

PIONEER FAMILIES OF HARDIN COUNTY
LONG FAMILY

BY HERBERT BLUE

(STORY IN THE KENTON TIMES OF KENTON, OHIO, MAY 10, 1960)

THREE MILES WEST OF ADA ON THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 19 IN LIBERTY TOWNSHIP LIVES CHARLES N. LONG, THE 24TH CHILD OF TOBIAS LONG, ONE OF HARDIN COUNTY'S EARLIEST PIONEERS. ON JULY 15, 1960, LONG WILL BE 79 YEARS OF AGE. IT IS MOST INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT TOBIAS LONG, THE PIONEER, PURCHASED THIS LAND FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN 1835, AND FROM THAT DAY TO THIS THE FARM HAS BEEN IN THE POSSESSION OF THE LONG FAMILY FOR 125 YEARS, THE PRESENT OWNER BEING CHARLES N. LONG.

TOBIAS LONG WAS A NATIVE OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNA., WHERE HE WAS BORN ON NOV. 9, 1814, THE SON OF ADAM AND MAGDALENA (BOYER) LONG. THE FIRST OF THE LONG FAMILY CAME TO AMERICA FROM SCOTLAND IN 1755. THE PARENTS OF TOBIAS LONG LOCATED IN THE FIRST COUNTY EAST OF PITTSBURGH. HERE IN WESTMORELAND COUNTY, TOBIAS RECEIVED HIS EARLY EDUCATION, AND HERE HE GREW TO MANHOOD, AND LIKE HIS FATHER, BECAME A FARMER.

ON DEC. 13, 1836 HE WAS MARRIED TO SARAH HANEY, A DAUGHTER OF FREDERICK AND CATHERINE (GONSER) HANEY, OF GERMAN DESCENT. SHE WAS BORN ON AUG. 30, 1816. NOT LONG AFTER THEIR MARRIAGE, THEY RODE ON HORSEBACK FROM HOLMES COUNTY IN EASTERN OHIO TO THEIR NEW HOME IN HARDIN COUNTY. LONG HAD PREVIOUSLY MADE TWO TRIPS TO LIBERTY TOWNSHIP ON FOOT, AND HAD ERECTED A LOG CABIN ON HIS FARM, WHICH HE HAD PURCHASED IN 1835 FOR \$1.25 AN ACRE. IN THOSE DAYS 160 ACRES COST \$200.

WHEN THE YOUNG COUPLE REACHED THEIR DESTINATION, THEY FOUND LIBERTY TOWNSHIP SPARSELY SETTLED, IN FACT TOBIAS LONG WAS ELECTED TO THE OFFICE OF CONSTABLE, WHEN THERE WERE ONLY 17 VOTES CAST IN THE ENTIRE TOWNSHIP. THE LONG FARM WAS COVERED WITH VIRGIN FOREST, NOT A TREE HAD BEEN CUT, EXCEPT THOSE WHICH LONG HAD USED TO BUILD HIS PRIMITIVE LOG CABIN. NO CROPS COULD BE PLANTED UNTIL THE GREAT TREES WERE REMOVED, AND THIS WAS NO EASY TASK.

WHEN HE WAS FINALLY SETTLED IN HIS NEW CABIN HOME, HE HAD ONE LONE SILVER DOLLAR LEFT, WHICH HE GAVE TO A NEIGHBOR TO DIG A WELL 12 FEET DEEP. THERE WAS AN ABUNDANCE OF WILD GAME IN THE FORESTS, WHICH INCLUDED DEER, WILD HOGS AND WILD TURKEYS.

CHARLES LONG STILL HAS IN HIS POSSESSION HIS FATHER'S OLD RIFLE, WHICH WAS USED TO HUNT GAME IN THE 1830'S. WHEN LONG HAD FINALLY RAISED A CROP OF CORN AND HAD IT GROUND INTO MEAL, HE FOUND THAT THE INDIANS WERE ONLY TOO GLAD TO TRADE THEIR VENISON FOR SOME OF HIS CORN MEAL.

IN THOSE DAYS THE INDIANS FROM AROUND UPPER SANDUSKY AND WAPAKONETA MADE FREQUENT HUNTING EXCURSIONS INTO VARIOUS PARTS OF HARDIN COUNTY. THEY WERE QUITE FRIENDLY WITH THE EARLY SETTLERS AND FOUND TOBIAS LONG AND HIS FAMILY EQUALLY FRIENDLY. THEY LIKED TO COME INTO THE CABIN TO GET A PIECE OF CORN PONE OR "JOHNNY CAKE", AS IT WAS CALLED BY THE PIONEERS. THE INDIANS CALLED IT "JOMIE CAKE". THEY ALSO GREATLY ENJOYED LYING ON THE FLOOR OF THE CABIN WITH THEIR HEADS TOWARD THE BIG FIREPLACE.