

Mansfield was platted and first settled in 1808. The growth of the town at first was slow, but it was sure. The enterprise of its citizens was felt from the beginning, and wonderful developments and achievements have followed. In time small industries were started, which attracted others of various varieties, until today Mansfield is a great manufacturing and industrial center, upon lines of a net work of railroads spanning the continent, and carrying the output of our shops to all the nations of the earth. Cars propelled by electricity traverse our streets, and suburban lines bring us into close touch and communication with other towns in this and adjoining counties.

The city of Mansfield is compactly built on a commanding elevation, in the midst of a fertile and prosperous region, sixty-five miles from the state capital and fifty miles from the lake. The city is well laid out, with broad and well paved streets, lighted by electricity. It has a number of handsome public buildings, and outside the business portion, the streets are lined with elegant residences, many of which are surrounded by beautiful and well kept lawns. Situate near the center is a beautiful park, which was formerly the site of the two block houses and later of the first court house. A large and handsome fountain is near the center; to the west is a soldiers' monument, and to the east is a pyramid of cannon. Seats are here and there found in the shady nooks, affording rest and comfort from the heat of a summer day. Mansfield has another park—a larger one—located in the western part of the city, and is nearly a mile in length. This park has many natural advantages. A ravine runs the entire length, and through it passes a little stream of water. The north part has been improved and is an attractive place, with various places of amusements. The south part is a forest, and shade trees of different kinds abound, making it delightful for picnic and pleasure parties.

Both as a residence city and a commercial center Mansfield cannot be excelled by any city of its size in the state.

With due respect for the things of the past, we gratefully accept the bettered conditions of the present.

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The Historical Society was addressed by Attorney Edwin Mansfield, of Shelby, who made a most excellent speech, which elicited many favorable comments.

The singing by Mrs. W. G. Gilger, of Norwalk, was very greatly appreciated. She has an excellent voice and the selections were exquisitely rendered.

A number of other people were called upon and made brief remarks including Hiram R. Smith, who gave reminiscences; the Hon. J. M. Hunter, of Shiloh, formerly Richland County's Representative in the Legislature; R. W. Knisely, of Bucyrus, president of the Crawford County Historical Society, and others. It was a day long to be remembered.