a rising young physician in Youngstown, which was known as a "small settlement near Poland." One day he called on Mr. Kirtland, saying he was looking for a wife and it was immaterial to him which one he got. Mr. Kirtland felt the older sister should marry first so it was settled and the marriage arranged.

Mrs. Kirtland allowed the children to come from the schoolhouse to drink from her famous well. One day she emptied a vessel that contained cherry-bounce. The children ate a quantity of these rich berries, as did a flock of Mrs. Kirtland's turkeys. The teacher could do nothing with his pupils the rest of the day; and the poor turkeys had a bitter lesson, for they soon fell over, apparently stone dead. Mrs. Kirtland, thinking some disease had killed them, thought she would at least save the feathers; she at once plucked them carefully, being greatly surprised an hour or two later to find her birds walking around her yard, looking quite distressed (dis-dressed).

In 1803, Poland paid a tax of \$48.24, which was assessed upon the fifty-five property holders of the township. Turhand Kirtland also paid \$17.55, and Jared Kirtland, \$5.08, leaving the average of about forty-eight cents apiece for the rest of the inhabitants. This was a larger tax than was paid by any other township in the county.

The Hon. George F. Arrel of the firm of Arrel, Wilson & Harrington, was born in Poland township, October 1, 1840. His parents were David and Martha (Moore) Arrel, both born in Poland, the father on May 6, 1803. Mr. Arrel's grandparents were among the earliest settlers of Mahoning County. George F. Arrel's literary education was obtained at New Wilmington College, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania, where he graduated in 1865. For sometime he was in partnership with Halsey H. Moses, of Moses & Arrel. In July 1870, Mr. Arrel was elected city solicitor of Youngstown to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Joseph Harris. He was re-elected for every successive term until 1878, when he declined a further re-election.. Mr. Arrel was appointed judge of the Courts of Common Pleas September 1880, to fill the vacancy of Judge E. B. Taylor's term and was elected at the annual election in October, 1880, for the remainder of Judge Taylor's term. He was re-elected in October, 1881 for a five-year term. On retiring he went into private practice and in 1906, he became a member of the law firm of Arrel, Wilson and Harrington.

Cook Fitch Kirtland was reared in Poland township. He engaged in banking and other businesses, being the owner and operator of several farms. His first wife was Maria Perkins Swift.. Their two children, Henry Turhand, died at age 19, and Maria, at the age of 10. On February 3, 1876 , Mr. Kirtland married Harriet Swift, a cousin of his first wife and daughter of Lucian and Sarah (West) Swift. They had two children, Isabell and Lucian Swift. Isabel was educated at Waterbury, Connecticut, and was the wife of George S. Bishop; they had two sons-- George Kirtland Bishop and Fitch Kirtland Bishop.

The Hon. Zephaniah Swift, the grandfather of Mrs. Kirtland, was for many years a judge in the higher courts of Connecticut. His son Lucian, her father was born in Connecticut, June 2, 1808 and died in Cleveland, Ohio in 1890.

Henry K. Morse of Poland Township lived on the old Morse homestead on which he was born May 4, 1822. His parents were Elkanah and Nancy (Kirtland) Morse. The founder of the American branch of the Morse family was John Morse, the great-grandfather, who came to New England in 1635 and became a prominent settler in New Haven, Connecticut.

Elkanah Morse, father of Henry K., was born at Wallingford, Connecticut, and was a young man when he came to Poland Township in 1814. He was a man of energy and enterprise and his life was filled with many adventures and much business success. In partnership with Henry Kirtland, his brother-in-law, Mr. Morse built a flat-boat on the Mahoning river and loaded it with flour, bearskins, oil and other commodities, proceeded down the river to Beaver, then down the Ohio to the Mississippi and on to New Orleans, to the market. While Mr. Morse had business interests across the country, each year increasing their scope, he continued to live in Poland township. He operated a store in Poland Village and for several years carried on a large commission and shipping business in Detroit. He became interested in growing broomcorn and in one year raised 400 acres, with about 20 men employed in broom-making. He encouraged others to follow his example.

Elkanah Morse was married (first) to Nancy Kirtland, a daughter of Turhand Kirtland. They had three children: Lois, Henry Kirtland, and Edwin who died in 1853. Mrs. Morse died in 1825. Mr. Morse then married Comfort Eliza Waller; they had one son William who was wounded and taken prisoner at the battle of Stone River and died at Atlanta. Elkanah's life came to an end when he was stricken with cholera, on the great plains, while on his way to recover from business losses in the California gold fields, in 1849.