

CHAPTER XVI,

VEVAY TOWNSHIP.

History of Vevay; the township in 1863; **Sidney** Parker homestead; Wolcott family; Walters school; Vevay Township Historical society formed, and the history of the township given by school districts; **Chapin** family history; Mason in 1863; sketch by Mrs. Mary Hammond; plowing match; early history by Alvin Rolfe; Vevay notes; State Gazetteer of 1833; Probate story; Mason Reform Club; first select school; first telephone; Mrs. **Stillman's** story; Mason fifty years ago; **Jewett** family; **VanDeusen** family.

Vevay was made a separate township and given its present name about the first of March, 1838, by act of the State Legislature. The first township meeting was held April 2, 1838, and the following citizens were chosen to conduct the election, viz.:

Moderator, Minos **McRobert**; clerk, **Anson** Jackson; inspectors, Hiram Parker, Hiram Converse and Benjamin T. Smith.

The following officers were elected :

Supervisor-Peter Linderman.

Clerk—**Anson** Jackson.

Assessors—**Ira** Rolfe, Minos **McRobert** and Abner Bartlett,
Collector-Henry A. Hawley.

Commissioners of Highways-Hiram Austin, **Anson** Jackson,
Benjamin F. Smith.

Justices of the Peace-Peter Linderman, Hiram Converse,
Hiram Parker, Benjamin F. Smith.

Constables-John Daggett, Henry A. Hawley,
Inspectors of Primary Schools-Nathan Rolfe, Minos h&Rob-
ert, Wm. H. Horton.

Directors of the Poor-Benjamin Rolfe, George Searl.

Fence Viewers-Hinman Hurd, Elisha R. Searl.

Pound Masters-Ephraim B. Danforth, Ira Rolfe.

The population of the county in 1837 was 822; in 1840 it was 2,498. The township of Vevay now (1873) contains about 2,900 inhabitants, and has about 10,000 acres of land under cultivation. The Jackson, Lansing and Saginaw R. R. runs through the township from north to south, and has two stations on the road, one at

Mason and one at Chapin's. The railroad company has just completed a water tank, and a windmill for raising water at Mason. The village of Mason now contains about 2,000 inhabitants. Its manufactures and principal business houses consists of two flouring mills, two saw mills, one planing mill, two stave mills, one shingle factory, two pump factories, two cooper shops, three wagon factories, three shoe shops, three harness shops, one iron foundry and machine shop, one bracket manufactory, ashery, one bakery, eight milliners and dressmakers, one printing office, three grain elevators and forwarding houses, three tailoring establishments, three livery stables, two cabinet shops, one furniture store, two meat markets, marble works, two architects and builders, two barber shops, six dry goods stores, two hardware stores, three boot and shoe stores, three drug stores, seven grocery stores, one photograph gallery, three hotels, and two banking establishments.

VEVAY TOWNSHIP IN 1863,

A township of Ingham county, containing the flourishing village of Mason; population, exclusive of village, 1,000.

TOWNSHIP OFFICERS.

Supervisor-R. F. Griffin,
Clerk-Henry Linderamn.
Treasurer-John M. Dresser.

EDEN IN 1863.

A small post village, of Tngham county in the township of Vevay, on the stage route from Jackson to Lansing, 100 miles northwest from Detroit. Fare \$3.45. Postmaster, L. B. Huntoon.

LIST OF PROFESSIONS AND TRADES.

Chase, Joseph---carpenter.
Horton, William H.-justice of the peace.
Snow, Alonzo-carpenter.

SIDNEY PARKER HOMESTEAD SOLD.

Life-time Resident of Vevay Township Will Move to Vermont. Home Historic Spot, Rich in Lore of Pioneer Days, Farm Passes **Into Hands** of Strangers.

The above is the **heading** of an article in the **Journal-Republican**, dated Mason, February 9, 1911, and the article follows:

Sidney J. Parker, a well known resident of Vevay, has sold the farm four miles east of here on the Dansville road, where he has lived since his birth there in 1838, and will soon go to Vermont to live. He has been a member of the F. and A. M. lodge here over 45 years, and recently about 30 of his fellow members paid him a farewell visit.

During the evening D. P. **Whitmore** presented Mr. Parker with a gold-headed cane, as an expression of the esteem in which he is held. Mr. Parker was in a reminiscent mood, and told many of the pioneer experiences of his family, who were central figures in early local history.

Seventy-five years is a long time in this region for a tract of land to be owned by one family, but the recent transfer is the only one which has been recorded against this 80 acres since Hiram Parker, the father of the family, took it from the government in 1836. The old parchment land grant, signed by President Martin Van Buren, is still treasured by the family. This was not signed until 1839, however, owing to the press of business at the Kalamazoo land office, where Mr. Parker had to go to secure the title to the property.

The farm was the first one settled in western **Ingham** county, and was far in the wilderness away from roads and other settlements when Mr. Parker brought his young bride here in the fall of 1836, shortly after their marriage at her home in Bennington county, Vt. They went by wagon to Albany, N. Y., and from there on the Erie canal to Buffalo, where they hoarded the steamer Robert Fulton for Detroit, while three men drove their cattle through Canada to the same place. A lumber wagon was their next conveyance, and in this they journeyed westward over the newly-made roads, and when these were impassable through the

adjacent clearings. At Dexter they struck northward through the wilderness, finally leaving the road behind, and following an Indian trail which led to their destination. Here, on the slope of one of the highest elevations in the **county**, they made their home. The men rolled up the log house, and, as there were then no saw mills in central Michigan, Mr. **Parker** made the doors from their packing boxes.

Two Indian trails crossed in front of the house, and many were the settlers who found shelter under its roof when they began to **flock** to the country soon after. The Indians, too, were not slow in accepting its hospitality, and Mrs. Parker was badly startled one night when she awoke to find six braves crouched before the fireplace. They had been following the trail southward, and had stopped to wait for daylight before continuing their journey. The historic chief, Okemos, father of Chief Johnny Okemos, who is remembered by many of the present generation, was a frequent visitor. For some years the nearest post office and grist mill was at Dexter, 30 miles away, through the woods.

The western half of **Ingham** county, then unorganized, was called Aurelius, and belonged to Jackson county for judicial purposes. All officers qualified there and criminals were taken there for trial. In 1838, when the delegates convened to organize the county, they had to meet at the Parker home, as that was the residence nearest the prospective county seat, called the "City of Ingham," and located in the woods about a mile and a half north of the Parker farm. A letter from Sidney J. Parker, from his Vermont home, says, in relation to locating the county seat "In the News of October 30, I find 'A Bit of Ingham County History,' which in the main is correct. I wish to state that my father told me the county seat of Ingham county was established by surveyors, and a stake driven on what was afterwards known as the 'Elijah Brooks' farm, three and a half miles east of Mason. The stake stood near where the present barn stands, and a log house was erected there and was known as the 'county house.'

"The place was called 'The City of Ingham.' Some years after the county seat was moved to Mason. The one log house in 'The City of Ingham' was the only one ever built there for many years. As stated, the first county canvass was held at the house of Hiram Parker. The law at that time was to the effect that

where there was no county buildings the business should be done at the nearest farm residence. This explains why the first county canvass was held at my father's house." So much for Sydney J. Parker's letter.

Hiram Parker started one day to vote at his polling place in the **Rolfe** settlement, four miles south of Mason. A blinding snow storm hindered his progress, and finally hid the blazed trees on the section line he was following, so that he lost his way. He turned to retrace his steps, and found that the snow had effaced his earlier trail. Later in the afternoon he reached home, having lost a whole day in a vain attempt to reach a polling place six miles away.

The price of Mr. Parker's land, \$1.25 an acre, was a much larger sum, or, at least it meant much more than it would now; for money was exceedingly scarce in those days of "wildcat banks." The settlers found it a hard matter to pay even the small taxes that were then levied. For the first ten years the taxes on the 100 acres Mr. Parker then owned averaged \$4.50 a year; but in 1865, after the Civil War, they jumped to \$57.97.

Hiram Parker died 25 years previous to this writing, at the age of 84, and his wife died in 1907, at the age of 94. Sydney J. Parker spent practically all the 72 years of his life, before the writing of this sketch, on the farm taken up by his father, and has seen this region change from a trackless wilderness to a well-tilled farming country. He remembers when the first highways were laid out and graded, leading in most cases from one settler's cabin to the next, which accounts mainly for the crooked roads in the eastern part of the county. He remembers when the railroads first went through, and he was one of a jolly crowd that rode to one of the first state fairs at Jackson in a box car. He had a serious fall several years ago, and his neck was permanently injured, so that his last trip on the cars, 22 years ago, was such a painful experience that he never cared to take another. Since the death last summer of his sister Eliza, who had always lived on the farm with him, Mr. Parker has been the only one of the family here, and now that he has sold the farm he will go to make his home with Mrs. J. S. Brush, of Manchester, Vt., his youngest sister, and the only other member of the family now living.

Died 1915.

ROY W. ADAMS.

THE WOLCOTT FAMILY.

By One of Its Members, Mrs. HOGAN, 3918.

Jasper Wolcott, a young surveyor from Connecticut, came to Michigan in 1834 to survey the land that is now Ingham and Jackson counties.

His brother, William Wolcott, came too, and took up a farm in Onondaga. While Jasper Wolcott was laying out farms near Mason he met Harriet Sargeant, a young girl from Vermont, who was staying with her sister, Mrs. Henry Fifield. They were married soon after at the home of Wm. Wolcott in Onondaga. The minister rode out from Jackson on horseback to perform the ceremony, and the family claim that was the first wedding in Onondaga. (A piece of cloth like the bridegroom's waistcoat accompanied the sketch.)

They had already taken up a farm extending from within one block of the court house in Mason south to the Walter's school house. They built a cabin across from the Robert Young home in Vevay Township, under the tall elm trees there, and began life in the wilderness. (One huge elm tree still marks the spot, and this is a landmark for miles around, being on the highest elevation of land in that vicinity, it is plainly seen.)

It was necessary for them to wait for the Grand river to freeze over before they could go to Jackson after lumber with which to make their doors and furniture. Grandmother said that bears often at night sniffed at the blanket curtains in the doorway.

On November 9, 1836, a son, Isaac Nelson, was born to these pioneers, and he was the first white child born in Vevay Township. On the day before a son, Grove Wolcott, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wolcott in Onondaga. He died in 1917 in Jackson.

When Isaac Nelson Wolcott was but two days old the father (only 26 years old himself) lay down to rest and when they called him he was dead. They supposed he had caught cold and malaria from sleeping in camp when on his surveying trips, and drinking poor water had poisoned his system.

Grandmother, with her tiny babe, made her home with Mr. and Mrs. Fifield for several years and then married Edwin Hubbard,

who brought up the small boy as his own. They lived for many years at the old home near the Hubbard school house, where he attended school. He was the only boy in the family, there being six girls bearing the name of Hubbard, all of whom are dead except Mrs. Mary Olds Huntoon, of Harbor Beach. (She died in 1919.)

The playmates of Isaac Nelson Wolcott were often Indian boys, and he knew Chief Okemos and John Okemos very well. They were frequent guests at the home. The old chief was very angry once when he learned that young John had come to call when intoxicated, and said to grandmother, "Why didn't white squaw put him to door and give big kick?" Father spent the "Fourth" in Lansing when nine years old. There were no houses except at North Lansing. Indians joined in the sports, and father often laughed when telling of this day and would say, "I never saw an automobile all day."

When he was twenty-one he went to California and remained there eleven years, returning home and marrying Cora White, a girl whom his mother had brought up while he was away. He never lost his desire for roving, which grandmother said he acquired from the Indians. At the age of 75 he took a trip to New Mexico and again visited the places he had traveled over in his youth. He never failed to look on the sunny side and was happy to the last. He was greatly interested in the County Historical Society, and was always present when it was possible for him to do so.

On October 13, 1917, he went on to join the wife who had preceded him. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery at Mason, and is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Hogan, both of Lansing.

At one of the meetings of the County Pioneer Society Mr. Wolcott told the following incidents relating to his early life:

"When seven years old I made a trip to Lansing with one of my uncles and some of his neighbors. We made the trip with ox teams, and made North Lansing our stopping place. There were three houses there, but all of them were on the east side of the river, and as there were no bridges in Lansing people coming from the south were obliged to ford the Red Cedar river out near the old race track east of the city, then travel on to the North

Lansing settlement. When the Capitol was moved from Detroit to Lansing I had a small part in the work and 'helped' to move the furniture for the Capitol building.

"I was only about eleven years old when in 1847 I went with an uncle to trap along Puget Sound in Washington, in the employ of the Hudson Bay Company of England. My familiarity with the Indian language led to my being taken along to act as interpreter."

Mr. Wolcott was extremely modest and very averse to speaking in public, but in a quiet conversation he made known the above facts, also said that the marriage of his parents was the first one to occur in Vevay Township and his mother was the first widow there.

WALTERS SCHOOL.

In a little pasteboard covered blank book, 6 x 8 inches in size, are found the early records of School District No. 7, Vevay Township, now known as the Walter's district. On March 25, 1854, notice of a meeting for the purpose of organizing a school district was personally served on Isaac T. Bush, John R. Bush, Silas A. Holcomb, B. B. Haliday and Myron Chalker. On April 1, 1854, with John Haliday as temporary chairman, the organization was completed and Silas A. Holcomb elected moderator, Isaac T. Bush, director, and Myron G. Chalker, assessor. Notice was then given that on April 10 a special meeting would be held "for to locate a sight for a school house and to raise a tax for to build said school house."

At this meeting it was decided to buy as near Fifield's corners as possible. Voted that the size of the school house should be 22 x 24 feet, and that \$180 be raised to build it with.

On February 20, 1857, Silas A. Holcomb was notified by the clerk of the board of school inspectors that the district had been reconstructed to include the following boundaries: Section 16 parts of sections 21, 22, 20, 27, and he was to notify every taxpayer within those boundaries to be present at the meeting. Their names were as follows: John W. Seely, John W. Wilcox, M. J. Chalker, John R. Bush, Franklin White, Henry Robson, James Patton, S. A. Holcomb. The meeting was held at the

home of John R. Bush, and it was voted to establish a site on the corner of the S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 16, owned by J. W. Wilcox. It was voted to purchase a site at that corner, consisting of one-fourth acre, from the center of the highway, for \$25. Voted to raise \$200 to help pay for land and building school house, and raise that amount, or more, each year until the house and other expenses are paid.

On the 27th day of April, 1857, District No. '7 entered into a contract with "Adline White, a qualified teacher in said township, the said Adline White contracts and agrees with the said school district that she will teach the primary school in said district for the term of three months, commencing on the 4th day of May, 1857, for the sum of two dollars per week, which shall be in full for her services and boarding herself." This was signed by John W. Wilcox, Director, approved by John W. Seely and Franklin White.

When the time came for school to begin there was no school house ready, and these officials contracted with J. W. Wilcox for a log house in which to keep school that summer, the rent being fifty cents per week.

The bills presented at that time have a strange sound to modern ears,

"May 1, 1857. Bought 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of pipe at one'shilling	
a pound,.....:.....	\$2.56
Do. One broom..... I.....	.20
Do. One cup.....	.10
Do. One pail.....	.50
	<hr/>
	\$3.36

Acc't I. W. Phelps & Co.

In the fall of that year it was voted to tax each scholar 75 cents. the coming year for the support of the school. Also the patrons of the school to furnish one-half cord of wood a scholar for the winter term of good body wood.

It was about this time that D. C. Smith's name was added to the district directory, and also that of Joseph Butler.

The next move out of the ordinary was that the sum of \$3 be raised for incidental expenses. Also that the "school house be

open and free for meetings for all denominations for Christian worship."

In 1858 a librarian was added to the list of officers, and it was voted to have nine months school during the year, and that same meeting it was voted to raise two dollars for contingent expenses. R. R. Young was elected director.

In 1861 a motion to build a board fence round the school house was lost, The winter school was taught by Miss "Antonetti" Horton for \$2.50 per week, a fifteen week term, and the summer school in 1862 was taught by Miss Nancy D. Fuller for the princely sum of \$1.25 per week. At the annual meeting in 1862 it was decided that a board fence with gates and steps for the school house be built, and later the job was let to R. V. White for \$33.50.

In the fall of 1864 it is found that Miss Arvilla White taught thirteen weeks for eighteen shillings per week, and Miss Mary Cornell taught three months at twenty shillings per week, and as there was not enough money on hand to pay all expenses \$10.75 was raised by rate bill.

The record closes with 1865, when we find that the year began with a balance of 75 cents in the treasury, but \$37.74 was received from mill tax, and \$10.21 for primary money. Wages seem to have been higher that winter as we find Miss Antoinette Horton received \$3.75, but that summer Mary Clough taught three weeks while Mrs. Tefft taught nine weeks, and each received \$2 per week, probably with the privilege of boarding round the district.

VEVAY TOWNSHIP, EDEN, APRIL 26, 1922.

The meeting at Eden was very enthusiastic in nature, making up in quality what it lacked in quantity, for the attendance was not what the leaders had hoped for.

