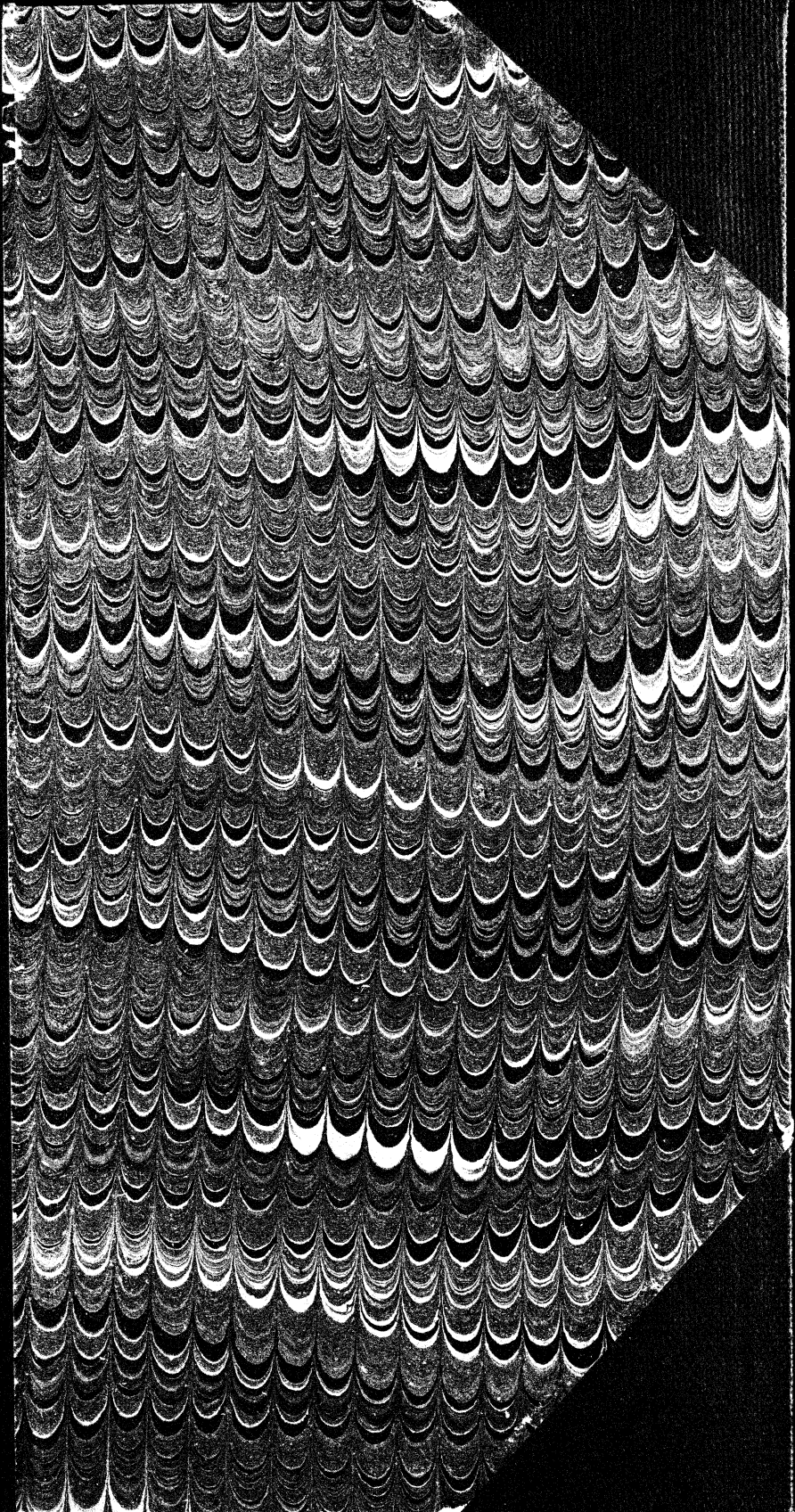


HISTORICAL  
AND  
BUSINESS COMPENDIUM  
OF  
OTTAWA COUNTY,  
MICHIGAN.  
1892-3

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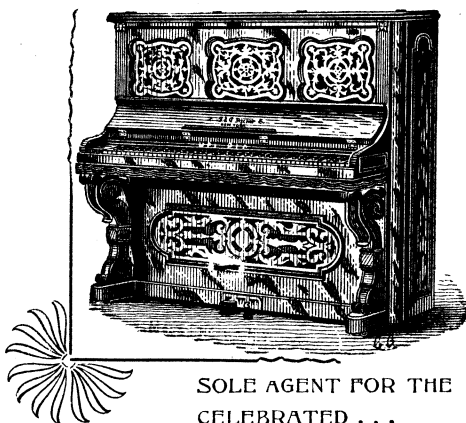
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HISTORICAL  
AND  
BUSINESS COMPENDIUM  
OF  
OTTAWA COUNTY,  
MICHIGAN.

---

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOLUME I.

---

A Complete Historical, Statistical, Biographical and  
Geographical Compendium of Ottawa  
County's Public and Private In-  
terests and Institutions

AND A

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

AND

COMPENDIUM OF GENERAL INFORMATION  
FOR 1892-3.

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This Volume contains a Brief but Accurate History of Ottawa  
County, from its Earliest Settlement to the Present  
Time; also a General Fund of Statistical  
Information.

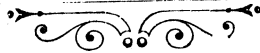
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GRAND HAVEN, MICH.



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PRESS OF  
THE STANTON PRINTING CO.  
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

## PREFACE.

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It is with considerable assurance that we introduce to the public our HISTORICAL AND BUSINESS COMPENDIUM OF OTTAWA COUNTY, for we know it to be the best book of its kind ever published in the state of Michigan. In the compilation of this work it has not been our ambition to preserve pure English to future generations, but to furnish to all people interested in Ottawa county's past, present and future, as many historical and current facts as possible, in a small amount of space, and for a very little money.

Feeling confident that this generation has furnished others who could write, we have quoted many of them, and enlisted a few in our service for special articles.

We are under great obligations to G. J. Van Schelven of the Holland City *News*, Rev. Henry E. Dosker of Holland, Hon. Cornelius Van Loo of Zeeland, Rev. E. P. Gibbs, Wm. N. Angel, Herman Nyland, Mrs. U. E. T. Rork, of Grand Haven; G. A. Mitchell of Grand Rapids, and others, for valuable contributions to the historical work. In this work involving a vast amount of labor, we have endeavored to treat all alike.

We have endeavored to obtain the best of everything and submit it to the boiling down process. It has been our aim not to deal with the biographies of men further than they were interwoven with the history of the county. However, it is our intention to soon publish a small volume of biographies of prominent men of the county to go with this work.

In referring to early residents we have taken

## PREFACE.

no thought of their circumstances in life, whether richer than Cræsus or poorer than Lazarus, we have given their history as the facts seemed to warrant.

One of the objects of the work has been to sum up the superior advantages of the county in such a form that they might be read and understood by those desiring to invest in the county. Something that would furnish proofs positive that Ottawa county has better openings for general investments than can be found either in the south or west.

That there are inaccuracies in the work we are willing to admit; but as this is the first book of the kind ever published in the county, upon a thorough examination we are confident all fair-minded people will wonder how we succeeded in making it so nearly correct. As mistakes are discovered, however, we shall publish and mail free to subscribers, slips containing corrections which may be easily fastened in their appropriate places in the work.

In the directory all persons engaged in tilling the soil are classed as farmers. We found it impossible to draw the line between farmers, fruit growers and gardeners technically.

As to postoffice addresses, in the townships, occasionally there may be a case where the postoffice given is not the one at which the person named is in the habit of getting his mail. However, no person named upon the list will fail to receive all mail directed to him at the postoffice given.

We claim that we have produced a book that will prove valuable to every person interested in Ottawa county, and properly represent its interests at the World's Columbian Exposition.

With thanks to our friends and patrons we remain,

Yours,

POTTS & CONGER.



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**People's Savings Bank**, Grand Rapids (see adv inside first cover).  
**Goodrich Transportation Co**, Chicago (see adv p 70).

# HISTORICAL COMPENDIUM

. . . OF . . .

## OTTAWA COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

---

### PART I.

---

#### FIRST SETTLEMENT AT GRAND HAVEN.

It is deemed sufficient for the purposes of this work, to commence with the date of the arrival of the first permanent white settler within the territory of which Ottawa county now consists. In 1821 Rix Robinson, a native of Auburn, New York, established an Indian trading post at the mouth of Grand River, upon land now within the city limits of Grand Haven. From the day of his arrival until his death, which occurred at Ada, Kent county, in 1875, he was not only very closely identified with the development of Ottawa county, but with the entire Grand river valley. "To his control of the savage tribes that occupied this portion of Michigan, is mainly attributed the welcome they gave the early settlers, whose encroachments and occupancy so surely augured their own removal and ultimate extinction." "His name stands one of the foremost of those who have occupied positions of trust and honor in our state."

Up to the time of the location of the trading post at the mouth of Grand river, few white men had ever visited the territory of which Ottawa county was afterwards composed. The afterwards noted Catholic priest, Gabriel Richards, visited the Grand river Indians as early as 1799. He established the first Michigan newspaper at Detroit in 1809, was elected to congress from this state in 1823, and died in 1832. Rev. Isaac McCoy established the Indian Government mission on Grand river in 1832. Richard Godfrey came to Grand river in 1832. Hiram Jenison located at Jenisonville in 1833. The first white child born in Grand Rapids was a daughter of Richard Godfrey.

From a paper entitled "Early Settlement of Ottawa County," prepared by Z. G. Winsor, and read at the semi-centennial celebration of the settlement of the county, December 2, 1884, we extract the following important historical facts:

"On the twentieth day of April, 1833, a party of sixty-three men, women and children—Z. G. Winsor, then eighteen years of age, being one of the number—left the state of New York for the Grand river valley, in the then territory of Michigan, reaching what is now the city of Ionia May, 23, 1833. They were surrounded by Indians, friendly, though they were separated from all intercourse with white settlers by a distance of from thirty to forty miles on the south, forty to sixty miles on the east and west, and an indefinite distance on the north." \* \* \* \* \*

"This was the nucleus and starting point of the settlement of the Grand river valley, from the mouth of the river up to within a few miles of

Jackson. The Grand river country, now represented by the counties of Ionia, Kent and Ottawa, at that time was a wilderness, without white inhabitants, save only an Indian mission at Grand Rapids, with a Mr. Slater, wife and one female teacher; an Indian trading post controlled by Louis Campau at Grand Rapids, and Rix Robinson's trading posts at the mouth of the Thorn Apple and at Grand Haven, which were peopled only by Campau and Robinson, with the help of Canadian voyageurs and half breed Indians." "Such were the conditions and surroundings of the first settlers. Were they not pioneers? They prepared the way for the present population of more than two hundred thousand in the three counties of Ionia, Kent and Ottawa, and a cultivated acreage of more than a million." There were no steam boats, no railroads, no telegraph, no kerosene, no gas, few roads, and postal service hardly thought of. What changes since the dawn of that 23rd day of May, 1833!

Do we appreciate the changes? To the full extent, only the first settlers who lived to witness these changes, could. In 1833, Grand Haven was the headquarters for the twenty trading posts of the American Fur company, with Mr. Robinson sole manager. These trading posts had been established in 1827, commencing at Kalamazoo on the south, and extending to Little Traverse on the north. Says Mr. Winsor, at that time in the employ of Mr. Robinson: "Grand Haven being headquarters, had been made quite respectable in buildings. We had a store, warehouse with pole dock, and dwelling house with four rooms, occupied by Mr. Robinson and wife (a half-breed

woman). Great advantages accrued to the traders who had Indian wives, the Indians regarding them as relatives. The Indians, as a rule, were honorable and honest." "The French voyageurs, or Denvins, as they were called, were a necessity of the times and business at that early period. Their packs would often exceed a hundred and forty pounds, and they would carry them thirty or forty miles in a day." "Up to the fall of 1834, Grand Haven contained only Indians and traders. From twenty rods back of our store there was continuous forest south to the St. Joe river and east to Grandville without a white inhabitant."

The arrival at the mouth of Grand river, November 23, 1834, of the Rev. Wm. M. Ferry and family, accompanied by C. Duvernoy and family, to settle permanently, proved the beginning of an important epoch in the history of Grand Haven and Ottawa county. Mr. Ferry was born on a farm at Granby, Mass., September 8, 1796. His biographers say that "he was a slight, frail youth, not fitted for the rugged toil of a farmer's life." He chose the ministry of the gospel as a profession. At the age of twenty-four he graduated from Union college, studied theology two years at Brunswick, N. J., and six months with Gardiner Spring, D. D., of New York, and was ordained by the New York Presbytery in 1822. He was appointed a missionary among the Indians of the northwest. He established the Mackinaw mission, and after remaining there one year, returned to Ashfield, Mass., where he married Miss Amanda White. He then returned, accompanied by his young wife, to Mackinaw, where they devoted

twelve years to missionary work among the Indians and the few scattering whites and half-breeds that drifted along the straits.

Robert Stuart, connected with John Jacob Astor's fur company, having bought a part of Rix Robinson's pre-emption at the mouth of Grand river, put several thousand dollars in Mr. Ferry's hands, and instructed him to go down from Mackinaw and look after it.

Mr. Ferry associated with him his brother-in-law, Nathan H. White, and the Grand Haven company was soon organized, consisting of Robinson, Ferry & White, as equal partners.

The company immediately bought large tracts of land, built a mill, bought two mills at Grandville, and engaged in the logging business at the mouth of Crockery creek. Thus was the development of Ottawa county begun. Says Rev. Christian Van der Veen:

"In the history of the settlement of that section of which is now included within the bounds of Ottawa county, it is necessary to mention three different names and three different times. To take them in their order of occurrence, Grand Haven, Port Sheldon and Holland, the dates are, 1834, 1836 and 1847."

"Grand Haven stands properly for the development of the country along the Grand river, and will stand in the same relation for the northern half of Ottawa county. It was the gateway by which the early pioneers who located along the banks of this river, entered the country. Most of them served some kind of apprenticeship at the mouth of the river, and carried the spirit of enterprise which ruled those inland."

“Spring Lake was the enterprise of the Whites, brothers-in-law of Mr. Ferry. Crockery had as its founders the Hathaways, who were employed by the Grand Haven Lumber company, in 1836. Dr. Timothy Eastman, one of the pioneers of Polkton, and the father of Eastmanville, was one of the early companions of Mr. Ferry at Grand Haven, and his life-long friend. So, on the other side of the river, Robinson was first entered by the Robinson family, who were in close connection from the beginning with the parties at the mouth. The remainder of the up country was only afterwards settled, and independently of the first movement. The rich lands of Talmadge, Chester and Wright attracted immigrants of various nationalities, who sought land for purely agricultural purposes. The towns to the south, Alledale, Blendon, Georgetown, and the larger part of Robinson, were worked for many years only for their valuable product of timber, and drew settlers but slowly.”

#### PORT SHELDON.

The settlement of Port Sheldon comes next in 1836, but its settlement was not permanent. It was entitled to the proud distinction of being the first wild-cat town in Michigan, and one of the first in the northwest. It was founded upon the north side of Pigeon Lake, a small body of water tributary to Lake Michigan, ten miles south of Grand Haven, by a number of New York and Philadelphia capitalists, who styled themselves the Port Sheldon company. Says Everett in his memorials of the Grand River Valley: “In the fall of 1837 they commenced operations in earnest.



They came on with a vessel loaded with provisions and stores; bringing their houses ready to set up, and about forty men, consisting of directors, superintendents, surveyors, engineers, etc., with every equipment for laying out the place, and everything necessary for their comfort and enjoyment during the winter." The company had for general superintendent, Saunders Coates, who afterwards became a manufacturer of gas works in New York. He was for four years editor of the *Mobile Register*. The other superintendents were Alexander Judson and E. P. Deacon. Judson was last heard from in New York; Deacon died in Cuba. George M. Baker, well known at Grand Rapids, was with them as surveyor; Abram Pike, since famous as the one who first enunciated the subordinate position of office holders, was with them in the capacity of a clerk. There were also about thirty agents, clerks, etc.

They laid out a city; surveyed the harbor and improved the entrance. The harbor and plat formed an elegant picture on paper. There were 142 blocks, of in most cases, twenty-four lots in a block. Seven lots were reserved for churches; one for a fish market; two for other markets; four for a railroad depot; four for a city hall, and one for a school house. A railroad was laid through the city into the woods, and piers were extended to Lake Michigan. Good roads were made to Grandville and Grand Haven at the expense of nearly \$10,000. A lighthouse was built and maintained at the expense of the company for two years. They had a beautiful yacht, the *Meme*, kept up a boat club that paraded in full regalia. They built a \$40,000 hotel 60x120,

and maintained it in splendid style, without a guest once a week. They built an office that cost \$10,000, and a store of the same value; with an undeveloped country back of them, and a city in name only from which to draw patronage. They put up a \$20,000 steam mill, then the best in the western country, and about fifteen small dwellings. In 1838 the city contained about 300 inhabitants, mostly supported by the company. They had a lawyer among them named Edward Badger. The physicians of the city were first Dr. Scranton, who was succeeded by Dr. Coxe.

The company obtained a charter for a railroad across the state from Port Sarnia, and grubbed out the road several miles from Port Sheldon into the forest. They had a fine railroad office, but the railroad never materialized; and finally the whole bubble exploded. The company abandoned the place, leaving Pike sole occupant and absolute monarch of the realm. After several years he sold the hotel and thirty lots for less than the cost of the paint and glass used in constructing the building. The hemlock bark peeler finally relieved Pike of the balance of the city, and thus ended the great fiasco of Port Sheldon.

#### VILLAGE OF SUPERIOR.

July 2, 1835, the plat of the village of Superior was filed for record at Kalamazoo, Mich. The village itself was located on the north side of Black lake, upon territory now in Holland township. The proprietors were Edward H. Macy, Cyron Burdick, Elisha Belcher, Caleb Sherman. Captain Macy was manager. They called themselves the Black River company. They made

two roads through the forest; one to Grand Haven and one to the Kalamazoo river. Henry Knox built a tannery; a steam sawmill was built; a shipyard located, and a schooner built. A son was born to H. C. Hale in the town, the first white child born in the vicinity of Holland. Unfortunately, Captain Macy was killed in Kalamazoo, and the town soon went the way of Port Sheldon.

#### ORGANIZATION OF OTTAWA COUNTY.

The county was defined as a territorial county in 1831, and in 1836 it was attached to Kent for judicial purposes, with limits uncertain. December 31, 1837, it was made a county by act of the state legislature. At that time the north line was located six miles farther north than the north line of Chester, where it remained until 1859, when Muskegon county was organized. The legislature divided the county at first into two townships, Muskego (Muskegon) and Ottawa. Muskego consisted of eight full towns and two fractional towns, or all north of the line bounding Spring Lake and Crockery on the north; and Ottawa consisted of the balance of the county. But, at the same session, Talmadge township, consisting of towns 7 and 8, range 13, was formed out of a part of Ottawa. In apportioning the taxes between these townships, the county board, consisting of Erastus Wilcox, Bethuel Church and William Hathaway, decided that Talmadge should pay \$48 and a few cents, Muskego \$59, and Ottawa \$631. The first meeting of the county board was held in Grand Haven, and at the house of Nathan Troop, April 12, 1838. Erastus Wilcox

was chosen chairman, and Timothy Eastman, clerk. The only action taken of any importance was to order the county courts to be held at Grand Haven until further notice. In 1839 the board of supervisors was exchanged for three commissioners, Saunders Coates, B. Church and Erastus Wilcox constituting said board. There being no clerk present at their first meeting, Timothy Eastman was chosen *pro tem*. The county business was transacted for about three years by commissioners, when the township method of doing business was prescribed by the legislature. The commissioners adjourned for the last time April 2, 1842.

In 1840 Georgetown and Norton had been added to the sub-divisions of the county, and the list of townships stood Ottawa, Georgetown, Talmadge, Norton and Muskegon.

The commissioners to select a site for the county seat fixed upon Warren City, a point on Grand river, (northwest quarter of section seven, Allendale). However, the courts continued to be held in Grand Haven, and the site of Warren City has long been occupied principally by the fruit farms of George W. Amigh, Jessie Molyneux, C. W. Ingraham, and others. "We have seen that the settlement of the county really began in November, 1834, and that the village of Grand Haven was laid out in the spring of 1835, and the county machinery put in full operation in April, 1838, and yet the United States census of 1840 could find but 208 persons all told, within the present limits of Ottawa, and about one half of Muskegon county." "The panic, or rather the financial rottenness of 1836-7, which visited the

entire Union, fell with especial severity upon frontier communities, and Ottawa county was no exception. It was days of deep distress, and to many brought blighted hopes and financial ruin, and some who could do so, returned to the older parts of the country, so that it is doubtful if there were as many persons in the county in the spring of 1840 as two years before."

EARLY SETTLEMENT OF HOLLAND, BY G. VAN SCHLEVEN.

In the winter of 1845-6 a meeting of the leading men favoring emigration, was held in Amsterdam. The times were exceedingly hard, and growing more and more oppressive for the laboring classes, with little or no prospect of their improvement, and it was felt that something should be done for their relief. The meeting appointed a committee to wait upon the government with a proposition to colonize in the Dutch East Indies, and locate upon the highlands of Java. The reply was that the government had no authority to sanction such a movement upon the religious basis on which it was proposed. The Cape of Good Hope was the next point which received their attention, and lastly America was considered.

