

Colonel John Paul, Hoosier Pioneer; First Proprietor and Founder of Xenia, Ohio and Madison Indiana

By BLANCHE GOODE GARBER, Madison, Indiana

Chronology

- 1758 Born near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 1766 Moved with parents to Red Stone Old Fort, Pennsylvania.
- 1778 Enlisted in command of George Rogers Clark.
- 1780 Re-enlisted in same.
- 1781 Emigrated to Kentucky.
- 1793 First clerk and coroner of Hardin county, Kentucky.
Resigned 1800.
- 1800 Moved to Hamilton county, Ohio, and elected clerk and recorder of said county.
- 1802 Delegate from Hamilton county to First Constitutional Convention of Ohio.
- 1803 Member from First District of the first senate of Ohio.
November, founded Xenia, county seat of the newly erected Greene county. First clerk, recorder and auditor.
Resigned December, 1808.
- 1807 Bought site of New Albany, Indiana.
- 1808 Bought site of Madison, Indiana.
- 1810 Founded Madison.
- 1811 First clerk and recorder of Jefferson county. Resigned
1817.
- 1812 Volunteer colonel in war of 1812.
- 1814-1824 President of the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank of
Madison.
- 1816-1817-1818 Indiana State Senator from Jefferson and
Switzerland counties.
- 1818 Donated site for Versailles, county-seat of Ripley county.
- 1830 Died in Madison.

Pioneer is one of the comprehensive words of the language, it knows no limitations of age, sex, color or previous conditions, or of attainments, and in no combination does it carry greater intensity of meaning than in that of Hoosier Pioneer.

Pilgrim and Puritan ventured into unknown perils, but perils known and unknown were heroically faced by the pioneer of the Northwest Territory. Of this section, on which more than once the fate of the nation hung, Indiana was the storm center of the contending nations of the old world, as it had for centuries been of the warring tribes of the new,—until after it became a State a land yet stained with cannibalism. So shadowed, it invited only the most valiant to its questionable hospitality. Following its conquest from foreign domination by General George Rogers Clark, his soldiers as its earliest American pioneers were the leaders in redeeming it from savagery, and converting it first into a land of homes, and later into a sovereign State. They brought to the dual conquest of untamed man and nature the versatile ability and varied preparation suggested by the above outline of the life of one of them. Their uncritical classification by Bancroft as "Pennsylvania Backwoodsmen" has found too ready acceptance. The ocean lay between the backwoods with its laggards and the new world where the wilderness was all in the foreground, beckoning to civilization. The successful pioneer must possess infinitely versatile ability, be prepared by physical, mental and moral endowment to establish for those less generously equipped a pathway through the unbroken forest and a permanent home. He could not have left civilization behind him if he would, for he was surcharged with it, irradiated it wherever he went, he was civilization.

Hoosier pioneers as nomenclators rivaled those of other States, expressing thereby a refinement due to cultured antecedents possessed by a commanding element among them. Sometimes they may have builded better than they knew. The State name is a classic among those of the American states. It retraces all history step by step,—Indiana, Indian, India, Indus, Hindu, Shindu. The name Hoosier is proudly borne by every discriminating Indianian. One would be an ingrate who failed to give appreciative thanks to those who bequeathed him the euphonious name of Hoosier rather than that of Corncracker, Buckeye, Gopher, Sucker, Wolverine or even of Flickertail or Swiagat. As its coinage dates from

about the year of the death of Colonel Paul, he probably never heard it, but if he had he would have gloried in it. Hoosier-pioneer best describes him, for all he did was incidental to the calling of a pioneer, and in Indiana his life work culminated.

William H. English in his *History of the Conquest of the Northwest Territory* gives in the words of a personal friend of Colonel Paul this description of him. "In stature Colonel Paul was full six feet, of large frame without any surplus flesh, muscular, strong-nerved and tireless."