Mrs. Carrie Chapin was the township chairman, but on that day turned the meeting over to the county secretary, Mrs. Adams.

One of the first items of business was to organize a township association, known as the Vevay Township Historical Society, and its officers are as follows: President, Mrs. Vance Douglas, Eden; vice-president, Mrs. W. H. Taylor, Mason; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Selora Diamond, Mason, R. D.

Mrs. Marie B. Ferrey, of the State Historical Commission, made one of her fervent appeals for the people to become more interested in Michigan history. Ingham county is in the lead in several lines of work, and it is up to the members of the various historical societies to see that it does not lose ground. It is the first to adopt the plan of having township societies, and is well on the way, and hopes to be the first to publish a county pioneer history.

Jas. H. Shafer, of Mason, gave the history of District No. 1. Its first school building was a rude 80 x 40 two-story structure made about 1885. The first teacher was **Anson** Jackson, and the first lady teacher Carry Hopkins. The first teacher in the graded school was Prof. Vrooman. A select school was kept in the old court house during the Civil War.

Edson Rolfe gave the history of District No. 2, known as the Rolfe.

Mrs. Jay Hulse told of the Kipp District.

Mrs. Vance Douglas read a paper by Mrs. Van Buren telling of the Eden District.

Almon **Chapin** read a paper written by M. W. **Chapin**, of Toledo, giving the story of the **Chapin** family.

Mrs. Hodges, of Lansing, read the history of the Hubbard school as written by her mother, Mrs. Lucy Holden-Breed.

V. J. Brown gave many interesting facts regarding the Hawley District, and in connection Mrs. **Bowden** read a paper on the Fuller Academy written by Otis Fuller. Mr. Brown has caught the true spirit for which these meetings were organized, and thinks an effort should be made to have the children attend and have a part in gathering the data to be preserved.

Mrs. **W. H.** Taylor told of the Walters school from its beginning, and **Mr.** and Mrs. A. L. Vandercook added much to this that was of great interest.

Mrs. Selora Diamond read a paper prepared by B. B. **Noyes** relative to the history of the Wilson school.

Mrs. **Tanswell** had a remarkably well written paper on the Pink school, full of interesting facts, but a part of this had to be omitted owing to the lateness of the hour.

This was the first township meeting at which every district had been represented, and the time was found to be altogether too

short for all the papers and the discussions which should have followed them.

The next Vevay meeting will be at the call of the president. The pot luck dinner at noon was an enjoyable affair, and the music in charge of Mrs. Carrie **Chapin** was a pleasing feature.

VEVAY.

KIPP, NO. 3, FRACTIONAL.

By **MRS. JAY HULSE.**

This district being fractional, the history cannot be given without telling something of the early life in western Vevay and eastern Aurelius.

The first land taken up on the Vevay side was on section 18, the patent being issued by the United States to Ormon Coe, and dated May 1, 1839, while on the Aurelius side Daniel Wilson took land from the government in section 13, under date of November 10, 1841. The S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ is the 40 acres now owned by Jay Hulse, the third one to hold a deed of this land, and he has lived there 49 years.

The first school house was built in 1854 on the southwest corner of section 18 in Vevay. It was a frame building, and the seating arrangement was very unique, the pupils when reciting sat facing the back of the building with their backs toward the backs of the other scholars.

The first teacher was Miss Ruth **Bateman**, who later became Mrs. Bradley Matteson, and they lived all their married life in Aurelius Township.

When the time came to build the school house the people of that section, and they were few in number, made a bee and cleared the woods from that corner, and Wm. Reeves, one of the residents of the district, and David **Hurlbert** from over on the Columbia road erected a small frame building about 16 x 18 feet in size. There were six windows, the panes 8 x 10 inches, with two doors on the south side, reached by steps made from squared logs.

The stove was one of the old-fashioned kind, a box stove, set in a box of sand.

As far as known Mrs. Pitt Ellsworth, of Mason, is the only one now living who attended the first term of school in this building, and to the best of her recollection there were but eight or ten children who were in the school at first.

No records of the district earlier than 1890 can be found, but residents of the district remember when the old building having outlived its usefulness it was decided to replace it with a new one, and about 1887 the officers of the district hired Chas. Phillips to build the house still in use. The old building was moved a few rods east of the school house lot and made into a dwelling house, and is now used as a shed on the farm of Chas. Price.

The last teacher in the old building and the first one in the new one was Miss **Leora** Drake, of Mason, now Mrs. Dwight Cole, of Grand Rapids. The present teacher is Miss Mildred **Ellison**, and there are 15 **pupils enrolled**. The highest enrollment as far as known is 26, and the lowest 4.

From the time the first school house was built until about 25 years ago religious services were held there, with Sunday school through the summer months, Elder **Tallman**, whom all Vevay pioneers remember, and Elder Swift, equally well known, were the principal ministers for many years.

For years the roads in this district were quagmires in the spring, but now state reward roads traverse the district from east to west and north to south,

The district can boast of having one factory, when E. D. Lee raised peppermint on the farm in the southeast corner of section 13 in Aurelius, which is best known to early settlers as the Wm. Brodie farm, later owned by John **McRobert**, and now the home of Harry Freshour,

Here for two years Mr. Lee manufactured peppermint oil, but the adventure not proving a financial success it was given up.

Had it been possible to have procured the books which the moderator, the late Homer Ellsworth, had kept for 35 years, a **much** fuller history might have been given,

HISTORY OF ROLFE COMMUNITY.

By **EDSON ROLFE**.

In the summer of 1836 there were three families of **Rolfes**—Nathan, Ira and Benjamin. The latter, my grandfather, came to Michigan from New York and settled in Vevay Township, making the trip by boat from Buffalo to Detroit, thence by ox team, taking five days to go from Detroit to Saline, a distance of forty miles.

Within a year or two three other brothers—Ephraim, Hager and Manasach—came. All settled on sections 20, 30, and 32. My father was the son of Benjamin. The first clearing was on his farm. His sister Fanny died and was buried on this farm in 1837. Her death was the first. The first school in Vevay was taught in 1840 in a log school house by Miss Lucy Page. My father married Lucy Page, daughter of Joab Page, and raised a family of seven children, four of whom are now living: **Chauncy**, of Lansing; **Orcelia**, of Jackson; Frank, of Detroit, and myself.

My parents remained on this farm nearly the rest of their lives. There were no roads at this time and only a blazed trail to Mason. I have heard my father tell of carrying corn to the mill many times. The mill was in one corner of Danforth's saw mill at Mason. The state road was planked for the stage line from Jackson to Lansing. The road through the swamp to the north of us was logs and at high water they would float out and have to be drawn back in place. We made maple sugar and sometimes we would trade for store sugar, pound for pound. My remembrance is of many woods, with here and there a small clearing on the different farms, also of many ox teams and three teams of horses, Ira Rolfe, **Asa** Hill and **D. C.** Cady owned these. Most of the hay and grain were cut with a scythe and a cradle. I also have the happy remembrance of our school days when we would start for school and perhaps drift to the Rolfe creek for a day of fishing or swimming. We were sure to be home about the usual hour and no questions were asked. I think the present school system the best ever,

My memory too goes back to the R. F. D. in the early days

when some boy would ride a horse to the post office at Eden and carry back all the mail going his way, to the coming of the mower and the reaper, later the hand binder and finally the wire binder and the binder of the present day.

The mode of travel has changed from the oxen to the horses, then the high-wheeled bicycle, then the two wheeled bicycle with pedals on the front wheels, then the bicycle with the chain drive, and at last the horseless carriage. One of the first was built by R. E. Olds at Lansing. Afterward came the many styles of motor cars and trucks of today. There were wild animals in the early days. I have seen fresh bear tracks when driving the cows home, but never happened to meet up with Bruin.

I have shot a number of wild turkeys, and many squirrels were here until about 1880.

There have been vast changes in the township since about 1865, the time of my first remembrance of the farms and farmers. Transportation changed from ox teams to fine automobiles. From the weekly mails with the Rural New Yorker, the Ingham County News and the Little Corporal, to the R. F. D., which brings mail to our doors daily, and many trains each day that bring both weekly and daily papers, numerous magazines, and to supply further needs the telephone and radio.

We should be thankful for having been permitted to grow up and come hand-in-hand with all the benefits and pleasures the years have brought.

REMINISCENCES,

Friends and Neighbors of District No. 4 and Vevay Township.

Upon the occasion of your meeting to organize a Vevay Township Pioneer Association, I congratulate you upon the pleasure which the event will furnish, and regret very much that Mrs. Chapin and myself cannot be present. The story of how things came to be as they are is certainly next in interest to the question of what the outcome shall be.

I have been asked to give some reminiscences of the early days of this district, but as my personal recollections commence about the end of the Civil War when the heavy blue overcoat

began to appear on the backs of many in the community, I shall have to get some information from old letters which I have which will take us back to 1843 to bring us up to the time of my own memory. Then again I am handicapped, for since 1875 I have not been a resident of Vevay, but I can plead in extenuation of this absence that I have been back every year for a visit, or a call, of from one or two days to a couple of weeks, and so I have noted the coming of new neighbors and the second and third generations of old neighbors that have come on.

During the dozen years preceding 1875 there appears to have been plenty of activities going on about here to keep a small boy busy—for instance the coming of the, "Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw Railroad," of which I have watched every operation from the surveying to laying of rails and ballasting of the roadbed for a mile at least each way from Eden. I doubt if the Calubra cut of the Panama Canal would impress me more than the deep cut through the Harris farm just north of Eden. At this period of the coming of the railroad was the passing of the stage coaches, which were making their trips, with mail and passengers from Jackson to Lansing, along the state road one-half mile west of Eden. My earliest recollections are of going after the mail at Uncle Harrison Horton's, who was postmaster, and watching the stage drive up and exchange mail, or rather the mail bag would be opened and the packet for Eden taken out and mail to be despatched put in and return the bag to the stage,

With the coming of the railroad commenced the building of Eden. Geo. Curry's was the first house and a blacksmith shop across the street was the first activities of Eden, then came a store on the corner facing south. I cannot say who opened the first store, perhaps it was S. S. Dewey, who came to Eden about this time and located on the forty acres that Almon Chapin now owns, which was then a wilderness from the corners to where the electric road runs.

Another event which many will recall was the long drought of the summer and fall of 1871 (the Chicago fire year), which terminated with the burning of the forests from Leslie to Eden. Great efforts were made to stop the fire at the Laxton, Chase and our (Chapin) sugar bush, but to no avail.

Well, these are comparatively recent events. Let us go back and dig up what we can of history events of eighty years ago,

I have quite a number of old family letters, from one of which I will quote, which was written March 27, **1843** (just 15 years to the day before I was born), to my grandfather and family "back in New York State" by my father, Almon Morris **Chapin**, my mother, Jane Pease **Chapin**, my Aunt Charlotte **Chapin**, who married **Carlos Rolfe**, and a few years after his death married Henry A. Hawley, of Northeast Vevay, and my Uncle Levi **Chapin** (whom some of you may remember visited at the **Chapin** homestead in **1905** after an absence of 49 years).

This letter was written and mailed before the days of envelopes and postage stamps (it is hard to realize nowadays that there was such a time as no postage stamps and envelopes, isn't it?), and what was known as a single **sheet** letter, a 16 by 10 sheet folded to 8 by **10** pages and written on all sides except a certain portion of the **back**, which was then folded so that it could be directed on this blank space, and the folds **sealed** down on the back, making a **packet** about the size of an ordinary **letter** of today.

This letter was mailed at **Mason** (there was then no Eden P. O.) and marked "single **12½** cents."

The letter seems peculiarly interesting today as it was written within a quarter of a mile of where you are assembled as it gives an outline of the condition of things all about this neighborhood as **they** were 79 years ago.

After first noting that they had previously been advised of their safe arrival in the "land of the woods" (which was December **30th, 1842**), my father, writing the first part of the letter, writes, "I have delayed writing to you thus long in hopes that I might be able when I wrote to give you some idea **of** the land, etc., in this vicinity, but I **am** still unable to do so on account of the great depth of snow with which the ground has been covered ever since our arrival here,

"The winter had been such as has not before been known in this state by the oldest settler in this vicinity. Farmers (if such they may be called who live in log huts with a garden spot cleared) are generally out of hay, fodder or grain to feed their cattle, and some families lack sufficient for **themselves**; we have as yet had enough to eat and hope to continue to have.

"Potatoes are very scarce; after riding two whole days and making inquiry for two weeks I have been able to buy twenty-

five bushels, though money would not buy them. I was obliged to **exchange** the oats I had saved for seed to get them, so hard pushed for feed to keep their stock from starvation.

"**Our stock** consists of **one yoke of oxen, one cow, one hog, and** Indian pony. I **have** not given them any hay or straw this winter, as it was impossible to buy any when we arrived even to fill our beds, but a kind neighbor gave us enough to fill them. We feed our cattle and pony tall hay as it is called here, that is, tree tops, on which they live very well; they have the lee side of a brush fence for a hovel and the clean snow for their **beds**; a **great** many cattle have died of starvation and many **more** must, especially on the openings, as they have not the chance of browse that we have in the woods,

"**My land** is very heavily timbered, equal to the heavy timber of old **Onondaga**; the timber consists of basswood, ash, maple, bitternut, beech, whitewood, oak, elm, cherry, butternut, black walnut, etc., but no evergreens; there is not a pine or hemlock in the township.

"There is a very thick growth of underbrush, altogether making very heavy clearing. The soil is a sandy loam very easy to till and I am told very productive.

"They have experienced some difficulty in raising wheat on account of the heavy growth of straw, but those who raised the Hutchinson or Flint wheat last year had fine plump wheat. I have got about **12** acres chopped ready to burn and am still chopping, and hope to get 15 or **20** acres **into** spring crops if the spring should be favorable for burning,

"There are two very fine sugar orchards on my **place**—the best in the woods, and we are preparing to tap **700** trees.

"Levi and all the folks like the woods well, but the 8 by **10** log hut with a garret they do not relish quite as well. I have got logs to mill and shall build a frame house this spring **21 by 29**, one and a half stories, with a small wood house attached.

"**It** is said to be very healthy in this vicinity. We are four miles from **Mason**, the county seat, twelve miles from **Eaton Rapids**, and twenty miles from **Jackson**.

"Charlotte has taught school six weeks this winter and is to teach the school in this district next summer at ten shillings per week. (Note—I do not think that he means that there was a

school in this district but the Rolfe school, for my mother in her letter farther on **speaks of the school** house being one mile away.)

"The whole vicinity are crazy about mesmerism, Millerism, end of the world, and every other **'ism** that can be known or mentioned, Yours, **&c** Morris."

A postscript is dated April 4th, 1843, in which he says: "Since the date which stands at the head of this letter we have had 18 inches of snow, but it is thawing today and although the snow is two and one-half feet deep in the woods, I think 'Old Sol' will soon drive it off.

"Your letter of March 19th received yesterday and we unseal our letter to reply to some of the matters therein. I have made David an offer for his land, both lots, but I see from your letter that he has sold one to Mr. Marshall. You can say to Mr. Marshall for me **that** this is **no** place for him, he would starve to death here, I am sure, as he can raise nothing next season if he does not come until spring, and he can get neither money nor victuals for work. Yours as ever, Morris."

Then comes that part of the **letter** written by Charlotte Chapin (to her sisters who remained at home) as throwing some light on the social activities of the times, she writes: "Dear Sisters-I did not intend to write again **untill** I heard from you, but I have waited untill I am tired and conclude to try again. I would like to know in what you are so much engaged to prevent you from writing-perhaps, like the people hereabouts, you expect the world to come to an end in the spring and do not think it worth **while** to **write**, but we should like to **hear** from Lakeville once more first.

"I suppose you would like to know what we have for society, here in the woods as they call it. We do pretty well, Jane goes one day (or rather night, for their calls are made from dark untill

2 o'clock) and I go the next, and we both stay at home the next to receive company, for that is the fashion and of course we must follow it. About 11 or 12 o'clock we have some pork and 'taters' and tea and then we dismiss after singing a few psalm tunes. I wish you could be here one night, you would laugh enough to last you one month I reckon,

"Our first company consisted of four couples and one odd one-a kind of Methodist exhorter-as we **had** no chairs, except those

we brought from home we were obliged to get out our trunks from under the bed and some blocks of wood and we did very well. Just put a **stove** and fourcon folks in Ma's room and you will know how much **room** we had to set the table, so we passed the dinner around. We have got well learned now, and get **along** pretty well considering. Charlotte."

My mother writes the next part of the letter in which she gives some information about the house and items about their trip from New York, which was by teams from Lakeville, N. Y., they having sent their household goods by boat to Cleveland, Ohio, some time earlier before the close of navigation on the lake; from there they obtained teams to bring them through the rest of the way. I am told one set of teams and teamsters brought them to **Blissfield, Mich.**, and another set of teams brought them on to Vevay.