During the spring of 1846, and before any organization or system of emigration had been perfected, two persons, Messrs. A. Hartgerink and J. Arnold, started for this country. Their friends fitted them out for the voyage, and the deacons of the church collected money and clothing for them. They were sent out to make a preliminary examination here, and report to the brethren in the old country. Dr. Van Raalte gave

them the necessary letters of introduction to Dr. De Witt and others. After their arrival they forwarded an extended account of their trip and observations here, which account was favorably received in Holland. It was a voluminous document, the postage on the same amounting to eleven guilders.

In the summer of 1846, the Rev. Thomas De Whitt, D. D., of New York, was sent by the general synod of the Reformed (Dutch) church of America, on an official mission to Holland. The extent to which this visit has been instrumental in turning the projected emigration towards America, is difficult to ascertain. Judging from subsequent events, however, it must have had a marked effect upon the enquiring minds of the leaders. In his report to the general synod, in 1847, he says: "When in Holland I received information of a rising spirit of emigration to America, and especially among the (*Afgescheidenen*) seceders from the established church. Soon two important colonies from this class will be founded in the west."

Emigration to America now began to be generally discussed and agitated, and the mind was permanently fixed upon "the west." Texas, Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa were among the favorite localities.

On the 14th day of September, 1846, an American brig, the "Southerner," of Boston, Captain Crosby, weighed anchor at Rotterdam, and carried across the Atlantic the first emigrants destined for this settlement. As they constituted the first Holland pioneers of this colony, we have secured the names of nearly all of them:

Albertus C. Van Raalte, Hendrick Oldemeyer, Frans Smit, Jan Laarman, Egbert Van Zee, Jan Carman, Jan Klaasen, Hendrick DeKruif, Bernardus Grootenhuis, J. Dunnewind, William Notting, Vanden Boogaart, Evert Zagers, Egbert Freriks, Harm Kok, Herman Lankheet, Dirk Plasman.

Most of them were heads of families. After a voyage of forty-seven days they arrived in New York on the 4th day of November, 1846, from where they left by steamer for Albany; thence *via* Buffalo and Cleveland to Detroit. Here the party scattered for a time, in order to enable Dr. Van Raalte to decide upon his location.

In New York Dr. Van Raalte was welcomed by Rev. Dr. De Witt, Mr. Forrester and others friendly to the Hollanders and their cause. The same can be said of many more in the different cities along his travels; Rev. Drs. Wyckoff, of Albany, and Bethune at Brooklyn; Rev. Dr. Duffield, Hon. Theodore Romeyn, Rev. Mr. West, Gen. Cass and Hon. C. C. Trowbridge, at Detroit; Rev. Mr. Hoyt, at Kalamazoo; Judge Kellogg, at Allegan, and others.

Owing to the close of navigation, and satisfactory information obtained at Detroit, it was resolved to abandon the heretofore quite prevailing preference for Wisconsin and proceed to western Michigan. The motives leading to this selection on the part of Dr. Van Raalte are perhaps best described by himself in a translated extract from his oration delivered in 1872, on the quarter-centennial celebration of the settlement of the colony.

“Although the Americans recommended the localities near rivers, and in general deemed it

too great a hazard to settle here; although the Hollanders avoided the forests, occasioning a great struggle to subject my family and myself to the inconveniences of such pioneering; nevertheless, the combination of so many advantages, although at first they could be but slowly developed, left me no doubt as to what my duty was. I knew that the rich forest soil is better fitted for the dairy, and for winter wheat; that owing to the manufacturing interests and navigation, by far higher market prices could be obtained here than at any place in the west; and that the country near the shore of Lake Michigan was protected by the water from severe frosts, and pre-eminently a region adapted for fruit. I could find no place where similar to those regions along the inhabited rivers, lined with manufactories and mills, where the tens of thousands could find work without danger of being scattered, and where, at the same time, we were certain of an opportunity to continually secure land, without any interference, for a group of settlements. I chose this region, with such decision, on account of its great variety, being assured that if the Holland emigration should develop into a power, we ought to remain together for mutual support, and ought to have this variety for labor and capital, especially for future growth.

“The object of my settling between the Kalamazoo and Grand rivers was to secure the advantages of both these rivers—for we could not get along without the settled regions—and at the same time to establish a center for a united and spiritual life and labor for God’s kingdom.

In company with Judge Kellogg, of Allegan,



and an Indian guide, following an Indian trail, Dr. Van Raalte arrived here for the first time, in the latter part of December, 1846. They landed at the house of Rev. G. N. Smith, a Presbyterian missionary among the Indians, located upon section 3, of the township of Fillmore. At this time, the only white settlers in this entire neighborhood, beside Dr. Smith, were I. Fairbanks, Esq., and G. Cranmer. Their nearest neighbor was Mr. A. Shorno, on section 26, township of Fillmore. Mr. Fairbanks lived next to Dr. Smith, and Mr. Cranmer on the farm now owned by Mr. Gerling, northeast of the "Nykerk" Church.

Having satisfied himself as to the exact location of lake, river and harbor, and having determined upon the site for the village, Dr. Van Raalte, in January, 1847, returned to Detroit, to collect his little band. During his absence he had procured work for the men at St. Clair, where a steamboat was being built. His own family had remained at Detroit. That same month they packed up and proceeded *via* Kalamazoo, to Allegan, where they met with great hospitality, especially at the hands of Judge Kellogg. After remaining here for a few days making the necessary preparations for their outfit, the party started for Black Lake. The women and children remained at Allegan with the exception of Mrs. Grootenhuis, who volunteered to be the cook for the party. They were again accompanied by an Indian guide and Judge Kellogg. Mr. George Harrington, Sr., also came down with them and drove the ox-team. This trip from Allegan to Rev. Mr. Smith's house was made in one day. Here they arrived, as near as we can ascertain, on the 12th of February,

1847. Rev. Mr. Smith received these men with the greatest of hospitality, and, together with Mr. Fairbanks, aided materially towards fitting these pioneers for the difficult and unknown task before them.

Arrangements had been made at Allegan, through Judge Kellogg, whereby in a few days they were followed by a party of Americans, who were to remain a while, and teach them how to chop trees, build log houses, and make roads, many of them not even knowing how to connect the ax with the helve. The Indian church, located near Rev. Mr. Smith's house, served as lodging place.

The first work was the opening of a road from Mr. Fairbanks' house to the head of Black Lake. They followed a line running between sections 33 and 34, and 28 and 27, T. 5 N., R. 15 W. At the latter place they found that the cedar swamp was a serious obstacle in their way, and they resolved before proceeding any farther to put up their first quarters on the hill near the house of Mrs. Van Der Haar, on section 28 of same town. Two log sheds were built 16x30 feet, with brush roof. This hill is among the most interesting spots of our early history. Here they lost the first member of their little band; here the first child was born to the colonists, and for a long while afterwards these sheds served as receiving barracks for the new comers.

The women and children who had been left at Allegan, were now sent for, and they also took up their quarters in the log shanties. It is but proper and just to mention the favors and kindness bestowed upon these families during their

stay at Allegan, and it is not without regret that we have failed to ascertain their names.

During that same winter another small party of emigrants had reached Albany, N. Y. They were advised to come on west, and reached here about the 10th of March, 1847. They numbered some fifteen strong, and among them we find the names of G. J. Hofman, W. Kremer, Plasman, Kolvoort and Slaghuis.

For weeks and months, now, the colonists applied themselves to the making of roads. From the log sheds, the road was continued along the farm of Dr. Van Raalte, through the present city to the head of Black Lake and the "Indian Village," so-called.

The next arrival was also in the month of March. A party of immigrants, numbering nearly one hundred, had arrived at St. Louis, and were anxiously awaiting the development of the colonization schemes then pending in Michigan and in Iowa, not only for their own guidance, but also for the information of the hundreds who were to follow that year. This St. Louis party appointed a committee of three to come out here and prospect, and selected as such, Messrs. T. Keppel, H. Van Der Haar and J. Binnekant, with the understanding that the others were to join them immediately, or as soon as they could, having in charge all the women and baggage. The three men going ahead went on foot from Chicago, arriving in Holland, March 17, 1847; the remainder came in a sailing vessel from Chicago to Grand Haven, by wagons to Port Sheldon, where they arrived about the same time that the other three did in Holland. The women

remained some days at Port Sheldon while the men went to the settlement to aid in building homes and constructing roads.

The names of this last party were Walter Van Der Haar, Jan Visscher and family, Evert Visscher and family, Albert Bloemers and family, Johannes Visser and family, Jannes Vrieze, Paul Stevas and wife, Mrs. J. Binnekant and Peter Zalsman. At this time there was but one family residing in what is now Holland township, that of Gilbert Cranmer. In the spring of 1847 Dr. Van Raalte built his house and brought his family from Allegan.

The winter they had just passed was a severe one; the snow had averaged over two feet deep. The supplies during that time, were principally brought in from Allegan. Towards spring most of the colonists began to look up lands and locate for themselves.

Before we break off this part of our sketch, we will give the following incidents connected with that memorable winter which they passed in these log sheds. The first child was born in the family of Mr. Laarman; the second was born in the family of Mr. Jan Schaap. Both were baptized together, by Dr. Van Raalte, in the open air in front of his house. The first death was that of Mrs. Notting; seven others died that winter at the log sheds. They lie buried, as near as can be ascertained, near the barn on the farm of Mrs. W. Van Der Haar. The first marriage was that of Lambert Floris with Jantje Meyerink.

The spring and summer of 1847 brought hundreds of immigrants from the old country, and it was extremely difficult to keep supplied with

necessaries of life. What few gold "Willems" were still scattered between them went but a short way to provide for the first wants. Lumber had to be rafted at Saugatuck and floated down all the way along Lake Michigan and Black Lake. Provisions were brought in and carried on the back for a distance of ten and twenty miles.

As early as the summer of 1847, the colonists commenced to build their log church, and finished it in part, that same fall. The building was located in the southwest corner of the present cemetery. It was built of logs, with a shingled roof, and was 35x60 feet. Its location there was in order to accommodate the people settling in the country, and perhaps also owing to the old country idea of having the church in the cemetery. When, a few years afterwards, the present First Reformed church was built, it took considerable argument to have it located in the village, where it now stands. The log church was also used for school and public meetings.

From the very beginning the settlers organized a system of public meetings, and the latter constitute a prominent part in the history of the Holland colony, partaking somewhat of the character of the historical town meeting in the early history of New England. The proceedings of these meetings, during the winter of 1848, form a very interesting chapter in this sketch. For, inasmuch as the first township organization did not take place until 1849, and whereas for want of citizenship and the right to vote, the Hollanders were excluded from all active participation in public matters until the spring of 1851, they relied on these meetings for an expression of their

views and a discussion of matters generally. They desired some kind of government in which the various interests represented by them would receive due consideration in the spirit of their immigration; hence, they resolved themselves, as it were, into a small democracy, governing according to what a majority of them deemed to be promotive to the greatest good to the greatest number. These meetings, known as "*Volksvergadering*," took cognizance of all the religious, educational, social and public interests of the colony and the people. Roads and bridges were built, church and school organized and provided for, personal grievances settled, labor and wages regulated.

The proceedings of these meetings during the year 1847 are supposed to be lost, at least they are not within my reach. Many incidents of historical interest must have been recorded in that year.

The majority of the colonists who arrived in 1847 and 1848 landed at the mouth of Black Lake. Many of them made the entire trip from the old country here, by water, leaving New York *via* the Hudson River and Erie canal to Buffalo, and thence around the lakes by steamers or vessels. Of the very first lumber brought in, enough was appropriated at the harbor to put up a large building ordered by the "*Volksvergadering*," as a sort of receiving depot for the accommodation of new comers. This building was put up just south of the "old channel," under the direction of Messrs. T. Keppel, Repsink, and H. J. Hesselink. Mr. C. Van der Vere was appointed agent to receive them and forward them to town. Many of those

who arrived then did not remain, but went to Wisconsin and other points.

It was soon evident to the colonists that what little ground had been cleared up during the spring would not begin to raise sufficient supplies for their support during the next winter. Hence, every cleared spot and old Indian clearing within a range of ten or fifteen miles was explored, and at the public meetings, details were organized under some competent man to cultivate them. The Port Sheldon clearings were assigned to Mr. George Harrington, and they were used in this way for two seasons to raise potatoes, corn and buckwheat, the bulk of which was carried in on the back.

Dependent to a great extent upon outside assistance for almost everything in the way of information and instruction, the colonists availed themselves of every opportunity which was offered. Thus it was ordered by the "*Volksgadering*" that Mr. R. Schilleman should go to Saugatuck to inform himself of the American way of fishing.

In June, 1847, word was sent from Albany that a large delegation from the province of Zeeland, under the leadership of Rev. C. Vander Mueler and Mr. J. Van de Luyster, Sr., had arrived, and that after long and serious meditation, they had decided to locate in Michigan. Several long sheds for their reception were put up at the head of Black Lake. They numbered about four hundred, and arrived here in the month of July, coming all the way by water, and occupying the quarters assigned them, where they remained during the balance of the season in tents and sheds. After prospecting and examining the terri

tory east of us, they concluded to locate in township 5, range 14. Thus were laid the foundations of what is now the prosperous village of Zeeland.

The arrivals during the summer began to increase. A sharp rivalry in recruiting had sprung up between this colony and other localities in Wisconsin and Iowa, where the Hollanders were settling. And right here allow me to state that it can never be truthfully said that as far as the present development of this colony and of the Hollanders is concerned, it is no wise to be accredited to either the wealth or the intellectual attainments of the masses whose lots were cast here; but to the contrary, let it be recorded as history, that the material prosperity, the intellectual development and social elevation, which has transferred the immigrant of 1847 into the American citizen of 1876, is due largely to the energy, forethought and general leadership of the founder of this colony.

By this time there was quite a population scattered along the shores of Black Lake. The Indian village near the southeastern limits of the city, was a prominent landing place. The long houses built by the Indians were of great service to the newly arrived immigrants; and, as it appears, there never has been trouble between the Red Man and the Dutchman.

As the colonists increased, the demand for provisions and supplies became greater. In view of this fact and the coming winter, a public meeting of all the settlers, including the Zeelanders, was held, to devise ways and means in that direction. It was proposed to appoint a suitable committee to go East and buy a large stock of provisions,



dry goods, groceries, hardware, stores, etc. All the colonists were to contribute, according to what each had left, and thus organize a sort of apostolic stock company. The details how each was to be represented in this company and be secured for his investment, were all agreed upon, and quite a large sum of money was collected—enough to pay fifty per cent. down on a stock of several thousand dollars, and have enough left for another object which we will mention below. All this was resolved upon, ordered to be carried out, and begun. Messrs. B. Grootenhuis and Elder Young, of Grand Rapids, was selected to go to Albany and New York and buy the goods. A store was built near the head of the lake, to sell and disburse these goods. This was called the “colony store.” Mr. B. Grootenhuis was appointed general agent, and served as such for about a year. With the money received from sales, pork and flour were again bought at Allegan, through the agency of Mr. H. D. Post, who was there at that time also getting ready to locate here. Part of the goods bought East remained on the way all winter, and did not reach here until next spring. However, this was only a beginning of the disappointments.

In connection with this supply business and “colony store,” it was also resolved to buy a “colony vessel.” The object was not only that this vessel should carry on the trade between the new colony and other points, and bring in this stock of goods; but it should also be known abroad, and especially in the old country, that the colonists had a vessel of their own, to carry immigrants from Buffalo, Chicago, Milwaukee, and other

points along the lakes. As far as we can learn, the purchase was made by J. Van de Luyster, Sr., Mr. Stegenga and Capt. Clausen. The vessel was of 100 tons burthen, called the *A. E. Knickerbocker*, and bought from Mr. Walton, of Chicago. About the career of this vessel we have not been able to ascertain much, only that it managed to bring over a part of this stock of goods from Chicago; also that it carried over a few of the immigrants who refused to pay for their passage on the broad and general ground of its being a "colony vessel." It failed to give satisfaction to those whose money had been invested in the enterprise, and she was subsequently sold to outside parties. It ran one season and was sold.

But to return to the store business, Mr. J. Van De Luyster, Jr., succeeded Mr. B. Grootenhuis as agent or manager of the "colony store," and in the course of the year following, amidst all sorts of troubles, complaints, alleged irregularities of one kind and another, the "colony store" was wound up, leaving the largest stockholders minus their investment.

The first year was in every respect a severe test of the courage and perseverance of the colonists. Sickness among them was fearful, and the death rate became alarming. In some localities malarial diseases had broken out, and for a while it occupied about all the time and attention of the able bodied to attend to the wants of the sick and dying, and to the burial of the dead. Among the colonists was only one doctor, J. S. M. C. Van Nus. The services rendered by Dr. Van Raalte as physician, in those dark days, are among the many noble deeds clustering

around his career as a leader. And how could the condition of the people be otherwise? Think of the causes that led to diseases, and contributed to their misery. A strange climate, a malarious atmosphere, undrained marshes, unwholesome food, and insufficient shelter; want of experience in the nature of their diseases, as in everything else; no refreshments or delicacies for their sick; nothing but the coarsest of victuals, and that without the necessary facilities for preparation or cooking; quacks coming from outside palming themselves off for doctors, throwing upon the hands of the few able-bodied an army of convalescents, with poisoned systems, aching bones and rattling teeth. We will let Dr. Van Raalte describe these trying days in his own words:

“The difficulties to contend with were many; still, the singing of psalms in the huts and under the bushes was something inexplicable to the superficial beholder; with many there was a faith in God, and a consciousness of a noble purpose. \*\*\*

“In the latter part of that first summer our trials reached their climax, for the whole colony became one bed of sickness, and many died through the want of comfortable dwellings and well prepared and suitable food. Physicians were summoned from abroad, and paid out of the colony funds. The condition was heart-rending and discouraging, and required, in opposition to man’s sensitive nature, a painful sternness. Never was I nearer to the point of despair than when I entered those crowded huts and saw the constant mingling of household duties amid sickness and death, and dressing of corpses in those huts where each family was forced to accommodate

itself to a limited space of a few square feet. No wonder that we could notice an increase of despairing indifference in that hour of sore affliction. God granted a change! The sick were restored to health.

"The fall was a most beautiful one, and the winter was so extraordinarily mild, that everybody could build and perform outdoor labors, and even partake of their meals in the open air. The majority left for the country, and to a great extent the weak and needy remained near the landing place." \* \* \*

The great mortality of that season among the colonists, had left them with many orphans on their hands, who were promptly taken in by other families and cared for. Their constant increase, however, led to the building of the orphan house, a project in perfect keeping with the spirit in which they had started out. One Sunday morning, a few months after the partial completion and occupation of the log church, Dr. Van Raalte suggested to his people the necessity that something of this kind should be done, and that forthwith. He urged it with all the power and force of language at his command. The result was the opening of a subscription list, and the pledging of money, labor and material.

The building was begun in May, 1848. Mr. W. J. Mulder was principally charged with superintending its construction. It was not completed until the year following; owing to various reasons, it has never been occupied for the purpose for which it was built. It was afterwards used for a parochial school, town house and Holland Academy, *De Hope* printing office, and is now unoc-

cupied. During the fall of 1847, the village of Holland was platted. The first surveys were made by E. B. Bassett, county surveyor of Allegan county. The administration and sale of the village lots was placed in charge of a board of trustees elected by the people of the *Volksvergadering*, of which Dr. Van Raalte was the head. As members of said board, we find the names of J. Schrader, J. Verhorst, J. Vanderveen, O. D. Van Der Sluis and B. Grootenhuis. We cannot go into all the minute details of those early real estate transactions. In their character they partook of the mutual spirit in which all the business of those days was transacted. The price of the village lots was first fixed at \$10 and \$15, but was soon raised to \$40 and \$45. This was found necessary in order to obtain funds for the building of church and school, the opening of roads, payments on the land, taxes, support of the poor, salaries of the dominie, doctor and teachers, and divers other purposes.

In 1849, matters pertaining to these village lands, became quite complicated. There was a heavy indebtedness incurred, which had to be met—payments on the land were due, an unpaid balance on that stock of goods of the "colony store" was presented, and many other causes of a financial character led the people to resolve that the village lands should revert to Dr. Van Raalte; coupled with the condition that he was to assume all the indebtedness incurred to date.

The opening of roads and the building of bridges across creeks and swamps, was a tremendous work in those early days, and it occupied about one-

half of the time and attention of the settlers. Want of experience was a great draw-back.

In 1847, the State made an appropriation of four hundred acres of land for the building of a bridge across Black river, commonly termed the "Grand Haven Bridge." No contractors could be found to take the job, and so the colonists, as a body, concluded to take the job themselves. How this was done, and in what manner the work was regulated, will be seen from the proceedings of the *Volksvergadering*. The work was begun in the winter of 1848, but towards the last the work began to drag, when Dr. Van Raalte and J. Binnekant took the job of finishing it. In the building of this bridge, Hon. F. J. Littlejohn, of Allegan, represented the State.