He was born November 12, 1758, near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where his parents, Michael and Ann Parker Paul were married in 1751. Ann Parker, who was of the Dunker faith, was born in 1724, into a home of education and refinement. She was a cousin of the Reverend Samuel Davies, the noted Presbyterian divine, who, in 1755 established the first presbytery of that church in Virginia, and who succeeded Jonathan Edwards as president of Princeton College. Michael Paul was of an educated Quaker family, was born in Holland, and at a date not now known came with his parents to America. He with several brothers was living near Philadelphia early in the eighteenth century. One brother, John, seems to have been of his household, and lies buried beside him at Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

William Paul, an Ohio pioneer of whose estate John Paul was executor is supposed to be another of the brothers.¹

A new impulse was given to western emigration in the sixties, and in 1766 Michael and Ann Paul with their family of four daughters and two sons joined the caravan bound for Red Stone, Fayette county, Pennsylvania where Fort Byrd on the Monongahela promised protection, and the new government road suggested progress. Here, in the heroic atmosphere created by such neighbors as Colonel William Crawford and Colonel Michael Cresap, John Paul grew to manhood, retaining the placid influence of the non-resisting community where his early childhood was spent. To this is doubtless due that poise of character for which he was noted, and this early training, his purposes throughout life reflected. To do what his hand found to do conscientiously, was his ambition. He could fight when fight he must, but civil life appealed more nearly to him.

¹ *Journal of Probate Court*, Hamilton County, Ohio. 1795. Vol. 1, p. 34.

He was educated in the schools of Pennsylvania, and to these schools in later years he sent his only son, who was graduated from Washington College under the presidency of his father's friend Dr. Andrew Wylie, later president of Indiana University.

It is probable that an early acquaintance with George Rogers Clark may have shaped the future of the subject of this sketch. When he was fourteen years old, and had lived six years at Red Stone, better known as Red Stone Old Fort, and now as Brownsville, Pennsylvania, Clark, then a youth of twenty, visited this little settlement. It was then but a cluster of a few pioneer houses surrounding the fort. Impelled by a spirit of adventure, Clark had joined the little company with the Rev. David Jones of New Jersey for a trip through western Virginia and bordering territory. They visited Fort Pitt, and leaving there in a covered wagon October 26th, 1772, reached Red Stone, November 17, remaining there several days. It is not supposable that the future commander and his soldier to be failed to meet. The acquaintance probably begun at that time had frequent opportunity to ripen into that loyal devotion which John Paul evinced toward his commander, in later years, for early in 1777, Red Stone became the rendezvous for Colonel Clark and his officers for perfecting their plans for the reduction of the British posts on the western frontier.

Colonel Clark states, that on January 2, 1778, he received instructions for his proposed campaign from the Governor and Council of Virginia, and on February 1st he arrived at Red Stone, and adds: "Being in the country where all arrangements were to be made, I appointed William Harrod and many other officers to the recruiting service."

John Paul, then nineteen years of age enlisted in the company of William Harrod, and was one of the force which left Red Stone in May of that year for the falls of the Ohio. He bears the honorable record of having stood true to the American cause, and to the valiant Clark throughout the disturbances and desertions at Corn Island, and of being one of the Spartan band which made possible Clark's capture of Kaskaskia and Cahokia, and which waded breast deep through miles

of swamp-water flood to reclaim Vincennes from foreign rule. His vivid account of the experiences of this campaign is given by Jacob Burnet as the foundation of his historic story of the downfall of England on the western frontier.²

Upon his return to Red Stone, with the thrilling recitals of his army experience he must have mingled good reports of the then far west in the Mississippi and Wabash country, for on his re-enlistment, in 1780, in the company of William Harrod when it was reformed on the expiration of the first term of enlistment, his elder brother, Peter, enrolled his name on the company roster of Squire Boone.³

