



James Patchell

JAMES PATCHELL, one of the oldest settlers of the township, occupies a farm on Section 5, in the second township, second range. He is a son of **James Patchell** and **Elizabeth Cannon**, who were natives of Ireland. He was born on Oil Creek, Venango County, Pennsylvania, Jul. 9, 1814. His paternal ancestors were French Huguenots, who emigrated to the northern part of Ireland in 1568, four years before the massacre of St. Bartholomew. As early as 1515 the principles of **Luther and Zwinglius** had gained an entrance into France (especially that part bordering on Switzerland), as well as the doctrines of Calvin, which were embraced by the **Patchells**, a very numerous and influential family living near Vassey. In the struggle between the bourbons

and the five princes of Guise, they espoused the cause of the former; but it was not until 1560 that there was anything like an armed opposition to the tyranny of the latter. A plan was agreed upon by the Huguenots to seize the Guises on a certain day, when a number of them were to present a petition to the king in person (who then lived at Blois), asking him to grant them the right of free exercise of their worship. The plan was betrayed and twelve hundred Huguenots were executed. Of that number seven were **Patchells**, where the name first occurred in French history. Bloody scenes were the result, and the massacre of Vassey in 1562 was the immediate cause of a continued civil war between the Catholics and Protestants in that part of France for over a century.

In leaving France and settling in Ireland, the **Patchells** did not better their condition, for the same bloody scenes were there enacted, though of a local and not a national character. His great-great-great-great grandfather was one of the gallant few who served under that famous Protestant clergyman, **George Walker**, in the heroic defense of Derry against **King James**. For bravery in the battle of Boyne, he was presented with a gold medal, now in the possession of **Samuel Patchell**. His grandfather, **Edward Patchell**, was keeper of the forest under **Lord Fitzgerald**. The nobleman was killed by the Catholic tenantry, in the insurrection of 1788, in Derry County. He also owned a large farm five miles from Londonderry, and would have shared the fate of his lordship had he not been secretly released by a man named **Dunbar**, who he had befriended in several ways.

In 1792 he emigrated to America, settling in Pennsylvania. In 1800 he bought one thousand acres of land of the Holland Land Company, through which Oil Creek runs, on which are some of the largest oil-wells in the State. His father, **James Patchell**, was next to the youngest of a family of two sons and three daughters, and was born in the county of Derry, Ireland, in 1772, and married **Elizabeth Cannon** in 1800. She was also a native of Ireland, and was born in the county of Tyrone, in 1783. By this union there were eight children: **Edward, William, Mary A., Jane, Eliza, Jemima, James**, and **Joseph**, all of whom are now dead but **James**, who resides at Port Union.

In the War of 1812 he was a major in the Pennsylvania militia, and during the Winter of 1814 was stationed at Erie, Pennsylvania. His brother **Edward** was a brigadier-general in the Pennsylvania line during the War of 1812. He was also appointed by **President Jackson**, during his second term, the issuing commissary-general of the Army of the Southwest, with head-quarters at New Orleans, which position he held for three years, when he resigned on account of ill health. At the time of his death he was

one of the wealthiest and most prominent citizens of Pittsburg.

In the Spring of 1816 **James Patchell**, in company with several other families, descended the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers to Neville, Clermont County, Ohio, in a keel-boat. He was driven to this course on account of going on the official bond of his friend **Samuel Plumer**, as sheriff of Venango County. He defaulted in office, for a large sum, and his security could not pay this without selling his farm, which he had inherited from his father. He left it in the hands of his brother **Edward**, to sell and pay the debt. A short time after coming to Clermont County he purchased a farm in Tate Township, where he resided until 1830, when he removed to Butler County, where he died in 1846. He was a man of great energy and strong will power. Although a Democrat in a Democratic county and township, and possessed of a good education, he would never consent to be a candidate for any office. These, combined with honesty and good judgment made him a man of more than ordinary ability.

James Patchell, the son, was born on the 9th of July, 1814, at Oil Creek, Venango Co., Penn., and remove with his parents to Clermont Co., in Ohio, in 1816. He came to Union Twp. in 1830. On the 28th of Aug., 1842, he was married, at Port Union, to **Mrs. Belinda McClellan Smith**, widow of **Dr. G. M. Smith**. Her maiden name was **McClellan**, being the daughter of **James McClellan** and **Anna Giffin**, and she was born in Hamilton Co., Ohio, Oct. 8, 1815. Her father was a great-uncle of **Gen. George B. McClellan**. They have six children. **Joseph C.** was born Dec. 14, 1843; **E. Jennie**, Aug. 4, 1847; **James E.**, Aug. 29, 1850; **Stephen C.**, Jan. 29, 1853; **Edward W.**, Aug. 14, 1855; and **Rosalinda**, Dec. 6, 1858. **Joseph C.** who is married to **Lizzie Gerwig**, now lives in Cincinnati, and is a dentist in good practice; **E. Jennie** is married to **Samuel B. Dean**, and lives at Collinsville; **James** is married to **Ollie Cutler**, and lives at Port Union; **Stephen** is married to **Jennie Easton**; **Edward W.** is married to **Millie Howard**; **Rosalinda** was married Sept. 28, 1881, to **George Milton Roudebush** of Newtonville, Clermont Co.

Mr. Patchell began with about eighty acres of land, but has since added steadily to it, until he now has two hundred and forty-six acres in a state of high cultivation. He was trustee of Union Township from 1843 to 1849; Justice of the peace from Nov. 3, 1849, to Dec. 13, 1846, in all fifteen years; postmaster of Port Union from May 11, 1850, to October, 1865, and notary public since Jan. 25, 1866. He was assessor of real estate in the township in 1859, and also in 1880, and revalued them in both years. From 1855 to 1877 he settled nearly all the estates of deceased persons as administrator, and acted as guardian of minors within the township, their estates amounting in gross to nearly two hundred thousand dollars. His family has had a long and honorable connection with the history of this valley.

Source: A History & Biographical Cyclopaedia of Butler County, Ohio - Evansville, Ind. 1882- Page 574a, Union Twp.