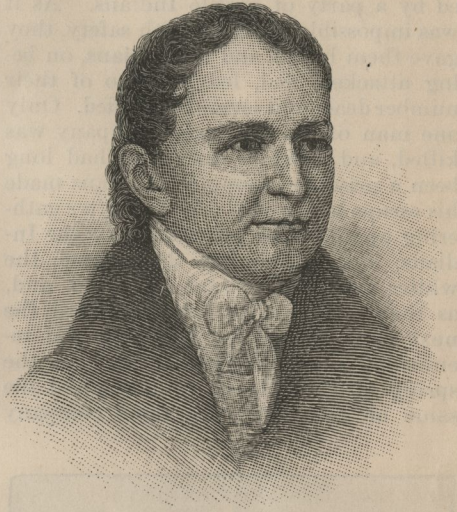


ritory northwest of the Ohio, doing so in 1784, preceded only by New York, while Connecticut was the latest, consummating a similar measure in 1786, "the last tardy and reluctant sacrifice of State pretensions to the common good." Virginia's act of cession contained a clause, reserving upon certain conditions a tract of land lying north of the Ohio, and between the Scioto and Little Miami rivers, for the payment of the bounty awards due her Revolutionary soldiers of the Continental line. This reservation, known as the Virginia Military District, was almost entirely settled by families from the Old Dominion, and thus a Virginia was formed in the Northwestern Territory. Chillicothe soon after it was founded became the place of location for the land-office of this district, and situated near the centre, north and south, of the enormous territorial county of Ross, which included nearly the whole of the reservation, it became its seat. It thus occupied a position which entitled it to the name (if it did not receive it) of the capital of New Virginia. As Marietta (more properly than Conneaut) may be called the Plymouth of the West, so can Chillicothe be termed the Jamestown of this New Virginia; and as the daughter of the Mother of Presidents, Chillicothe nobly maintained the family prominence and honor by becoming the Mother of Governors.

Of the five men elected Governors of Ohio whose homes were in Chillicothe, one, Nathaniel Massie, never served. Three others, Edward Tiffin, Thomas Worthington, and Duncan McArthur, were pioneer statesmen, and have long since passed away. The fifth, William Allen, only recently died, and his long life linked the past with the present, politically and socially.

The very earliest history of Central Southern Ohio brings before the reader Nathaniel Massie, the foremost pioneer of this region. Massie was a native of Virginia, and was a boy soldier in the Revolutionary war. When only twenty years of age, in 1783, he went out alone to seek his fortune in Kentucky. Employed by the Surveyor-General of the Virginia Military Reservations in that State and the Northwestern Territory, he soon became expert in the then useful and lucrative though dangerous calling of a surveyor, and as early as 1790 was the leader of an adventurous party locating land-warrants

north of the Ohio. Previous to Wayne's treaty in 1795, every survey in the Virginia Military District was made by stealth. In 1791, Massie formed the first settlement in the reservation, and from that time on-



THOMAS WORTHINGTON.

ward was almost constantly engaged in locating and surveying the best land along the streams northward, each year pushing further into the wilderness. In the midst of the most appalling dangers, suffering in the winter from the severe cold, sometimes almost starving, always subject to the sudden fierce attack of a wily, watchful, jealous foe, and sometimes having a sharp battle with the Indians, Massie and his men toiled on, the valiant van-guard of an army of peace.

Duncan McArthur, also destined to take a prominent part in the affairs of the State which was to develop from the wilderness, was with Massie in most of his expeditions, and was the hero of several daring adventures and hair-breadth escapes.

By the year 1794, such an enthusiasm had been created in Kentucky by the glowing descriptions of the beauty of the scenery and the fertility of the soil in the Scioto country, which were circulated by Massie's followers, that portions of two Presbyterian congregations in Bourbon County determined to emigrate thither in a body. Their dislike of slavery was also an inducement to them to make a change; and being both impelled and attracted, they were eager to emigrate as early as