"You could not have pictured our log palace better if you had been here and seen it, I will tell you what the ladder is for, it is to go up garret to sleep. We get along very well, a great deal better than I had any idea we should after being used to so much room; we are as well off or better than some of our neighbours who have been here five or six years, **so, we** need **not** complain. I shall not say **anything** about building a house any faster than we can and not get in debt. I can live in as poor house **as** the rest can, as long as we have our health and good appetite as we have now. I am not much concerned but we shall get along well enough-we can eat raw turnips for apples, and they taste good. You would like to know how our provisions lasted us-we got out of bread before we got to Perrysburg, and out of chicken pies before we got to Jackson, out of pork and beans before we got home to the shanty. The dog stuck by us and eat his part and is with us yet, he is good to chase deer but don't catch any. I like the place full as well as I expected I should, or better, we have some fine folks here in the woods.

"There is meeting every sabbath of some kind at the school house, which is one mile from us-a house full, I know not where they come from-out of the woods I suppose. I guess you would think so if you should see some of them,

"Augusta says that if she had known what kind of a place she was coming to she would have stayed with **Grand** Ma, but I

guess she will feel better when summer comes and she can get out in the bushes. Yours Jane,"

Then is added a few lines from Levi Chapin "To Our Folks." "I have just come from meeting. A short time after I returned Morris came from the woods where he had been browsing his cattle, dragging after him a fine buck which he had just killed.

"Tomorrow we are going to town meeting and hunting deer which are plenty here in the woods as well as turkeys, coons, and lots of other game, Levi,"

As a farther insight into the "Wildness" of this vicinity 80 years ago I will read an extract from a paper prepared and read by my sister, Rev. Augusta J. Chapin (the Augusta mentioned in my mother's letter) at Mason June 9, 1885, before the Ingham County Pioneer Society, giving an incident of their arrival "in the land of the woods." She says: "I looked upon those times as a little child, and in trying to recall them I find that the details of everyday life and of common things are lost to me, but certain pictures remain as vividly before my mind's eye. as though the actual scene was before me, among them is that of one of the pioneers-Cyrus Austin. He was a stalwart backwoodsman in his day and if he were not a mighty hunter it is such that my imagination has always portrayed him. It was in the late afternoon of the last day but one in that remembered December, 1842. We had left the old home in New York and had been traveling for weeks toward a new home that we were to make in this wilderness. We had been directed to the then famous 'Rolfe Settlement,' where the long pilgrimage was to end. We were tired and hungry. We had surely come far enough to have reached the settlement, and there was as yet no sign of human habitation near, only unbroken forest before, behind, and on every side of us. The snow was deep and only half trodden road wound in and out among the great trees of the primeval wilderness. We had not seen a human being except those of our own party for hours. Those who were driving the teams began to think we had lost our way when, suddenly, just where the road made a sharp turn to avoid a huge sycamore that stood in the way, there appeared a man who had already stepped out upon the snow to wait for us to pass. He looked as though he were himself a part of the wild scene. An ample cap of raccoon skin almost hid his face, and he wore a great tunic

shaped coat of the same. He carried a gun over one shoulder, and over the other, trailed in the snow behind him, the carcass of a deer he had just shot. He was asked to direct us to the 'Rolfe Settlement.' His keen eyes at once took in the whole situation. He scanned the worn teams, the battered covers of the heavily loaded sleighs, the anxious faces of the elders of the party, and the scared looks of the children. He saw that we were newcomers, with' no idea of what life in the backwoods must be, and before he could speak he broke into a loud, ringing laugh that echoed and re-echoed through the woods as though twenty men were laughing, and then he caught his breath and said, with a sweeping gesture towards the woods all around, 'the Rolfe Settlement? Why, it's right here.' Sure enough, within a few rods we found shelter in the hospitable home of Ira Rolfe."

I do not know when the first school house was built in this district, but my father in his letter says that Charlotte is to teach school in this district, but my mother says the school house was a mile away, so I take it that they both refer to the Rolfe school. I have no information as to just when a school house was built in this district, only a fact that there was a school here in 1847.

I have a composition written by my sister Augusta, upon which is written, "Miss Wheeler was teacher Summer 1847." The composition was "On Teaching School," and I think I will reproduce it here for your edification.

"What a pleasant life leads the school teacher, nothing to do but walk around the school room from morning till night, asking questions, hearing lessons, correcting the mischievous, rewarding the diligent, with a look of approbation, and scolding if they feel like scolding. O how I wish I were a school teacher and then I should not be obliged to write compositions, the worst of all tasks, when I do not feel like writing, and when I did not feel like learning my lessons I should be at liberty to defer them until some other time,

"O, the life of a teacher,
How pleasant it is,
They have nothing to do,
But eat, work and live.' "

(I will note that four years from this essay she was granted a

license to teach school in Vevay Township by the Inspectors of Primary Schools for the township. The inspectors were Anson Jackson, J. B. Chapin, A. E. Steele. (Jonathan B. Chapin lived in the Rolfe district, was a physician, he moved to Battle Creek, where he practiced the rest of his life; he died in 1891.)

When I first attended school the school house was located where it is now (1865), but I have a very vivid recollection of having been informed that the first "red school house" was just up the hill from the "corners" opposite of where Almon Chapin now lives.

When my people moved to Michigan there came with them John Bliss, a cousin, whom many of you may remember as being blind and living at Carlos Holdens about 20 or 25 years ago. He went to California in 1852 with others from this vicinity, among them Arnold Walker, of Leslie, and about the same time James Chase. I note in one of his letters that he and James Chase were rooming together in San Francisco (1853). I have several letters which Mr. Bliss wrote back to Eden, and he comments on news items which had been written to him from Eden and indirectly we get some Wevay news-for instance, some of us younger generation may think that prohibition is of recent origin-say 40 years or so back, perhaps when the Red Ribbon crusade was the craze, but note what was going on in Eden 70 years ago, he writes, "at once I am transported back to my adopted home, taking part in the spelling schools, debates, sham lawsuits and all. You say King Alcohol has been tried for murder; if he has not been sentenced to the penitentiary it would be a good idea to have the criminal code amended in this instance that he might be publicly executed. This reminds me of the Eden division of the Sons of Temperance, is it still in existence and does its good effects begin to tell on the Edenites? If my worthy brothers in the cause are not conducting themselves as they ought to, send me word."

Another item in this letter (March 31, 1853), "A singing school at Hubbardville, who is the teacher,-Obid I think for I do not know of anyone else there who has a musical talent, and if he has one he must have ten."

In another letter August, 1853, he says, "I think your school mam has a queer name, she is a daughter of General Jackson I suppose, look out she donft hit you."

Another item in his March 31st letter, commenting upon not

hearing from Eden, which was getting to be one of the seven wonders, "and so it was nothing but a ball at Mason, the wonderful influence of which was to attract so many fair daughters and self-duped gentlemen who are so kind and obliging just before New Years." In this letter he also comments, "What is it that has driven so many of the Edenites in the marriage halter of late?-0, I suppose because all the deceiving ones have gone to California and left the true ones a clear field for their efforts."

In his August, 1853, letter he has this to say about Michigan winters : "By this time you have harvested your wheat, drawn it into the barn, and are now mowing hay to have it in readiness for the hungry cattle when the snow lies deep on the frozen ground and the wind, howling in the wilderness, drives chilling blasts through the crevices of some rude log cabin causing its inmates to heap more logs on blazing fire and hitch up nearer to its warming influence. I am glad I have escaped one winter of snow and hope to escape more."

While he was not in California for his health it is interesting to note his appreciation of its climate for a winter sojourn as so many people now find it convenient to spend their winters in California to escape the rigid weather. In March, 1854, he writes to my sister Augusta, "Really I think the idea of your studying for the ministry a good one for in my opinion women are the only true reformers." He says, "Go on with the good cause and let your name be heralded throughout the earth as a champion in the field of the downtrodden and oppressed."

You will note that in Eden 70 years ago was a woman asserting herself to the right to be a minister, which was unusual in those days, as to be a woman minister was to assert woman's rights, which she was always ready to champion during her long ministerial career of 46 years, having preached her first sermon May, 1856.

In connection with the admonition in the letter quoted "go on with the good cause," I would say that 40 years afterwards, June June 21, 1893, there was conferred upon her by Lombard University, Galesburg, Ill., the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity, This was the first time that any college or university had ever conferred this degree upon a woman. Since this time other colleges and universities have conferred this degree upon women,

notable among the eminent women who has had this honor was Madam, Curie, the French scientist, the discovery of radium, upon" her recent visit to this country.

Thus it would appear that District No. 4, Vevay Township, Ingham county, Michigan, has the distinction of having furnished the subject for the **first** woman **D. D.**, in the world.

I think I must bring my long informal remarks to a close by adding a few DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN observations which are having quite a run now in one of our Toledo papers.

Do you remember when **Mr.** Sanderson had a shoe shop on the corner where Ed. Rolfe's store is now? He used to make Red, Yellow and Green topped boots for the "dandies."

Do you remember **when** Geo. Curry was the leader of the leading dance orchestra for the country around?

Do you remember when there was a tavern at Horton's Corners run by a family named Briggs? (It burned **down** between 1835 and 1870.)

Do you remember when there was five board **capped** and **battened**, **sheep** and hog proof fence on the **east** side of the railroad along the **Chapin** right-of-way? (Many of us **boys** and girls do, for it was a stunt to see who could walk the farthest without falling off-the cap was on about a 30 degree pitch and to be successful one must be barefooted.)

Do you remember the first depot and warehouse with living quarters upstairs. **A. J.** Archer was the agent and postmaster at one time? (Do you remember the building **was** never painted?)

Do you remember how you could hear the freight trains **puffing** for miles when they **were** trying to make the grade from the Harris road to. Eden?

Do you remember when Mr. and Mrs. Harris rode for nothing on the railroad as long as they lived, which **was** the price of the right-of-way diagonally **across** **their** farm?

Do you remember when the town meetings were held over the store at Eden after Mason **became** a city?

Do you remember the first cider mill in the vicinity of Eden? It was on the Marshall farm.

M. W. CHAPIN, Toledo,

THE FULLER ACADEMY.

By OTIS FULLER, Mason. Read at Eden April 26, 1922.

In 1856 James Fuller settled with his family of nine children in Vevay Township, two miles southeast of Mason, in what is known as the Hawley school district.

The oldest daughter, Emma Jane Fuller, had been favored with the advantages of a seminary and collegiate education in New York, and in 1867 she taught a select school in Mason. Her health becoming impaired, she quit teaching for several years, except a few private pupils.

In 1865 she established an academic school upon the Fuller farm, which continued for ten years. In addition to the branches usually taught in the smaller high schools were French and German, and the courses in botany, chemistry, rhetoric, literature and the higher mathematics, were much more extended and thorough than in any of the high schools of that day.

The primary object of the school was to afford better educational advantages for the five younger children of the family than the district or Mason schools afforded. Residents of Mason and Vevay were quick to solicit the advantages of the school and between fifty and sixty pupils were enrolled at different times from the immediate vicinity, while several came from outside counties and states.

During the closing years of the school it specialized as a teachers finishing school, and many third and second grade teachers came to study for second and first grade certificates. I was told by the superintendent of the county that during one year more than half of the first grade certificates issued in Ingham county went to students of the Fuller Academy.

I have no complete list of the students of this seminary, but we know that about twenty-five of them have passed to the Great Beyond.

Among those living are the following:

Miss Jennie Adams, Lakeview, Mich.
Orlando F. Barnes, Lansing.

Mrs. **Nettie** Barnes Knight, Columbus, Ohio.
 Oscar Bush, Mason.
 Mrs. Marie Steele Busenbark, Akron, Ohio.
 Mrs. **Idella** Steele Arnold, Akron, Ohio.
 Morris (Bob) **Chapin**, Toledo, Ohio.
 Mrs. Carrie Lyon **Chapin**, Eden,
 Mrs. Laura Homer Crittenden, Vevay.
 Mrs. Octavia Bush Dresser, New Orleans, La.
 Misses Mary and Louise **Housel**,
 Otis Fuller, Mason.
 Haven S, Fuller, Portland, Oregon,
 Mrs. Alice Fuller Scaly, **Mason**,
 Mrs. Leora **Gilpin** Greene, Stockbridge.
 Jesse **F.** Gray, Jackson.
 Mrs. Nellie Gray Hall, Mason.
 Miss Kate Henderson, Mason,
 Willis Horton, Seattle, Wash,
 Mrs. Lucy Dresser **Holden** Breed, Lansing.
 Mrs. Jennie Ives Parker, Lansing.
 Charles Lyon, North Star.
 Mrs. Mary Barker Ladd, Vevay.
 Will Northrop, Pomona, **Calif.**
 Mrs. Annie Hawley Preston, Grass Lake,
 Mrs. Kate Stevens Salter, Ontario, **Calif.**
 Mrs. Clara Hawley **Schurtz**, Grand Rapids,
 Mrs. Mary Sayers Stafford, Mason.
 Mrs. Bell **McRobert** Tefft, Detroit,
 Mrs. Alma **Clough** Windiate, Holly.

HUBBARD SCHOOL, VEVAY, MEETING, APRIL 26, 1922,
 AT EDEN,

By Mrs. **LUCY HOLDEN BREED**, Lansing,

My first personal knowledge of the people in the Hubbard neighborhood of southeast Vevay was when I was called upon to take charge of the school as teacher in **1858**.

I went from house to house for board and lodging, as the teach-

ers did at that time. I became acquainted with all of the pioneers who resided there, and gained a little information concerning their pioneer life.

I found a choir organized, composed of Charles **Holden**, Elizabeth and Octavia Hubbard, Mary and Jennette **Olds**, and I will say, as Edgar A. Guest did in his poem, "The Choir at Pixley," only with a little variation:

"The choir we had at Hubbard's was fine for looks and styles,
 And today if I could hear it I would walk a hundred miles."

The old pioneers were Mr. Franklin Olds, Amadon **Holden**, Ira Hubbard, Edwin **H.** Hubbard, Alfred Gallup, Mr. Burt, John **Royston**, C. C. **Royston**, Willett family and Deacon Olds. Most of the pioneers came from the state of New York, and, as in all stages of life, some were independent financially, but the majority were poor and had to struggle in all ways to prepare a home and furnish food and clothing for their families. Many times the pioneers were obliged to live with some kind neighbor, while they cut down trees to procure the logs to build their houses.

It required a good carpenter to put up a first-class log house. Very often the pioneers were crowded for room, but the essence of good cheer filled their hearts, as they toiled day by day.

I understand that Mr. John Royston (father of Ellery Royston) blazed trees for a number of miles to prepare for roads made by the early settlers later. Many times the roads became impassable. Often a yoke of oxen hitched to a wagon would get so fastened in the mud that it required two yokes of oxen to draw them out. The neighbors kept in close touch with each other and were always willing to help in case of emergency.

For water they often depended upon a neighbor who had dug a well, unless they could find a spring of clear running water near by. They made a yoke of wood to be placed over their shoulders, and suspended a pail of water from each end, carrying them very conveniently. In bringing water to the surface of the well a rope would be fastened to a pail with which to draw it up, then after a while came

"The old oaken bucket,
 The iron-bound bucket,
 The moss-covered bucket,
 That hung in the well."

A lady told me she did not have a stove for a long time. They heated the house with a built-in fireplace made of stone. A crane hung at one side with iron hooks on which to hang the iron teakettle and other kettles used in cooking vegetables and meat. When they wished to bake they would place a tin oven before the fire, and would often roast potatoes in the hot ashes. They were obliged to buy all of their fruit until their orchards began to bear. **For winter use they prepared it nicely, and dried, pickled and preserved in thick syrup.** In drying pumpkin, **after** other preparation, they would **cut** it around in rings then hang on small poles in the house to dry. The system of canning was not known at that time,

Candles furnished the light. It was quite a pleasure in those days to prepare candle wicks on slender rods across small poles, then dip them in melted tallow and see them **grow**. Tin candle molds came next, after that kerosene oil.

The changes became pleasant to the pioneer, but nothing like pressing the button now and flooding the room with electricity.

Indians camped in the surrounding woods, and would occasionally appear at the door and ask for something to eat. Chief Okemos was sometimes a visitor. He was a very remarkable old Indian. Bears would sometimes be seen, and wolves would howl and often become troublesome, but the men were on guard, and they never had a death from that source. Deer were quite plentiful.

The first school house in the Hubbard district was a log one, located north of Deacon Olds farm near the large willow trees. In **1852** the frame one, which now stands, was built by Deacon Olds, and many now living have spent happy and interesting hours within its walls. The first post office within reach was in Mason. Every letter received cost twenty-five cents. The one who sent the letter did not pay for it, but the one who received it did. Envelopes were not known then. The written letter was covered with white paper, doubled and fastened with sealing wax.

One lady told me she gave her son, a lad of eight or nine years, twenty-five cents to get a letter she heard was in the post office. He had to walk nearly six miles, as the only team they had were oxen; he arrived in Mason, spent the money for raisins which he

gave to some little girls of his acquaintance, and ate of them himself.