Captain Harrod was a veteran of Dunmore's War, and with his company was active throughout the Indian wars in the Northwest. One of its notable services was in the retaliatory campaign of Colonels Bowman and Logan against the Shawnee headquarters at Old Chillicothe, or Old-town, on the Little Miami, which left Harrodsburgh, Kentucky, in July, 1779. Colonel Bowman's splendid soldierly qualities became temporarily paralyzed. He ordered a retreat in the moment when victory seemed assured. Colonel Logan assumed command, and with Harrod, Bulger, Bedinger and their men dispersed the Indians under Blackfish, the adopted father of Daniel Boone while he was their captive. Captain Harrod's company was also with Clark in the campaign in August, 1780, against Colonel Byrd and his Indians and 300 Mingoos under Simon Girty, at Mad river, and in that of Boone and Clark against the Miami river Indian towns in August 1782, which crushed the Indian power so thoroughly that no more organized raids against the settlements were made.⁴ In all of these campaigns John Paul was one of Harrod's company.

The family, in 1781, moved to the west, making their home in that part of Virginia which became Hardin county Kentucky. It is uncertain when the soldier son rejoined them, for in 1791 he was at Marietta, Ohio, though possibly temporarily. In September of that year he accompanied a party of five other men and a boy to Clarksburg, to bring home a

² *Notes on the Northwest Territory*, by Jacob Burnet, 76.

³ Collins, *History of Kentucky*, Vol. 1, 12.

⁴ R. S. Dills *History Greene County, Ohio*, 248-253.

drove of beeves for rations for the United States troops at the post. Returning they stopped over night half a mile from the Ohio. Having seen no Indians, no guard was set. Following the trail of the cattle and horses, a little band of six Shawnee Indians headed by Tecumseh, then a youth, came upon the party at break of day, while assembled at morning worship. The first rifle-shot of the savages killed one man and wounded John Paul "through the hand." Four of the Marietta men and the boy were killed. The two survivors fled for their lives and distanced their pursuers. "John Paul, who had been in many engagements with the Indians escaped by his activity in running."⁵

His home was in Kentucky in 1793, for in that year Hardin county was erected, and he became coroner, and clerk, which office in Kentucky includes that of recorder. The following entries are found in the records in the Hardin county courthouse:

John Paul produces a commission under the hand and seal of Isaac Shelby, appointing him coroner, and thereupon takes the oath of office, 1793.

P. BROWN.

John Paul, clerk *pro. tem.* of this court, produced a certificate of the judges of the Court of Appeals that he was examined by the clerk of the court, in their presence, and found duly qualified to execute the office of clerk agreeably to the constitution of Kentucky; and was personally appointed by unanimous vote of the court. He took the oath of a clerk, and together with Samuel Haycraft, his surety, entered into and acknowledged their bond (\$3,000), conditioned according to law for the faithful performance of the duties of said office, which bond is ordered to be recorded. July 22, 1794.

The Hardin county courthouse was built in 1795, and the Honorable Samuel Haycraft, in a history of the county, calls attention to the fact that until this time there was no public building. That "the clerk had no office, no desk, no presses, no lock up, nor even books;" that his records were kept on loose leaves sewed together, and later bound; that the clerk tumbled them into a basket and carried them to where they were needed, keeping them for safety in his own home, yet none were lost or defaced. These county records further show that "on June 25, 1793, John Paul, Robert Braid, Benjamin

⁵ S. P. Hildreth, *History Ohio Valley*, 300-303.