The postoffice was established in 1848, and named "Black River." Mr. H. D. Post was appointed postmaster. The first mail was a private route from Manlius, the nearest postoffice, and was brought in once a week. Mr. William Notting was the mail carrier, and brought it on his back to his house, when his wife would carry it to town. Very soon routes were established to Allegan, Grand Rapids and Grand Haven. The first regular mail carriers and stage drivers were J. Trimpe, Jan Van Dijk, P. F. Pfanstiehl, G. J. Haverkate.

The present cemetery was laid out, or rather designated as such, in 1848. Nevertheless, owing to the distance, and for want of roads and suitable burial arrangements, during the years 1847-8 many were buried in other localities, as necessity dictated. Besides those buried on Van Der Haar's farm, many were laid at the head of the lake

between 3d and 4th streets, where the old man DeWitt lived, who was the first sexton. A few are buried at Point Superior, several were buried at the mouth of Black Lake, on the hills north of the present harbor. The winds, however, so shifted those hills, that years ago these coffins became exposed.

Much that is interesting is centered around the first attempt at manufacturing by the colonists; also in their harbor, the improvement of which they considered as of primary interest; the organization of the first churches and their formal joining with the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of America, the opening of schools, the Holland Academy and Hope College, the history of township and city government, the proceedings of the *Volksvergadering*, the settlement of Zeeland and surrounding townships, the early history of Point Superior and of the Indian settlements, the development of our commerce and shipping interests, and many other points of local interest, each constituting its part of the history of this city and colony.

What we wish to call the attention to now, as a sort of a key to the past, is the great extent to which the colonists combined all their interests—religious, educational, political and social—into one, and placed them under one supervision; and how to that same extent the church and its religious interests were secondary to none, but, if anything, were made to underlie the entire network of their existence.

Finally, as we dismiss from our minds the local events of those memorable years, 1847 and 1848, let it be in the words of him to whom we have

endeavored to do honor as the founder of this Holland colony:

“And this sweet fruition of independence and full liberty which we so bountifully enjoyed, gave joy and strength to our hearts. Especially was it the pleasure of the Sabbath, the invigorating power of God’s truth, the united prayers and associated labor of many neighboring settlements, which gave enjoyment, support and courage, and caused us to persevere in a great and difficult undertaking. God’s temporal deliverances were many; each settlement and each family has a history of its own.”

#### THE GREAT FIRE OF 1871.

Up to 1867 the colony was a unit, and the close of the first score of years the village severed its connection with the township and became incorporated as a city, electing its first officers in 1868. The citizens became metropolitan, roads began to point towards the rising city, and large numbers of citizens of other nationalities began to flock in, increasing the wonderful influx of wealth and population. Ease and luxury obliterated the traces of pioneer life. On the 8th of October, 1871, the Sabbath church bells sounded the alarm of fire. For several days there had been signs of fire in the heavens, yet no alarm was excited until noon, when the wind freshened and increased the fires in the vicinity, and by night all were out fighting fire. The churches were closed, clergy and people fought the fire demon’s power side by side, but all was of no avail. At 2 o’clock in the morning following the cry was heard that the 3d church was on fire and all hope was abandoned, despair



seized upon all. In half an hour the city was a mass of flames, and with difficulty the people escaped with their lives from the fierce heat, the blinding smoke and the tempest of wind. In two hours the work of destruction was complete; Holland was in ashes; 243 houses with 76 business places were consumed. The toil of years was undone, and at first a feeling of despair for the future brooded upon the minds of the agitated sufferers. But this feeling soon passed away, and with hearts stout and brave they prepared for future trials and triumphs.

#### THE INDIANS.

Joseph Wakazoo's band of 300 Ottawa Indians were on the pay roll of the United States agent. Rev. Smith was the Presbyterian missionary, and Isaac Fairbanks, J. P., of Holland, was the farmer who taught them the art of agriculture, and they had some land cleared and planted in corn. They had a village three-fourths of a mile below Holland City, of which no traces now remain, as their structures were simply bark shanties and an old frame church. In 1848, they removed to Little Traverse and their empty huts were used by the Hollanders until better could be had. The Indians were chiefly Ottawas and the priest visited them periodically. They were generally quiet and orderly.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE TOWNSHIPS.

##### ALLENDALE.

Allendale was first organized March 15, 1849, towns 5 and 6 north, range 14 west, and that part of town 7 south of Grand river. The survey was first made in 1832. The first white settlers in the

township were Richard Roberts, his wife and a hired man. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts came to St. Clair from Wales, in 1837, and to Allendale in 1842. It is said that upon their arrival at Grand Haven they were so much discouraged that C. B. Albee and Nathan Troop each gave them a thousand feet of lumber, which was sent upon a pole boat up the river to the point where they were to build. Mr. Roberts built a log building, which for years afterwards was designated as the half-way house between Grand Haven and Grandville. In this forest home Mrs. Roberts did not see the face of a white woman for four months. Their eldest daughter, afterwards the wife of John Blake, was the first white child born in the territory of which the township is composed. Mr. Jones, a brother-in-law of Mr. Roberts, settled in the township soon after the Roberts' came.

When organized the township of Allendale consisted of its present territory and all of that territory of which Blendon and Zeeland were afterwards composed. In 1850 the vote for Governor in all that territory was only 36. In 1851, Zeeland township was constituted out of a part of the territory of Allendale, and in 1854, Blendon. The first town meeting was held at the house of Richard Roberts, and Jeremy Stubbs was the first supervisor. Allendale had its share of "wild-cat" towns. The first "city" platted in Allendale, was Ottawa. It was located on the south side of Grand river, on both sides of Ottawa creek. The plat was filed for record at Kalamazoo, December 29, 1835. The town—or the plat—contained about 550 lots. The site of the city of Ottawa was never favored with a building, and is to-day covered

with the most perfect forest to be found in Ottawa county. Dickinson & McFarlan were proprietors of the plat, and the land it covered is now a part of the Boltwood tract.

The village of Charleston was platted in 1836, and to-day forms a part of the farm of Mrs. Richard Roberts. At one time there was a saw mill, spoke factory, blacksmith shop, store, and several houses in this city. David Carver and A. L. White were the proprietors, and the plat shows between seven and eight hundred lots. The mill was moved to Grand Haven, and with its departure the fall of the town was rapid.

Warren City was another pioneer adventure, and found its location just west of Bass river, facing Grand river. A plat was made in 1837, which was entered in the plat book at the recorder's office; but it was never recorded; the streets were never named nor the blocks numbered; the names of the proprietors are not given on the plat, and the title was conveyed by the State some years after; so it is safe to conclude that the town was pre-eminently a paper town. David Smith, who married a half breed woman, lived for several years in Warren City; himself and wife and a large number of Indians constituting the population. In those days Grand river was lined with Indians, but at the present time Allendale is the only township in the county in which Indians are to be found. Quite a number camp near the mouth of Bass river. About 1840 the county commissioners located the county seat at Warren City, and never removed it. The town was never a success in the county seat business, but makes excellent fruit farms.

The early pioneers to follow Richard Roberts in the settlement of Allendale, were Thomas Jones, John Hanna and Ephraim Pearson, in 1843-4. Robert Scott came about the same time and did not remain long; but his brothers James and Alexander came and settled permanently. Robert returned again in two years. Alexander Milne came in 1845; Morris Reed located in 1847.

For many years a large part of the land in the township was held by speculators. This retarded the development of the farming lands for a time, but to-day it is one of the most prosperous farming townships in any county.

The Methodist society was the first organized in the township, in 1851, with nine members. Rev. William Comfort, Joseph Burlingame, Johnson Balcom, Alexander Milne, with their wives, and Lucy J. Spear. At that time Rev. William C. Comfort lived upon what is now the George Wells farm, located just west of Eastmanville. Mr. Comfort was a relative of the Hopkins', and for many years preached, as he was called, in all parts of the county. About 1854 a class of Wesleyan Methodists was organized by Rev. Albert Maxfield. The original society ceased to exist, and the new one has grown from that time until the present. In 1872 the Congregationalists organized a society. They have a commodious church edifice a mile east of Allendale Center.

A young man named Burton was the first school teacher in the township, and he received the princely salary of ten dollars a month.

Thomas Jones was the first postmaster and held the office for many years.

George Latham came to Ottawa county in 1841.

Steele's grocery, at Lamont, was then the only one between Grand Rapids and Grand Haven; and the only school between those two places was at Lamont. Mr. Latham has a farm in Allendale. Henry C. Cooley came to Allendale in 1846. H. A. Cooley, of Allendale, settled in Talmadge in 1845. John E. Blake was for many years a prominent resident of Allendale. He represented his township upon the board of supervisors, and his district in the state legislature.

Giles T. Woodbury, one of the early settlers of the county, retired from a partnership with C. B. Albee, at Grand Haven, and settled upon a farm in Allendale.

George C. Rice came to the county in 1848; J. B. Foster came in 1846; Levi S. Jackson in 1846; James Stoddard in 1845.

#### BLENDON TOWNSHIP.

Blendon was set off from Allendale, Jan. 4, 1854, and its first township meeting was held April 3, 1854, at which the following officers were chosen: supervisor, A. H. Vredenburg; clerk, J. R. Hall; treasurer, W. S. Woodruff.

For many years its chief interests were the pine lumber and mills. John Ball was one of the first white men to explore the forests of Blendon township. It was in 1836 that he located the 41 eighty acre lots off of which the Blendon company afterwards lumbered for years.

#### CHESTER TOWNSHIP.

The township of Chester was surveyed in 1837, but was not organized until 1848. The bill constituting it an independent township is dated March 11, 1848. The territory was put upon the

market as early as 1839, but if history is correct it had no settlers to speak of until 1845, when quite a number of families located. Phillip Fahling, Jacob Brown, Otis Irish, Wm. A. Irish, O. H. Merrick, Henry Austin, Samuel Austin, and several others came in 1845; and in 1846 we find Adam Lachman, A. D. Batson, James Rowilson, Conrad Kritzer, John Pintler, Edward Gardner, George Irish, Daniel Thurston and others. Samuel H. Averill, John Kies, and the Bennetts were also among the first settlers. The first child born in the township, it is claimed, was a daughter of Phillip Fahling. The first school house in the township was on section 25, built of logs, and used as a house of worship as well as for a house of instruction. The township was first organized as a part of Talmadge, in 1838, as a part of Wright in 1847, and as an independent township in 1848.

The first township meeting was held at the house of John McLane, who was chosen supervisor; O. H. Merrick, clerk and also justice of the peace; George Irish, assessor. There were but nine voters present. Two years later the township cast 53 votes for governor.

#### CROCKERY TOWNSHIP.

Manley Patchin, who came in 1836, was probably the first white settler within the present limits of Crockery. Charles T. Gibbs came to Grand Haven in 1837, but did not remove to Crockery until 1844. William Hathaway, Jr., and Josephus Hathaway settled within the territory of which the town was afterwards composed, in 1839. The township was first organized in connection with Spring Lake, as the town of Norton,

in honor of Colonel Amos Norton. The first meeting was held at Nortonville in 1845. Colonel Norton was elected supervisor; Dr. Timothy Eastman, surveyor; Richard M. Mason, Richard Hathaway, and C. T. Gibbs, commissioners of highways, who soon opened a road through Spring Lake and Crockery.

The township of Crockery was formed out of a part of the territory of Norton, March 15, 1849. The first town meeting was held at the residence of William Hathaway, who was made the first supervisor, and Mr. Hathaway and Manly Patchin were elected justices also. Crockery consists of all of town 8 north, range 15 west, north of Grand river and a fraction of 7, 15 west, north of Grand river.

William Hathaway (called Judge Hathaway) was not only prominently identified with the early settlement of Crockery, but of Ottawa county. He came from Claremount, Mass., to Grand Haven in 1837; and to the mouth of Crockery creek in November, 1839. There he lived king of the realm for six years. During these six years he farmed, made shingles and lumbered. He received from one dollar to one fifty a thousand for shingles, and from two dollars to two fifty a thousand for logs, delivered at Grand Haven. At one time Mrs. Hathaway did not see a white woman for four months. "They had Indian neighbors with whom they always lived upon the friendliest terms. At the time Hathaway settled, there were no roads of any kind. The river was the only thoroughfare. As in all parts of the country at that early date, the tangled fallen timber, the swamps and the ravines, rendered

traveling other than on foot out of the question. Most of the land in the township was state land. Settlers generally located land on state scrip, which they bought for from fifty to sixty cents on the dollar, paying nominally \$1.25 per acre. Some of the land in Crockery was located upon the 1812 soldier's bounty warrants. This region escaped the eye of the land speculators of 1836-7, and when the land was bought it was by those who meant to occupy it. The three Patchin brothers had a lumbering job for Ringuette & Boland, and put the first pine logs into Grand river out of Crockery territory in 1838. Boland was a half-breed Indian who lived with Charles Oakes at Grandville; who Ringuette was history sayeth not.

About 1840 Henry Dusenbury located, and soon after built a mill upon Crockery creek. He was afterwards killed in California. William W. Kanouse came in 1840 or 1841; he was afterwards well known in Grand Haven. In 1844 Charles T. Gibbs and Charles Rose came; and in the winter and spring of 1845 Barrenger, Van Dyke, and Uriah Hellums appeared. In 1846 came Silas O. and Theron F. Hunter, and Ebenezer and Arza Bartholomew. Theron F. Hunter settled upon the site of his present farm and home May 4, 1847. Battle Point, in Crockery township on Grand River, was a great camping ground for Indians. The name would indicate that it was a "point" of historical note, but alas, it derived its name from a pugilistic encounter in an early day between Dusenbury and Kanouse over a pre-emption claim.



The first school district in Crockery was organized upon Theron F. Hunter's wood pile in front of his house in 1849.

NUNICA.

Nunica, the only village of Crockery, was first platted by Henry Ernst, August 25, 1865, and several additions were afterwards platted. Crockery derived its name from the fact that Indian pottery or earthenware was found at the mouth of Crockery creek; Nunica is also the Indian name for Crockery.

E. Vandrezer, father of Lumon Vandrezer, built the (afterwards Wm. Thompson mill) on Crockery creek in 1845. The Dusenbury mill was about four miles farther up the creek. Mr. Vandrezer moved to Ionia in 1848, and then came to Grand Haven in 1861.

While Joseph Smith was building up the city of Nauvoo, and in the year 1842 Mr. Vandrezer was a resident of Illinois and obtained a charter of the Mormons to ferry across the river. This charter he traded to William L. May for 46 lots on Clark, Dearborn and Randolph streets, Chicago. He also owned considerable property in Carpenter's addition to the city of Chicago. They, however, passed out of his hands many years too soon.

O. P. Gordon and family were among the early residents of Crockery.

About 1850 E. Jubb and family came and settled near the mouth of Crockery on the east side.

Mrs. William Hathaway resides upon the old Hathaway farm a mile south of Nunica. She was born in 1804.

H. D. Scott settled in Crockery in 1849 and his brother Richard in 1850. Mrs. H. D. Scott is a sister of the late Miner Hedges of Lamont. Richard Scott was killed by a runaway team on Hathaway hill about 1875.

Among the earlier settlers of Crockery are the Plant families on section 21 and 28. Joseph and Benjamin Murray, brothers, settled on section 25 in the spring of 1853, coming from Oneida county, New York.

The Griswolds, Alexander Karney and John Pluves were among the early residents of Ottawa Center.

John Hutchinson Davison came to Grand Haven in 1836, where he remained until 1850, when he settled in Crockery. He was born in Eastern Pennsylvania in 1812 and was familiarly known as "Bob" Davison.

John Spoon was born in Seneca county, N. Y. in 1820 and remained upon his father's farm until twenty-one years of age, then learned the carpenter's trade and came to Crockery in 1856. When he located at Spoonville the burg consisted of one log house which Mr. and Mrs. Spoon occupied. He immediately built a mill and soon after his present residence. To Mr. Spoon belonged the distinction of owning the largest farm in Ottawa county; it contains 848 acres, seven hundred of which are improved. He made a specialty of blooded Durham cattle, and in 1891 wintered 140 head, and about thirty head of horses.

Mr. Spoon has ever been a valuable resident of his township and county, and would have been elected to county and perhaps state offices many

times had he allowed his friends to use his name. Mr. Spoon died April 26, 1892.

Sidney Lawrence settled in the county in 1849, and has always been considered a leading citizen of Crockery. He held the office of supervisor several terms.

Henry W. Cleveland settled in Spring Lake in 1856. He was the first recorder of that town under the village charter. He held the office of justice of the peace 12 years, and was township clerk several years. He located in the drug business at Nunica in 1874, and held the office of postmaster and supervisor several terms.

Jacob Easterly lives on section 28 and came to Crockery in 1865. He takes considerable interest in local politics and his presence is assured in Democratic conventions.

Daniel Spoon came to Spoonville in 1856 and is a brother of John Spoon, with whom he has been associated in business since his arrival in Michigan.

Theron Hunter was born in Jefferson county, New York in 1815, came to Marshall, Michigan, in 1846, and to Crockery in 1847. He has been prominently identified with his township since its organization.

Arza Bartholomew came to Crockery soon after the Hunters, where he resided until his death.

John T. McMann came to Crockery in 1847 and during the war made an excellent army record. He was promoted to second and then first lieutenant.

William Mines came with his father Mathias Mines and family to Grand Haven in 1852. Their

first work was cutting wood for John T. Davis, opposite Lamont. He came to Crockery in 1859.

Dr. J. S. Wright came to Nunica in 1875 from Indiana, and has a large practice.

Allen Seymour came to the township in 1855.

The Hunter settlement derives its name from Theron F. Hunter, and the descendants of his brother Silas O. Hunter, several sons of the latter having settled and cleared up farms in the neighborhood.

Ottawa Center was platted on the river in the south-east corner of the township in 1855, by Benjamin Smith, and December 22, 1856, Benjamin Smith and Apollos Griswold's addition was recorded. The town arose to sufficient dignity at one time to support a saw mill, store and saloon, but its prosperity went with the saw-mill. A schooner was built there, and a river craft called the Henry R. Williams. Miss Lucy Bates taught a select school there for a time in 1859. She was a sister of Fred Ranney's last wife. The Ranneys lived upon the Dixon place at that time. Frank Godfroy was at one time interested with Smith in Ottawa Center. William M. Bruce was one of the first settlers in Crockery. He built a mill south-west of Nunica on the river.

There were many other early settlers of which we have been unable to obtain information.

William Thompson settled upon the Thompson farm in 1843.

#### GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP.

In 1839, Georgetown, consisting of four townships—5 and 6 north, 13 and 14 west—was authorized to organize by the state legislature.

However, it seems that it must have failed to take advantage of the authority granted, as in 1840 the legislature authorized the attachment to Ottawa in case it was not organized. In the early history of Georgetown its limits were changed almost every year. Georgetown was an extension of the Grandville settlement. Grandville, in Kent county, and Jenisonville, just over the line into Georgetown, are really one village. They are one settlement divided by a county line. It is said that the first settler over the line in Georgetown was an old bachelor, Lorenzo French, who settled in 1835. The first family was that of Lemuel Jenison, who came with his wife and four children the same year. Lemuel Jenison was killed by a falling tree in 1837. His wife died in 1840. They were the parents of the Jenisons whose large and successful business operations have long since made their names familiar to the public generally. The early history of Georgetown is a history of lumbering operations. The leading lumbermen were the Jenisons; others were: Galen Eastman, John Haire and the Weatherwaxes. Georgetown contributed a vast amount of pine to the lumber trade of early days. There was for a long time but a sparse population in the township. In 1845 there were but 133 persons, and in 1850 but 196, which proves that the township was not building permanent homes very fast.

Among the prominent residents of Georgetown in 1843 the following names appear: The Jenisons, Freman Burton, Charles Corey, E. F. Bosworth and Stephen L. Lowing. At that time there were but two homes in Jenisonville, Sey-

mour Cunningham and Francis Spear. Booth Perry, Jonathan Scott and Andrew Rowles came soon after. The first school was number 1, on section eight. It was organized in 1845. The building was a frame one and cost \$112. Miss Ann Evarts, now Mrs. Wm. N. Angell, of Grand Haven, was the first teacher. The second school was organized soon after and taught by Miss Bemis, afterwards Mrs. Avery Brittain, of Grandville.

In 1838 the first mills, a gang saw mill and a grist mill, were built at Jenison, by George Ketchum. He bought a large tract of land and embarked in an extensive business, but his grist mill was destroyed by fire; he failed and went to California. The Jenisons bought the water power and 1,200 acres of land. Hiram Jenison ran the first lumber raft down Grand River.

Blendon Landing was quite a thriving little burg for some years, located on the river in the north-west part of the town. A mill was located here and a ship yard. The following schooners were built at Blendon: Wright, Eveline, Lumberman, George W. Wescott. Jenisonville lies in the north-east corner of the town on Grand river, and was platted by Dorr Skeels and L. & L. Jenison, May 20, 1885. The plat of L. & L. Jenison's addition was recorded August 20, 1890. Hudsonville was platted April 3, 1890.

#### GRAND HAVEN TOWNSHIP.

As the city of Grand Haven was not organized until 1867 of course the early settlement of Grand Haven township is identical with the early settlement of Grand Haven. The pioneers of

the city were the first settlers of Ottawa township, the name of which was changed to Grand Haven in 1863. Ottawa township was organized March 6, 1838, or soon after Michigan became a state. When organized it consisted of all the territory of which Ottawa county was afterwards composed, excepting two congressional townships of which Talmadge at that time consisted. It was divided and sub-divided and finally its name was taken, for the county. Grand Haven township contains over sixteen thousand acres of taxable land, which is being now rapidly improved.