Upon his return he had neither money, letter or raisins. Singing schools and spelling schools opened a way for enjoyment and were also a means of education. Sometimes it caused much merriment in spelling school to see those considered most competent fall out of line. The one who remained standing was considered a hero or heroine, for the time being. Often the teacher would appeal to Webster to help them to a seat.

In 1858 church services were held in the House 1 neighborhood, but later in 1865 a Sunday school was organized in the Hubbard, with Mr. Ives as superintendent. He was competent and energetic, and soon it was in a flourishing condition. A few years later the Hubbard united with the Eden, Mr. Ives remaining superintendent for some time. **After his resignation** George Smith of Eden continued the work, and it was through his efforts that the Eden church was built. In early autumn **1891** the Ladies' Aid was organized with six charter members. It grew rapidly and became a religious, social and financial factor in the little Eden church. We are here today to talk over old times and to bring to mind the heroic deeds of the pioneers. May we ever cherish their memory.

WILSON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9.

Some of Its Early History, the Notes for Which Were Mostly
Furnished by B. B. NOYES.

The very earliest remembrance of white settlers in the vicinity of what is now known as the Wilson District is of a man named **Fair** who had a tract of land of 900 acres and who sold off smaller tracts to various persons, which divisions now constitute the Whipple, Brooks, Deyo, Aseltine and Garrison farms, and perhaps some others.

It seems to have been the ambition of Mr. Fair to have the county seat **located** on his tract, a log building being erected

thereon for the purpose of holding court, but for some cause no court sessions seem to have been held there; sometimes they held a justice's court at Hiram Parker's, but these were later held in Mason in a building used for a hotel until the Mason court house was built.

The Wilson school was so named because F. L. Wilson owned and operated a saw mill near the place where the school house was erected, and also because Mr. Wilson was the contractor who built it.

The first school meeting was held some time in 1868 in a rude shanty put up by B. B. Noyes on his place as a temporary dwelling, and at this meeting a committee was appointed consisting of Elijah Brooks, F. L. Wilson and B. B. Noyes to select and provide a site and build a school house. The land was finally purchased of Luke Aseltine for \$50, a bond for this amount drawing 10 per cent interest, being given him as late as January 16, 1872, signed by F. L. Wilson, director, Christopher Johnson, assessor, and William H. Ames, moderator. This bond was sold to John Rayner February 13, 1872, and is still in possession of the district.

The first school was taught in the dwelling house of B. B. Noyes (where the meeting had been held) by Mrs. Henry Hawks, for 12 shillings per week-instead of \$105 per month-and Mrs. Hawks boarded herself at that! Several terms of four months each were taught by her, there being an average attendance of something like 20 children.

Mr. and Mrs. Hawks owned the 80 adjoining the Noycs farm on the west, so she had but a short distance to go, as the Noyes "shanty" stood under a big maple, which is still there, only a few rods east of where their present home is now located.

The first settlers in the Wilson District were L. S. Bates and B. B. Noyes and their wives, who came in 1865. The next year there followed a number of *families-Elijah Brooks', John Diamond's, George and Aaron Garrison's, Fred Siple's, Joseph Worden's, Andrew McCormick's, John Strobe's, Peter and Luke Aseltine's, Dennis Wright's, Christopher Johnson's and Wilson B. Hicks', all of whom took up their abode in this wilderness, there being over 3,000 acres of land with the timber so thick on it that the only direction anyone could look and see any distance was straight up!

When these early settlers went anywhere they traveled in groups over blazed trails by sound rather than sight, as those going on ahead would "halloo" to those in the rear so they would not get lost.

Wild deer and various other wild animals and fowl were quite abundant, the champion hunter of them all in those days being Luke Aseltine, who kept the settlers fairly well supplied with all sorts of game, wild honey and wild turkeys, bringing in as many as six wild turkeys at a time.

One day as B. B. Noyes was looking for cowslip greens he put his hands on a large tree limb which was bent almost to the ground, intending to jump over it, when a big black bear jumped out from somewhere beneath it, gave a sniff and a "woof" and "loped" off to the east, while Mr. Noyes gave a snort and a yell and "loped" off to the west!

Mud Creek was full of fur-bearing animals such as mink, muskrat, otter and coon, these being trapped by the hundreds by John Buzzell, who lived in a frame house where the brick now stands on the Dudley farm. Good mink skins then brought as high as \$10 apiece; otter, too, sold high, but muskrat skins sold for 30 cents, and coon skins were not very valuable.

This land cost in those days but \$6.25 per acre, while now it is worth from \$100 to \$125 per acre. William Barker, who with his wife came to the settlement shortly after those already mentioned, probably cleared off more of this land than any one man. One incident of which I have heard Mother Diamond speak was that when she and other women would go across the "flats" they often had to take off their shoes and stockings and wade through the water, wiping dry afterward, then resume their footwear that they might look presentable. The men were saved this bother as they wore boots and waded right through.

Mother Diamond also told of the long distance which they had to go for water, their supply being carried from a spring on the Hurd farm, which was a good half mile from their home. The water was carried two buckets at a time, a balancing pole being placed across the shoulders with a pail suspended from each end.

Another item of interest was this: One day Mr. Noyes plowed up some arrow heads and a piece of Indian pottery. A little later he met Chief Okemos, who, with his braves was camped,

as was their custom, on a knoll in the Rayner marsh, and telling Okcmos about his find was told by the Indian that he had hunted all over the land for miles around here as long as 75 years before that.

The only settlers of this district who now survive are: **B. B. Noyes**, who still lives on his farm; **Mr.** and **Mrs.** Christopher Johnson and **Mr.** and **Mrs.** F. L. Wilson, in Detroit; **Mr.** and **Mrs.** Wilson B. **Hicks**, in South Dakota; **Mrs.** Luke Ascltine, living with her son **Charley**, and **Mrs.** L. S. Bates, who is living at the Masonic Home in Alma, **Mich.**

Several factories had their day, following the saw mill period, namely, hoop, cheese box and wash board, but the most interesting of these (I might also add the most useful, perhaps) was the wash board, as some were made of glass as well as wood. This factory was finally moved to Saginaw, where it proved very successful. Those now living who were interested in that are Henry Williams, of Mason; Aleck Bush, of Ann Arbor, and F. L. Wilson, whom, as I have stated before, lives in Detroit.

It was amidst the surroundings already described that the lives and education of Louise, Carrie and George Siple, George and Bertie Hawks, Everett and Florence Ames, Rosie, Alfred and Lucy Aseltipe, Emmett and Walter Ellison, Lula Noyes, Huldah and Melissa Hawkins, Icy Johnson, Emily Carn, Robbie Almon, Carl and Allie Wilson, Freddie Searl, Elma Pahner, Elmer Stroup and Emma, Ella, Cassie and Lelia Worden began, all of whose names appear, as here given, upon the first school register which has been preserved, its date being 1872, The names of the teachers who followed Mrs. Hawks according to this register were: Dora Davis, L. Jennie Ryan, Eva C. Bremer, Eliza Bolles, Kate E. Phillips, Mame Norton, J. L. Fuller, Nellie Olds and A. E. Williams.

Many exciting tales could doubtless be told of those early days in the Wilson district school had we but have had them all handed down to us, but meager as are the facts herein delineated they serve to show us at what cost and effort and with what wisdom and forethought the fathers and mothers of that day went about their duties to their children; and we of this generation should never allow their efforts to be made light of nor the work of our schools to be belittled since the public school is an institution second only to home in its possibilities for good.

THE CHAPIN FAMILY, EDEN, VEVAY TOWNSHIP, MICH.

Compiled by F. L. A.

The Chapin family and its part in the history of the county is one that is deserving of more than passing notice, and that it had its part in the earlier history of the United States is shown by the following brief story :

Deacon Samuel Chapin and eight sons settled in Chicopee, Mass., about the middle of the seventeenth century. Levi Chapin, one of these sons, was born in Chicopee, April 3, 1787, where he grew to manhood and became a prominent factor in the growth of the business interests in his own and adjoining states. He built the first cotton factory in Chicopee, and constructed the upper ten locks on the Blackstone canal, between Worcester, Mass. and Providence, R. I. In 1818 he went to Onondaga county, N. Y., as contractor for public works in that state and in Canada. In the fall of 1844 he came to Vevay Township in Ingham county, and settled on the farm since owned by W. H. Horton, and ran a hotel on the Jackson-Lansing road. He died January 10, 1867.

Almon Morris Chapin, eldest son of Levi, was born at Chicopee, November 28, 1810. He graduated from the Onondaga Academy and the Skaneateles Seminary, and later studied medicine. After clerking for a while in Rochester, N. Y., he went into business at Lakeville, Livingston county. On July 8, 1835, he married Jane Pease, of Livonia, N. Y. In December, 1842, he came to Michigan and settled on the farm in Vevay Township, which the family still owns. He sent his tools and goods by water to Detroit, while he and his wife and four small children, his brother Levi, Jr., and sister Charlotte, later Mrs. Carlos Rolfe, drove through being eighteen days on the journey. They came in a large covered wagon equipped with both wheels and runners, as the chances were that they would need one as much as the other before the trip was ended.

They came through Buffalo, Eric, Cleveland, Toledo, Blissfield, Adrian and Jackson to the Rolfe settlement. They stayed with

Ira Rolfe the first night, then moved into an empty log house next to their farm.

They had just got in and built a fire when the top logs slid off and the roof fell-in, and Charlotte had a narrow escape from death. The neighbors rallied and helped repair the house and had a new roof on in two days.

Several old letters are in possession of the family, and in one mention is made of a new house to be built. This became a veritable fact the coming summer, and the family moved into it that fall. The same building is now a part of the house where the succeeding generations of the Chapin family have since lived.

Mr. Chapin was never a strong robust man, and was entirely unused to manual labor, but his perseverance behind the pioneer spirit with which he was endowed enabled him to become a successful home builder.

He loved trees and flowers, and made home a pleasant and comfortable place for his children. He was distinguished for his mental endowments and culture. Was a wide reader, had taught at times and instructed his children in language and mathematics. He held various offices in the township, also in the Ingham County Pioneer Society, the Ingham County Agricultural Society, the Farmers' Club, and was for some time secretary of the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company of Ingham county. To Mr. and Mrs. Chapin were born eleven children. He was a member of the Universalist church, and when he died in 1878 Rev. Stocking, of Lansing, conducted the funeral services.

Charlotte, of whom mention has been made, first married Carlos Rolfe, and after his death became the second wife of Henry Hawley, one of Ingham county's most prominent pioneers.

Augusta. M. Chapin, mentioned in the pioneer letters given, gained a name of renown both in this country and in Europe. She came from New York to Michigan with her parents when a child, and her recollections of her life in the wilderness are told in an address she gave before the Ingham County Pioneer Society and which appears in full in the reports of the annual meetings. She grew to womanhood in the little hamlet of Eden, Vevay Township, on the Chapin homestead.

Her death occurred in New York city in 1905, just a few hours before the time she was to sail for Europe as a conductor for a

touring party, a branch of work she had been engaged in for some years. Her obituary as found in the records of the Pioneer Society of Ingham county tells best of her life and the various activities in which she was engaged.

Rev. Augusta Chapin, D. D., died of pneumonia at St. Luke's Hospital, New York city, June 30, 1905, after a short illness of one week.

Her brother, M. W. Chapin, of Toledo, Ohio, was with her at the time of her death. The remains were brought to the Chapin homestead at Eden, where funeral services were conducted by Dr. Stocking, of the Universalist church of Lansing, and interment made in Maple Grove Cemetery in Mason.

Miss Chapin was a descendent, in the eighth generation, from Deacon Samuel Chapin, who emigrated from Wales and settled in Springfield, Mass., about 1635. From this faraway ancestor, who sought a home in what was then almost a wilderness, she may have inherited some of the strength of purpose that made her what she was. She was born in Lakeville, Livingston county, N. Y., July 16, 1836. At the age of six she moved with her father, the late Almon M. Chapin, and family to what is now known as Eden, which she has ever since called home. She was a student of Olivet College and of the University of Michigan, from which last named institution she received the degree of Master of Arts.

Dr. Chapin began preaching in 1859, was regularly fellowshipped as a minister of the Universalist church in 1861, and was ordained in Lansing in 1863.

Since her ordination she has been engaged in missionary and pastoral work. Her principal settlements have been Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, Chicago, San Francisco, Iowa City, New York and Lansing. Before beginning her ministerial work she was principal of the North Lansing Union School for one year.

Dr. Chapin held the honorable position of chairman of the woman's general committee on religious congresses in the congress auxiliary of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, and gave to this work many months of devoted attention. Her chief service consisted in securing competent women to take part in the great Parliament of Religions, in promoting the congresses of the various Christian denominations, and of many important

religious societies of women. She also officiated as chairman of the woman's committee in her own church.

In recognition of her attainments and work, Lombard University, in June, 189% conferred upon her the degree of Doctor of Divinity, the first woman in the world to receive this title.

Dr. Chapin's services have been much sought for in the lecture field, in which her topics were chiefly English literature and art. She held the appointment of extension lecturer on English literature for the University of Chicago, and non-resident lecturer on literature and art for Lombard University, Galesburg, Ill. She was a member of many societies of women, among which may be mentioned the Sorosis of New York city, King's Daughters, the Chicago Woman's Club, and the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Dr. Chapin very freely shared with her old friends and acquaintances the experiences of her life, and her addresses before the Ingham County Pioneer Society, the Ingham County Farmers' Club and other organizations were always listened to with great pleasure.

The Chapin farm became well known throughout the country because of the fact that J. W. Chapin, a son of Almon Chapin, developed on it the largest sugar bush in the state of Michigan.

It is a far cry from the charmingly primitive "sugar bush" of fiction to the business-like proposition of modern farm life. but it is safe to say that not even the most advanced agriculturist elsewhere has a trolley line and telephone connection from his residence to his sugar bush, as has J. W. Chapin of Eden (1912). Eden is a little hamlet four miles south of Mason, and the Chapin estate of 360 acres, which has been in the family for many years, is the largest farm for many miles around. The Lansing-Jackson branch of the Michigan United Railway runs through the farm, passing close to the house and also the sugar bush one-half mile away. A private telephone line runs from the sugar house to the residence, and a switch here gives connections with all the neighboring towns. The Jackson-Saginaw branch of the Michigan Central Railroad is only a few rods away on the opposite side of the house from the M. U. R.

Mr. Chapin now taps 2,200 trees every season, producing from 6,000 to 9,000 pounds of syrup and sugar each year. This is

shipped to private parties all over the country, most of whom have standing orders for their year's supply. As proof of the quality of his products Mr. Chapin shows medals won by his exhibit at the St. Louis Exposition and a diploma received at the Pan-American. The sugar orchard comprises 80 acres of a 140 acre wood lot, and besides the service they have given the Chapin family for seventy years there is proof that they yielded their sweetness for the benefit of the Indians long before the advent of the white men. The remains of bark troughs and wooden spiles, with the added evidence of the scars to be found on the mammoth great trees, go to show that the red man had knowledge of this valuable asset and made use of it.

It is said that the Indians made pilgrimages to this part of the county every spring, where they camped through the maple sugar season and "milked" the numerous sugar bushes in this vicinity. The crude methods they employed in manufacturing the sugar, which was said to be black and full of leaves and twigs, were of course the best they knew, and it makes one wonder what their sensations would have been could they have taken a peep into Mr. Chapin's modern and model sap house and watched the work done there. Let us see how this plant was conducted in 1913. The work began early in the winter when the men commenced to fill the huge shed at the sugar camp with wood ready to feed the furnaces. Then the first warm day that promised spring began the work of tapping the trees. Iron spouts were driven into holes previously bored in the trees about three feet from the ground. On these were hung tin sap pails, with wooden covers so adjusted as to exclude everything but the pure, limpid sap. The larger trees carry two or three pails. Two teams are kept busy gathering sap, each drawing a steel tank holding several barrels of the fluid, and three men work with each outfit. The tanks are mounted on runners, as they are more practical for use in snow and mud than wheels. Deep snow often makes the work of gathering sap very difficult.

The sugar house contains two 50-foot evaporators, with 4-foot smokestacks, and to attend to the fires and watch the boiling sap keeps one man busy.

The teams bring the sap to an elevation beside the sugar camp, where it is emptied through a hose into big 50-foot barrel tanks.

From this supply a constant stream flows into the shallow pans of the evaporator. These pans are about 2 x 5 feet in size, and are connected with each other by tubing at the ends, so that the boiling sap is kept constantly circulating. After making the circuit of the first evaporator it is piped to **the** other.

The furnace man's chief anxiety is to boil down the sap as soon as possible after it is brought in, as the making of the finest qualities of syrup demands that the sap be gathered once a day or oftener, and used immediately. Openings in the roof of **the** sugar house allow clouds of steam **from** the boiling pans to escape. When the syrup reaches the proper consistency it is strained and allowed to **settle**. It is **then carried** to the house where its density is determined by the hydrometer, after which it is sealed in gallon and half gallon tin cans, each bearing the makers name and **certified** as to its purity. For sugar the syrup is boiled again then molded into five pound cakes.

