

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1912.

THE

SONS OF SIRE'S WHO FOUGHT IN THE WARS OF THE REVOLUTION AND 1812.

Cyrus K. Fairfield, Pioneer Fort Wayne Resident, Who Came Here as a Babe in His Mother's Arms—His Father, One of Our Pioneers, and His Grandfather Fought in Defence of Our Nation's Flag in Wars With England.



CYRUS K. FAIRFIELD.

Now One of the Oldest Pioneer Residents.

One among the Sons of the American Revolution in this city is Cyrus K. Fairfield, the well known real estate agent. His grandfather, Capt. William Fairfield, was a soldier in the American army during the war of the revolution, one of the aides-de-camp of General Washington, and had a record for bravery and efficient service that is a treasured one in the history of the Fairfield family.

But this is not the only ancestral honor to which Mr. Fairfield can lay claim. His father, Asa Fairfield, and his uncle, Oliver Fairfield, also fought for the flag of their nation. Both were sailors in the American navy, on board war vessels, during the war of the United States with England in 1812.

They participated in a number of engagements on the high seas. In one of them both were captured by English men-of-war and confined in English prisons. Oliver was in prison at Halifax, N. S., for sixteen months, and Asa in prison at Dartmouth, England, for six months.

Led Seafaring Life.

The Fairfields back in those times of long ago, the closing years of the eighteenth century and the first years of the nineteenth century, lived on the coast of Maine at Kennebuckport, an ocean



MRS. ASA FAIRFIELD,

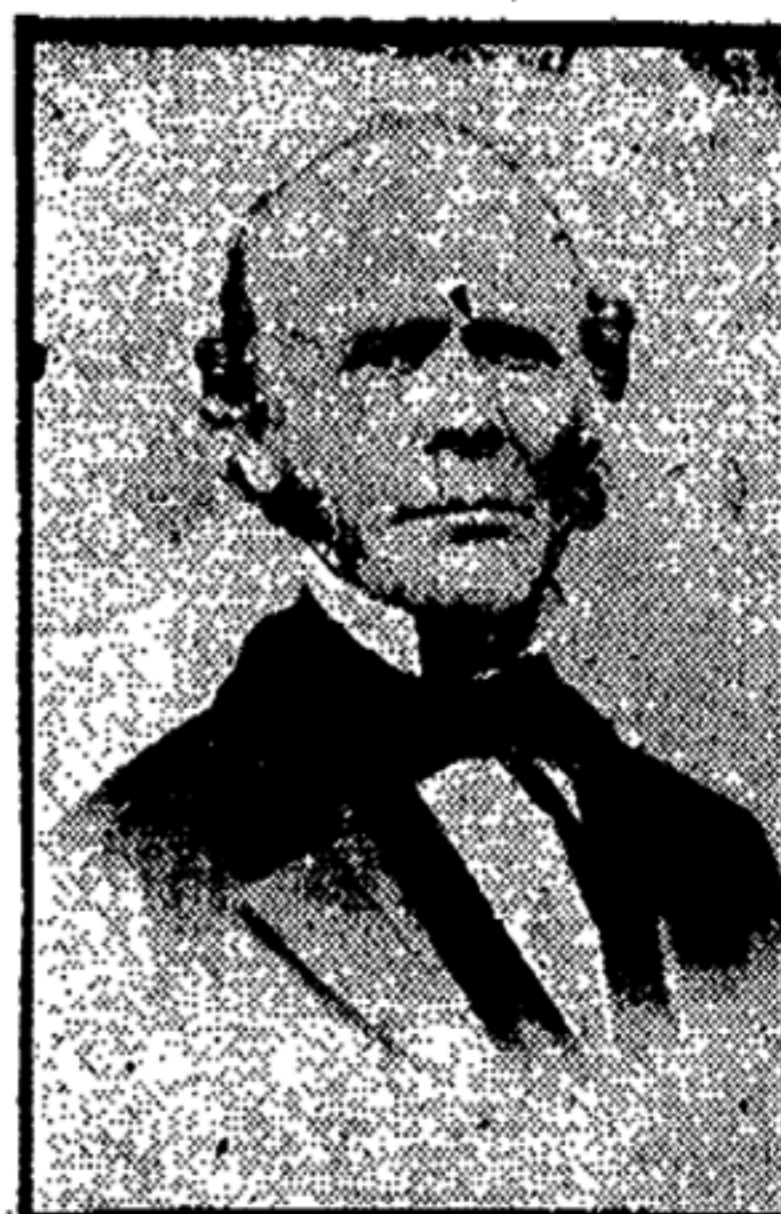
Pioneer Woman Who Came Here in 1835

town. The grandfather, William, was for years a sea captain, sailing to almost every port of the world in his long seafaring life.