Along the lake shore in this township the sand hills arise to the dignity of mountains. Rosy mountain, one of the highest hills, has become widely celebrated. From its giddy height Grand Rapids, Holland and Muskegon may be seen on a clear day.

The year previous to the organization of the city the officers of Grand Haven township were: Supervisor, R. W. Duncan; clerk, John Fuite; treasurer, Jacob Deboe. Among the early settlers of Grand Haven township outside of the city limits are John Behm, who came to the county in 1844; John Mastenbroek, 1853; Cornelius Nordhuis and sons, 1850; Daniel O'Connell, 1849; Nicholas Saul, father of Fred, Theodore and Henry Saul, settled in the township in 1854. The old gentleman died in the spring of 1891, aged eighty-eight years. Theodore is dead. Henry Saul has always taken a lively interest in the public affairs of the township, and ably represented his constituents upon the board of supervisors. James Edward is a prominent business man of Agnew, and his brother Joseph is

prominently identified with his locality in public matters. Agnew, formerly Johnsville, was platted under the name of the "Village of Agnew," May 16, 1889, by Edward E. Stites. Agnew is a thriving village on the Chicago & West Michigan railway. Edward & Churchill have a flourishing saw mill and box factory, G. W. Harris runs the postoffice and a substantial hotel and De Los Barrows operates a general store.

Grand Haven township has five school districts with good substantial school houses and a good town hall.

The Van Doorne brothers are quite prominently identified with the affairs of the township, and Cyrus Harris is well known as a fruit grower. He came to the county in 1866, and is now seventy-three years of age.

George W. Aiken is authority on everything in the line of market gardening. He was born in Rumney, New Hampshire, in 1846, sailed until 1875, when he settled in the township. Those who are in the habit of complaining about sandy soil should take a few lessons from Mr. Aiken upon his premises. He has ample proof at hand that market gardening and farming can be successfully done on sandy soil.

Peach Plains just south and east of Grand Haven city limits, comprises about 2,000 acres of land that have become famous as a fruit region.

The pioneer of Peach Plains was Hon. Townsen E. Gidley. He purchased 2,000 acres, about one third of the lands of the Robert Stewart estate, in the spring of 1868, and sold it off in fruit farms. Mr. Gidley settled in central Michigan in 1833, and was at one time one of the heaviest



producers of agriculture and horticultural products in the state. In the second year of his residence in the state he was selected one of the delegates to form a constitution for the state of Michigan. He was a member of the first Michigan legislature, and held a seat in either house for fifteen or more sessions. He was one of the five presidential electors in the Scott campaign, and ran for governor against Robert McLellan in 1852. He died October 8, 1888. Andrew M. Cole settled in Grand Haven township in 1876. He first settled in the state at Battle Creek in 1863. He is a successful fruit grower.

Walter Phillips has a fine fruit farm in Peach Plains. Mr. Phillips is authority on fruit and grape culture.

Hon. D. B. Conger was a successful fruit grower in Peach Plains for about fourteen years. He was at one time a prominent lawyer in Wisconsin, member of the legislature of that state two terms, and an efficient army officer. Johannes Goudberg came to Grand Haven in 1853, G. R. Harris in 1871, John Goudberg in 1854, Peter Smith in 1873, Levi Tracy in 1867.

#### HOLLAND TOWNSHIP.

Holland township was organized by act of legislature March 16th, 1847. The first township meeting was held at the home of Dr. Van Raalte, April 2, 1849. H. D. Post was elected chairman of the board of inspectors and James Walker and William Z. Bronson inspectors, and Charles D. Shenick, clerk. The following were all the voters present: H. D. Post, Josiah Martin, Wm. Z. Bronson, Ira Manley, Asa Haynes,

Benjamin Brist, H. G. Post, Alvin V. Benham, Jos. James Walker and Charles D. Shenick. The small number of voters is accounted for by the fact that but a small number of the voters were naturalized. The first township officers were: Supervisor, H. D. Post; Wm. Z. Bronson, clerk; H. G. Post, treasurer; James Walker, Asa Haynes, Josiah Martin and H. G. Post, justices of the peace. Twenty-five dollars was ordered to be raised for township expenses. At the next year's township meeting there were only three voters present: H. G. and H. D. Post and Wm. J. Bronson. The same officers held over, but the next year 260 voters were present.

The first settler in the township was said to be Gilbert Crammer afterwards a resident of Kalamazoo. It is said that he located in the township long before the Holland settlement. Isaac Fairbanks located in 1845.

The first religious worship in Holland township was in the open air, but before the close of 1847, it is said there were six church organizations and several schools.

The first Holland wind mill was built at the head of Black lake in 1852 by W. K. Flietstra and successfully ran a saw mill. In 1848 Oswald Vanderhuis put up a saw mill at north Holland, and a grist mill was also erected between Holland and Zeeland.

Alfred Plugger, a benevolent Hollander, it is said, advanced large sums of money to assist his countrymen without means, in locating.

Macatawa was a paper town located in Holland township in 1836. The proprietors of the plat were Theodore D. Lyman, James T. Allen, Wm.

R. Thompson and Daniel Godfrey. No improvements worth mentioning were ever made.

New Groninger on section 23 was platted in March, 1858, by A. Borges and H. Ten Have.

#### PORTSMOUTH.

On the site of the present popular summer resort, Ottawa Beech, between the years 1835-40, the city of Portsmouth was built upon paper only. It died before it lived.

#### JAMESTOWN TOWNSHIP.

This township was set off from Georgetown, March 15, 1849. From the records the fact is gleaned that there were only thirteen voters in the township when organized. Their names were Monsieur Brown, his son James M. Brown, Nathan W. Charles and David Richardson, James and James M. Cronkright, James Skeeles, George D. and August Donnelly, S. L. Gitchell, Andrew Frieze and Andrew Frieze, Jr.

The first officers were: Supervisor, James Skeels; clerk, James M. Brown; treasurer, James M. Cronkright; justices, G. G. Donnelly, Charles Richardson, James Cronkright, Nathan W. Richardson. They raised \$125.

The early settlers of Jamestown had to either carry their provisions in from Grandville on their backs or pull it through the woods on sledges. Deer and other game were abundant. Mr. Hermit killed 86 in one winter. The first school was established in the township in 1851. The pioneer preacher was A. B. Tows, a Free Will Baptist. The first school teacher—in 1851—was Elizabeth Bates.

## EX-PRESIDENT GARFIELD'S ONLY BROTHER.

“There is a pathetic meagerness and retirement in the life of Thomas A. Garfield, the only brother of ex-President Garfield, which vividly shows the possibilities of American life and the partiality of fate.

For a quarter of a century the brother of the martyred president has lived in obscurity on a small farm in Jamestown. He has no more property now than he had twenty years ago, and it is claimed by his friends that he remained poor all his life because of early sacrifices made for his great brother and for the simple minded Grandma Garfield.

His, they say, was a heroism as loyal and noble as that of his brother. Thomas is now sixty-seven, bent and worn with life's long struggle.

The Garfield homestead lies six miles from Byron Center, and is a garden spot, hewn in the woods when Michigan was just doffing its swaddling clothes. The house is a modest one, built in 1877. The money for its construction was sent from the White house to replace the old log house destroyed by fire that year, and the gift was heartily made by the president, who always remembered that his start in life was due to his brother.

The family on the little farm consists of Mrs. Garfield and James Abram Garfield, who is forty years old and the very image of his illustrious uncle. He was born upon the same Ohio farm as the ex-president, has the same high forehead and the same features and form. The house is very humble, and the walls of the plain little

parlor are covered with portraits of James A. and Grandma Garfield. Thomas became the support of the Garfield family when he was but ten years old, the father dying and leaving them nothing but a farm. The boy left his district school and took up his father's work. It was a hard scramble for bread, and sister, mother and brother all learned what it was to split rails. Thomas chopped wood for twenty-five cents a cord and worked all winter at this rate. James was the baby then. Later they all scraped and saved to help pay Jimmy's way at the Chester academy.

Thomas sold the Ohio farm in 1854, and then moved to Michigan. For three years he lived the life of a pioneer.

When the war broke out he tried to enlist with his brother James, but the recruiting officer rejected him and he remained at home. In 1867 he began life for himself, having spent thirty years in working for his mother, sister and brother. He is not in the best of health, and it will probably be but a short time before the old pioneer will be laid away in the woods he loves so well.

#### OLIVE TOWNSHIP.

The township of Olive was organized January 5, 1857. The first officers were: G. C. Jones, supervisor; J. M. Fellows, clerk; K. Warner, treasurer; Stephen Baxter, Arend Smith, J. B. Eastway, highway commissioners; Hendrik Van Balgoojen, James B. Eastway, Timothy Tainter, Warner Semple, justices of the peace; K. Warner, school inspector; John Vantongem, overseer of poor; Stephen Coleman, Jan Hofman, Wm. Timers,

constables. Port Sheldon was in the territory of Olive township, and with the exception of its settlement there was little done in the township until its organization. The early history of Olive is similar to and a part of the early history of Allendale and Robinson on the north and Holland on the south; when organized as a distinct township it was set off from Holland.

Many of its permanent settlers are Hollanders, who pushed their way into the township from the Holland settlement. Among the earliest settlers of other nationalities were August Names, a native of Saxony, who came to the township from Ohio in 1856. He states that at that time there were no settlers in the north part of the township.

James Eastway and his three sons—William, Samuel, Alfred—and Gale Burgess, Joel M. Fellows, (son-in-law of Eastway), and Thomas S. Finch, came at the same time, most of them with families.

The Eastways were Edwin, Elias and Egbert. All except Egbert Eastway and Gale Burgess took land under the graduation act, paying fifty cents an acre for it. At the time they came into the north part of the township a few Hollanders were already settled in the southern part.

That portion of the history of Olive so far as it relates to the Hollanders, is fully set forth in the history of the Holland settlement. The meeting at which the township was organized was held at the house of William P. Bakker, of Port Sheldon. There were fifty-five voters present. One hundred dollars were raised for township expenses.

The early settlers did little for some time in the way of cultivating the soil. They made shingles and drew them to Grand river and exchanged them for supplies first, and later engaged in lumbering. They had no schools or school houses until 1863, when two were built. The first school in district number two was kept by a Miss Tate, of Georgetown. In 1861 the township suffered greatly from forest fires.

For many years the pigeon roosts of Olive in the vicinity of the site of old Port Sheldon were a great attraction to people inclined to sporting. For several years during the hatching season the forest would be alive with pigeons. They were killed with clubs, and caught with nets and shipped away by car loads. In those days the pigeon roosts of Olive were famous the country over.

Ottawa Station on section three and four was platted in 1873. West Olive was platted in 1870.

#### POLKTON TOWNSHIP.

By an act of the legislature, March 19, 1845, the organization of the township of Polkton was authorized. It contained, at first, the territory of four townships—5, 6, 7, 8 north, range 14 west. The first township meeting was called at the house of Dr. Timothy Eastman, at Eastmanville, April 14, 1845, and adjourned to the school house near by. Dr. Eastman was chosen moderator, and Robert F. Tracy, clerk. Nineteen voters were present. The following officers were elected: Timothy Eastman, supervisor; John N. Hopkins, clerk; Paschal Maxfield, treasurer; Paschal Maxfield, Timothy Eastman, R. F. Tracy, Benjamin

Hopkins, justices. Twenty offices were filled, of which Timothy Eastman had three; Benjamin Hopkins, three; Ephraim Pearson,—; Robert Tracy and Charles Wiley, each two.

The names of 16 out of the 19 voters present are upon the records as follows: Timothy Eastman, Paschal Maxfield, Robert F. Tracy, Justice Stiles, Charles Wiley, Stephen Morse, Warren Streeter, Joseph Burlingame, John N. Hopkins, Daniel Realy, Ephraim Pearson, David Stanton, Paul Averill, John Gardner, James Charles. One hundred dollars were raised for township purposes. In 1847, the vote of the town was 47; in 1848, 26; in 1849, 35. During this time, however, the territory was undergoing changes.

With the exception of the vicinity of Eastmanville, the early settlement of Polkton is identical with that of Talmadge. The early settlers pushed out from Steele's landing, north, east and west, into the forest and located upon the lands, and afterwards found themselves either in Talmadge, Wright or the north-eastern part of Polkton. Timothy D. and Benjamin Lillie cut their own road into the forest north-west from the landing in 1843, cleared up big farms upon which they resided for almost a half a century, and contributed no small share to the thriving and industrious Lillie population that are to be found in several townships of the county. As the townships were finally divided they found themselves in Wright, near the line of Polkton.

Richard Platt came into Polkton territory in 1844; Silvius Waters came in 1844, and afterwards found his farm in the south-east corner of Wright. Mr. Waters was identified with the early settle-



ment of Spring Lake. He was a machinist and engineer far in advance of his time. We quote the following regarding the early settlers from "Memorials of the Grand River Valley:" "Of the settlers as early as 1848, locating in the vicinity of Coopersville, we are enabled to give the names of the following: Chauncey and Justice Stiles, Warren Streeter (transient), Peter McNaughton, Richard Stiles, Abraham Peck, Josiah T. Lawton, Walter McEwing, (the latter first to settle where Coopersville was afterwards located, in 1845), Sylvester Jackson, Ephraim Doane (transient, afterwards murdered at St. Louis), Henry Garter (transient), Paul Averill, a Canadian, who left that country on account of the "Patriot war;" Daniel W. Scott, who established a tannery—the first between Grand Rapids and Grand Haven, on Dorr creek, a mile and a half south-east of Coopersville; Edward Streeter, John Averill, John N. Hopkins, and William Platt.

In the early days Grand river was the only public thoroughfare across the county, and naturally that part of the county lying along the river developed more rapidly than the interior. Polkton was no exception to the rule, and the lands in the northern part of the township were improved but slowly until the Detroit & Milwaukee railway was built. The nearest school was Eastmanville until 1853. Then Miss Eliza B. Torrey—afterwards Mrs. Daniel W. Scott—taught a school of ten scholars in a log house without windows, about a mile north of where Coopersville now stands. Among the first settlers in the south-west part of Polkton—near Ottawa Center, just over the line in Crockery—were N. C. Sev-

erence, Samuel Smith, Jacob Potts, the Castles, Alex Karney, John Pluves.

#### EASTMANVILLE.

The vicinity of Eastmanville was first settled in 1835, by Dr. Scranton, who also resided a while in Port Sheldon, and by J. V. Hopkins and Benjamin Hopkins, with their families. Dr. Timothy Eastman was the most prominent early settler of Eastmanville. He came from Maine to Grand Haven in 1835, and located at Eastmanville a few years later. He and his sons, George, Galen and Mason, were for many years the most prominent men in the township of Polkton. Dr. Eastman was a valuable all-around man in the early days of Ottawa county. Being a good physician, he prescribed for the early settlers when ill; interpreted the law for them when they failed to agree, and acted as surveyor for them when they wanted to find the metes and boundaries of their lands. He served in many township offices, and at one time as County Judge. For many years Eastmanville was a live town. The town was first platted in 1855 by Dr. Timothy Eastman and sons, George, Galen and Mason, and Louis Kenyon. Afterwards came Galen Eastman's addition, and later Thomas Hefferan's addition, in 1872. Jacob DeHaan platted Newberg, about a half mile east of Eastmanville, in 1857. Newberg had a brief existence and really consisted of a spoke factory and small boarding house.

Eastmanville supported the county newspaper, *The Grand River Times*, for a few months in the early days of county seat wars. The Eastmanville hotel was built in 1855, by John Denton.

The Eastmans built a saw mill in an early day, which was continued for many years. A ship yard was also successfully run and many fine lake craft built at different times.

Among the early settlers prominent in Polkton township affairs in an early day were Simeon Hazelton, H. C. Durphy, Mark Richards, Joel A. Walter, the Sumners, Edwin Thayer, Daniel Reely, Thomas Hefferan, Joseph Brown, D. R. Spencer, James Cilley, the Stiles, Rev. William C. Comfort, and others.

#### DENNISON.

Dennison was first developed by the construction of a saw mill, by a man named Hatch, and until the D., G. H. & M. railway was built, was known as Hatcher mill.

Many of the early settlers of Polkton came from St. Lawrence county, New York.

#### COOPERSVILLE.

Benjamin F. Cooper, of Utica, New York, bought the section upon which Coopersville now stands in the spring of 1845. No improvements were made upon it until the Detroit & Milwaukee railway was built. Mr. Cooper gave them the undivided half of 160 acres, providing they would locate a depot upon it, call it Coopersville, and make no other depot nearer than five miles within five years. He sent his two sons to build up the town. They came, staid four years, opening a store and building a saw mill, failed and returned to Utica. Mr. Cooper became discouraged and did nothing more. After his death the property was bought by W. F. Storrs, George W. Danforth, Charles Hosmer and A. C. Ellis. From this the place began to grow and is still growing.

## ROBINSON TOWNSHIP.

Robinson was established as an independent township January 8, 1856. The first meeting was held at the house of Ira Robinson, and John W. Barnard was elected supervisor; E. G. Robinson, clerk; W. Furgerson, treasurer; J. Hazard, W. H. Wood, A. Robinson and F. T. Ranney, justices. The territory of which Robinson is composed was first settled by six brothers of Rix Robinson, with their families, forty-two in all. They came around the lakes to Grand Haven in 1835 on the schooner St. Joseph. The six brothers were Nathan, Edward, Rodney, Lucas, John and Ira. Rodney and Lucas removed to Flat river after about three years. After the Robinsons and before 1839, W. F. Wood, J. and H. Connor, Al. Trumbull, James Black, Joseph Lemon, Deck Ranney and Mr. Harlenburg. Charles H. Clark came in 1853.

The first school was in district number one and first organized in 1850. The second at Barnard's Corners in 1857, and the following year number three was organized at the Clark school house.

M. C. French was one of the first settlers of Ottawa county. He came to Allendale in 1845, and moved to Robinson in 1881.

## SPRING LAKE TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE.

The history of Spring Lake begins with the arrival of Colonel Amos Norton at Nortonville in 1837, where he immediately commenced the construction of a saw mill. Soon after his arrival came Jabez Barber and Richard Mason, who helped complete the mill. The three pioneers left Canada during the disturbances of 1836.

Barber and Mason built the Barber mill at Mill Point (Spring Lake) in 1844. Barber made a trip to England and on his way back perished in the ill-fated ocean steamer, Pacific, in 1854.

The township of Norton was organized in 1839, and the first postoffice in the township was at Nortonville. The Nortons consisted of Colonel Amos and son George, and for ten years they practically controlled the township.

In 1849 the name of the township was changed from Norton to Spring Lake, the balance of power having moved from Nortonville over to the Mill Point settlement. The first meeting of the electors for the organization of Spring Lake township was held at the school house near Barber's mill April 2, 1849. Twenty-nine electors were present. S. C. Hopkins was elected supervisor; M. L. Hopkins, clerk; L. M. S. Smith, treasurer. Justices of the peace elected were: G. G. Lovell, G. S. Miller and Jedediah Brown; Wm. M. Ferry, Jr., and P. P. Cady were elected directors of the poor. One hundred dollars were voted for township expenses. At the township election of 1850 but twelve voters were present, all of whom voted for Wm. M. Ferry, Jr., for supervisor; M. L. Hopkins, clerk, and L. M. S. Smith, treasurer.

In 1851 J. V. Hopkins was elected supervisor, forty-six voters being present. In 1852 there were eighty-one voters present and Amos Norton was elected supervisor; A. S. Norton, clerk. In 1853 but sixteen voters turned out to township election and G. L. Norton was made supervisor.

In 1853, June 20, a special election was held submitting the question of liquor prohibition to

the people. Forty-two votes were recorded in favor of the measure, one against, and two ballots were marked "Free trade and sailors' rights." The Hopkins Bros. built the third mill in the township in an early day, and soon after built a second one; and about that time, 1849-50, the old White mill was built and a mill at Ferrysburg. The first store in the town was at Nortonville, and the second upon the dock at Barber's Mill; the Hopkins' ran a store in the neighborhood of where the Spring Lake house now stands. Rev. L. M. S. Smith ran a store in those times, and the postoffice in the building still standing across the street from the Newcomb residence. The Newcombs have lived in their present home forty-two years. Mr. John H. Newcomb was born in New York state in 1811. He came to Muskegon in 1837, where, having learned the trade of mill wright, he built a saw mill, and in 1841 came to Mill Point, and built the first mill for Barber & Mason, and also the first frame house in the place. Mr. and Mrs. Newcomb were married in Chicago in 1848. The first store upon what is now the main street of Spring Lake was in the building now occupied by Martin Walsh. The building was built and stocked by a man from Chicago named Bebe, who afterwards sold to Captain Harry Miller and his son-in-law George Osgood. Mr. Newcomb finally bought them out and ran the store on his own account for some time. Mr. Newcomb died March 22, 1892.

All that remains to proclaim the history of the Nortons in Spring Lake is a cemetery lot full of neglected graves, and several pieces of a marble

slab, from which one can read by placing the pieces together: Caroline F. Norton, died March 7, 1853, aged 35 years, 2 months and 16 days. "A virtuous wife and beloved mother, the precepts taught by the deceased while living, are more lasting than any marble structure, for verily the living speak for the departed." The colonel and George died several years later, and the foundation remains to show that there was once a marble slab at the head of George's grave, but the slab has departed, where, no one knows.