Helm, and David Phillips, gentlemen, were sworn and admitted as deputy surveyors;" also that John Paul resigned as clerk of Hardin county, March 25, 1800. At this date he removed to the Northwest Territory. April 14, 1795, he married Sarah Thornberry Grover, at Danville, Kentucky, to which place her parents had recently moved from Baltimore county, Maryland, where she was born and educated. An expert genealogist calls attention to the fact that Sarah Paul was one of the very few women of her day who signed her own name to legal papers, most of them making their mark, and that her name was "fair writ." In 1800, with his wife and two-year-old daughter, Ann Parker, in after years the wife of Governor William Hendricks, Mr. Paul moved to the tract of Ohio land historically prominent as "Symmes Purchase." He built a cabin home, and a mill at what is now Trebines Station about three miles west of Xenia on the Pan Handle railroad. Here was born his only son John P. Paul, who in early manhood married the only daughter of Alexander Meek, the first Grand Master of the Masonic Order in Indiana. Here also was born the youngest daughter of John and Sarah Paul, Sarah Grover, who was three times married. Her first husband was Dr. Robert Cravens; her second Dr. Samuel Mackarness Goode; her third the Rev. Benjamin C. Stevenson of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which church Colonel Paul and his entire family were communicants. Mary Berry, the eldest child, died in 1798 at the age of two years.

John Cleves Symmes seems to have welcomed most cordially, this Kentucky family as assistant promoters of his pet scheme of western settlement, and made their home his own when in that locality.

Soon after establishing himself in Hamilton county, Mr. Paul was elected clerk, serving until Greene was erected from that part of Hamilton.⁶ These offices included that of Auditor.

When, at the close of the year 1802 the last vestige of the old Northwest Territory vanished, and the State of Ohio rose in its stead, he was a delegate to the first constitutional convention of the new State, which met at Chillicothe November 1, 1802.⁷ By it the constitution was drafted, which was rati-

⁶ G. F. Robinson, *Court Houses of Greene County*, May 1st, 1903.

⁷ Gilkey, *Ohio Hundred Year Book*, also Robinson, *Pioneers of Greene County*.

fied November 29, under which Ohio was admitted to the Union. The discussions of its articles elicited great diversity of opinion and much warmth of feeling. This was especially manifested in the case of the section relating to the extension of suffrage to the colored people living in the territory, numbering about one or two hundred. As this is one of the earliest attempts to give the rights of suffrage to the negro in America, and as the attitude of the subject of this sketch is representative of the trend of thought in the trans-Allegheny section of the United States at that time, his recorded votes became interesting.

A proposition to strike out that part of Section 19, Article 1, which forbade slavery or involuntary servitude in this State was defeated overwhelmingly by a vote of yeas 2, nays 31. Messrs. Paul and Reily of Hamilton county voted in favor of the proposition.⁸

In considering Article 4, on the 22nd of November, the convention voted yeas 19, nays 15 to add these words to the end of the article:

Provided, that all male negroes and mulattoes now residing in the territory shall be entitled to the right of suffrage, if they shall, within twelve months make a record of citizenship. Those who voted ayes were
* * Paul * *9.

At the same time the convention refused, by a vote of 17 to 16 to extend the right of suffrage to the male descendants of such negro residents.

A motion was made to add to Article 7 of the constitution a new section as follows:

No negro or mulatto shall ever be eligible to any office, civil or military, or give any oath in any court of justice against a white person; be subject to military duty, or pay poll tax in this state, provided always, and be it fully understood and declared that all negroes, now in, or who may hereafter reside in the State, shall be entitled to all privileges of citizens not excepted by this constitution. This was agreed to by a vote of yeas 19; nays 6; as follows: yeas * *; nays * * Paul * *.¹⁰

The heat of discussion became alarming. The apprehension of disastrous results induced the convention, by tacit consent to abandon all the propositions which had been made relating to the subject by permitting them to lie on the table undisposed of, and proceeding to form a constitution having no direct reference to the matter.¹¹

⁸ *Journal of Constitutional Convention of Ohio*, November 20, 1802; Gilkey, *Ohio Hundred Year Book*, 26.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 80.

¹⁰ Gilkey, *Ohio Hundred Year Book*, 81.

¹¹ Jacob Burnett, *Notes on the Northwest Territory*, 355.

