



## APPENDIX G

### GROWTH AND DECLINE OF POPULATION IN MIDDLEFIELD

SO FAR as we know the territory now comprising the township of Middlefield contained no settled inhabitants up to 1768. In the next year the Taggarts settled in Prescott's Grant, and by 1775 there were probably a dozen families on the plateau to the east, numbering about sixty souls. In 1781-82 the petition for incorporation stated that "more than fifty families were then dwelling in the region. There were fifty-eights signers to that document. The first Federal Census, 1790, enumerated 608 residents, and a decade later the population reached its maximum of 877. This excludes the abnormal figures for 1840 when the normal resident population of the township was swelled to 1,717 by the presence, temporarily, of over one thousand persons of foreign birth who were engaged as laborers in building the Western Railway. With this exception, the population of Middlefield maintained a nearly constant average of about 720 souls during the fifty years from 1820 to 1870. But during the half-century which has elapsed since 1870, the population of Middlefield has declined at a more or less rapid rate, averaging about nine persons a year during that period.

The Federal and State Census figures are given below.

1790	.....	608
1800	.....	877
1810	.....	822
1820	.....	755
1830	.....	720
1840	.....	1717 (686)
1850	.....	737
1855	.....	677
1860	.....	748
1865	.....	727
1870	.....	728
1875	.....	603

1880 .....	648
1885 .....	513
1890 .....	455
1895 .....	386
1900 .....	410
1905 .....	399
1910 .....	354
1915 .....	325
1920 .....	280