

BROWN TOWNSHIP

The land now known as Brown Township has a rich and varied history extending back thousands of years. Although most of the remains of the once glorious native inhabitants' city have been eradicated, slight evidence of their ancient culture has survived despite the destructive hands of the white people. Before the arrival of the early white settlers in 1808, the natives found this to be an excellent hunting area rich in game, especially along the Big Darby Creek, which the local natives called Crawfish Creek. During the pioneer era there were more Haudenosaunee living in the area than white people. The native People were called Mingoes by the white people. The famous Shawanese leader Tecumtha frequented the area, and Jonathan Alder, a white man who was once a captive of the Mingoes, lived most of his life along Big Darby Creek in and near Brown Township.

To the Hon. The Commissioners of Franklin County. We your petitioners humbly showth the inconvenience we labor under for want of a new township being laid off in the western part of Norwich and Prairie Township. 1st as to attending Elections in Norwich many of the inhabitants have to travel ten or twelve miles or sacrifice their suffrage the Elections ever being held at the extreme east. 2nd As to common Schools we are deprived of our equitable rights the township being districed in two districts from East & West. The Eastern population being mostly weighty they organize their Schools draw Revenue and strip us of public Patronage. 3rd by we the inhabitants of Prairie being few in number situated in the N W corner

suff inconvenience Reaching Schools we therefore pray your Honor to grant us a new Township bounded as follows. Vis beginning at the N.W. Corner of Norwich at the County line thence East with the line of Norwich to a point that due fourth line will include John MCCan, thence to a point an Mile and a quarter in Prairie thence West to the county line, thence north with said line to the place of beginning. We in duty will ever pray.

This petition to create Brown Township was submitted to the Franklin County Commissioners on March 1, 1830. Two days later, on March 3rd, the 18th of Franklin County's 19 townships was organized. Brown Township, being the last land to be settled in Franklin County, was created from parts of Norwich, Prairie, and Washington Townships and is the smallest township in the county. The name "Brown" was for Sylvester Brown, a merchant who had opened the first store in the township. Many of the early white settlers were natives of Virginia, settling on land granted to them in the Virginia Military District. This was an area reserved for former Virginia soldiers. All of Brown Township is located within this reserve. The eastern portion of the township was largely settled by the Welsh. At that time a major portion of north central Brown Township was a timbered marsh.

White settlement first occurred along Big Darby Creek and then moved eastward. In addition to Jonathan Alder, who lived here for years prior to white settlement, the first settlers in the future Brown Township were the families of