Joseph Finch and John Webster with their families, related, came to Spring Lake in 1848 from England, and ever after proved valuable citizens to the community. Thomas Finch and the Bensteads came a little later. The Hopkins Bros.—Silas, John V., Hannibal A., Franklin and Mordecai—sons of Benjamin Hopkins, who settled at Scranton, just west of Eastmanville, in 1837, were prominently identified with the early history of Spring Lake. They were for many years engaged in the lumber business.

The Presbyterian church society was the first organized in Spring Lake, February 12, 1853. At the time of its organization there were five members, George G. Lovell, L. M. S. Smith, Anna H. Smith, Miss Lydia Norton and Harriet J. Franklin. From this small beginning they grew into a strong society and for many years have worshiped in a church edifice that is a credit to the village.

In 1862 twelve or fifteen people embracing the Methodist faith organized a society. Services were held in the school house for a couple of

years, and then the Methodist and Presbyterian societies bought a partly constructed church of the Holland people, completed it, and occupied it jointly. After five years this building burned, the Methodists bought the ground and built a neat and commodious church edifice, which was dedicated in 1872.

The Baptist society completed their neat church edifice in 1869, and at the present time the First Reformed, Christian Reformed and Catholic societies all have creditable churches.

As at Grand Haven the founders of Spring Lake failed to foresee how much territory the town would ultimately cover, and by 1869 their first cemetery laid very near the middle of the village. In that year a beautiful tract was secured just east of the village limits, and platted. The bodies were removed from the old cemetery to it, and it is at the present time one of the finest in the county.

From the single mill built by the Nortons in 1837, with its occasional set-backs, the lumber business increased until the lumbering enterprises on the north side of the river—including the big boom—paid out in 1883 not far from \$300,000 in the single season for wages. At that time the Cutler & Savidge Lumber company had three large saw mills and a planing mill, Monroe Boyce & Co. one mill, Bell Bros. one mill, Sisson & Lillie one large mill, Grand Haven Lumber company, mill at Ferrysburg, and White & Friant a big mill at Nortonville.

Mercantile business of the town kept fully abreast of the lumbering business, and among the more enterprising merchants were Martin



Walsh, John B. Perham, Aloys Bilz, Henry Cliff. These men proved equal to the demands made upon them for large mercantile establishments in their respective lines of trade, and for several years handled goods upon an enormous scale. While Spring Lake depended upon the mills for its revenue, it proved a treacherous place in which to conduct any mercantile business. One year the lumber business would be prosperous, money plenty, the demands of the people enormous, and the next a stagnation of the lumber trade, would compel a large proportion of the working people to leave town. The merchants at such times would find themselves with immense stocks of goods upon their shelves to rapidly shrink in value, and many worthless accounts upon their books.

Spring Lake was platted as Mill Point in 1849 by T. W. White and S. C. Hopkins. In two years its population reached 371, but in the next seven years it only gained eighteen population, and it will be seen by consulting the census tables that its population slid up and down the scale with the changes in the lumber business until that industry was practically closed out and the people began to permanently improve the adjacent lands and summer resorts. A healthy growth may be predicted for Spring Lake as the adjacent country is developed.

The name of Hunter Savidge will be ever held inseparable with the early development of Spring Lake. Here he commenced working eighteen hours a day in the mills. Here he amassed a fortune in the lumber business; and here after dealing out material aid on every hand to the

less fortunate for many years, he died, not only mourned by his friends and neighbors at home, but by a large circle of prominent people throughout the country. Mr. Savidge was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, April 6, 1828. At the age of nine years his family moved to Northumberland county, where he remained until twenty-one years of age, when he came west and located at Rockford, Illinois. In 1855 he came to Spring Lake, and by indomitable perseverance and the strictest integrity soon won the confidence of the business world. In 1860 he and Dwight Cutler of Grand Haven entered into partnership under the firm name of Cutler & Savidge Lumber Co., laying the foundations not only for their own fortunes but for the fortunes of many others connected with the firm. Mr. Savidge and Miss Sarah C. Patten were united in marriage at Grand Rapids, February 12, 1857. They staged it to Grand Haven February 22, on the south side of the river, came across the river upon the ferry and walked to a modest home upon the lot where the magnificent Savidge residence now stands. Mr. Savidge died April 11, 1881, having scarcely passed the prime of life.

John Hancock, for five years secretary of the Cutler & Savidge Lumber company, died at the age of thirty-two years, and but sixteen days previous to Mr. Savidge. Though a young man he had won a wide popularity. Early in the fifties James Wilson came with his parents to Spring Lake and became a practical and successful lumberman. He has been one of the most active and practical members of the Cutler & Savidge Lumber Co. since its organization.

Thomas Savidge, brother of the late Hunter Savidge, came to Spring Lake in April, 1865, and afterwards became a member of the Cutler & Savidge Lumber company, holding a responsible position. Mr. Savidge has held village offices many terms. In 1885 he established the Floral Stock Farm, a short distance east of Spring Lake, and is now identified with the leading horsemen of the country. He was the first man to own and give a mark of 2:30 to a mare in Ottawa county. He is the owner of George St. Clair, who has the seventh fastest three-year-old record in the United States, and the fastest in Michigan. The Floral Stock Farm always has from 30 to 40 of the finest bred horses in the country within its inclosures.

Since the death of John Hancock, Herman F. Harbeck has been the secretary of the Cutler & Savidge Lumber company, and handled the books and accounts of that vast establishment during the years of its most gigantic operations.

O. W. Messinger, who has been one of the leading druggists of Spring Lake for many years, came to the town in 1854. He served an apprenticeship in the lumber business before entering mercantile pursuits.

Shirley Hammond was one of the early settlers of Spring Lake and Ottawa county. He located a farm (now occupied by Benjamin Soule) in 1840. He was struck and killed by a locomotive, near the depot, about 1874. It is supposed that he buried between three and four thousand dollars in a tin box upon his lot, now occupied by Louis Fiedler's saloon, just a short time before he was killed. Although a thorough search was made,

neither box or money was ever known to have been found.

Benjamin Richardson commenced work in a saw mill for Dwight Rankins, near Jenisonville, in 1848, and has followed sawing and filing for 44 years. He was for ten years in the employ of Thomas White, father of T. Stewart White, in Spring Lake. Mr. White built and operated the first river mill.

T. D. Denison came to Spring Lake in 1850.

The late Job S. Sessions was one of the first settlers of the Grand river valley. He came to Ionia county in 1833, and to Spring Lake in 1865, where he died.

Benjamin Soule was born in 1810, in Ohio, and within seven miles of the old Garfield home. When the late President Garfield was a young man he worked at carpenter work one summer, just across the road from Mr. Soule's home, and at that time little expected to hold the high positions he afterwards held in the nation's affairs.

George Seagrove came to Spring Lake in 1855.

George G. Lovell is not only one of the pioneers of Spring Lake, but of the Grand river valley. He was born in Vermont in 1813, came to Kalamazoo county in 1832, went from there to Ionia county, where for eight years he was engaged in the milling business. He came to Spring Lake in 1846.

Jay McCluer was born in New York in 1832, and came to Grand Haven in 1836. He has for many years been a resident of Spring Lake.

Rev. L. M. S. Smith was the first postmaster in Spring Lake, resigning in 1857. Hiram A. Reed held the office several years. Loren O.

Perham held the office from the commencement of Lincoln's administration to the Cleveland administration. Peter A. Dewitt came in and went out with the Cleveland administration, and was succeeded by S. S. Rideout.

Warner Vos came to Spring Lake in 1856. Walter G. Sinclair came in 1855.

Alexander Wood is a man of more than ordinary experience in life. He was born in Scotland in 1839; came to the United States in 1849. For some time prior to the war he was in the employ of Creek Indian agency in the Indian territory. He was taken prisoner at the commencement and kept in Texas and other southern states until the close of the war. At the close of the war he was in the employ of the government two years in Arkansas. He was in Wisconsin for a time, and has since been a resident of Spring Lake.

Manley Patchin was one of the early settlers of Spring Lake, and at one time quite an extensive lumberman. Thomas Brady and family came about 1857.

Michael Shoemaker first arrived in the fall of 1855; was in the employ of Manley Patchin and then engaged upon the construction of the Detroit and Milwaukee railway. He worked for the Nortons, and afterwards for Fred Raney for eight years. As an illustration of the favorable change in wages from the early days in the mills, the fact is cited that Mr. Shoemaker commenced at \$14 a month, and left off for Raney at \$4.50 a day. He next worked for Haire & Cole and then Haire & Talford, proprietors of the river

mill, and then Cutler & Savidge to the present time.

Martin Walsh was born in Ireland in 1828, came to the United States in 1849, and in 1856 from New York to Spring Lake. At the breaking out of the war he enlisted as a private and came out a first lieutenant and quartermaster. At the close of the war he embarked in the mercantile business which he has since followed, taking an active part in public affairs and occasionally holding public office. He has devoted considerable time to the study of law and taken charge of many cases in court. He handles a law case with that same energy which characterizes his other work, and the lawyer on the other side is always sure to have something to do.

Drs. J. O. Bates and C. P. Brown were for many years prominent resident physicians of Spring Lake.

George Perry came to Spring Lake in 1862.

Mrs. Burbank is one of the earliest settlers. Her maiden name was Madora McMann, and with her mother, brothers, sisters and step-father, Dr. Kibbey, first came to Nortonville in 1850.

George Schwab came to Spring Lake in 1861, served through the war in the 14th Michigan infantry, came back home and has proved himself one of the most successful grocerymen in the county.

Horace H. Hungerford came to Nortonville in 1845 and Mrs. Hungerford two years later.

Samuel Main is one of the pioneers of the Michigan lumber country, and has for many years been connected with the Cutler & Savidge Lumber company.

Aloys Bilz was born in Bavaria in 1841 and emigrated with his parents to this country in 1849, where they settled in Buffalo. He attended a private school until the age of eleven, when he was sent to St. Vincent's college in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, where he remained fifteen months. He left home at the age of thirteen years and found employment at New Hamburg, Canada. Two years later he obtained similar employment in Detroit; afterwards seven years in New Baltimore. In 1864 he married Mary Alice, daughter of Rev. O. C. Thompson, of Detroit. In 1866 he established a hardware in Spring Lake and built up an immense business, but in 1871 his residence and entire hardware and furniture establishments, valued at \$30,000, were destroyed by fire. Although the fire dealt him a crushing blow, he did not stop to contemplate the dark side but was doing business in a new store in just four weeks, beginning business anew. Mr. Bilz has always taken a lively interest in public enterprises and political affairs. He has served many terms in village and township offices, supervisor, etc., was register of deeds of Ottawa county in 1879 and '80, and his name has long been a familiar one in miscellaneous social gatherings and political conventions. He is at present proprietor of an extensive hardware and furniture business in Spring Lake, and quite extensively interested in real estate.

The first newspaper published in Spring Lake was the *Independent*, founded by John G. Lee in 1869.

Richard Clydesdale came to Grand Haven in 1834 in company with his brother Robert. The

latter was captain of the schooner Lizzie Throop, and is now a resident of Chicago, and Richard sailed as mate, settling in Spring Lake at a very early date. He was fatally injured by a falling tree, February 8, 1879.

James Wilson, for many years a hotel proprietor, came to Spring Lake in 1849.

Mrs. Shirley Hammond—*nee* Lucy Houghton—is one of the few very first settlers of Ottawa county still remaining. She was in Grand Rapids when the town contained but one good house. She lived in the family of Kanouse on Battle Point when a young girl, and relates many experiences the people had with the Indians in those days. The Indian population at that time was much larger than the white, and occasionally they would get drunk and throw the household furniture of the whites out of their houses just for a play-spell. Mrs. Hammond was married in 1840 at the home of Captain Harry Miller—now county poor farm—by Henry Griffin, Esquire, and with her husband located upon the now Benj. Soule farm in 1840. Her two eldest sons, George and Charles, are familiar with the history of Spring Lake from the early days to the present time. Mrs. Hammond was once at the house of Col. Amos Norton and saw him pour a half a bushel of specie into a blanket on the floor and count it. There was no banking in western Michigan in those days.

George W. Dixon, the inventor of the celebrated Dixon pumps, is a resident of Spring Lake, and for many years was in the employ of the Ottawa Iron works at Ferrysburg.

John B. Perham came to Spring Lake from



Mayfield, New York, in November 1860. He was principal of the schools from 1861 to 1863 at Spring Lake, and taught the Grandville schools in 1864-5. He embarked in the mercantile business at Spring Lake in 1866 with his brother, L. O. Perham, and with Allen C. Adsit, now one of the circuit judges of Kent county, in 1867. For a time Perham & Adsit also ran a large branch general store in Nunica. Mr. Perham has always been one of the leaders of the Republican party of the county, and a prominent temperance and Christian worker. He has held numerous important positions in politics, in educational affairs, and in temperance and religious societies. He was a member of the legislature from 1881 to 1884.

Enno Pruim came to Spring Lake in an early day. He served through the war in the twenty-first Michigan infantry, and has for many terms represented Spring Lake township upon the board of supervisors. Spring Lake has never had a more popular man with all classes than Mr. Pruim.

Charles M. Kay came to Spring Lake from Illinois, and has been the general utility man of the village and township. He looks carefully after all public matters, and is universally conceded the proper man to do it.

#### FERRYSBURG.

Ferrysburg is the only unincorporated village in Spring Lake township at the present time, and joins Spring Lake village on the west. Nortonville, on the east of Spring Lake village, was for many years a saw mill burg of small importance,

but its population departed soon after the last saw logs were cut in its big mill in 1883, the mill at that time being the property of White & Friant.

Ferrysburg was first called Ottawa Point. The first improvements there worth mentioning were made by the Ferrys when they built the first mill on the point. The Ottawa Iron works were established by them in 1855, and improved and continued in operation until February, 1883. These works were all of these years one of the most important manufacturing enterprises in Ottawa county, and furnished employment to a large number of men.

Benjamin F. Eames and John W. Luscomb made arrangements with the Ferrys for power to drive their wood-working machinery at the Ferry mill, Ottawa Point, April 10, 1850, for five years following. Mr. Luscomb withdrew from the business, and Mr. Eames, in 1856 erected a large building with steam power. In 1861 he sold to Willard & Bolles, who ran a pail factory for some time, when it was destroyed by fire.

Thomas Turnbull ran a boiler shop from about 1859 until 1862, and abandoned it. J. W. Johnston came from Chicago in 1864 and revived it, and with a constantly increasing capacity continued it until 1880 when he was succeeded by his sons, Thomas and J. B., under the firm name of Johnston Bros. The Ottawa Iron works having collapsed in 1883 and thrown their commodious brick buildings upon the market, in 1887 Johnston Bros. purchased and moved their works into them. The Johnston Boiler works are now one of the most important manufacturing establishments in Ottawa county, and their boilers

have as exalted a reputation as any manufacture in the west.

#### SHIP BUILDING IN FERRYSBURG.

H. C. Pearson sold his ship yard in Ogdensburg, New York, and located a yard at Ferrysburg in the spring of 1866. During that same year he built the tug Hunter Savidge for Wm. M. Ferry and Capt. Squier, and the tug E. P. Ferry for the gentleman whose name she bore. The Ottawa Iron works built the engines and J. W. Johnston the boilers. In the winter of 1866-7 Mr. Pearson built the big schooner F. M. Knap, for F. M. Knap, of Racine, and the schooner brig, Major Noah H. Ferry for E. P. Ferry, also some dump scows for Col. Ludlow of Chicago. Next and immediately following the Knap and Ferry he built the schooner Mason for Kenosha parties after the moulds of the Ferry. Next a large tug for E. P. Ferry; then a tug—The Third Michigan—a flat bottom river tug, a pile driver and an order to rebuild a tug, all for the Muskegon Booming company. Next the tug Waters for Muskegon parties; then came dull times. In 1872 he did the last ship-building in Ferrysburg, constructing the tug Dalton for Dalton Bros. of White Lake. In 1872, when the boom was established, Mr. Pearson was appointed government inspector of hulls, a position he held for twelve years.

During the existence of Pearson's ship yard it was an important Ottawa county enterprise, often employing as high as one hundred ship carpenters at a time. Mr. Pearson invented a solar attachment to the surveyor's transit, manufac-

tured by Gurley Bros., of Troy, New York; also another pattern manufactured by Buff & Burger, of Boston, Massachusetts. He also improved the propeller wheel, which, in the improved form, was manufactured by Wilson & Hendrie, of Montague, Michigan, until Mr. Hendrie's death. He has compiled a valuable work for mariners, "Manual of Navigation for the Lakes," which will soon appear.

H. G. Smith came to Ferrysburg in 1847; U. B. Eames came in 1848.

Ralph Osterhoef came to Grand Haven in 1855. That same year he worked upon the now Ferry residence for Barnes & Cook, the builders; upon the union school building at Lamont, and helped build the Denton house at Eastmanville. He worked at pattern making at the Ottawa Iron works for seventeen years, and embarked in the mercantile business in Ferrysburg in 1872.

The hotel was built by a man named Hill in 1858. For many years this house did a thriving business, especially during the days when it was the headquarters for the Muskegon stage line.

Wm. M. Ferry, Jr., lived for many years opposite the hotel.

Batcheller & Slatt for several years operated a big mill which was afterwards bought by the Grand Haven Lumber Co.

White and Glover owned and ran a big mill at Ferrysburg for several years. It was burned July 4th, 1876.

Alexander Rogers of the Rogers Iron works, Muskegon, was a foreman at the Ottawa Iron works in 1856-7.

A man named Reynolds drove an iron pipe in

the ground while employed at these iron works, and thus made a drive well long before Green got his patents. Affidavits of Ralph Osterhof and others of this fact knocked out Green's patents in the United States supreme court, but not until Green had wrested a fortune out of the people of the country. The facts in regard to this early drive well were brought out by a man named Chandler who was working at the iron works when the well was driven, and held a position in the patent office when Green's patents came before the supreme court.

Frank McCooey was one of the first settlers in Ferrysburg.

Charles Stroebe came to Ferrysburg in the fall of 1864. At one time he owned the lot upon which L. O. Perham's brick block in Spring Lake now stands. He started a store in Ferrysburg in 1867. He has been several years postmaster.

Robert Johnston, engineer of the steamer Alpena, and lost on board of her, was a brother of J. W. Johnston, and for many years a resident of Ferrysburg. His widow held the postoffice several years previous to her death, which occurred in 1891.

James Frazier has for many years been a resident of the village and is considered authority on summer resort topics.

The location of Ferrysburg is one of great natural advantages. It has a deep water front that extends in a half circle around the town. It lies upon the junction of two railroads, and in every way is adapted to manufacture. The day

may be safely predicted when it will be a live manufacturing town.

TALMADGE TOWNSHIP.

By legislative act, March 6, 1838, Talmadge was constituted, and consisted of towns seven and eight north, range thirteen west. The first meeting was held at the house of Wm. Stoddard, April 2, 1838. At the organization of the town there were elected the following officers: Bethuel Church, supervisor; Israel V. Harris, clerk; Abram Hatch, Silas G. Harris, Ira Maxfield, Alonzo D. Yeomans, justices. The following names are recorded as having belonged to those who took part in the election: Edward Dalton, Daniel Angell, Jotham Baxter, Allen Stoddard, Thomas B. Woodbury, Harrison Hunter. In 1839 the township was enlarged by adding to it towns seven and eight, range fourteen west. After many changes the present size of the town practically was reached in 1847.

The first settlers of Talmadge were Allen Stoddard and A. D. Yeomans; they came in 1835. Yeomans sold out to H. and Z. Steele in 1838, moved to Illinois and died soon after. The first winter Stoddard lived in an Indian wigwam.

Ira Maxfield came from Clinton county, New York, in February, 1836. He died in 1874.

Harlow T. Judson came from Canada in 1836 and died in 1870.

Bethuel Church, Andrew Dalton, Edward Dalton, John Baxter, Victor Harris, Lemuel Peake, Lewis D. Burch, Jotham Baxter, T. B. Woodbury, Daniel and Esic Angell, all came during 1836. In 1837 Damon Hatch, John T. Davis, James Bromley, Harry Steele, Zina Steele.

Daniel Angell, if history is correct, was a Nimrod of high degree. Not mentioning other game, he killed seventy wolves in the township and one panther. Two panthers came into the county, and only two that history mentions. Mr. Angell killed one and a man killed another near Crockery creek.

## LAMONT.

Lamont village in the first plat was called Middleburg. The plat was received for record March 25, 1851.

Says Everett in his memorials of the Grand river valley: "Soon after the settlement of the place (for cities were wonderfully popular in those days) Mr. Thomas B. Woodbury having a half section of land admirable for a city, laid out eighty acres of it. The fate of this city was not that of countless others platted and mapped about the same time. It became a village, is now a village, and a pretty village too. Mr. Woodbury in one thing showed that he was a man of taste, a gentleman and a scholar. He run through the village a wide avenue, which at the same time is street and park. But he, the originator of the village, reaped no benefit from it. He sold out, put his property into a grist mill that was burned, and he was destitute. Several of his last years he lived at Fruitport, where he died. Along the river Middleburg was also known as Steele's Landing. In 1857 its name was changed to Lamont.