Mr. Paul's adherence to conviction, indifference to popularity, and position so far in advance of his times indicated by these votes, are all characteristic of him. The losing minority with which he stood, sixty-three years later became the victorious majority. What his position on the negro question had been in his early life it is hard to say. The indenture of a slave by John Paul in 1800, guaranteeing freedom after 1816 is entered on the records of Hardin county, Kentucky. As this is the year when Colonel Paul removed to the north of the Ohio river, where such indenture was essential to the retention of a slave, the inference is that it was he who executed the instrument, and not his kinsman of the same name who stayed in Kentucky where such provision was not necessary, but proof is lacking. Such indentures were legal in the Northwest Territory. It was considered impossible to open up the new country without help of some kind, and there was none but this within reach of the settler. It was considered a step toward ultimate emancipation, and the safest one for all concerned. It must be viewed in the light of the dawn of the nineteenth century, and not of that of the twentieth. To understand aright the position of the voter of that period it is needful to recall the following facts.

The citizen of the Northwest Territory found himself in a position differing from that he had occupied in his home in the States. He was now under laws enacted and enforced by a congress in which he was not represented. This he was slow to accept, and the institution of each new territorial and State government precipitated the question of adopting the measures of the Ordinance of 1787 as such, or of incorporating into the local constitution only such of its laws as those who were to live under them saw fit to accept. The clause making the Northwest Territory and the States formed within its bounds free soil, differentiated the new States from the old. This was really an act of emancipation, unless enforced with unwarranted discrimination, for slavery already existed here, and had done so from the first settlement by the French. This, and the fact that the restriction was regarded by those upon whom it was imposed, as, as much a commercial one in the interest of existing slave States as a philanthropic one explains

the position of the western voter in demanding the setting aside of the Ordinance forbidding slavery in the Territory and its States. The demand was not for an extension of slavery but an assertion of the right of an American citizen to a voice in making the laws he was to uphold. It was only after a quarter of a century of debate as to the legal construction of the anti-slavery clause of the Ordinance of 1787 and its predecessor, that of 1784, that a definite conclusion was reached, and in Indiana Territory its interpretation to mean absolutely free soil was due to the Territorial General Assembly of 1810. The pro and anti-slavery question had reached an acute crisis. This, and other issues, led to a demand that the General Assembly be dissolved and a wholly new one elected. Only the most pronounced advocates of the opposing parties were elected to this assembly. Mr. Paul was one of the two representatives from Clark county.¹² And both are enrolled among the anti-slavery men in the Assembly, which was overwhelmingly of that party.¹³ The notable achievement of this assembly was the repeal of the indenture law, and the conclusive interpretation of the slavery proviso in the Ordinance of 1787 to mean absolutely free soil under its jurisdiction.

If Mr. Paul's views on the subject of slavery had not been broad at the time he left Kentucky he would have located elsewhere than in Ohio. His choice of Clark county for his home on coming to Indiana further declares his views, as does the fact that these sections so continuously called him to representative offices. In a country newly risen from monarchy, these offices which today are considered minor ones, then carried more meaning.

The members of the Senate from Hamilton county at the meeting of its legislative session, held at Chillicothe, March 1, 1803, were, Francis Dunlavy, Jeremiah Morrow, John Paul and Daniel Symms.¹⁴

In this same year Greene county was formed from Hamilton. On May 10th the first associate judges of Greene county met to perfect the county organization and elect officers. Mr. Paul was chosen clerk. The first Supreme Court met

¹² John Paul and Thomas Downs Hist. Dillon. *Indiana*. 448.

¹³ J. P. Dunn, *Indiana a Redemption from Slavery*, 404.

¹⁴ Gilkey, *Ohio Hundred Year Book*, 158.

October 25th, 1803, and elected Mr. Paul clerk of this court also.¹⁵ The office of county commissioner was created February 4, 1804. The commissioners elected in April of that year held their first court the following June and chose John Paul clerk of said court.¹⁶ These clerkships, and the office of recorder and auditor he filled from the formation of the county until he left Ohio for his new purchase in Indiana in 1809, tendering his resignation December, 1808.

