

creased nearly twenty thousand in population and is conceded to be one of the most substantial and progressive cities of its class in Ohio.

Living issues and present conditions so fully occupy the attention of the people of today, that the history of other years is often relegated to the shadows of the past, although that history supplies one of the chief needs of the highest civilization, and the character and culture of the people of a county as well as those of a nation are estimated and measured by their literature and published records. Local history stimulates public pride—a pride which is a bond of union and of sympathy in communities—and the surest safeguard of liberty and the staunchest champion of justice and right.

The history of Rome is shrouded in myth and fable, but the history of Richland County is an open book. No fables, no mythical legends, no exaggerated stories are told of the Richland County pioneers, for their acts, their lives and their accomplishments are in the full light of open history.



SCENE ON THE ROCKYFORK BELOW BEAM'S MILLS.