The output depends on the length of the season, which is never two years alike. Extremely cold weather changing rapidly to **warm** spring weather oftentimes starts the buds on the trees and makes a very short season. Work in the sugar bush does not stop when the sap ceases to run, as then the thousands of pails and spouts, together with the tanks and evaporating pans must be **overhauled** and scalded, then packed away to await the next season's run.

Five years later sees this all changed. In 1914 Mr. **Chapin** was working with a hay fork in his barn when the machine fell and struck him, and death followed instantaneously. Mr. **Chapin**, in **addition** to conducting this sugar bush mentioned, worked about **200** acres of farm land in a superior manner, and was considered an authority on all matters of an agricultural nature. After his death Mrs. **Chapin** and the son who remained home found the farm land all they could attend to, and when the fuel shortage struck the county in 1918 the City of Lansing bought the wood lot, which included the sugar bush, to supply its **municipal** wood yard, and this wonderful landmark containing trees centuries old **went** up in **smoke**. This was a blow to the maple sugar industry in **Ingham county**, which was augmented by the sale of several other good-sized, well-known sugar orchards in this vicinity which went for the same purpose, among them the

one of the Fuller farm, which was also known to the Indians, and had yielded annual sugar crops for as long a time as the one on the **Chapin** farm.

Mrs. **Chapin's** parents, Mr. and Mrs. **Asher Lyon**, came to Vevay in an early day from Geneva, **N. Y.** Mr. Lyon died some years ago in Grutiot county, where **he had lived** for some years, but Mrs. Lyon and their eleven children are still living, and recently held a family reunion at the **Chapin** home in Eden, beneath the original forest trees that surround the old homestead.

Since the death of Mr. **Chapin** in 1914 Mrs. **Chapin** has conducted the large farm very successfully, and last spring was elected justice of the peace for Vevay, on the Republican ticket, over her **oldest** son who ran against her. Like his father, **J. W. Chapin** was active in the work of the **Ingham** County Agricultural Society, the Farmers' Club and the County Pioneer and Historical Society; in the latter societies Mrs. **Chapin** has held offices several times.

Besides his widow, Mr. **Chapin** was survived by six children: Alinon M., named for his grandfather, owns a farm adjoining the old homestead; Alice, who graduated from the State Normal College at Ypsilanti and the University of Pennsylvania, later taking post graduate courses at Columbia and Harvard Universities. She has taught for a number of years, a part of the time being in charge of the physically deficient children in the Detroit schools and in those of Minneapolis, **Minn.** She is now superintendent of an extensive Settlement House in Minneapolis which is supported by the wealthy people of that city.

Julius, a graduate of M. A. C., for some years county agricultural agent in various parts of the state, but now engaged in business for himself in Traverse City, **Mich.** Ethel, for many years a teacher in St. Johns, now taking a course in a Nurses Training School in Chicago University. Warren, employed in Detroit. Martha, a graduate of Ypsilanti Normal and Olivet College, now teaching.

The **Chapin** family was one of the first in this section to establish a state game refuge on their land, which is kept up in strict accordance with the law.

MASON IN 1863.

MICHIGAN STATE GAZETTEER

Mason is a flourishing incorporated village of Ingham county, of which it is the seat of justice, beautifully situated in the center of a rich farming district, on the Jackson and Lansing stage route, 13 miles south from Lansing, 25 north from Jackson, and 95 west from Detroit. Fare \$3.75.

The village enjoys a thriving trade, and is steadily increasing, the present population being 500. It has a weekly paper, the "Ingham County News," published every Thursday by D. B. Harrington, at \$1.00 per year; one church, Methodist Episcopal, and one Masonic lodge. The village also contains twelve stores, two hotels, a steam flour mill, one steam and one water saw mill, an iron foundry and manufactory of potash. Goods are shipped from Detroit to Mason by the Michigan Central Railroad via Jackson. A daily mail is received. Postmaster, Peter Linderman.

LIST OF PROFESSIONS, TRADES, ETC.

Barnes, Orlando M.—lawyer.
 Beech, J. & Co. (Jesse and Ira H. Beech)—iron foundry.
 Chase, Oscar F., Rev.—Methodist.
 Darling, C. C.—cabinet maker.
 Davis, R. H.—physician.
 Donnelly, Henry J.—hotel.
 Dunsback & Co. (John Dunsback and William VanVrankin)—
 general store.
 Griffin, Almira—milliner.
 Guy, G. E. & Co. (George E. Guy and John Coatsworth)—
 general store.
 Hall, Robert—cabinet maker.
 Halstead, David W.—physician.
 Handy, Alfred, Rev.—Baptist.
 Harrington, David B.—editor and proprietor "News."
 Helms, Luke H.—ashery.
 Henderson, Henry L.—lawyer.

Henderson, Perry—flouring mill and distillery.
 Horton, Isaac—livery stable.
 Hughes, Phoebe—milliner.
 Huntington, Collins D.—boots and shoes.
 Huntington, George M.—lawyer.
 Kent, Reuben—druggist.
 Kittridge, Hosea, Rev.—Presbyterian.
 Linderman, Peter—general store.
 Northrup, Thomas—justice of the peace.
 O'Toole, Patrick W.—physician.
 Parker, Levi C.—blacksmith.
 Peck, David—mason.
 Peck, Erastus—lawyer.
 Peck, P. R.—carpenter.
 Phelps, John W.—physician.
 Phelps, J. W. & Co. (John W. Phelps and Peter Low)—drugg
 and hardware.
 Polar, George W.—boot and shoe dealer.
 Rogers, Hiram D.—hotel.
 Sackridge, Charles H.—physician.
 Spencer, John E.—saw mill.
 Stanton, Edwin—lumber dealer.
 Steele, Amos E.—justice of the peace.
 Sweet, Martin A.—grocer.
 Teal, W. A. & Co. (Whitfield A. Teal and William H. Smith)
 carriage makers.
 True, M. D.—carpenter.
 Tubbs, Andrew—carpenter.
 Tubbs, William—cooper.
 Tubbs, William C.—cooper.
 Tyler, Jesse J.—physician.
 Tyler, John M.—blacksmith.
 Wheeler, J. L. & Co. (Jerome L. Wheeler and Egbert
 Keeler)—general store.
 Willett, Jacob, saw mill.
 Worden, S. H.—saloon.
 Wright, William—carriage maker.
 Pratt, Horatio—lawyer.
 Rea, Charles H.—harness maker.
 Rhodes, Philip—boot and shoe maker and dealer.

MASON NOTE.

July 17, 1873—Ingham County News, Mason, Mich.

S. P. Stroud, of this village, has just completed and put in running order a splendid new hearse, which is a credit to the town.

He has built the body of it entirely himself, and estimates the cost at \$300, but some say they have seen hearses that cost \$500 that were not as handsome and well built. The glass in it cost \$67.50; the fringe \$7, and the handles and hinges to the doors \$6.25.

The iron work was very tastily and well done by John Hemans, and the painting by Mr. Hall of the firm of Rhodes and Hall.

It is built after the latest style, with large oval windows on the side so that almost the entire coffin can be seen on occasions when it is used. It is so arranged with a roller near the back door and a truck that runs from one end to the other inside the hearse that the heaviest coffin can be put in or taken out easily. The fringe, which hangs a little ways down below the top of the windows on the inside is very heavy and handsome. The hearse can be used with either one or two horses. We feel that we can with perfect truthfulness say that there are very few places in this state outside of the largest cities that afford so elegant a hearse as Mason.

Of course we can't hope that Mr. Stroud will have lots of patronage to repay him for the energy and enterprise he shows in getting up such a hearse, but we hope he will receive a due proportion of such patronage as the unfortunate losers of their friends must bestow on someone.

VEVAY NOTES, APRIL 14, 1873.

By MRS. MARY LINDERMAN HAMMOND.

The various articles regarding Ingham county history which have appeared lately have set me to thinking that I might be able to add a little regarding the early settlement of Mason,

My father, Peter Linderman, came here in the summer of 1836

and located land on section 4 of Vevay, the farm north of the village now known as the Russell farm. He cut out the first road leading to that place and built a house, bringing the doors and windows from Ann Arbor. Our nearest neighbor north of us was Mr. Scott, twenty-five miles away. We did not see these neighbors very often, but heard of them frequently, as hardly a night passed but our house was filled with men looking for land.

When I first saw Mason there were, I think, twenty acres chopped, two log houses and a saw mill being built. Mr. Lacy and Mr. Blain, with their families, were the only white people living here. Mr. Danforth came soon after and took charge of affairs as agent of the village.

During the winter the saw mill was finished, and in the spring of 1837 the school house was built. School commenced, I think, in June. Miss Lucy Rolfe was the first teacher, and received one dollar per week. There were eight pupils. The Indians often came to visit our school and wondered what we were doing. The first night I stayed in Mason there were several hundred Indians encamped near where the court house now stands.

The first circuit preacher was a Mr. Jackson, who preached one year. The first Presbyterian church was organized in 1839 by the Rev. Mr. Childs, of Albion. The first settled pastor was Rev. F. P. Emerson, who stayed some three years.

Dexter was our nearest post office and store or grocery. I can remember in the spring of 1837 that my father was appointed justice of peace, and he had to go to Jackson to qualify. All the road that then existed was an Indian trail. The county at that time was divided into two or four townships. Settlers came in fast, and Mason soon became a thriving village. I can still pick out the old landmarks and see the changes that are being made for the better. My mother and myself are the only ones living here now that were here when we came.

PLOWING MATCH ON GRIFFIN FARM IN 1875.

Many Old Residents Should Recall This Story. First Premium Went to **P. Lundy**. Best Work **Was** Done by **Three Horse Team**.

The questions sent out **each** month by the Ingham County Pioneer and Historical Society have apparently aroused an interest in the history of the county as much **valuable** data, with some pictures, hooks and **early** dny documents **have** been received by **the Secretary** of **the** society, Stories **and** reports **are** being put in form for publication **as rapidly** as possible.

In the "Ingham County News" for July 1, **1875**, is a detailed account of a plowing match held on land owned by Mr. **Griffin**, lying about **one** mile outside the city. It is a long story, but those of the present generation may **be** interested in learning a **few** of the facts connected with a game in which the farmers of that day entered into with great enthusiasm. The land laid out was grass **land**, uneven and hilly, a clay loam hard and dry; and plentifully supplied with **stones**. The lands were **laid** out **24 feet** wide and **25** rods long, enough for **20** furrows. There were **10** entries, one for a three horse team, with a variety of plows, all in charge of a committee from the Ingham County Farmers' Club, under whose auspices the match **was** conducted.

Great stress was laid on the depth of the **furrows** and the appearance of **the** finished work. The first premium went **to** P. Lundy, the **second** to Jas. **Graham**, and the third to J. Beck. It was conceded that the **best work** was done by **a** three horse team, but this could not be allowed **to** compete with **a** two horse **team**, so no prize was given.

How many residents of Mason **today** saw this plowing match, or can tell of others **held** in this vicinity?

An amusing story of early days has been handed down, 'which relates to the time **when** this section was **an** almost unbroken forest. In those **days** it was nothing unusual for **any** settler to forage for timber on government lands, should he find any he wanted to use. It is told that one settler **had** taken up a large territory of government land which it would have been impossible

for him to describe or locate without the assistance of a surveyor. Just at that time there was a growing demand for black walnut timber, a boon to the settler in possession of walnut trees, and the money they brought was many times a veritable Godsend. A pioneer who understood the art of surveying one day said to the land owner mentioned, "**Say**, I know where there **are** some **fine** walnut **trees** a few miles out, and if you will take your ox team and help get them out we will divide the proceeds." The other pioneer entered into this plan most heartily and they started. After **cutting** a road for a long way through the woods they came to the huge trees the surveyor **had** described, logged them and received a tidy sum for the lumber. A few years later the land owner took **a** trip over his possessions, and one day came to a place that looked very familiar to him, so the story goes, **and** after some investigation came to the conclusion that this was where he and his neighbor had done their walnut logging. He returned home, sought out the other man, and **said**, "**Say**, who owned the land where we cut those trees for which you received half the money?" and the man replied, "Why that was on your land." He often told the joke the surveyor had on him.

EARLY HISTORY OF VEVAY.

By **ALVIN ROLFE**.

In telling of the early days of Vevay, Alvin Rolfe, in 1873, gave the following data: If I could wield the pen of a ready writer, I should like to use it in giving a short history of the township of **Vevay**. Being **a** pioneer and seeing now and then a piece written by a pioneer, I am induced to tell some of my recollections.

In 1834 my father, **Benjamin Rolfe**, and family moved from Thctford, Orange county, **Vt.**, to Geneseo county, **N. Y.** They stayed there until **June, 1836**, then moved to Michigan. They **started** from Bethnny on Thursday and reached Detroit Sunday morning, coming on the boat Thomas Jefferson.

It **was** the time of the great June freshet, which many will remember. The country from Detroit to Ann Arbor was covered with water. It took us from Monday morning until Friday night

to get to **Saline, Washtenaw** county, a distance of forty miles, **and** which can be covered now in two hours.

We came from Saline to Jackson, and stopped there until we looked up land, which was in Vevay Township, **Ingham county**.

We went to the land **office** in Kalamazoo and took **up** the land, paying \$100 for 80 acres. We started from Jackson on Monday **morning**, cut our **way** to Vevay, fording Grand river. **We built a** shanty on the place I now live on. This was the first blow struck in this **part** of the town, July, 1836. Michigan at that **time** was a territory. In the winter of 1837 it was admitted as a state.

The first time I went to Mason there **was** a small piece chopped on the **section** line, **where** the **Donnelley House** now stands, by **E. B. Danforth**. The next spring he sowed it to turnips, raising the largest I ever **saw**. Our nearest **saw** and grist mill was at Jackson. Some would like to know how **we** got **along** without **lumber** to **build** with. For floors we cut nice basswood and split them, into plank, "spotted" them on the under side and laid them down as even as we could, then **ndzed** them off, which made quite passable flooring. For roof we **peeled** bark. For gable ends we split shakes.

The first lumber we had we got in Jackson, to make a coffin for a sister of mine. She died April 7, 1837. I think she was the first person who died in **the** town. The first marriage was Jasper Wolcott and **Harriet** Sergeant. She is now the wife of Edwin Hubbard. The first birth in the township was **Nelson** Wolcott, son of Jasper Wolcott,

The first saw mill built in the county was by **E. B. Danforth**. A man by the name of Lacy took the job in the summer of 1836. The first grist mill was started by Mr. Danforth, who got a pair of mill stones-about **20** inches in diameter-set them in the corner of his saw mill and propelled them by the bull wheel of the mill. Many a bag of corn have I carried on my back from my place to Mason, without any road, to get it ground. The **first** road we had from my place to Mason was cut in 1837.

When Deacon Barnes moved to Aurelius those were times that tried men's souls. It was just after General Jackson vetoed the United States Bank and **removed the** United States deposits, which caused a panic and many hard **times**. Good money was not to be found. All the money we had **was** "wild cat" and was

not worth the paper it was printed on. There are some who remember those times. It was all the money we could get in **1836-37**.

Our **neighborhood** extended 30 or 40 miles. We often went great distances to raisings. The hardest raising I ever went to was four miles north of Mason. It was n saw mill of Mr. Lewis, father of Nicholas Lewis, our townsman. The place was then called Jefferson. We got the mill up about dark, and got home at two o'clock in the morning,

Folks of this day know nothing of hard times. If they had to pay 10 bushels of wheat for one axe, **\$25** for a barrel of flour, **\$40** for a barrel of pork, **\$2** for oats, **22** cents a pound for fresh pork, **and 50** cents for butter, and other things in proportion, with **money** that would not hold its own over night, they might cry hard times.

In **1805** Mr. Rolfe mnde some additions to the foregoing story that are of enough importance so that it seems wise to add them to the first story written in **1873**. He tells that he was born August 31, **1820**, and his wife, Lucy Page was born February **22**, **1825**, and they were married **October 26**, **1843**.

As he has already told the family went to Lansing in 1844 to repair a mill which the men of the family run until the Capitol was located there.

He says: The first lumber we used was bought in Eaton Rapids and rafted down the river. The first frame house built in that city was on the block where the Franklin House, formerly the Seymour House, now stands.

The' first Fourth of July celebration was held at lower town in 1845 when the first liberty pole was raised. There were not white men enough to raise the pole so the Indians' **assisted**. There were plenty of Indians in that section at **that time**. The first white child born within the city limits was W. Marshall Pease, son of George and **Orselia** Pease, on July 4, 1845. The first white **woman** who settled in the township of Lansing was a sister of mine. She settled there in 1838, and buried three husbands, **J. E. North, Geo. Chapel** and Alexander **McKibbin**. She died in **March, 1893**. The first death in the city was that of John **W. Burchard**, who was drowned in Grand river,

The first hotel conducted was at North Lansing, and it was the log house so often mentioned in early history. It was a hotel, boarding house, **law** and justice office. The first election held

within the city limits was held in this house in 1847. Joab Page was elected supervisor, Isaac C. Page, clerk, Geo. D. Pease, treasurer, Alvin Rolfe, constable, and R. P. Everett, justice of the peace.