Mrs. Harrison Hunter taught the first school in the town in a school house built by Mr. Hunter.

The township was named in compliment to Gen. Talmadge of Dutchess county, New York.

WRIGHT TOWNSHIP.

Until March 16th, 1847, Wright was a part of Talmadge. It was set off at that date. It is a full sized township and an excellent agricultural one.

Its organization was perfected at the house of Leonard Roberts and the following gentlemen were elected its first officers: Silvius Waters, supervisor; Irenus Wellman, clerk; Hiram C. McDearman, treasurer; Edson Fuller, John McLain, Charles Dunning, justices. Its settlement was an extension of the settlements of Talmadge and Grand Rapids.

Justin Walker, it is believed, was one of the very first settlers of Wright. He located in the south-east corner in 1839, having a wife and six children. He located in the forest just a little beyond the settlement of Walker township. Mr. Leland came soon after and located a little north-west of Mr. Walker. Mr. Walker was accidentally killed in Grand Rapids in 1863, and his wife died in 1874.

Benjamin and Timothy B. Lillie and others settled in the county in 1840. James Wheeler and John O'Brien came in 1840.

Benj. F. Laubach settled in Wright in 1852, and for many years took an active part in public affairs; representing his district in the legislature several terms.

R. B. McCulloch was one of the first to arrive in the county.

The Germans located lands in the northern



part of the township in 1842, and a large settlement was the result in the northern part of Wright and the southern part of Chester township. They have a Catholic church located in Wright, and a resident preacher. The Irish people also have a Catholic church a mile and a half north-west of Berlin, and the Adventists a church in the west part of the township.

## BERLIN.

Berlin village was platted July 8, 1857. The following gentlemen's names appear as proprietors: R. B. McCulloch, B. F. Woodman, Wm. P. Wells, James Thompkins, Enos C. Morgan, Barnett Barley, Walter Butler, Geo. W. Woodard, James C. Orvis.

## ZEELAND TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE.

BY CORNELIUS VAN LOO.

The territory included within the bounds of the township of Zeeland was in 1845 part of the township of Polkton. That was in the good old days when three men constituted the board of supervisors of Ottawa county. Timothy Eastman was the supervisor. The total assessment was \$12,359.00 and the total tax \$41.78 on fourteen descriptions of land. One of these descriptions was the south-west quarter of section twenty-eight. On the east half of this Jan Hulst settled, arriving there for permanent residence June 8, 1847, being the first settler in the township. His son, Jan Hulst, Jr., still lives on the same farm. One week later Hilbert Mast arrived and settled on the east half of the south-east quarter of the same section. The above named Jan Hulst left his home in the Netherlands March 2, 1847, left the

port of Hellevoet March 19, and arrived at Baltimore, Maryland, April 27. From there the journey was over land to his farm, occupying six weeks.

The first settlers at or near the village were Jan Steketee in July 1847, J. De Hond and Christian Den Herder, the latter arriving on south-west quarter section 17 August 16, 1847, bringing with him a load of lumber immediately placed on end in the shape of a bell tent, under which the family passed the first night in the wilderness. At that time the township was part of Georgetown, Asa A. Scott being supervisor; in 1848 it was part of Ottawa township, C. B. Albee, supervisor; in 1849 part of Allendale, Grosvenor Reed, supervisor; in 1849-50 part of Holland, H. D. Post, supervisor.

At a session of the legislature in 1850 Zeeland was organized as a separate township, and the first town meeting was held July 14, 1851, and the following persons were elected township officers: Supervisor, Elias G. Young; clerk and treasurer, R. M. De Bruyn; directors of the poor, H. O. Yntema, Jan De Pree; highway commissioners, Milan Coburn, R. M. De Bruyn, Sietse Op't Holt; justices of the peace, J. Nieuwendorp, E. G. Young, J. G. Van Hees; constables, H. De Kruif, Geo. H. Baert, Wm. Kremers. Number of votes cast 93.

First general election held under the new constitution of 1850 was also held in 1851, when sixty-five votes were cast, 57 Democratic and eight Whig. In 1852 the presidential election was held, and 141 votes cast, 131 Democratic, ten Whig.

In October, 1853, Arie Van Bree was appointed agent for the sale of spirituous liquors under the new liquor law at an annual salary of \$15.00. A stock of \$20 worth of liquors was procured which he was scarcely able to sell under the stringent provisions of the law. The total number of accounts allowed against the town the first year was \$111.99.

December 26, 1850, the first school district was organized, and the first school meeting was held in the Reformed church building January 7, 1851. J. G. Van Hees was elected moderator, R. M. DeBruyn, director, and Hendrik De Kruif, assessor. One dollar tax was voted for each child between four and eighteen years of age.

At the first meeting of the board of school inspectors Elias G. Young was examined and licensed as teacher, and a week later "Madam" Young also. August 15, 1851, Rev. C. Van Der Meulen visited the Zeeland school, and R. M. De Bruyn the Vriesland school in district number two, then recently organized. This was the first official school visitation had in the township.

The first highway in the town was laid out November 23, 1849, excepting the state road from Grandville to Holland, angling through the town and long since taken up. C. B. Albee and Frank B. Gilbert were the commissioners that laid out the first highway with Timothy Eastman, surveyor. In March, 1851, H. D. Post and James Walker, commissioners, and B. Grootenhuis, surveyor, laid out and recorded fourteen highways in the town providing an outlet to most of the settlers.

The first child born was one of Cornelis Wen-

ninger, though the first of which there is an official record was Wouter Van Nuil, September 19, 1847, and, according to the church record, baptized in October.

The first couple married were Jan Wabeke and Martina Glerum, December 1, 1847, by Rev. C. Van Der Meulen, at the house of the latter. The witnesses were James Van De Luyster and J. Steketee. All the parties to this interesting ceremony are now deceased.

In Vriesland the first couple to enter into the bonds of matrimony were John Van Zoeren and lady, both still living.

Jan Elsma on section twenty-two was the first settler in that part of the town in July, 1847. He is still living and knows what house building means. First he made himself comfortable under a brush tent, then in a log house, next a frame, and now he inhabits a substantial brick building. He is a typical old country Frisian, quaint, peculiar, religious, patriotic and republican, as all Frisians are, loyal to all that is noble, beautiful and true.

The first settlers of Zeeland all came from the land of "William the Silent," bringing with them the love of liberty, civil and religious, of that great prince. The secession of a large body of Christians from the dead formalism of the state church in the Netherlands, led to persecution by fine, imprisonment, loss of employment and obliquy. Free church and free schools, freedom to worship God according to the dictations of their own consciences, and a desire to improve their temporal condition, finally led them to forsake the

land of their birth and to try their fortunes in a new world.

Early in 1847 three meetings were held in the little city of Goes in the province of Zeeland to consider the matter. It was decided to emigrate in a body. They organized themselves into a church society and elected J. Van De Luyster and J. Hoogesteger as elders and J. Steketee and A. Glerum as deacons. It was further decided that they ought not to go without a minister, and extended a call to Rev. Cornelius Van Der Meulen of Goes, who accepted the call.

Three vessels left the Netherlands with the emigrants on board; the first under leadership of Jan Steketee, the second of Rev. C. Van Der Meulen, and the the third of J. Van De Luyster, arriving here at different times during the summer of 1847. So it may be said that the Reformed church of Zeeland was organized in the old country, and came here as a church, the only known instance of the kind, with the exception of, perhaps, the pilgrim fathers.

In the eastern part of the township the first settlers were mainly from the province of Friesland, and also brought a minister with them, the Rev. Mr. Ypma. The large family of Van Zoeren, however, were from Gelderland, and from this fact their neighborhood is still called "De Geldersche Buurt." It will be noticed that the early settlers perpetuated the names of the different provinces when they came here, by applying them to the localities where they settled. Thus we have Holland, North Holland, Vriesland, Overisel, Graafschap, Old and New Groningen, Drenthe, Zeeland, and names of

towns as Nie-Kerk, Zutphen, Borculo, Harderwijk, etc.

J. Van De Luyster the proprietor of the village of Zeeland, bought of the United States government the entire of section nineteen, on which the village is mainly located. He also bought section seventeen, which was settled mainly by his children and peasantry of his farm in the old country, whom he brought with him.

Jan Wabeke, father of the late Rev. C. Wabeke, also brought a number of poor families with him.

Jan Smallegange did the same in 1849, among which was the family of Wm. Van Loo, whereof the writer was an humble member then ten years old, and who will hold the name of Smallegange in grateful remembrance while memory lasts.

Of the sufferings, privations and struggles of these early settlers, none not familiar with pioneer life can form any conception. Locating in a dense wilderness without means, without roads, unacquainted with the language or institutions of the country, inexperienced in the severe toil required to clear up heavy timber land, suffering from diseases incident to living around the swamps and to the process of acclimation. Many gave up the struggle and removed to Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Grand Haven and other places, some to return again when better days dawned. The majority, however, were "stayers," chief of whom was the old minister, Van Der Meulen.

Poor as any other of the settlers with a family to support, he was at once minister, doctor, land looker and judge. When worn and tired and

discouraged, the colonists came out of the woods from different directions on Sabbath mornings, the old saint of God would preach to them with a pathos and a fervid eloquence now seldom heard, and would send them back in the evening to their humble cabins with new courage, with firmer determination, brighter hope, loftier purpose and more unfaltering trust, to renew the struggle in the forest and hew out a home and competence. Before any one had a decent house to live in these sturdy men of Puritan mould built a church of hewn timbers, 40x60 feet, the most substantial and most comfortable building in all the settlement. Nor was the school house forgotten, for though "school district No. 1" was not organized, in a legal way, till December 26, 1850, yet a school was taught long before that, part of the time by a man who came there to sell fruit trees, and afterwards by Mr. R. M. De Bruyn, father of Rev. P. De Bruyn, who was probably the first Hollander qualified to teach school in Ottawa county. And let us note here, while speaking of schools, that it has ever been the endeavor of the settlers in this township to have a free school of the American type. They have never been led off into sectarian or parochial by-paths, not even to the idea of a school taught in the Holland language, for which it seems, our fellow citizens of the same nationality in other localities have a *penchant*. While not ashamed of the land of their fathers, but proud of their ancestry and loving the language in which their forefathers worshiped God, wooed their brides, and recited the deeds of Tromp and De Ruyter, Mauritz and William the

Silent to their wondering children, yet they do not believe in a Holland or France, an Ireland or Germany, in free America. Again, while clinging to their church and their doctrines with tenacity and respecting their ministers and giving them generous support, yet must it be said in justice to Zeeland's inhabitants, that they are as free from sectarian spirit and bigotry as any equal body of citizens in the United States. They are most intensely jealous of their right to think for themselves on every subject; loyal to the core to the land of their adoption, and thorough believers in its free institutions. In proportion to their means, generous to prodigality toward suffering humanity and leading all other Holland communities in support of domestic and foreign missions.

Quite a number of young men of our township served in the civil war; among those killed were Dirk Keppel, Gerrit Van Bree and Alexander Jonkheer. The township paid out \$25,180.30 for the support of the war for the union. The township also paid large sums toward the opening of Holland harbor.

The disastrous fires of 1871, when Holland was laid in ashes, taxed the generosity to the utmost, while at a township meeting held in 1880 \$800 was raised for the relief of the sufferers by the fires in the eastern part of the state in August and September of that year.

The Russian famine of the present winter again touched the sympathies of the people, and almost without effort, over 30,000 pounds of flour was collected and sent forward on its errand of relief and mercy.



Zeeland village is situated on the west line of the township, and was platted in 1849. At present it contains 780 inhabitants. School district number one, which includes the village, has a school census of 468. The village has three churches, the Reformed and the First and Second Holland Christian Reformed, a fine two story school building with six school rooms, two furniture stores, two clothing stores, five general and one grocery store, one book store, two butchers, two wagon and smith shops, one hotel, one tannery, one cooper shop, two flour exchange and feed stores and a fine furniture factory, which turns out over \$1,000 worth of suits and side boards every week. The village is on sections 18 and 19, town 5 north, range 14 west, on the Chicago & West Michigan railway, and is twenty miles south-west of Grand Rapids, and twenty-six miles from the county seat. On section three is situated Beaverdam church and post-office and two stores; on section 15 the Reformed church building of Vriesland, one of the largest and finest church buildings to be found outside of a village or city. A fine brick school building stands just across from the church, and on the opposite corner is the fine store of Den Herder and Tanis, and the Vriesland cheese factory near by. On the corner of section 34 is the Drenthe Christian Reformed church, a brick school house and the large store of H. Bakker & Son. On the opposite corner is a general store in which is kept the Drenthe postoffice, with a blacksmith shop and wagon shop in the immediate vicinity.

The population of the township outside of the village of Zeeland is 2,236, making a total in the

town of about 3,000. In 1854 it was 912. In 1874 it was 2,576. Since the first presidential vote, which stood Democratic 131, Whig 10, there has been a great change in the politics of the town, receiving its first impetus in the trying period of the war, and constantly fostered by discussion and effective work. It may safely be stated that there is more politics to the square foot in Zeeland, year in and year out, than in any other locality in the state. In 1876 the vote stood, Republican 296, Democratic 147; 1880, Republican 348, Democratic 132; 1884, Republican 371, Democratic 162; 1888, Republican 430, Democratic 184. The reasons for this condition and political complexion of the town are: First, the Democratic party's record on secession and rebellion, finance and tariff; second, the intense jealousy with which the Zeelanders regard their civil and religious rights and our public school system, all of which they regard in constant danger from the Catholic Hierarchy, which, together with the liquor interest of the country, form the bulwark of Democracy and is a standing menace to free institutions.

## PART II.

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### THE HOLLAND CHURCHES IN OTTAWA COUNTY.

BY THE REV. HENRY E. DOSKER.

Among them the Church of Christ, in the county of Ottawa, finds its greatest embodiment. The field before me is a wide one and my task is congenial. Where I speak of the Dutch ecclesiastical life in our midst, I find a path beaten and well known. The Dutch threads in our social fabric are many, so many, indeed, as to impart a perceptible hue to the whole. And so strong the Dutch hold on our surroundings appears to be, that it will, undoubtedly, give cast to the future of the county, indelibly stamping itself upon the life of the community, and giving it a character equally ineffaceable, as that of the early Dutch pilgrims, which stares one in the face almost everywhere in the great metropolis of the country. New York has well preserved the footprints of its early settlers; Ottawa county will never lose, nor lose by those of the pilgrims of '46 and subsequent years.

Who are these plodders, lying close, as an advancing army, on the two lower tiers of townships in Ottawa and the upper tiers of townships in Allegan county, and in many other localities besides? They well repay scrutiny. There are many questions to be answered with regard to them. They are but little known yet; slowly, as

is their historic habit, asserting themselves, but *then* steadily growing. Wherever Hollanders come, they come to stay. Their political and ecclesiastical histories are so intricately entangled, that they are almost inseparable. You may follow, if you list, the frivolous example of Washington Irving, who made them his "butt" in one of his raciest sketches, but then you will never know them. Or you may sink down, with John L. Motley, beneath the placid waters, and study their deep secrets, and then, I am sure, you will rise, even as he did, with profoundest esteem, and find them a race strong and true, meeting pride with pride, and affection with love; loving their God and their liberty above all things; never on the tyrant's side nor long under his yoke; a nation small and weak, yet invincible in its weakness; having at its back a history grander than which no country can boast, full of thrilling episodes, which read rather like fanciful romance than stern reality.

Motley's pen has glorified the Netherlands, as has also that of Dr. William Elliot Griffis, of Boston, and its true and loyal sons may proudly lift their heads among the nations of the world.

There are in this county no less than twenty-four Holland churches, equally divided between rival denominations. You desire to know the why and how of this split between people of one language and common habits of life and thought. No more than the briefest possible historical sketch of their numerous churches can be given.

You may be curious to know the underlying principles of the history of our colonization in America and in this county. In endeavoring to

gratify this desire, and meeting at the same time the demands of my topic, I will briefly discuss:

- I. The causes of the movement.
- II. The ecclesiastical development of the Hollanders in Ottawa county.
- III. The causes of disruption.

#### I.—CAUSES OF EMIGRATION.

The Hollanders are peculiar. For long centuries they have been soaked in theology. Since the days of the Reformation, nay, even for long periods before, they displayed a peculiar zest for dogmatic disputes. The cloisters and convents of the Netherlands yielded some of the deep foundation-rocks of the Reformation. "The brethren of the common life"—there cradled into being their tenets, which were even as the shuddering dawn of the Reform, looming up in the distance. Thomas A. Kempis and scores of others labored and wrote in the Low Countries. The sunrise of the Reformation found them prepared. What they suffered in the cause of Christ you know. My fatherland is one great cemetery and charnel-house of martyrs for Christ's sake. No fewer than 100,000 were exiled, and more than 35,000 suffered death, rather than bow before the tyrant and forsake their faith. We have bought our liberty, political and religious, with our choicest blood. The struggle left the Netherlanders free, but full of self-assertion; and this hereditary trait—the desire not only for common, but also for individual independence—became the great source of our numerous, sharp, religious contests. The Synod of Dordt decided but little. Whole provinces rejected its authority. If the State's over-

whelming favor was on the side of the followers of Gomarus, it did not entirely wipe out the doctrines of Arminius. How could it in a country of free thought? Almost immediately after that period, Maresius and Alting, professors at the University of Groningen, waged a bitter war about the true province of exegetical theology. Each had his determined partisans.

Later on, Gysbertus Voetius, professor at Utrecht—dogmatic, strict, almost an ascete; and Joh Coccejus, professor at Leyden—genial, more liberal, but equally faithful, with his antagonist—divided the entire Church into parties, bitterly opposed to each other. Then came the wave of infidelity. English deistic and French revolutionary principles flooded the low countries. Their dykes could not restrain that kind of a flood. The masses were permeated. Irreligiousness prevailed. Religion became an empty form. The house of Orange was overthrown. Napoleon ruled, and for a time stamped out the spirit of liberty. He fell. William of Orange returned; and as William I., was crowned King of the Netherlands (a title which the Great William had steadfastly declined) on the first day of December, 1813. The Church had suffered terribly meanwhile. It was one with the State. The States-General and Napoleon and Louis alike had tyrannized over it, and William followed in the old rut. By the law of the 17th of June, 1815, the Presbyterian government of the State Church of the Netherlands was virtually abolished; the synodical and lower bodies became creatures of the throne, and thus the wheel kept moving, whilst the spirit of revolution was yet in the air.

Meanwhile, a tidal wave of revival had swept the greater part of Europe. It reached the Netherlands. People desired the plain gospel. They rejected songs for the sanctuary, which were *thrust* upon the congregations and their pastors, by an act of the crown. Even there they desired liberty, to sing or not to sing, as they pleased. Fierce and fiercer the agitation grew. It culminated in the secession of hundreds of members of the State Church. Henry De Cock of Ulrum, in the province of Groningen, was its father. Its semi-centennial and that of this county coincide. What of it? Were they not free in a free country? Oh, no! In this enlightened nineteenth century, in a Christian country, Christians were mobbed, persecuted, and imprisoned; their meetings disturbed and scattered with armed violence, their property confiscated, they themselves hounded and buffeted with cruelty untold. And why? Because they differed in religious convictions from the rest of the nation. All the ancient religious intolerance was revived, only vitiated and intensified, through its present dangerous surroundings. From 1836 to 1852 this condition continued, till the eyes of Europe were directed to it, and mighty kings began to shift uneasily on their thrones. Then it ceased, but not until 1870 were these Seceders formally recognized by the State. That persecution is the foul blot on the fair name of Holland—its stigma among the nations. Thus liberty, bought at a price, was always wont to degenerate into fierce tyranny.

To that despised sect of Seceders mostly belonged the early Dutch settlers of Ottawa county. Remember it well; it will throw light on many

things under your own eyes. True, they were poor. True, the "malaise" had darkened the horizon of their prospects. But I tell you the mainspring of this immigration was *religious intolerance* and *love of liberty*. These Dutchmen loved exile, with liberty, rather than the fatherland, without it. They sought here, in the forest, what they loved; but had lost there. They are *our* Pilgrim fathers. The "Southerner," which arrived at New York on the fourth of November, 1846, is *our* "May Flower." The old camp at Holland is *our* "Plymouth Rock." Look at this movement, my way, and tell me, does it not magnify these quaint, plain people, who have lived among you these last thirty-seven years? Does it not redeem much of what you judged heretofore objectionable in them?

## II.—THE STORY OF THE HOLLAND CHURCHES OF OTTAWA COUNTY.

It is not necessary here to enter into details, a few touches will suffice. The Holland pioneer, the man who stamped himself more than anyone else on the history of the Holland township, is Dr. A. C. Van Raalte. Born on the 17th day of October, 1811, at Wanneperveen, in the province of Overisel, in the Netherlands, of parents in easy circumstances of life, his father being a minister in the State Church of no mean reputation; a man of liberal education; driven almost against his will into the camp of the Seceders; but a formidable champion, aye, a hero for the cause, when led into it by Divine Providence; bearing the marks of persecution on his own body—he is "par excellence," a man



worthy of close and deep study. The picture reveals the man. Short of stature, with a forehead indicating unusual brain power, deep lines of thought furrowing it; bright eagle eyes, glowing with enthusiasm or sparkling with ominous fire when he was deeply agitated; his smile, a revelation, benign at all times, and again full of satire; his firm lips indicative of decision and tenacity of purpose. He was a man always demanding respect, not rarely deeply impressive—a power everywhere. He was an orator of the first rank when warmed to his task; a man of strong convictions. Some of his discourses are stamped indelibly on the memory of his hearers. His sermon in memory of our boys, lost in the late war, will never be forgotten. He had his faults, was not generally understood by his own people, was unreasonably sanguine at times, made grievous mistakes, yet, in spite of all, he was the leading spirit, the very soul of the colony. His loss, in its early days, would have involved the entire collapse of the enterprise. With a handful of pilgrims, following an old Indian trail, he arrived in the forests near Black Lake, for the first time, in the latter days of December, 1847.