All of his sons followed the same life, Oliver and Asa both rising to the positions of captains. They were in this ocean sailing business before the war of 1812, and followed it after the war closed, both amassing money in the occupation. That sort of life had its hardships and to escape them and get in some other occupation, with their brother Charles, they determined to come west and engage in farming.

The opportunity offered itself and they came to Fort Wayne. This was during the early thirties of the last century. A small colony of Maine residents, among them Hon. Hugh McCulloch, was coming here, and with them in 1833 came Asa and Oliver Fairfield, who soon after purchased large tracts of land here.

"Father bought 240 acres of land in what is now South Wayne," said Cyrus Fairfield, whom The Sentinel reported had sought out for the purpose of getting this reminiscent story. "He paid \$12 an acre for it. No," he replied, "I hardly think you could buy it for that now. With the palatial residences on some of



CAPT. ASA FAIRFIELD,

An Old Ocean Captain and Pioneer of Fort Wayne.

them now the price per acre would run up into the thousands."

The present boundaries of the land purchased by the Fairfields in that early day would be Taylor street on the north, Organ avenue on the south, Broadway on the west, and Hoagland on the east. Fairfield avenue, which runs through this big tract was so named in honor of Capt. Fairfield.

One of Oldest Residents.

After making the purchase of this land Asa Fairfield returned to his Maine home and brought his family here, as Oliver did also. This was in 1835. They were two months on the way. The trip from Toledo was made up the Maumee river. In speaking of it the son, Cyrus, says:

"I was a pretty young traveler then, a baby in my mother's arms, only six months old. Barring A. G. Barnett and Mrs. Mary K. Jenk's, a daughter of my Uncle Oliver. I guess I am now the oldest resident of Fort Wayne. While on our way here father and uncle each bought a carriage in Pittsburg. They were loaded on the boat and we sat in them as we rode along in the boat. They were the first carriages ever brought to Fort Wayne."

The first frame house in what is now South Wayne, Mr. Fairfield says, was built by his father, he having bought, as has been stated, a big farm in that locality. Afterwards this big farm was sold off in tracts, the father, however, retaining much of it as a residence for years. His death occurred in 1868. His wife died in 1864.

After coming here Oliver, one of the brothers, engaged in the bakery business. Asa and Charles became farmers. All of them were among the best known early residents of Allen county.

"My father had the first passenger boat built," said Mr. Fairfield, "that run through the waters of the old Wabash and Erie canal from here to Huntington. It was the Indiana. The local histories give an extended account of this trip, made on the Fourth of July, 1835. It was a notable occasion. My uncle, Oliver, acted as captain of the boat."

Personal Recollections.

Mr. Fairfield was born at Kennebuckport, Me., on December 27, 1834. Coming here as an infant six months later, he can only speak of conditions in Fort Wayne then from what he heard others say about it. He remembers, however, events and conditions from the time he was a lad of four and five years old.

"When we came here," he said, "there were only about fifteen white families. The Indians were everywhere. Over where the electric works now stand I used to see when on my way to school many Indians wrapped in their blankets lying in the thickets.

"The tract of land that lies between DeWald and Taylor streets, from Broadway east to Oakley, was a regular swamp. It was almost impossible to get through it. There were a great many wolves around there. We tried to raise sheep, but the wolves destroyed so many of them that we gave it up."

From the age of ten years the recollections of Mr. Fairfield about events and things in Fort Wayne, are vivid. During his long life he has followed farming much of the time and also gardening. He was a traveling salesman for a long time. For some years past he has been engaged in the real estate business, in which he is at the present time.

Of the canal days and the first coming of the railroad Mr. Fairfield speaks interestingly. Talking reminiscently of the arrival in this city over the canal of the first locomotive to come to Fort Wayne for the Ohio and Indiana railroad, then building from Crestline to this city, Mr. Fairfield relates this incident:

"The big locomotive was unloaded from the canal boat at the foot of Lafayette street. There was a great crowd present to see it make its start, the tracks being up Lafayette, and as it steamed off an old farmer who was standing near me, wonderfully interested in the sight, which was a new one to him, said:

"Well, by Gosh! That beats my lumber wagon all holler. I believe it will go ahead of the canal boats. The first thing we know it will be turning off and run up Berry street. Then there'll be something doing."

"The tract of land that lies between DeWald and Taylor streets, from Broadway east to Oakley," Mr. Fairfield continued, "we called 'the hog pasture.' My father built a pen of round logs twelve or fifteen feet high there. He had a so-called trap door in it which gave entrance to the hogs. We used to catch a good many hogs in this pen.

"When father first came here he brought a large sum of money. There being no regular bank, Mrs. Dr. Thompson was his banker. He gave the money to her for safe keeping while he was going around looking for an investment. She also kept a large sum for him when he went east to bring his family here. She often told father that her sleep was frequently a troubled one with all that money hid in her bed. She was fearful that it might be lost in some way or stolen."