The first school taught in the city was in May, 1847, by Eliza Powell, now Mrs, John N. Bush. It was kept in a board shanty in lower town, near where the school house now stands. The first sermon preached in the city was by Elder Coburn in the log house previously mentioned. Mr. Coburn was a brother-in-law of Dr. W. H. Haze. The next preacher was Rev. Orrin Whitmore, who preached in the first frame house built in Lansing, which was an addition to the far famed log house. This building was used for a number of purposes, as a dwelling, hoarding house, hotel and church, It was also used as an office by the State Commissioners appointed to locate the Capitol and as a court room by Joab Page, who was the first justice of the peace in the city of Lansing. The first postoffice was established in 1817, with George W. Peck as postmaster,

The second fatal accident to happen in the city was when a man by the name of Coats went over the dam and was drowned. The next victim was Daniel Clapsadle, who put up a hotel in what was called upper town and known as the National Hotel. While raising his barn a bent fell and killed him.

When I came to Michigan and then to Ingham county in 1836 it was a dense forest, and I have lived to see it become one of the grandest counties in the state.

The first bridge built over Grand river was on Main street, built by Bush and Thomas, The next was on Franklin street, built by James Seymour in 1847,

The first brick building put up in the city was called the Benton House, built by Bush & Thomas. The brick was manufactured in lower town by a man named Beal, in 1847. The first grist mill was built by Alvin Hart, E. B. Danforth and Hiram H. Smith, in 1848, Joab Page and his son-in-law helped build it,

The first man who settled in Ingham county was David Rogers, of Stockbridge. The first to settle in Aurelius was Reuben R. Bullen; Alaiedon, James Phillips; Bunkerhill, David Fuller; Delhi, Frederick Luther; Ingham, Marcus Beers; Leroy, Ephraim Meech; Leslie, Elijah Woodworth; Locke, David Phelps; Meridian,

a man named Marshall; Onondaga, Oliver Booth; Vevay, a man named Rolfe; Wheatfield, David Gorsline; White Oak, Daniel Dutcher; Williamston, Hiram and Joseph Putnam.

The first town organized was Stockbridge, March 26, 1836. The second was the west half of Ingham county, called Aurelius, in March, 1837.

The first settler in the township of Lansing was Joseph E. North, Jr. He married Miss Emily F. Rolfe, the second daughter of Benjamin Rolfe on July 1, 1838. Hers was the second marriage in the county. They were married by Peter Linderman of Vevay. The first school taught in the county was taught at Mason in the spring of 1837 by Lucy Rolfe, a cousin of mine. The second school was taught in Vevay in the Rolfe settlement in a log house. The first death in the county was that of Fannie W. Rolfe, April 7, 1837. The first white child born in the county was Nelson Wolcott, November 1, 1837.

EARLY HISTORY IN MASON.

The files of the Ingham County News for 1888 chronicle many events which are right in line with the happenings of today.

The subject of electric lighting was first mentioned during the summer of that year, the plan ripening without any fuss or flurry, and, as far as the records show, without much opposition. On October 25 of that year the job of furnishing lights was let to S. A. Paddock, who was to install 25 large arc lights for the streets at a cost of \$78 a year for each light. On December 6 the old-fashioned street lamps were abandoned and electric lights took their place. In addition to the 25 lights for the streets there were ten business places that had electricity installed, Those days were a delight to the children, and there were always some of them on hand when the operator lowered the great lights. by aid of ropes and pulleys, as he changed the carbon sticks the children eager to get the remains of the old ones as they were taken out. There was much speculation among the citizens as to the way the lights came on and went off, and it is a positive fact that three women sat up until midnight one night. the time that the power was shut off,

and watched the lights to see if there was any peculiar demonstration when the lights went off, they evidently being of the same mind as the newly arrived son of Erin, who when told to listen for the "sunset gun" asked if the sun always went down with a "bang" in this country, To their great amazement nothing more serious happened than that darkness followed light.

From that small beginning the lighting system of this city has grown to its present proportions, and the demand for the product discovered by Benjamin Franklin is steadily increasing. It would take too much time to note the many improvements made in the system, but the one now contemplated is the greatest one ever brought before the people since electricity was installed here.

Another item of interest recorded in 1888 is in regard to a soldiers' monument. The idea originated in Phil McKernan Post, the only post in the city at that time, and the work was placed in the hands of Andrew Mehan and L. J. Ford, members of our order. Much interest was shown in the movement, and in the fall Phil McKernan Woman's Relief Corps, which was organized in January of that year, took hold of the matter with a vim and devoted their energies to raising money for the monument. They gave four entertainments one week, held a fair, gave a concert, had a spelling school and served a public supper, and the entire proceeds was turned over to the managers to be added to the monument fund. In these days there is much speculation in regard to the money thus raised, which has never been accounted for, though many theories regarding it are afloat. About that time a Soldiers' Monument Association was organized in Lansing, with Mrs. Harriet A. Tenney as president, and their work was rapidly pushed to completion.

In April of that year we find that J. C. Squiers made an abstract of the cemetery lots and found that the first interment was that of Dearsa, the wife of Hiram Converse, who was buried June 29, 1840. Does anyone know when the land was set aside for cemetery purposes?

In 1887 lot 510 was deeded to J. A. Sherwood, in trust, as a burial place for soldiers who had no cemetery lot and whose friends were unable to bear the expense of burying them. That lot is now filled, and later another lot was secured, which is also nearly filled, besides a lot purchased by the Woman's Relief Corps in which soldiers and their wives could be buried side by side.

The Soldiers' Memorial Lot, on the west side of the cemetery, was 'donated that year, the presentation being made on May 30, and was accepted by L. J. Ford in the name of the soldiers of Mason. That year thirty government head stones were ordered, there being that many soldiers buried in the Mason cemeteries at that date.

MICHIGAN STATE GAZETTEER OF 1863.

Published When Mason was Less than 30 Years Old. Property of John Squiers of This' City. Gives Interesting Description of Ingham County and Its History.

From a Michigan State Gazetteer of 1863, the property of John C. Squiers, of this city, have been gleaned the following items which cannot fail to be of interest to readers of the Ingham County News.

The book abounds in advertisements, a large share of them exploiting the merits of the various newspapers in the state, and among that number appears the Detroit Free Press, Jackson Patriot and the Jackson Citizen, names which have been familiar to Mason people for considerably more than a half century. Mason was in 1883 less than thirty years old, but she had her newspaper even then, and the Ingham County News was the medium through which the people of this vicinity kept in touch with the outside world,

Some of the advertising matter has a strange sound in these days, and the present generation would be at a loss to know what they meant. There were bonnet blenchers and presses, things little known now, many ship chandler advertisements, crinoline and hoop skirts (both names used), two sewing machines (though not the first ones invented), tallow factories, and a variety of other things, showing that merchants even at that early day realized the value of advertising.

In the description of Ingham county we find that the county contains 564 square miles. That the surface is undulating in the southern part, level in the northern part, and has extensive marshes. That no county in the state has a greater variety of soil, and for that reason, and because of its central position, it was

chosen as a suitable site for the Agricultural College. The population in 1860 was 17,456. The whole number of occupied farms, 1,576; acres improved, 81,295; unimproved, 93,151. There were then 65 qualified male teachers in the county and 183 female.

In the description of Mason village we find that it had a "steadily increasing population" which at that time had reached the 500 mark.

It, puts considerable stress on the one newspaper published every Thursday, by D. B. Harrington, at \$1 per year, and known as "The Ingham County News." It had one church edifice, the Methodist, and one Masonic lodge; twelve stores, two hotels, steam flour mill, one steam and one water mill, iron foundry, distillery (who can give a description of that for the Ingham County Historical Society?) and a potash mill.

There were listed fifty-two professions and trades, and of those engaged in these, M. True of this city and D. H. Harrington, who lives in Wisconsin, are the only ones living. There were no saloons, no real estate dealers, but we find six physicians, five lawyers, with millwrights, saddlers, coopers, carriage makers, and cabinet makers, besides the usual merchants, hotel keepers, carpenters and blacksmiths.

Would it not be interesting to know what the exact number of residences in Mason was at that time, and where they were located?

YOUNGSTER RECEIVES SLED USED BY GRANDFATHER IN 1847.

John C. Squiers, III, of Ypsilanti, Gets Unusual Gift 1919.

John C. Squiers, III, of Ypsilanti, will receive a Christmas gift from his grandfather, John C. Squiers, Sr., of this city, which should be especially cherished by him.

The gift is a hand sled that is an old timer. It was made in 1847 and was used to draw Mr. Squiers about the streets of Syracuse, N. Y., when he was a baby. Mr. Squiers is now 72 years old. The sled, which was made of well seasoned hickory, has been broken once or twice, but most of the original sled remains intact and is in a good state of preservation. It has always been in Mr. Squiers' possession and has always been highly prized by him.

PROBATE PROCEDURE CREATES SENSATION.

When County Officials Appointed Guardian for Abbey. Case of Sixty Years Ago Unusual and Interesting—53 Acres Sell for \$400.

The proceedings of the probate court in the estate of Joseph Abbey, of Onondaga Township, a mentally incompetent person, presents a rather unusual and interesting proceeding as contrasted with the usual probate procedure in the early days.

As Joseph Abbey was 70 years old when these proceedings were taken and as more than 60 years have elapsed since the case was started it is certain that there is no danger at this time of causing any embarrassment to his living friends or relatives by publishing an account of the proceedings in his case.

This case was undoubtedly something in the nature of the sensational as it, involved the action of the county officials to place him under guardianship. On January 10, 1854, Peter Linderman, one of the superintendents of the county poor, filed an application and complaint with Probate Judge Wm. H. Chapman asking that a guardian, both of the person and estate, be appointed for the said Joseph Abbey, said complaint alleging among other things that he was of the age of 70 years and that by reason of his extreme old age and because of blindness and because of "idleness, debauchery and willfulness," he was spending his estate and was likely to become a county charge.

Appropriate proceedings were had on this application and Minas McRobert, of Mason, was appointed his guardian. The guardian gave a \$500 bond with William Woodhouse and O. M. Barnes as sureties.

The accounts presented against the estate for the care of Joseph Abbey are of much interest. One Hiram Abbey claimed to have furnished him among other things the following: Eight yards cotton flannel for shirts, \$1.20; one hat, \$1.25; one sill; handkerchief, 75 cents; for making two shirts, 50 cents; for sugar for victuals, 13 cents; making one pair of pants, 50 cents; one vest, 50 cents; for board for four years and four months, \$275. The total claim of Hiram Abbey against his estate was \$365.95.

On the other hand it appears that it was the position of the

guardian that Hiram Abbey should account and repay the estate for certain things which had accrued to his benefit, among them being the following; **Cash**, \$3; **one** heifer, \$7; **oue** yoke of cattle, \$100; **one** ox bow, **\$2**; **one** hand saw, \$1; together with a charge for the **use** of the farm and other **incidental** items,

It is not certain just how these matters were adjusted, but later and on August. **21**, 1855, Minas **McRobert** as guardian filed a petition asking for license to sell his real estate alleging that his personal property. was all gone and that his support could only be provided by a sale of his land consisting of about 53 acres on section 30 of Onondaga Township. The land was sold to Frederick Abbey for \$400.

This land **lies** about **one** mile west of **Onondaga** village and is now very valuable land, being **owricd** as near as **can** be ascertained by George and William Washburn.. The legal notices in this estate were published in the "Michigan State Journal." This paper was published in Ingham county, but the place of publication does not appear,

The case of Joseph Abbey, **inconipotent**, presents some questions which are not clear of solution. Just how an old man 70 years old and blind could be guilty of idleness and debauchery is difficult to understand, In any event he was a man of sorrows. Life in his case was not a poetic dream,

MASON REFORM CLUB ONCE FLOURISHING ORGANIZATION.

According to Old Secretary Book Found by County Clerk.

Among some old records and papers at the clerk's office in Lansing, County Clerk Brown recently found the secretary book, belonging to the Mason Reform Club, **which** at one time was one of the flourishing organizations of this city. Many of the older residents will remember this society **which** was organized in 1877 with William Woodhouse as its president,

The first meeting was held March **21**, 1877, at the court house which was packed with people interested in its organization. The following was taken from the minutes of the first meeting

and gives the object of the club: "The object of the organization is to save men from the evil habits of intemperance, and further, that the club is not to be trammled by any political, sectarian or legal restraints, or hindrances in its work of reform and the saving of men."

Of the eleven officers elected at this meeting, S. H. **Beecher**, of Toledo, who was the second vice-president, is the only one living, According to the reports of the various secretaries, the club was well repaid for its work, but after about five years its enthusiasm died down, the last report being recorded April 30, 188% Job T. Campbell, a well known Mason man and former editor of the News, was secretary at the time.

SELECT SCHOOL IN MASON.

About 1863 a select school was held in what was known as the "old town house," **near** where the store of A. L. Vandercook is now located. (1919.) Tn giving his recollections of that school George Miller, of Mason, says:

"**My** first teacher in that school was Mrs. N. G. **Saxton**, whose husband was at that time a soldier in the Civil War. Two of her pupils were Mrs. Lucy **Saxton** Shafer and Mrs. Cnssie **Saxton** Hinckley, her own daughters, who are still living in Mason, I have in my possession the old bell with which Mrs. Ssxton used to call the children to school. **My** next teacher was Mrs. Hannah Miller **Tefft**, who in **later** years was **best** known here as Mrs. Hannah May. She was one of the first and most widely known teachers in the county, and her picture graces the walls in the Representative chamber in the Capitol at Lansing in honor of her work.

"The building where the school was held was later moved onto Mill street, back of where the Presbyterian church now stands, and used for a high school building. After the brick school building was erected the old building was purchased by the colored people of this city and used as a church. A part of the building **is** still in existence and used as a dwelling house.

"Amopg those now living who attended this school are **George** W. Miller, J. H. Shafer, Chas. Shafer, Mrs. J. H. Shafer, Mrs. Henry Hinckley and Elmer **Hulse**."

MASON'S FIRST TELEPHONE.

In 1918 J. C. Squiers and C. G. Huntington told the following story of **Mason's first** telephone. In the spring of 185'8 these men read of a telephone that had been installed in an eastern city, and they immediately began to set their wits to work to see what could **be** done in **that line** here, and they **were** very well satisfied with the result of their labor. The "plant" consisted of two cigar boxes, a hog's bladder and quantities of waxed ends,

The boxes were put in place of **a** window pane, the blndder skin stretched over openings made in the boxes, and their houses, about fifteen rods apart, connected by the waxed threads, This was an outfit simple and crude, but it served its purpose, for they could **talk** in an ordinary tone of voice and be heard over the line from one house to the other, and could even hear the singing of the teakettle over the line. This 'continued in use for several months, and never ceased to be a curiosity to everyone in the city, but one **day** a load of hay with a high pole passed under the line and broke it. As the novelty of the instrument had begun to wear off the owners did not repair the line, and the first **telephone** in Mason ceased **to** exist. As the first telephone in the country is said to have been installed some time in 1876, the idea **was** not an old one when Messrs. Squiers and Huntington utilized it.

EARLY LIFE IN MASON,

By MRS. MARY MILLER STILLMAN.

Mason, Sept. 23, 1913.

Mrs. Mary Miller Stillman, of this city, who will be **81** years old on **September 25**, tells something of her early life in a paper which **she** read before the Ingham County Pioneer Association in this city some years ago. She says:

"I came with my father, A. R. Miller, better known as Deacon Miller, from Pittsfield, **Lorain** county, Ohio, to **Ingham county, Mich.**, in October, 1844, being then twelve years of age. My **father's** family **consisted** of my **father** and mother, **seven** daugh-

ters and one son. We came the entire distance of 200 miles in nine days, with a yoke of oxen and a covered wagon, and drove two cows, which furnished us with milk on the way.

My father secured 80 acres of land in Vevay on section 20, which lay two miles south and one mile west of Mason. The road was only a wagon **track** with the underbrush cut down, and we made many detours in order to **avoid** crossing swamps and **marshes**. When we passed the home of John Coatsworth, near Eden, he called out to my father, Whig or Democrat? But my father replied, "Freesoil. Hurrah for James G. Birney." I suppose Mr. Coatsworth thought "**one** more party to fight!" **One** vote was counted important in those days.