The next spring Van Raalte brought his family and remaining followers from Allegan, where they had been most hospitably entertained, to their new home. He preached his first regular sermon in an old Indian log church, two and a half miles south of camp, on the 30th of March, 1847. All that summer they worshiped under the shady trees, west of his log cabin. In the ensuing fall the pioneers had built and partly finished a log church, 30x60 feet; the west end of which

was used as a school house. So early the education of their children was considered to be of prime importance by these Hollanders. Around that church, in regular old Dutch style, were the graves of those who fell asleep in Christ. The anguish of those early years, the dreadful disappointments, they met with, the devouring homesickness, the care and comfort and support and consolation of the lonely pioneers, melting away like snow before the spring sun, under the fever heat of malarious diseases and the grating of unwonted labor and the consequences of unwholesome food, all these things were laid as a load of terrors on that *one man*. And a true father he was to his people. His pastoral work, his school, his college, form the grand mausoleum over his grave, where he, too early for the good of the colony, sleeps in Christ since the 7th day of November, 1876. His grave is among us till this day.

The first church of Holland, Van Raalte's church, has until late years kept a leading position. The greatest number of communicants was 486. The total of its contributions since 1858, when first a special column was given in our statistics to the amounts, contributed by the various churches, is \$87,358.78. Its pastors, after Dr. Van Raalte, were Rev. R. Pieters, 1868-79, a man demanding universal respect, and the Rev. N. M. Steffens since the 7th of January, 1883. Ever since February 27th, 1882, it is split in two parties, a small minority clinging to the old name and keeping up the historic thread, whilst the great majority has seceded from the Reformed Church of America and is now merged into the

rival denomination; the *Holland Christian Reformed Church*. Their pastor since 1883 is Rev. E. Bos. One year before the resignation of Rev. Dr. Van Raalte the church had become unwieldy. Some of his people clamored for and the doctor favored, the organization of a new church, which took place on the 9th day of September, 1867.

The third church of Holland numbered then ninety-seven communicants. A house of worship was built and solemnly dedicated February 14, 1868. A brick parsonage was erected. All appeared smiling. Suddenly "a change came o'er the vision of their dreams." The great fire of October 9, 1871, by which seventy-six places of business and 243 homes were destroyed, wiped it all away. The third church was the first building to catch fire; from it the bellowing flames sped headlong and laid low, in a couple of hours, the labor of many years. Yet they were not disheartened. A new building, just up in the frame was leveled by the strong gale of January 2, 1873. Again they started and this time their new church was dedicated November 25, 1874. That congregation was baptized in trouble. Its successive pastors were Rev. J. Van der Meulen, from 1868 to 1871; Rev. H. Uiterwyk from 1872 to 1880; Rev. D. Broek, from November, 1880, till November, 1888; since December, 1888, the writer of this sketch has been its pastor. The aggregate of their benevolences run up into the thousands. Their property is valued at \$15,000, largely improved since 1890. The number of communicants is 316. They have a chapel and occasional services at Ventura on the lake shore.

The small minority of the loyal members of

the old First Church had meanwhile organized themselves. They retained the old name. A struggle for the property ended in complete failure. Even the highest court in the State decided in favor of the majority.

Some years before, in 1865, some thirteen discontented members had left the First Church and organized in Holland a True Dutch Reformed Church. They have prospered. To-day they number nearly 325 members in full communion. Their property is valued at \$5,000. They have been served by five pastors until now—Rev. D. de Beer, 1867 to 1868; Rev. T. Hulst, 1868 to 1871; Rev. J. Noordewier, 1873 to 1878; Rev. G. Hoeksema, 1880 to 1881; and Rev. J. A. de Bruyn, since 1883. Under the pastorate of the present minister, Rev. E. Van der Vries, the church has prospered wonderfully. It is to-day the largest communion in the city of Holland.

Among the Holland churches of Ottawa county may also safely be classed the American (Dutch) Reformed Church of Holland, called "Hope." This church consists almost entirely of Holland families, who have adopted the language of the country and whose children are not sufficiently versed in their parents' native tongue to profit by Dutch preaching. They have a beautiful little church and commodious parsonage, valued at \$10,000. Their pastors were successively—Revs. A. T. Stewart, D. Van Pelt, T. W. Jones, and last, but not least, the young and active J. Talmadge Bergen, whose popular ministry greatly enlarged the church boundaries. The present number of communicants is 153.

North of Holland there are two more churches.

The one belonging to our denomination, that of North Holland, is in a thriving condition. Hardly as much can be said of that of Noordeloos, belonging to the Holland Christian Reformed Church. Originally they were one, but petty jealousies and fierce antagonisms tore them asunder.

Of that of Noordeloos little is to be said. It is a fit representative of the church *militant*. It has a church property of attractive appearance, worth perhaps \$1,200. It numbers to-day only 37 communicants, and appears to be devoured by internal wrangles, and is fast on the way of total extinction. That of North Holland was organized in 1853, by Dr. A. C. Van Raalte. The people in that region were in a dreadful condition at the time. They needed religion pre-eminently as a saving power. Dr. Van Raalte almost forced them to organize. Slowly, ingredients of inferior type had become mixed with the current of immigration. Later comers often entirely lacked the high motives of the pioneers. Some of the first settlers of North Holland appear to have been of that class. The church numbered originally but thirteen members. Everything was in a chaotic condition in its early years. Only in 1863 did things take permanent shape.

Noordeloos had meanwhile separated itself from North Holland. From 1865 dates the steady growth of the latter church. Rev. Christian Oggel preached there from 1866 to 1870, to be succeeded by Rev. B. Van Ess, who departed thence after a very successful pastorate of fourteen years. It was ministered to for a brief period by Rev. J. de Jong, who was succeeded by the energetic candidate Rev. Ralph Bloemendael. The latter

gave a great impetus to the substantial growth of the church, and left in the fall of 1891, to assume charge of the First Church of Chicago, a field of the utmost importance. To-day the church numbers 218 communicants. It has raised an aggregate of \$35,301.65. Its present church property is valued at \$6,000.

And another of the pioneer churches is that of Zeeland, always a leading church of the Reformed denomination in this country, and to-day the largest. Its old archives are unfortunately lost. Under the leadership of Rev. C. Van der Meulen, it fell almost immediately into line. Its tabular records show great punctuality almost from the beginning. Some one among them possessed great clerical ability. Five years after their arrival in the wilderness these pioneers raised hundreds of dollars per annum, for the church and its needs. The aggregate of their contributions since 1858 amount to p. m. \$75,000. No mean sum, indeed, if one takes into consideration that in 1847 they lacked, almost to a man, the scant necessities of life. Its first pastor, the Rev. Cornelius Van der Meulen, was born in Middelharnis, in the province of Zeeland, in the Netherlands, in the year 1800. In early life he had no thought of the ministry, but followed business pursuits. The wave of revival struck him and carried him along. He became a changed man. He now experienced a devouring desire to preach the gospel, and prepared himself for it, as the necessities of the time appeared to demand. Joining the seceders he shared their toils, woes and persecutions, and, catching the American fever, he migrated hither with 400 souls, and settled, in July, 1847, on the

spot where now the attractive village of Zeeland is situated. He came a year after Van Raalte, and, with him, administered the affairs of the colonists. Next to Dr. Van Raalte this man was the most important leader of the immigrants. A man of less learning than the other, but of that subtle knowledge of human nature and singular tact of leadership, which made him the idol of many; the friend of all; the foe of everything which threatened the colony's success. He was pre-eminently a man of men, reading a man's mind with unwonted keenness, jovial and sincere in his associations with men, a man of decision and power, of strong principles and healthy views. He rests in the Lord, in the midst of those who shared with him the heat and burden of the day. His pastorate over the Zeeland church extended from 1847 to 1859. His successor, Rev. J. Stobbelaar, from 1860 to 1865, whose ministry was a stormy one, was followed by Rev. S. Bolks, 1865 to 1872; Rev. W. Moerdyk, from 1873 to 1876, under whom the church was flourishing, was succeeded by Rev. N. M. Steffens, 1878 to 1882, whose ability and power steered the vessel through the dreadful storm of the anti-Masonic agitation, not, however, without serious injury to the church. It lost heavily in those days. Since 1882, Rev. J. Kremer has been their pastor, whose tact and ripe experience keeps the church in a flourishing condition. The question of Americanization has, however, become a great problem in this old church.

The Church of Zeeland maintains a station at New Groningen, and its property is valued at \$10,000. Under the ministry of Rev. J. Stobbe-

laar, secession there first lifted up its head, in 1862. Fifteen members severed their connection and formed a True Church. In 1868 they were considerably strengthened by an accession of Holland Presbyterians. In 1878 they erected their present attractive house of worship. They number to-day 200 communicants. Their pastors were Rev. J. Hulst, 1870-72; Rev. J. Frielingh, 1874-77; Rev. G. Hoeksema, 1877-79; and Rev. L. Rietdyk, one of the ablest pastors of that denomination. Since that time they enjoyed the ministry of Rev. J. Keizer, and, after a long vacancy, they are now under the revolutionizing leadership of an active young pastor, Rev. J. Groen. They value their church property at \$5,000.

From the agitation above referred to, another church was born. It was wrenched from the mother church, in those days when the Reformed Church in these parts appeared to be rocking to its very foundations; when things were in a continuous state of eruption; when all was unsettled, and the very existence of our Reformed, ecclesiastical life appeared a complicated question, by no means easily settled. On March 17, 1882, forty-four members of the Zeeland Church, offended at the treatment which Masonry received at the hands of the old consistory, organized themselves into an independent church. Later on they joined the old seceders. They now number 200 communicants, and have property valued at \$3,200. They are ministered unto, since May, 1883, by Rev. J. F. Fles, formerly of the Presbyterian Church, and since his departure, two years ago, by the Rev. J. Riemersma, the present incumbent.



Again, there is a pioneer church at Vriesland, a little hamlet in the township of Zeeland. On November 19, 1846, a meeting was held at Leeuwarden, in the province of Vriesland (Netherlands), by several men who belonged to that race of people in the Lowlands who trace their descent, in lines almost unbroken, to the original masters of the country, (the Frisians). They belonged mostly to those who had separated from the State Church. They resolved to emigrate to America, and the Rev. Martin A. Ypma was called to be their leader and pastor. You recognize the peculiar bent of all the original settlers, to move under the leadership of some pastor. On April 7, 1847, they sailed from Rotterdam and arrived in Michigan, after an eventful passage, in the month of June following. Settling on a very rich tract of land, they soon began to prosper. The old church has, of late years, given place to a new one, which, together with the parsonage, is valued at \$10,000. Its pastors were Rev. M. A. Ypma, 1847-52; A. Zwemer, 1858-68; Henry Uiterwyk, 1869-72; Peter de Pree, 1872-82; George Niemeyer, 1883-86; Harm Van der Ploeg, 1887-90; Gerardus de Jonge, the present incumbent. That church, even as the others, saw its dark days. Since 1857 a True Church had emanated from it, which kept up a continuous warfare. It is now in about the same condition as Noordeloos, slowly dying, and has left but a membership of some forty communicants. I was, however, unable to obtain any reliable particulars in regard to it. Its attractive Church property, valued at \$1,200, is situated about a mile south of the mother church.

Two miles south of that church another rises,

one of the neatest in the settlements. It belonged to the Reformed denomination until it was deviated from its original purpose in the late Masonic agitation in 1882. The pastor, called at that time, Rev. H. Van der Werp, succeeded some very able Reformed ministers, among whom were Rev. R. Pieters, Rev. Wm. Moerdyk and Rev. Ch. Van der Veen. The present pastor is G. Broene, the number of communicants 220. Its property is valued at \$2,000. Within a stone's throw of it is an old Holland Presbyterian Church, dead at last at this time. In its palmier days it was an affair of some dimensions, but the majority of its members united years ago with the Holland Christian Reformed Church at Zeeland. It had in its make up a "vitium originale." It was an opposition church in Van Raalte's day.

In the opposite corner of the township of Zeeland there is still another trio of Holland churches. The Reformed Church of Beaver-Dam was organized on the 14th day of March, 1870, with thirty-one communicants. Rev. John Broek ministered unto it with great faithfulness from February 15, 1872, till November 2, 1884. In 1875 they built an imposing house of worship. The Masonic agitation broke over that church with dreadful violence. Twenty-four families left it on that account in 1881 and 1882. These, joining with others, settling in the vicinity, were organized soon after as the Holland Christian Reformed Church of Zutphen. To-day they have enrolled 113 members and have considerable property. Their pastor is Rev. H. H. D. Langereis. The old Reformed Church enjoyed for a while the ministry of Rev. Bahler, and

after a long vacancy have now secured a young pastor, Rev. J. Baas, whose coming may mark a new era.

Just across the line north there is a Reformed Church, a child of the above. It was organized as the Reformed Church of South Blendon on the 17th of April, 1883, with thirty-five members. It is a station of some vigor and promises well for the future. Its two pastors were Rev. G. De Jonge, and the present incumbent, William Pool. They have just succeeded in building a new house of worship.

Looking north you will find another cluster of churches in Jamestown. The Reformed Church of that name was organized in 1869 with eighteen communicants. It has grown till its record shows 169 members. Its first pastor was Rev. John Van der Meulen, a son of the pioneer of Zeeland, who was installed there May 30, 1875, and has served that church with singular devotion and great acceptability till 1889. His successor was Rev. C. John, who has just left them for Ebenezer. Its property is estimated at \$4,000. They raised about \$13,000.

Not far removed from it is the Holland Christian Reformed Church of Jamestown, organized during the Masonic agitation on the 26th day of May, 1880, with forty-eight members. They are a growing church, fully alive to the situation, and number to-day 225 communicants. They value their property at \$5,500. Their share of the financial burdens they have nobly borne. Their present pastor is Rev. A. Van den Heuvel. A small off-shoot of these two churches is the

Mission Station of Jamestown Center, which numbers to-day forty-four communicants.

North-east of these there is another Seceder church, that of Jenisonville in Georgetown, organized in July, 1875, with only eight members; to-day it has sixty-seven. Its property has an estimated value of \$1,000.

Coming nearer home you will find in this county still a few more Holland Churches. I am almost afraid to mention them, because I know this recital cannot but be a severe tax on your patience and forbearance.

Yet you must hear the list to the end in order that you may have an adequate idea of the magnitude of the Holland Church-movements in this county. In Grand Haven proper you have no fewer than four Holland churches. The mother of them all is the First Reformed Church—the old Dutch Church as it is sometimes called. It has seen dark days and deep waters, yet it outlived all its troubles. As early as 1847, whilst Van Raalte and his companions were struggling in the southern townships, Hollanders began to settle in Grand Haven. Not a few of them were disappointed colonists, who saw a better opening there than yonder in the forests.

In 1851 Rev. K. Van den Schuur organized some fifteen members into a Reformed church. It grew apace, under a succession of pastors, of whose career little need to be said. For various purposes it raised, since 1858, more than \$85,000. The successive pastors were: Rev. S. Bolks, the pioneer of Overisel, from 1852-55; Rev. P. J. Oggel, called from Utrecht in the Netherlands, later a professor at the college in

Holland, from 1856-59; Rev. Ch. Van der Veen, from 1861-68; Rev. H. C. Klyn, as stated—supply from 1868-69; Rev. J. De Beer, from 1869-72, whose pastorate was productive of great trouble to the Church; Rev. E. C. Oggel, from 1872-78, who now preaches the gospel on the island of St. Thomas in the West Indies; Rev. R. Duiker, from 1878-81; Rev. Henry E. Dosker, 1881-85; Rev. A. Wormser, 1885-91; Rev. P. De Bruyn, the present incumbent. During the pastorate of Rev. Ch. Van der Veen the hive sent out its first swarm on October 25, 1865.

Sixteen members organized a True Reformed Church. It has grown till it numbers to-day 112 communicants. Its property has an estimated value of \$4,500. Its successive pastors were Rev. K. Van den Bosch, from 1869-73; Rev. E. Van der Vries, 1879-83; Rev. A. Keizer, 1884-86, and the present incumbent, Rev. K. Kuyper. They have built their second church and are, as a body, in quite a flourishing condition, though somewhat divided among themselves. Through that church, the First, of Grand Haven, has become a stately grandmother.

The Christian Reformed Church, of Spring Lake, emanated from it in May, 1882, with fifty-five members; to-day they number 125 communicants. They have a property of equal value with the mother church, and are acceptably served by their present pastor, Rev. W. Frieling.

The First Church sent out a second swarm, five years after the organization of the True Church of this place. At Mill Point, south of Spring Lake, a Reformed Church was organized on the 3rd of March, 1876, with seventeen members. Its

cosy church and pleasant parsonage are valued at \$4,000. Its pastors were: Rev. J. De Pree, 1870-80; Rev. J. F. Zwemer, 1880-83, and Rev. R. T. Joldersma, 1884-86; Rev. M. Kolyn, 1882-85; Rev. G. T. Hekhuis, 1887-89, and the present incumbent, Rev. A. Zwemer. Their present membership is 131.

The third swarm followed soon after. Its egress, to my mind, was a deplorable thing. It was entirely premature. Grand Haven should long since have had a Reformed Church worshipping entirely in English. The Second Church should have filled that place. Its organization was the fruit of bitter contention and misunderstandings, and a dreadful lack of leadership.

The Second Reformed Church of Grand Haven was organized on the 22nd day of November, 1871, with twenty-seven members. It has passed, with the mother church, through deep waters. Its property is valued at \$5,000. Its pastors were: Rev. E. Van der Hart, with a short intermission, from 1872-79; Rev. Ch. Van der Veen, 1880, and the present incumbent, Rev. J. Van Zanten.

The great trial of the First Church came over it in the aforesaid anti-Masonic agitation, when it was brought to the very verge of destruction. In the fall of 1881 almost the entire consistory, under the leadership of the pastor, Rev. R. Duiker, with the greater part of its members, left the Church. It was the last swarm, and it almost emptied the hive.

They organized an independent church, but soon after joined the earlier seceders. To-day they number 100 members and have a property.

valued at \$4,000. Their present pastor is Rev. G. de Jong. The First Church has so far outgrown its trouble as to number to-day again 227 communicants. The supreme test of the vitality of these two churches came when the heart was torn from the city's bosom by the destructive fire which, two years ago, laid low four churches and scores of houses and business places. But as Phœnixes they have risen from the smoking ashes, purer and more beautiful for the fiery trial. The two Reformed churches in Grand Haven are models of taste and chaste ecclesiastical architecture, and the fire has cemented the hearts of the people more closely than ever.

Finally, there are two more Holland Churches in Polkton township. The Reformed Church of Polkton was organized in 1855. It was successively under the care of Revs. J. Van der Meulen, 1863-65; A. Huiszoon, 1865-69; A. Buursma, 1869-73; H. Kiekintveld, 1873-76; D. Broek, 1877-80; H. Borgers, 1881-83; and (after years of vacancy) Rev. H. K. Boer, the present pastor. They have built an attractive house of worship in the village of Coopersville, valued at \$5,000, the first frame of which, during its erection, was entirely destroyed by fire. They number to-day eighty-seven communicants.

At Lamont there is a Christian Reformed Church, organized in 1879, with nine members. They number now thirty-five communicants. Their property is valued at \$3,000. The Masonic agitation has strengthened them considerably. Still it is a weak church and appears to lack vitality. The "Masonic additions," as they sometimes call

the later seceders, are by no means elements of new strength in their make up.

Besides the above mentioned Christian Reformed churches in Ottawa county, there are a few of perhaps minor importance, which, however, deserve mention. There is one at Allendale, with 156 members, vacant at this date. Another, that of Hardewyk, with forty-eight members, vacant also. Still two others of more value to their denomination: One at Niekerk, four miles south-east of Holland, with 100 members, to whose spiritual needs Rev. F. Wielandt is now ministering. And finally, the Church of South Olive, organized in 1885, which now numbers 123 members, and whose pastor is Rev. J. Manni. There is a constant fluctuation between these two rival denominations, and it is fervently to be hoped that, at some future date, they may coalesce to do their work, with united strength.

What a change since 1847! Thousands of Hollanders crowded into many of the townships of this county, some living *in all*. Their church life is decidedly the most active of any in the county; their rolls of membership numbering hundreds upon hundreds; for they are a religious, moral class of citizens.

The Reformed Church, through its regular statistics, gives easy access to aggregate figures. Its congregations number 14. Their total of communicants in this county is 2,178; of Sunday school scholars, 2,464. The aggregate of their contributions since 1858 is p. m. \$515,000. The aggregate value of their Church property is \$120,000.