His conscientious attention to detail in keeping the records is still a matter of remark, even to the fact that he could keep his written lines on unruled paper absolutely straight, an accomplishment which county books show to have been rare.¹⁷ In this connection it may be noted that the investigation of the early records of the ninety-two counties of Indiana by the Centennial Commission, elicited the comment that those of Jefferson county are the fullest and most complete. Mr. Paul was clerk and recorder from its erection in 1811 until he resigned, August, 1817, when in the Indiana Senate.

In November, 1803, on part of a 2,000 acre tract of land which he had bought early in that year, of Thomas and Elizabeth Coleman Richardson of Hanover county, Virginia, "for 1,050 pounds current money of Virginia," Mr. Paul founded Xenia to be the seat of justice of Greene county, which it became and continues to be. The name he gave in its classical sense of "a pledge of friendship;" his founding a town on the frontier expressing his faith in the permanence of interracial peace. As a founder's gift he donated the ground bounded by Main, Market, Detroit, and Greene streets for public buildings.¹⁸

On November 14, 1804, John Paul and Sarah his wife, of Greene county concluded the sale of 257½ acres of land to Joseph C. Vance, a director of the town of Xenia, for the only and proper use of said county, for the sum of \$250, including the site of Xenia.¹⁹

This was the first money paid out of the treasury of Greene county.²⁰

¹⁵ Henry Howe, *Historical Collections of Ohio*, Vol. 1.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ R. D. Dills, *History Greene County Ohio*, 224.

¹⁸ George Robinson, *Xenia Notes*.

¹⁹ Howe, *Historical Collections of Ohio*, 194.

²⁰ Robinson, *Xenia Notes*.

Mr. Paul's physical vigor, and pioneer energies, seem to have been unabated at the age of fifty, for he then turned his attention to aiding in the opening up, and settling, the new purchases in Indiana Territory which were being put on sale as fast as they could be bought from the Indians. With the purpose of buying land, he with a neighbor, Robert LaFollette, walked from Xenia to Vincennes, to the land sale in the spring of 1807.²¹ He bought at that time the site of New Albany, which he later sold to the Scribner Brothers. Mr. Paul returned by way of the rivers and inspected his new purchase. Not being entirely satisfied he continued his investigation of conditions along the Clark county river front to within the limits of the present Jefferson county. Here every prospect pleased, and this, and other reasons more significant than those generally assigned, led him to buy, at the sale of public lands at Jeffersonville the following year, the site of Madison. He subsequently bought extensive tracts in both Jefferson and Ripley counties. October 6, 1809, he came with his family to his new possessions and established their permanent home on the banks of the Ohio, in what was then Clark county. His transportation of his family and household effects in wagons drawn by oxen has raised the question why he, a specialist in fine horses chose so tedious a method of travel. A letter of instruction from John Cleves Symmes to settlers going to his new Miami purchase, in the early files of the Cincinnati papers answers it. In it he urges that all family travel in unsettled western lands be by ox-team, "as Indians will attack travelers and take from them their horses or boats." A cabin home on an eastern bluff provided shelter for his household while a clearing was made in the valley, and a house was being built. This bluff long retained the name of Mar's Hill given it by some Bible reading pioneer, because "Paul stood on Mars hill."

The town was at once laid off, and called for a year or less, Wakefield, perhaps as in the case of others of the same name, from the Vicar of Wakefield, which at that time still occupied the position of best seller and school classic. Mr. Paul later named it Madison, and with the expanding purpose of making it the seat of justice of the newly erected county, he admitted

²¹ Robinson, *Xenia Notes, Greene County Items*.

as partners in the project, two Cincinnati pioneers, Lewis Davis and Jonathan Lyon in 1810, and in 1815 Jacob Burnet, also of Cincinnati. John Paul as original purchaser and proprietor always retained the controlling property interest, as the deed books show.