At that time there were but two stores in **Mason**, Turner's and Smith's, and these would now be called department stores, as they carried all sorts of commodities. But few families lived in **the** village. A small school house stood where now Mrs. Harrison lives on Main street, and this was also used as a church by all denominations. Elder **Hendee** of Jackson preached for the Baptists. **Elder** Cary of Stockbridge for the Presbyterians, and the Methodists had circuit **preachers**. George Shafer and Amos Steele kept hotel where the Lawrence block now stands. Mr. **Danforth** had a saw mill, **Mr.** Converse a blacksmith shop, while Dr. Phelps and Dr. **McRoberts** were **the** physicians. Our family of ten would come to church in the lumber wagon drawn by the ox team, but when we reached the **hogback** we would have to get **out** and walk, for it was not yet graded and the oxen could not climb up it and draw such a big load. **Our** school district was not yet organized, so we went to school in the Rolfe district, two and one-half miles away, making a five mile wnlk for us **every** day. Our orthography, reader and speller **were** combined in the Elementary spelling book, used by all pupils. One day I forgot my 'book and my teacher, who was my sister, sent me all the way home after it, making for me a ten mile walk that day.

I came down with the ague the next day, and I was inclined to think my long **walk** caused my sickness, but I am convinced now that it was the climate, combined with the malaria in the swamps. Nearly everyone had it, and although it is now a thing of the past, those who had it will never forget it. It was not to be **misunderstood**—**first** yawn, then chill, freeze, chatter, headache, backache,

burning fever, followed by a dripping sweat, only to awake the next morning in a normal condition, but with no assurance that it will not be repeated, and no one knows how many times unless some remedy be found to "break it up." Stoves were not in use in those early days, but we had two brick fireplaces, one in the kitchen and one in the parlor, their backs together so that one chimney answered for both. An iron crane was hung by staples in the one in the kitchen by which the kettles were suspended over the fire to do the cooking, and a row could hang from hooks along the whole length of the crane. The spider was of iron with three legs and this was set over coals which were placed on the brick hearth. The baking was done in a tin oven set in front of the fire, or in an iron bake kettle with conls under and on top of it. These primitive kitchen utensils did good work.

Indians often spent the night with us, but would never sleep in a bed, instead they would wrap their blankets around them and lie on the floor with their heads to the fire. A number built wigwams about one mile from our house, and we often visited them, much to their delight. The squaws made baskets which they were glad to "swap" for provisions, but they insisted on a basket full of provisions in payment, no matter what the size of the basket might be. Game was plentiful, and my brother would often go hunting with the Indians. One time my brother shot a deer which was passing through our dooryard. Beautiful dappled fawns were often seen, and they were much tamer than the older animals.

Spelling schools were about the only evening entertainment, and we enjoyed them very much. We would choose sides, the captain for each side drawing the spellers. I tell you we studied our Elementary spellers in those days. The contest closed by spelling down. It seems to me such contests must be more profitable than whist, euchre or **pedro**, although I know nothing of the joy found in this later form of amusement.

My mother was a weaver, as were most of the housewives of that early day, and we spun and wove all of our flannel wear, both for men and women. For dresses the cloth was made both striped and **plaided**, very pretty, and the coloring she did herself. She also made shawls, plaid, with beautiful borders and **fringe**. They were very popular in those days, and we wore them to

church. We also braided palm leaf hats and sold them for prices ranging from twenty-five cents to \$1.50. The highest priced ones were woven with a double rim. I **have braided** many of them and so did my mother and sisters. Some had ornamental braid, and those were worn to church. We often made hats to order, and then we took a measure of the customer's head.

When my parents lived in Ohio they were not wealthy, but one thing I always commended them for—they always kept us in school, and therefore raised a family of school teachers. We never applied for a school, we didn't have to. If a stranger came to the house we knew at once he was after a straw hat or a school teacher. In those days there were but two terms taught in a year, summer and winter terms, and wages **necessarily** low, as most of it was paid by a rate bill, and often the teachers themselves were required to make out this rnte tax. I taught the winter I was sixteen for 75 cents **per** week in the first district north of Mason.

I taught six days a week for four months and boarded round, sometimes **sleeping with the children, three** of us **sleeping** at the head and one across the foot of the bed. It was a log school house; Dutch fireplace, four-legged benches to sit on, and a desk for writing made by boring **holes** in the logs, then driving in two long pegs and laying a board across them. When we wrote we faced this desk, but while studying we sat the other way on the benches and used this board for the 'back to our seats. First boys had recess and then girls, and it was then the writing lesson was usually given.

Pens were made of goose quills, and one of the requirements in the examination of teachers was the ability to make good pens. Each teacher was obliged to have a sharp penknife in order to make and **mend** pens as needed.

Examinations were' all oral, and the certificates were granted the same day, two years being the limit of time,

My brother and six of us seven sisters were teachers, and some of them taught in every district for twenty miles around, several times over.

We lived here three years before the State Capitol was moved from **Detroit** to Lansing, and I well remember the time the change was made.

One incident is fresh in my mind, and that is, when at the log

tavern of Wm. Hopkins, I made a dish of toast for Gen. Lewis Cass. I thought him desperately homely. To finish the day for him, the stage in which he was riding upset and his wig went flying into the mud. The rough, uneven roads was the cause of this mishap.

Bears and wolves had become scarce before we came here, and I never saw any of those animals, though I have seen quantities of deer.

Children have changed very much in manners since I was young. Then if we met a team the boys removed their hats and made a bow and greeted the people with a courteous "Good morning" or "Good evening," as the case might be, while the girls always made a curtesy. On leaving the school room at night the same decorum was observed.

One looks back on those pioneer scenes with delight and pleasure, at the thought of the true neighborly interest all took in those living near them. When one was sick all were nurses and assisted in their care. At funerals all were truly mourners, at a wedding all were invited, at a donation all went. Sympathy was earnest and true, together we rejoiced, and together sorrowed. What affected one affected all."

The father of A. R. Miller was a Prebysyterian minister, and during the last of the seventeenth century taught in a seminary in Albany, N. Y. He was a fine Greek scholar, and was for fifty-eight years a member of the Presbyterian church. At that time he entered into a discussion with a Baptist friend, expecting to prove to him by the original Greek that there were other modes of baptism sanctioned, but was himself converted to a belief in immersion as the true symbol, and from that time on he was an active worker in that church. When he moved to Mason, as previously told, there was no church building and he was one of those instrumental in the erection of the first Baptist church in this city. Mrs. May, the oldest sister of Mrs. Stillman, donated \$50 to help build the church, money she had earned by teaching school at the munificent sum of \$1.50 per week. This church was organized in 1839, and not a charter member is now living. It was said of Mrs. May that she had taught in every school house between Lansing and Jackson. It is claimed by her friends that she taught the first select school ever taught in Lansing, and her picture graces

the historical room at the State Capitol. (Others claim that Mrs. J. N. Bush was the one entitled to the distinction of being Lansing's first teacher.)

When A. R. Miller came from Ohio to Michigan he had a good orchard at his old home, and he brought a grain bag full of young apple trees, cut off near the roots, which he immediately set out on his Vevay farm. They throve nicely and the new shoots were carefully guarded, though one day to his great indignation a boy came along driving an ox team and as he was in need of a goad he broke off the top of one of these trees, not realizing the great value set upon them by the owner. These trees were the first to bear in this part of the country, and great store was set on the fruit they bore.

After some years Mr. Miller sold his farm to Frank Robb and moved to a house on the block where Mrs. Stillman now lives.

George Shafer kept a tavern where the Lawrence block now stands, and one time a donation for some minister was held there, when John Rayner brought eight bushels of wheat on an ox sled in the summer time. This caused so much merriment that the incident was firmly fixed in Mrs. Stillman's mind.

Mrs. Stillman's grandfather was a slave owner, like his neighbors, when he lived in New Jersey. When he moved to New York he had freed them all but two, and when he would have given them their freedom he found there was then no law in New York by which he could do so, and when Mrs. Stillman's father and mother were married these colored people, a man and woman, were given to them, and until laws were passed which enabled them to set free these chattels Mr. and Mrs. Miller had the distinction of being the only slave owners within that commonwealth.

The years of the Civil War brought several events of a tragic nature into Mrs. Stillman's life. She had in the meantime married Wm. F. Bowdish, and he responded to his country's call and enlisted in the 27th Michigan Infantry. Besides seeing a lot of hard fighting, he was for a time a prisoner at Salisbury, where he endured great hardships before he was exchanged and allowed to return home. This regiment was later consolidated with the 28th Michigan Infantry. Mr. Bowdish did not live many years after the war.

Howard, the only boy in the Miller family, became a Baptist

minister, and he too served his country, as a chaplain, doing many acts of mercy for the suffering soldiers while at the front. He died on board ship at Cincinnati, while on his way home after the war closed.

Susan Miller married John **Tyler**, who also saw service in the Civil War.

Some years after the death of Mr. **Bowdish** his widow married **O. B. Stillman**, of Alameda, one of the most influential and best known farmers of that section. He was for many years supervisor of that township, and always lived on the farm which his father bought from the government in **1890**. His son, Roy **Stillman**, has in his possession the deed drawn on parchment and signed by President **Andrew Jackson**. Henry, a brother of **O. B. Stillman**, was an editor and saw service in the Mexican War, only living two days after receiving his discharge.

MASON FIFTY YEARS AGO.

Written by **Mrs. Harriet W. Casterlin**, June 21, 1922.

It was fifty years ago, in the pleasant month of May, that a child was born in this, then, small village of Mason; born from the hearts and heads of those who not only could look backward, but with prophetic vision could look forward, and see that the coming generations should not be deprived of first hand knowledge as to how their ancestors conquered the wilderness and made an abiding place for their descendants, with all the benefits they desired them to have.

The child born that May day fifty years ago was christened "The Ingham County Pioneer Society;" later, as often happens in the best regulated families, they decided to change its name and that it should henceforth be known as the Ingham County Pioneer and Historical Society, so setting forth more plainly its reason for being.

In 1877 we celebrated its coming of age with all the ceremonies proper for the occasion, and today we celebrate the second great milestone in its life, its fiftieth birthday.

In common with other children its development has not always

been symmetrical. Some years there has not seemed to be much growth, then again there would come years when it would make great progress, and these last few years have marked the fulfilment of many of the hopes and ambitions of these who have stood sponsors for its career.

Unfortunately the early records of the society have been lost, so we have not a list of the charter members, but we do know that the society was organized two years before the State Historical Society and that it is one of the oldest of its class in the state, and we do know the names of the presidents who have presided over its activities; Dr. Minos **McRobert** was the first president, and we who knew him can visualize the great big man with his kindly face under its thatch of snow white hair, and fringe of white whiskers under his chin, and the tiny woman, his wife, descended from the New England Abbots, who presided with so much grace over his home, and whom we all greatly admired.

The next in the long list was: Rev. E. **K. Grout**, of Leslie; J. M. Williams, Williamston; A. **M. Chapin**, Vevay; W. A. Dryer, Lansing; W. H. Clark, Mason; Samuel Skadan, Ingham; Hon. F. S. Fitch, Bunkerhill; Thad. Dcnsmoro, Mnson; Whitney Jones, Mason; I'crry **Henderson**, Mason; Hon. D. L. Case, Lansing; John A. Barnes, Mason; Capt. **J. R. Price**, Lansing; **J. J. Tuttle**, Leslie; Dr. **R. H. Davis**, Mason; Lawrence **Meech**, Mason; Col. **L. H. Ives**, Mason; Rev. E. **H. Brockway**, Mason; Robt. Hayward, Onondaga; John N. Bush, Lansing; **Hon. L. T. Hemans**, Mason; R. J. **Bullen**, Aurelius, twenty-two in all.

Some of these have served more than one term and Mr. Ives easily heads the list with a record of fifteen years in service in the presidential chair.

Of the secretaries who have kept record of the proceedings, Peter Lowe was first, and Mrs. **Stillman** and Mrs. Adams are tied for first place in continuous service, each having filled the office eight years. But away far in advance of all the rest is our most faithful treasurer, **W. M. Webb**, who for twenty-nine years has administered the financial affairs of the organization, with never a deficit or a scandal to mark a perfect record, and who stands ready still to advance in every way the interests of the society with voice, and pen, and purse.

Mason fifty years ago! What was it, and who lived and la-

bored **here** then, making it a good place for **the** late comers to build their homes within its boundaries and **under** the glorious **maple** trees these first settlers planted? We know it was the first village in the new county of Ingham, and was founded away back in **1838**. That the first grist mill was built in 1840, and that tradition says that at a banquet given when the mill was dedicated a misunderstanding arose, a row followed, and the guests used pumpkin pies for ammunition, and that probably Charlie Chaplin got his big idea of throwing custard pies from that event.

In order that **we** mny more clearly appreciate the place we hold in the sun this year of 1832, let us take the backward trail and follow it until we come to **1872**, and see what we can find of interest!

As we start on our long trip **back** through the years, we find the pathway strewn with the debris of discarded things, which in this year of **1922** seem indispensable to our comfort in life.

First to go, iuto discard will **be** our radio outfits, which bring **the** uttermost **parts** of **the** earth to our **very** doors. **Then** as **we** slip backward through the **period** of **the** World's War we lose our hold on all the wireless telegraphy. **The** **acrop**lanes, such a wonder when they first appeared, so common now that one scarcely stops to watch them pursuing **their** trackless way **through** **the** air, are going-going-gone. **The** farm tractors dragging after them a plow, a **disk**er and a drag, fitting the ground for the seed in one trip, have disappeared. **The** great **machines** which reap the wheat, **thresh** it, grind it and **bag** the flour ready for the baker, all in **one** **process**, are' lost to sight, and the horses and plow **have** **again** taken up the long weary task of **plow**ing, and in turn arc yielding to the **even** slower oxen who are turning over the virgin soil for our fathers to plant.

The motorcycles with their diabolical noises no more rack our ears and nerves. **The** automobiles, at first such a luxury, afterward a positive necessity to all successful business, are gone, and in **their** place our streets are filled with the beautiful horses for which Ingham **county** was so long famous, and we are smiling superciliously **over** Mother Shipton's prophesy that sometime carriages without horses should go, that we should fly through the air and sail under water.

In close company with our automobiles have gone our electric lights, leaving us to the untender mercies of the kerosene lamps,

which in spite of all 'their faults were an improvement on the candles of our grandmothers. But when the electric fixtures left our homes they took with them a long **train** of comforts. for the stoves, grills, fans, toasters, vacuum cleaners, washing machines and flatirons went also, and there was nothing to do but bring back the tubs, brooms and dusters.

With the going of **electricity** went **also** the new power which is eventually destined to move all our railroad trains, as well as **the** cars we can see crossing the country in every **direction**.

Somewhere along the backward road that leads to "the good old times " we lost our telephones, and we cnn no longer call up Centrnl nntl **ask** for long distance to Detroit or **Chicago**, or even talk to our next door neighbor, when we do not care to go out of the house.

Furnaces are becoming unknown; the city water works are gone and with them all our bathrooms, and the "moss covered bucket" and pumps arc in **general** use **again**. Pavements and good roads are an unknown **quantity**, and we flounder through spring mud, summer dust and winter snow; even the sidewalks are nearing the vanishing point and nre of wood, and narrow. In 1870 we find that the city officials-village it was then-refused to order a sidewalk built on Oak street from B to A street, and on the north side of Ash street from B street to Sycamore Creek.

Ndw we are back fifty years and must hasten and build fences around our premises, for the cattle are uaing the streets for a pasture, and **many** of them are wearing bells which make night hideous. A good strong fence is a prime necessity if we would protect our **lawns** and gardens. Not only the cows but the hens of the neighborhood are working over union hours in their endeavor to dig up and **destroy** all the **gnrdens** in sight, and making n success of the undertaking.

The News at that time was published by Kendall **Kittridge** (the writer's brother). **Those** old papers 'when compared with our present publications look very crude with their four pages. Later it became an eight page paper, with patent insides; the **mechanical** work is good and clear if it was only a hand press d; it was a clean sheet and carried a grent deal of information.

The **business** directory of 1870 makes one dream dreams, **The** Republican **ticket** for that **year** was as follows: Sheriff,

Horace **Angell**; county clerk, **D. D. Bolton**; county register, H. J. Haight; county treasurer, Thadeus Densmore; prosecuting attorney, H. B. Carpenter; coroners, B. S. Peets, **W. W. Root**.

Mason village officers: President, John A. Barnes; clerk, Geo. **W. Bristol**; treasurer, **A. D. Kingsbury**; assessor, **Lucian Reed**; **marshall**, Geo. **W. Sackrider**; trustees, **H. P. Henderson**, **Wm. F. Near**, **C. D. Huntington**, **J. E. Spencer**.

Our practicing physicians were **W. W. Root**, **C. H. Sackrider**, **R. H. Davis**, **O. B. Moss**, our first homeopathic **physician**, and **Dr. Tyler**. Drs. **McRobert** and **Phelps** had given "up their active work, as had also Drs. **Darrow** and **Hammond**.

The lawyers were **W. H. Francis**, **Lucien Reed**, **M. D. Chatterton**, **Ed B. Sackrider**, **Horatio Pratt**, then judge of probate, **G. W. Bristol** and **Huntington** and **Henderson**.

There were two banks, **H. I. Henderson and Company**, and **Lowe, Near and Company**, afterward **Lowe, Smead and Company**.

Elzey Flora advertises boots, shoes and gaiters. **G. W. Polar** and **Charles Huntington** were also among our early shoe men.