He was elected in 1810 representative to the Territorial General Assembly from Clark county, and to him fell the responsibility of naming the new county erected that year from Clark, and to it he gave the name of Jefferson.

In 1811, John Paul and Jonathan Lyon established the first ferry from Madison to the Kentucky shore opposite, at Milton.

The record of the services of Colonel Paul in the war of 1812 are not obtainable, as none were kept of the branch of the volunteers in which he served, still it was a recognized branch, known as "Gentlemen Volunteers." It was formed of men who had volunteered, but whom the government could not muster into the service because it could neither equip nor pay them. They defrayed their own expense entirely, drawing pay from no public funds. They organized for each emergency as it arose, at home or elsewhere. These troops were commanded by officers, many of whom were past military age, ex-revolutionary soldiers largely, whose military experience made their services valuable when there was such a dearth of prepared military men. They held no commissions, but were given the title of the office which they filled. It was for performing the duties of a colonel in these unassigned troops that the title was conferred on Colonel Paul.²²

Colonel Paul was the proprietor of the second newspaper in Indiana, *The Western Eagle*. William Hendricks and William Cameron were its first publishers. Its first issue was dated Madison, Indiana Territory, May 26, 1813. The building in which it was published is now used for law offices. It was the second brick house in Madison, Colonel Paul's own home, still a beautiful one although considerably changed being the first in this part of Indiana. It was a two story house with a central hall, on the second bank of the river, and from the terrace reaching from his front door to the

²²This statement was made by Edward Eggleston, Historian, shortly before his death, with authority to use it in this connection. He said further, "If I were in my library I could show you where to find the facts in full."

river, he cleared the trees making a lawn 400 by 600 feet before his house. Succeeding pioneers found this the only opening in the forest fringe of the Ohio for many miles, and it became their landing place. The difficulties of his own first landing at Madison, when he had to cut his way through vine-tangled willows probably prompted this provision for his successors. From a spring beside which the Michigan road now runs, whose waters flow abundant and pure as they did one hundred years ago, he in 1812, piped water through hollowed logs to his home two miles distant, for domestic purposes, having installed among other conveniences, a bath room, an evidence that even luxurious necessities were not unknown in pioneer days. The importance he attached to these provisions for household comfort appears from the following entry on the books of the county recorder.

The proprietors of Madison, for, and in behalf of, John Paul, one of the proprietors, reserve the right to conduct the water from his property adjoining town through streets and alleys for the purpose of water-works, for the use and benefit of himself, his heirs and assigns forever.

Another spring in the heart of the new town was also known as Paul's spring. Here was established, in 1812, a pleasure resort. The grounds adjacent were well supplied with rustic seats of hewn logs, and were made the center for summer gatherings of the villagers and settlers within reach of it. Dances on the green, and wrestling matches in which the sons of the pioneers, and the Indian braves from nearby camps, strove for wagers, were popular forms of amusement. These were regular Saturday evening diversions, and after early suppers pretty much the entire population, clad in their best apparel joined the line of march for Paul's springs, as today the amusement lovers fall in line for the picture shows.

In 1813, Colonel Paul built two mills. A beaver dam across a creek just outside the town he accepted as first aid toward building a saw mill, to prepare lumber for erecting town houses. The same year he built Madison's first grist mill, on the same creek, at the head of the street which from it was given, and which still retains the name of Mill street. It was operated by a practical miller named McConathy; the saw mill was run by a man whose name was Lund.