John Dunsback advertises a big sale of shoes in connection with his dry goods store, **Other dry goods men were Day and Burnham**, **Wm. Spear**, who was afterward sheriff, **Durrow and Co.**, **Bunnell** and **Butterfield**.

The grocers advertising were **Smith and Hunt**, **N. A. Dunning**, **Swart** and **Kingsbury**, **M. A. Sweet**, **Merritt** and **Cnsterlin**, **Barnaby** and **Merritt** and **Vandercook Brothers**.

A. P. VanDeusen was the dentist and one whom many can still remember for his excellent work.

The druggists were **H. M. Williams**, **Halstead** and **Smith**, afterward **O. W. Halste'ad**.

Elias Culver carried a stock of jewelry.

S. P. Stroud was the undertaker then, and at his death carried remarkable record of having conducted **2,200** funerals.

A little later **M. C. Bowdish** opened a furniture store and advertised

"My hearse is free without fee
To all who buy coffins of me
In the limits of Mason City,"

but he was never able to compete successfully with **Mr. Stroud**, who was one of the cemetery committee.

George Sackrider also advertised furniture, while other advertisers were **R. Terwilliger**, harness shop; **G. G. Mead**, Phoenix Flour Mill; **A. D. Kingsbury**, agricultural implements; **Miss C. M. Bullock**, millinery, hair dressing and hair jewelry. I think the **Hughs sisters**, **Phoebe** and **Nnnnie**, still had their millinery shop about where the city hospital now stands, and we all went there' for our headgear. **Mrs. M. A. Sweet** and **Helen Horton** were dressmakers.

Clark and **Marsh** had a livery stable and **W. H. Clark** and **W. M. Cline** sold monuments and had the marble works.

John Rayner, Sr., called attention to his milk route. (Milk in a big can with a long handled dipper for ladeling the milk to his customers who brought out their own dishes when he rang the bell."

The American Hotel was conducted by **Fred P. Moody** and **Hank J. Donnelly** was mine ltost at the **Donnelly House**, and he was the first man in Mason to take a daily paper.

Henry Reed was the barber and manufactured hair goods for sale.

Seth A. Paddock was architect and builder, and put up several of our best houses. He also owned the lumber yard.

Sayer and **Phelps** were the hardware men and continued the business for a long term of years.

The bakery was conducted by **J. Greenwood**, while **Charles Eaton** called attention to his sale of hay, grain and clover seed at the elevator.

Henry Christntas was photographer, and **Wm. Claflin** had the Mason' nursery. **VanOstrand** and **Elmer** were in business here fifty years ago, starting in the spring of 1871.

The **Jackson, Lansing and Saginaw division** of the Michigan Central Railroad was our only connection with the outside world, and in 1870 had not ceased to be a novelty, and it was still quite the thing to go down to the station to see the cars come in. The station was on Ash street then near where the water tank now stands, and water was supplied to the engine by means of a wind mill.

In 1870 the first school house to be built on the present site began its first school with **N. A. Barrett** as superintendent, the teachers being **Minnie Walker**, **Augusta Reed** and **Emma Caster-**

lin, with a fourth not engaged when the notice was printed. The board of education was composed of W. W. Root, W. A. Teel, A. A. Howard, Perry Henderson, Dr. C. H. Darrow and R. F. Griffin. The graduates that year were Vernon J. Tefft and Ella Peck. Do these names mean anything to you?

At this time Miss E. J. Fuller was conducting her private school at the Fuller farm east of town.

In the same paper was a letter from Rev. Wm. Rice pleading for help in temperance work. He was pastor of the M. E. church at that time, with Rev. Philip Farnham, the Baptist minister, and Rev. G. W. Barlow in the Presbyterian pulpit. The Presbyterian church stood then on Oak street, where Mrs. Bement's home now is.

Do you remember when the church bells were tolled at the death of anyone in town? When my father, Rev. Hoses Kittridge, died my mother felt that she could not bear to hear the bell, and the practice was practically discontinued after that.

We produced some noted men in those years. Judge Erastus Peck, long on the Jackson circuit, Judge G. M. Huntington, of our own circuit, and H. P. Henderson, Federal Judge of Utah.

How many of you remember Marshall Pease with his wonderful baritone voice who sang for us so beautifully? He was descended from the Page family, sure enough pioneers in this country, and from the Pease family, noted pioneer musicians.

Would it not be a good scheme for this society to get possession of the drop curtain which hung for so many years in the opera house? That would be a relic worth keeping and would remind us of the business firms now only a memory. It is a curiosity in its way and well worth preserving, if only to remind us of the many times we have watched it and waited for its going up.

But time would fail me to call the names of all those who lived and loved and labored in Mason fifty years ago, and against the majority of those names has been set the asterisk of death.

A. L. Vandercook seems to be the only one who was in business here in 1870 who still has a place among our active business men. What a wonderful fifty years it has been, and what a great advance the world has made in that time! If our fathers who died before that date could have been told of all the things that would

happen in these years just past they would cheerfully have consigned us to the fate of the Salem witches.

If the coming fifty years are as wonderful as the past fifty, who can foretell what may happen? Today, June 21, 1922, Marconi, the wireless wizard, is making special effort to communicate with Mars, and if he does not succeed today who will dare say he may not be successful some future day? And the wildest tales of Jules Verne may prove to be as common place as the auto or the aeroplane.

Don't we wish we might live to see what is about to happen? But then if we did live to be as old as Methuselah we might be like little children who beg to "stay up a little longer" to see what will happen in the Universe of God.

THE JEWETT FAMILY.

By MRS. EVA JEWETT MORSE, Mason, Mich., 1920.

Somewhere between the years 1640-40 Joseph Jewett, son of Edward and Mary Jewett, with his family emigrated from his birthplace, Bradford, England, to America, settling in Rowley, Mass., where three generations were born. My forefather, Eleazer Jewett, moved to Norwich, Conn., in 1608, and there my great-grandfather, Ichabod Jewett, was born on July 5, 1738. In his young manhood he went to Coventry, Conn., where he married and settled. At the breaking out of the Revolutionary War he enlisted in Buell's company, and soon after became captain, and his name can be found in the official record in the Adjutant General's office. He had two sons in the army with himself, and two other sons acted as scouts. The powder flask which Ichabod Jewett used while in the army has been handed down to a male member of the family through the generations, and is now in the possession of Joseph Jewett, of this city, a veteran of the Civil War.

My own grandfather, Eleazer Jewett, was born at Coventry, Conn., in 1769. He went from there to Langdon, N. H., where he settled, and in 1792 married Submit Porter. Ten children were born to them. My father, Joseph Porter Jewett, was the seventh

child. **He** in his early manhood went to **New York state**. There he taught school winters and worked at the carpenter trade summers. He became acquainted with Miss **Amanda** Freer in Ontario county, N. Y., and they were married in **1831**. Her grand-father fought in the Revolution, and her father in the War of **1818**. In **1835** my father and his young wife came to Michigan and settled in Washtenaw county. They were veritable pioneers, as they came here when Michigan was a wilderness, inhabited by Indians and wild animals.

They experienced many hardships while carving out a home for themselves. Although the Indians were friendly my mother never overcame her fear of them. To my parents eleven children were born, one dying in infancy. In the spring of 1863 my father sold his farm in **Washtenaw** county and moved to Ingham, leaving the old home on the 15th day of April and stopping in Stockbridge over night, where the accommodations were not what they are today.

We reached our new home on the afternoon of the **16th**, and what a place! As I look back on it today, I do not wonder that my sister did not want to **leave** the wagon and enter it. I had never seen but one log house, and that a deserted one, for my years were not many and I had never journeyed so far before, but there were many of them along the road we came. And such a one as we had to call home! Dilapidated and filled with vermin, and all the scrubbing and scouring my mother and sister did could not make it presentable.

My father bought what was known as the Storey place, which Mr. **Storey's** father had taken or bought from the government. It was three and one-half miles west of **Mason** on the Columbia road. The house was one of the oldest in the neighborhood, and had a chip pile half as high as the back door, which my father soon drew away. The next **winter** was called the **cold** winter of 1863-64, and I have never since seen its equal. A fireplace and heating stove in the living **room** failed to keep us comfortably warm, or even keep our eggs from freezing. Father got out lumber for a new house that winter, for he said we could not live another winter in the old house. It was in war time and help was hard to get. One set of carpenters would enlist and make room for another

set, but we were able to move into the new house in **November, 1864**.

Labor was high, and so was produce. Wheat \$3 per bushel and sugar 50 cents per pound, and everything else in proportion.

But, as Samantha Allen would say, "We are digressing," and will go back to the time of our arrival. As we reached Mason and knew it was to be our home town, we looked around and found a rather small village. One of the finest houses in town was the Dr. **Phelps** house, which has lately been torn down to make room, I understand, for a finer, more modern building. The principal stores were kept, by Messrs. Coatsworth and Wheeler. As we left town on our way to our home, one-half mile west, we crossed one of the worst causeways or stretch of corduroy road I ever saw. Logs were laid through the swamp, which was grown up to the track on either side with trees and brush, with just a thin layer of dirt over the logs. You could see the water between the logs, and it was so rough we all got out and walked. I think it was that summer or fall that the men made a **bee** and drew gravel on the road. I hardly think that in those days it would have been safe to run an automobile. Lumber wagons were the principal vehicles, with an occasional democrat buggy; only the wealthy could afford carriages, and many of the farmers had ox teams.

The railroad entered Mason from Jackson in the fall of 1865, and was continued through to Lansing the next year. Jackson had always been our trading or market place, farmers having to draw their wheat and wool there.

The old stage coach was another feature of those early days, and plied regularly between Jackson and Mason. There was great rejoicing in town and country when we had the privileges brought by the railroad, and today with our state roads, electric cars and automobiles the past seems but a dream, and we wonder if the next fifty years will show as many improvements as there have been seen in the past half century.

The military spirit in the Jewett family did not die out in the older generations, for we find besides the five who served in Washington's army and a small boy who carried messages from one camp to another, were five who served in the Civil War and eight in the World War, while in the collateral lines were one **Revolu-**

tionary, one 1812, one Mexican, two Civil War and three World War.

MILITARY RECORD OF THE JEWETT FAMILY.

Ichobod Jewett, Revolutionary soldier. In Buell's company, later promoted to captain.

He had two sons in service with him, two other sons who acted as scouts, while another carried messages.

Civil War:

Brothers: J. Porter Jewett, 17th Michigan Infantry, Stonewall Regt.

Lester E. Jewett, 8th Michigan Infantry.

Joseph Jewett, 1st Michigan Light Artillery, and 1st Michigan Lancers.

John H. Jewett

Capt. G. W. Townsend, 5th Michigan Cavalry and Mexican War.

World War:

Lieut. Ralph Jewett, went overseas.

Wilbur Jewett.

Lieut. Arthur Jewett, Jr.

Paul Mixer, in Government Service.

All grandsons of Joseph Jewett.

Lieut. Maurice Jewett.

John Lucas, grandson Capt. Townsend, went overseas.

VANDEUSEN FAMILY.

Mrs. A. P. VanDeusen has lived over seventy years in Ingham county, and the greater part of that time in the city of Mason, and has watched both city and county as they emerged from the wilderness. Her father, Cornelius Handy, settled in Aurelius and worked hard to clear his farm. He met a sudden death, when a load of lumber he was taking home from the mill slid onto the horses and so frightened them that they ran away and he was thrown out and killed. Her only brother died from the effect of exposure while helping fight a big fire that swept the business portion of Mason.

Her husband, Dr. A. P. VanDeusen, was the first dentist to

locate in the county seat, and he continued his practice here until his death, which occurred in 1911. He was very public-spirited and took great interest in everything which would work for the betterment of the city.

His boyhood home was near Palmyra, N. Y., and during the visits the family made to this place at various times, Mrs. VanDeusen became quite familiar with the Mormon history so closely connected with that vicinity. She always visited Mormon Hill, where Joseph Smith claimed to have found the records on which was founded the Mormon Church. This hill lies near the main road which runs from Palmyra to Manchester, and the place on the west side where the golden plates were said to be hidden is now enclosed and is visited by many people each year. History, or tradition, says that "The angel of the Lord, on Sept. 22, 1827, placed in Smith's hands the wonderful records, engraved on plates nearly eight inches long by seven wide, a little thinner than ordinary tin, and bound together by three rings running through the whole. The volume was about six inches in thickness, a part of it sealed. The letters were beautifully engraved and represented an unknown language. With the records was found a curious instrument, consisting of two transparent stones, set in the rim of a bow fastened to a breastplate.

"By means of these stone-spectacles, God enabled him to understand and translate these ancient records, written in an unknown tongue, into such humble English as the 'prophet' (who was said to be a grossly ignorant and depraved specimen of manhood) was able to understand. The records contained the primitive history of America, etc., etc." Mrs. VanDeusen had a personal acquaintance with Maj. John Gilbert, of Palmyra, who set the type and corrected proof for the first Mormon Bible. He was born in 1803 and died in 1896, and he told Mrs. VanDeusen that he was twenty-seven years old when he printed that Bible. The first edition of the Bible was 5,000 copies, costing \$3,000. Joseph Smith would bring the copy, a few pages at a time, as fast as he translated it, usually in the morning and take away the printed pages at night. There was not a punctuation mark in the whole thing, and it took Maj. Gilbert seven months to complete the first copy. This old man knew all of the Smith family, and told much

of their history, ending by showing one of those Bibles which he printed in 1880.

Mrs. VanDeusen visited the old gentleman in 1891, and is very proud of the souvenir he gave her that day, his name and age in his own handwriting, a fine, clear hand, "J. H. Gilbert, aged 89."

In 1886 Dr. and Mrs. VanDeusen spent the summer at Torch Lake, and while there paid a visit to Beaver Island. While on the island they attended the funeral of an old man they were told was the last of King Strang's band. A Mormon preacher from sixty miles away had come to the charge of the services.

A few years ago while visiting her daughter in Shreveport, La., Mrs. VanDeusen went into Greenwood Cemetery, and to her great surprise found there the graves of two Ingham county boys who lost their lives in the Civil War. Their names were Barker and Riggs, one from the township of Alameda and the other from White Oak, and they served in a Michigan cavalry.

These graves are near an imposing granite monument, the top graced by a life-size Confederate soldier bearing a flag. On one side of the shaft are two Confederate flags crossed, and on two sides of the base, just above the pedestal are inscriptions, one as follows; "This stone is raised as a tribute of love and loyalty to his comrades in arms by Peter Yourree, Capt, commanding Co. 1, Slayback's Regiment, Joe Sibley's Brigade, 'Missouri Cavalry.'" Besides the "Blue and the Gray" that found resting places in this cemetery there are others lying not far distant. During the Civil War a line of earthworks was thrown up along Red River just outside the city to Fort Humbug, and this forms a well beaten track along which the negroes from the river bottom reach the city. In the woods which border this path can be seen many graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers, some still bearing the wooden markers on which were written their names. The graves are both in little groups and single, some sunken far below the surface of the ground.

Mrs. VanDeusen has in her possession a part of the account book kept by her greatgrandfather, Capt. Benjamin Churchill, of Plymouth, Mass., the entries beginning in 1775. The paper is not as good as that in use today, while the ink is scarcely faded. The handwriting is in the style peculiar to those times, and the

quaint entries and original manner of spelling form an interesting document,

Ichabod Churchill dettor to me for headings; come to O-10-8.
Sept. 1775.

Capt. Churchill, dettor to two Bayrels of Sider and Bayrel of Salt. 1776.

To half a day to kill your hogs, O-I-O.

1785—To my oxen half a day, O-I-O.

To a stick for arms by William Tupper, O-I-O.

To a setting in the pew, O-2-D. ,

1784, November, Capt. Cady for fourteen quarters of cole, O-10-6.

1785, March, To making and caring down your raft, 1-4-O.

My boys two days a braking flax, O-4-8,

1783, a list of men who received their milk and sage money.

1776—This day reckoned with Jonathan Wood and balanced all accounts even.

To a days work a drawing your timber, R-10-0.

To a load of bords from your saw mill, %-O-O.

All accounts were reckoned in pounds, shillings and pence, a system but little known by later generations,

Mrs. VanDeusen has quite a wonderful collection of valuable curios and relics, among them the following articles:

A Bible printed in Old English, published in 1809 and owned by Daniel Jones; he was born in 1760 and his wife in 1780.

A "Book of Common Prayer" used by the Church of England, no date, but its style proves its great age.

A Methodist Hymn Book of 1818.

Grandmother VanDeusen's first set of dishes, as early as 1830. White ground with raised lavender grapes.

A cup from the set of dishes given Governor Stevens T. Mason by the people of Michigan.

The Ashler (Masonic), Chicago and Detroit, 1860. This was owned by Cornelius Handy, father of Mrs. VanDeusen.

Egyptian cameo pin over 100 years old, also an ancient cluster pearl pin and a rose cameo.

Handpainted picture taken from front of grandfather's clock that had wooden works.