In 1814 banking was added to the many business enterprises already conducted by Colonel Paul. Dr. Logan Esarey, in his recently published *Study of State Banking in Indiana*, speaks in highest terms of the financial ability and sterling integrity of Colonel Paul as a banker, and of how bravely the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank, of which he was president, rode the financial storm which raged through the period of transition from territorial to state government. He says:

The territorial government, sitting at Corydon in 1814, chartered two banks. One of these was located at Vincennes, the other at Madison. The officers of the land office at Vincennes were behind one of these, and Colonel John Paul, founder of Madison, and a hero of the George Rogers Clark campaign, was behind the other. The charters were identical, were to last twenty years, and it was provided that all notes issued should be paid in hard money. Though these two banks started under like charters and similar circumstances their careers were very different. While bank after bank failed, and closed, in the financial crisis of 1818 and 1819, and among them that of Vincennes, the Madison Bank held the enviable reputation of having its notes received at the land office at Brookville and of paying all its obligations punctually. Its notes were received at the United States land offices for many years; and were rated highest of all in the Northwest, except the notes of the Commonwealth Bank of Kentucky. The Madison Bank had a branch at Lexington in Scott county, a town almost as large as Madison, and another at Lawrenceburg.²³

When territorial responsibilities gave place to those of statehood, Colonel Paul bore his share of their weight and the honors that came with it. He was elected a member of the first State senate from Jefferson and Switzerland counties, for the years 1816-1817-1818, and president *pro tem.* of the newly elected senate presiding from its organization November 4, 1816, until and during the administration of the oath of office to Governor Jennings and Lieutenant Governor Christopher Harrison.

When Ripley county was organized in 1818, the selection of a site for its county-seat seemed to have been a difficult matter. The committee appointed to make the selection was John De Pauw, who was allowed \$48 for sixteen days spent in the discharge of this duty, William H. Eads, \$21, and Charles Briggs \$39, for similar services. In the end they unanimously

²³ Logan Esarey, *State Banking in Indiana 1814-1873*, 22-26.

endorsed the selection of a site made by Colonel Paul, and tendered by him to the county as a gift, which was accepted.

The committee reported that after they had explored the entire county, and being fully satisfied concerning the future divisions of the county, the fertility of the soil and the future population of the county, they agreed to fix, locate and establish the permanent seat of justice of Ripley county on the one hundred acres of land donated for that purpose by John Paul of Madison.²⁴

This land is that on which Versailles, and its cemetery, known as Cliff Hill, are now located. Colonel Paul's land purchases in Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana were among the extensive tracts sold to private buyers, ranging up to three thousand acres at a purchase, many times. He gave generously of his land to his kin, and to establish new towns, and often sold for nominal prices. That he donated for the Xenia public square was considered by the commissioners as larger than needed for that purpose, and five building lots were cut off from it in 1817, and sold for \$3,253. Colonel Paul had sold them the entire town, platted, and of a year's growth for \$250; still his real estate transactions were successful. Through them and his varied business ventures he acquired wealth.

Contemporaries and historians have left many tributes to his memory. John Vawter, a Jefferson county resident said, "I was personally acquainted with the first proprietor of Madison, and a more excellent and upright man than Colonel Paul it would be hard to find."

George F. Robinson, in his "Greene County Items" in *Xenia Notes*, says:

Previous to, and at the time of the organization of Greene county there were living in that part of Hamilton county from which it was formed three men of note, John Paul, William Maxwell and John Wilson, Esquires. Also, in a private letter, Of the ten thousand pioneers who lived in Greene county between 1803 and 1840, Colonel John Paul was my ideal.²⁵

Richard Corson Meldruin of Chicago, in a letter to a Madison paper in 1879, wrote "I can never think of Madison but the picture of Colonel Paul on horseback rises before me. He was a perfect rider, and he and his horse were inseparable."

²⁴ Henry C. Jones, History Ripley County; in the *Osgood Journal*, Sept. 10, 1913.

²⁵ R. S. Dills, *History Greene County*, 231.

His fatal illness resulted from a trip to the western part of the county to see horses he was thinking of buying. Heavy rains delayed his return, and filled more than bank-full the creek from Clifty falls. His horse swam the creek, but fell on the slippery bank, striking the rider's head on a stone. He was found unconscious hours after, his clothing saturated by the swollen creek. Three years of helplessness from rheumatism resulted, and caused his death, in Madison June 6, 1830.