The Christian Reformed Church gives only



partial statistics. Its number of congregations in this county is 18. The total of their communicants is 2,511; of Sunday school scholars, 2,104. The aggregate of their contributions cannot be given, as but few of their churches appear to have kept accounts. Their collective property is valued at \$55,000. The aggregate of all church property described in this paper is \$175,000, which is a very conservative estimate.

### III.—CAUSES OF RUPTURE.

You see these Denominations are quite equally divided. They are both governed according to the pure Presbyterian system. They have the very same symbols: the Canons of the Synod of Dort, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the five articles against the Remonstrants. The orthodoxy of doctrine of both is equally above suspicion. Whence, then, this separation? It is a remarkable fact that the older leaders, to a man, stood by the Reformed Church of America. The Seceders originally adopted the title of "True Reformed Church of America," thereby stigmatizing the other churches as disloyal to the Standards.

In 1881, by a rare stroke of policy, they changed that title into "Holland Christian Reformed Church of America." This move had a two-fold effect:

First. It affiliated these churches, in a conspicuous manner, with the Church of the Seceders in the fatherland, which, by this time, has assumed magnificent dimensions.

Second. It marked out, for the future of the Church, a conservative policy, assuaging the fears of those who dreaded early *Americanizing movements*.

That change has assured the growth of the rival church; catering, as it does, to the strong prejudices of the masses of the immigrants.

To find the deeper ground of this schism between these two bodies you must go far beyond the sea to the early days of the Holland ecclesiastical struggle in the early part of this century. There were various tendencies in that separation. Van Raalte was one of the chief exponents of one of these; but among the early settlers, among his own followers, were his antagonists. As long as suffering and toil abounded, the old roots appeared lifeless, but no sooner began the sun of prosperity to shine, but these dry roots sprouted and grew into shoots and strong trees, and the break of 1857 resulted. Van Raalte came with an aim to this country. To forget what was behind and to grow up into the closest sympathy with the land of his adoption was his idea. He ceased to be a Netherlander, in all his aspirations, as soon as he became an American. America was to him more than a place of exile, a country of refuge. It was the land of his adoption. He desired to cut off old traditions, as fast as Providence opened the way. *They* wanted to retain the past and gloat over it with childish affection. *They* felt themselves exiled; always looking back at Palestine, yet ever ready to acknowledge the undesirableness and unfeasibility of ever returning there. *Their* favorite aim—to reconstruct a little Holland in the forests of Michigan, a colony after the model of that at the Cape of Good Hope. They had each a different spirit. *His* a system of free grace, but of infinite mercy and abounding love; *theirs* one

too often one of cast iron justice and loveless decrees. *His* a gospel of pardon; *theirs* one of judgment. And so they parted, and it was well they did. Not in the present but in the far future lie the possibilities of a re-union; when, with common pride, the thoroughly Americanized Hollanders shall look into the records of the past and shall have outgrown all clannishness; and, clinging to the true faith, shall have obtained a clearer vision of a larger horizon. The anti-Masonic plea, so largely entering into the former, but especially into the later secession, is easily explained.

The Christian Netherlander appears, by nature, to be anti-Masonic. It is a tradition among them. Its reason? "In the days when the flood-gates of infidelity and revolution were opened upon the Lowlands, Freemasonry, hitherto but little known in the Netherlands, grew with astonishing rapidity. Its supporters were bold and defiant in its defense, and belonged not always to the choicest elements of society; their gospel was one of revolution and atheism. And so, to the Holland religious mind, through many believing generations, Freemasonry became identified with infidelity and disintegration. It stands so branded to-day across the sea. The vast majority of Hollanders are its avowed enemies, or at least look upon it with keen suspicion. Their character is an open one, and so they dislike, as by nature, what is dark and hidden. When, therefore, the claim was made that numerous church members and even pastors, in the Reformed Church of America, were at the same time members of secret, oath-bound societies, they began to agitate the

matter. The fanatics on the subject placed before the General Synod the ultimatum to expel all Masons from the community of the Church, or at least to declare membership in oath-bound, secret societies, a punishable sin—which is virtually the same; or to see them rupture their connection.

You see how such an agitation, in the hands of incompetent and bigoted leaders, led into wrong channels, appealing to a strong, national prejudice, could rock the western part of the Reformed Church in America, consisting mostly of Hollanders, to its very foundations. And the wonder is only that it worked, comparatively, so little harm as it did. It has passed by, but yet the fire is smouldering, and may burst out anew at some future period.

Once and again grand revivals have swept over these Churches, spurring them on to greater activity and better work.

You will do well to study this Holland question of development. Do these Hollanders, living among you, Americanize too slowly to suit many; are they too backward in adopting the language of this country in their devotions? Do not judge them hastily; give them time. Remember: First. The flow of immigration has not yet stopped. Second. The present older generations could not use the English language in their worship to edification. Third. It is the hardest thing conceivable to jerk a man's tongue out by the roots. One does not easily discard his mother-tongue, or even cease to love it. It was therein that his mother first taught him to lisp his evening prayer and to sing the sweet songs of childhood.

Again I say give them time. For the change is coming, and when the metamorphosis is complete, I am sure you will recognize in these Hollanders some of the very best elements of the growth and pride of Ottawa county.

#### GERMAN CHURCHES.

Ottawa county numbers, comparatively, but few Germans. They did not colonize in these parts; they did not immigrate to this state en masse as they did to others. The story of their church life is therefore a brief one. Grand Haven is the Teutonic stronghold of this county. This is pre-eminently a city of churches. It has two German ecclesiastical organizations. The older of the two, the St. John's Church, belongs to the German Evangelical Lutheran denomination.

Early in 1863 Rev. W. Achenbach, of Grand Rapids, commenced to preach to the Germans of Grand Haven, and his successor, Rev. J. H. Dail, organized a church among them on the 8th day of April, 1866, himself becoming the first pastor. In 1871, a number of the members joined themselves into a separate organization, adopting the title "Reformed Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel's Church of Grand Haven Township." In 1883 this church turned into a "Union Church," joining itself to its younger but stronger sister. They have had day schools which afforded no mean advantages for the education of their children. Their culture and organization is of the true and loyal Lutheran type.

In 1882 a rupture occurred among the members of the first church, attributable to many

causes and circumstances, and resulted in the organization of the "Evangelical St. Paul's Church," with its attractive house of worship and considerable numerical strength. It was organized on the 10th of April, 1882. Rev. Christopher Zimmerman was installed as pastor on the 22nd of October, following. It severed its connection with the old Missouri Synod, representing a more liberal tendency of life and doctrine.

There is a prosperous church in the northern part of Wright, a small church at Blendon; also a society in the township of Crockery. The aggregate value of their church property is about \$15,000, more or less. The life of these German pastors is a laborious one, their salaries being apparently inadequate to the amount of labor performed.

The German population, though comparatively small in numbers, on account of their industry and intelligent interest in social and political affairs, in a very great degree add stability to the population of the county.

#### ENGLISH CHURCHES.

The history of the English churches of Ottawa county commences with the arrival of Rev. William M. Ferry at Grand Haven—or the mouth of Grand river.

Says Rev. E. P. Gibbs: "The family who thus took their fortunes with them to a wilderness home, were English speaking, thinking and acting people. As this was to be their home, and they were a religious people, the husband, father and protector, a missionary of the Presbyterian Church, the first act, after landing, seems in har-

mony with their ancestry and their faith. They held a religious service, erected their altar, offered their sacrifice, made their vow, and re-consecrated themselves to God under new and strange conditions.

In the first settlement within the confines of Ottawa county, it is easy to trace the spirit of 1620, and note the bond of sympathy between the Plymouth settlers of that period, and those guided by Mr. Ferry in 1834. Each settlement was founded upon a basis of profound religious belief. In both the home, the church and the school, were prime factors in the inception of their movement, and failure rarely follows such a beginning; success is usually its gratifying reward. It is probable that after that first Sunday's service, held in the trader's log house—for it was Sunday morning they sailed into Grand Haven—no Sunday was allowed to pass without a public service.

During the ensuing two years quite a number joined the colony, and in October, 1836, a Presbyterian Church was organized, with twelve members.

The first frame building erected in the settlement, was used for a meeting house, school house, court house, and other general public purposes. It stood on Second street, between Washington and Franklin streets, east side, and but recently was torn down. It should have been saved and carefully guarded as a relic of former days.

From this simple beginning, this germ of religious thought and deed, have gradually evolved the English speaking churches of Ottawa county.

Into these new homes, the habits fostered in

older States were, with slight modifications, introduced. Each new settler came, in obedience to the aggressive spirit of the age, to the new field, ready to work out the problem of life by the light best known. Many brought with them fixed religious convictions and habits. Others left behind them the traditions and faiths of former homes, and went into the wilderness relying upon individual strength of will and hand, as a guarantee of desired success.

All this variety of thought and purpose entered into the formative period of the religious atmosphere of Ottawa county, and is easily traced in the history of its English speaking religious organizations.

But for this marked diversity of motive we should look for, and expect to find, a large and controlling Presbyterian influence throughout the churches composed of English speaking people in Ottawa county. For that was the earliest influence in matters of religion.

It has now but three churches in the county, one, the parent church, in Grand Haven; one in Spring Lake, organized in 1853; another in Ferrysburg, organized in 1882.

But it will be well to remember that the territory of Ottawa county is now very much smaller than when first settled, and that many of the Presbyterian churches in the counties of Muskegon and Oceana may be justly said to be traceable to the seed planting of 1836—children of the parent church.

The English speaking people of Ottawa county have planted and fostered a wide diversity of faith and practice since that little band held its



first service on the bank of Grand river. But each separate church is but the reproduction of a similar church in the older States. Not many new names are found, not many new or strange ideas surprise us, as we trace the formative period in its effect upon religious societies in this county.

It is probable the larger number of the English speaking churches in this county could trace their birth to some earnest one alone in the wilderness, or not at home in some organized worship who went in search of a promised land and found it in the formation of a new society and the erection of a new church.

The forty-three churches holding services in the English language are distributed as follows, viz.:

Allendale, 4—Wesleyan Methodist, Congregational, Adventist.

Blendon, 1—Adventist.

Chester, none.

Crockery, 3—Methodist, Congregationalist, at Nunica, and Sunday School chapel near Spoonville.

Georgetown, 3—Congregationalist, Baptist, Wesleyan Methodist.

Grand Haven, 6—Catholic, Congregational, Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian, Unitarian.

Holland, 4—Methodist Episcopal, two Reformed, Wesleyan Methodist.

Jamestown, 1—Methodist.

Olive, 1—Congregational.

Polkton, 7—Catholic, Congregational, Free Methodist, Protestant Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal, Wesleyan Methodist, Adventist. Of these

four are located at Coopersville, and two at Eastmanville. The Catholic at Dennison.

Robinson, 1—Congregational.

Spring Lake, 5—Baptist, Catholic, Methodist Episcopal, two Presbyterian. One of the Presbyterian churches is located at Ferrysburg.

Talmadge, 3—Congregational, Methodist Episcopal, Baptist.

Wright, 4—Baptist, Catholic, Methodist Episcopal, Adventist.

Zeeland, none.

This church property is valued at \$132,065.

It should not be forgotten that this sketch is restricted to the churches holding their services in the English language, and that the towns in which there are no *such* churches are very largely populated by persons of foreign birth and the children of such. (See histories of German and Holland churches.) As the county has steadily increased in population and wealth, the English speaking churches have maintained a sure and healthy growth. Twenty-three churches have reported an average membership of ninety-one.

In a historical sketch of this kind our work would be incomplete without some plain reference to the different men who have served as missionaries, preachers or priests, in the gathering and establishment of these churches. Could we know these men and come into the privacy of their lives, we should obtain a clearer view of the cost in nerve, and even life, incidental to religious enterprises in Ottawa county. But we have only the cold fact that such work has been done, and the least tribute we can render

to undoubted worth, is to leave upon the records a testimonial of our appreciation of the service of these pioneers of the moral welfare of Ottawa county."

COMPANY F, 2ND INFANTRY, MICHIGAN STATE TROOPS.

BY HEMAN NYLAND.

In April, 1879, about forty of Grand Haven's young men met and organized an independent military company, known as "The Yates Light Infantry." Shortly after organizing, application was made for admission into the State service, and on July 24, 1879, they were mustered into the military service of the State of Michigan, as Company F, Second Regiment, Michigan State Troops, with an enlistment roll of fifty-four men, officered as follows: Frank E. Yates, captain; George W. McBride, first lieutenant, and Samuel C. Mower, second lieutenant. The following spring, Samuel C. Mower was elected captain, in place of Frank E. Yates, resigned, and the name was changed from The Yates Light Infantry to "The Ottawa Blues." Captain Mower continued in command until the spring of 1884. Under his command the company was twice called out for actual service. On May 17, 1881, they were ordered out by Governor Jerome to protect the laws of the State against an armed mob who attempted to take a prisoner from the county jail; and on October 13, 1881, they were ordered to Muskegon to preserve order and protect property at the great saw-mill strike there, that year.

In August, 1883, Captain Mower resigned and Herman F. Harbeck was elected to fill the vacancy, who continued in command until October

12, 1887, when Frederick A. Mansfield was elected to succeed him, with Baltus Pellegrom and Edward H. Andres, as first and second lieutenants, respectively. And the name was changed to "The Grand Haven Guards." The last named officers still continue in command and are the oldest ranking officers in the second infantry.

In May, 1886, Company F, Second Regiment, M. S. T., was incorporated under an act of the legislature providing for the incorporation of military companies, and purchased the property now known as Company F Opera House and Armory, which, through the efforts of the company, is to-day free from all debts and incumbrances. Next spring they intend to build a large addition to the Opera House, which will be fitted up for parlors, office and armory use. The present membership of the company is seventy-four, and the officers of the corporation are: F. A. Mansfield, president; Baltus Pellegrom, vice-president; Herman Nyland, secretary, and Edward H. Andres, treasurer.

TOTAL NUMBER OF MEN FURNISHED DURING THE WAR  
FROM 1861 TO 1865.

No county in Michigan made a better showing of loyalty, during the Great Rebellion, than Ottawa county, considering her population and resources. She furnished 1,547 men, and many as brave officers as the army contained.

THE MARTYRS.

The following is a list of those who offered up their lives on the altar of their country during the war, compiled from the Adjutant-General's reports, and other sources. The list is neces-

sarily imperfect, as it does not include those who enlisted in the regiments in other States, but only those that are credited to the State of Michigan. Let us honor their memory as patriots who died in the cause of right and freedom.

“How sleep the brave who sink to rest  
With all their country’s honors blessed.”

## OTTAWA COUNTY.

Emerson M. Averill, 2d C, Co. A.

Chester W. Adams, 3d I, Co. B, Fair Oaks, May 31, 1862.

Justin Alden, 3d C, Company D, Perryville, Ky., Oct. 8, 1862.

Elias C. Argill, 10th C, Co. C, Knoxville, Tenn., May 10, 1865.

Oliver Ackley, 12th C, Co. C, Knoxville, Tenn., April 10, 1865.

George W. Allyn, 25th I, Co. I, Bowling Green, Feb. 25, 1863.

Arza Bartholomew, 21st I, Co. G, Murfreesboro, May 8, 1863.

Joel A. Burnham, 3d I, Co. A, Murfreesboro, March 7, 1865.

William Brodt, 21st I, Co. G, Suicide, Tenn., Nov. 19, 1865.

William H. Bartholomew, 21st I, Co. G, at home, March 1, 1865.

John Boozer, 21st I, Co. E, Bentonville, N. C., March 19, 1865.

Peter Boies, 2d C, Co. D, St. Louis, April 10, 1862.

Otto Boot, 25th I, Co. I, by Guerrillas, Nov. 28, 1864.

Justin A. Balcom, 21st I, Co. G, Nashville, Oct. 31, 1863.

- Francis E. Brooks, 10th C, Co. D, Burnside Pt., Ky., Feb. 28, 1864.
- Silas E. Benham, 21st I, Co. G, Louisville, Ky., Dec. 8, 1862.
- Job Brockman, 13th I, Co. C, Beardstown, Ky., April 13, 1862.
- Joseph Brown, 2d I, Co. I, Groveton.
- Harlow P. Britton, 10th C, Co. C, Knoxville, June 18, 1865.
- John H. Bender, 3d I, Co. I, Harrison's Landing, May 19, 1862.
- Abijah Brott, 21st I, Co. E, Murfreesboro, July 15, 1863.
- John Barnhill, 21st I, Co. E.
- Lewis Borman, 6th C, Co. B, Battle Mt., July 24, 1863.
- Simeon L. Brink, 5th C, Co. B, of wounds, Oct. 19, 1863.
- Henry O. Brittain, 21st I, Co. G, Chickamauga, Sept. 20, 1863.
- Joseph B. Cady, 21st I, Co. G, David's Island, N. Y., June 28, 1865.
- Francis W. Cole, 21st I, Co. G, Chickamauga, Sept. 20, 1863.
- Charles Carroll, 5th I, Co. E, of wounds, Sept. 12, 1864.
- George A. Chamberlain, 8th I, Co. D, Fredericksburg, Va., May 12, 1864.
- James Chatfield, 2d C, Co. D, Nashville, Dec. 9, 1863.
- Charles W. Coan, 2d C, Co. D, Chapel Hill, Oct. 9, 1862.
- I. H. Crofoot, 25th I, Co. I, Nashville, June 26, 1864.
- Solomon Cronkite, 21st I, Co. E, Louisville, Nov. 15, 1862.

- Martin Clapper, 3d I, Co. I, Malvern Hill, July 1, 1862.
- George Chrysler, 3d I, Co. I, Groveton.
- Aaron P. Camp, 3d I, Co. I, May 12, 1862.
- Isaiah Crofoot, 21st I, Co. I, Bowling Green, May 10, 1863.
- John S. Corless, 2d C, Co. C, steamboat Sultana, April 27, 1865.
- Andrew B. Coon, 2d C, Co. B, Cahaba, Ala., March 25, 1865.
- Alfred Collar, E and M, Co. A, Savannah, Dec. 24, 1864.
- Wm. J. Coble, 3d I, Co. I, Philadelphia, Sept. 16, 1863.
- Charles H. Cranmer, 21st I, Co. E, Goldsboro, March 27, 1865.
- Peter Caston, 5th C, Co. M, Berryville, Va., Aug. 19, 1864.
- Charles Dean, 10th C, Co. K, Camp Nelson, Ky., Feb. 21, 1864.
- Albert DeGroot, 2d C, Co. D, Andersonville prison, May 24, 1864.
- Garrett De Mez, 1st Sharp Shooters, Co. F, of wounds, May 18, 1864.
- George A. Dudley, Beauford, S. C., July 6, 1884.
- Thomas Donahue, 3d I, Co. A, Philadelphia, of wounds.
- John W. De Young, 8th I, Co. D, Annapolis.
- James P. Dennis, E and M, Co. A, Newbern, N. C., March 16, 1865.
- Sylvanus H. Dow, E and M, Co. I, Moreland, N. C., April 18, 1862.
- Peter Decoyer, E and M, Co. D, Bentonville, N. C., March 21, 1865.
- Wm. Deming, 7th I, Co. I, Beverly Hosp. N. J., Oct. 5, 1864.

- Isaac Duvernay, 5th I, Co. I, Salisbury, N. C.,  
Feb. 18, 1865.
- Simon De Groot, 8th I, Co. D, Milldale, Miss.,  
July 25, 1863.
- Gunder L. Edwards, 9th I, Co. H, West Pt., Ky.
- Robert Evans, 7th I, Co. H, West Pt., Ky.
- Nathan Ellis, 10th C, Co. C, Knoxville, April  
15, 1865.
- Harry J. Esget, 2d C, Co. G, Thompson's Station  
March 4, 1863.
- Alfred L. Frazier, E and M, Co. A, Goldsboro,  
N. C., March 29, 1865.
- Birkley Felton, 1st Light Art., Co. E, Nashville,  
June 9, 1864.
- John Finch, 3d I, Co. I, Spottsylvania, May 12,  
1864.
- Myron Fuller, 21st I, Co. I, Georgia, Feb. 20, 1865.
- Franklin H. Garrison, 21st I, Co. G, Newbern,  
N. C., May 1, 1865.
- James Gray, 3d I, Co. A, Nashville, June 22, 1865.
- Frederick Griswold, 14th I, Co. F, Franklin,  
Tenn., Dec. 11, 1863.
- G. N. Gates, 7th C, Co. L, Washington, Nov.  
23, 1863.
- James Grootenhuis, 8th I, Co. D, Fredericksburg,  
Va., May 12, 1864.
- Charles F. Gardner, E and M, Co. I, Bridgeport,  
Ala., April, 1864.
- August Gottschling, 21st I, Co. G, Bentonville,  
N. C., March 19, 1864.
- Eben G. Gale, 2d C, Co. D, home, Sept. 19, 1862.
- Luther H. Griswold, 21st I, Co. G, Nashville,  
Dec. 15, 1862.
- David Gitchill, 2d I, Co. I, July 12, 1861.
- Lewis Getz, 12th I, Co. I, Memphis, Sept. 13, 1863.



- Valentine Glibes, E and M, Co. I, Bridgeport, Ala., March 31, 1864.
- Perry D. Griswold, 1st Sharp Shooters, Co. E, Spottsylvania, May 12, 1864.
- Gilbert S. Havens, 21st I, Co. B, New York, Feb. 2, 1865.
- Nathan Halloway, 3d I, Co. B, Wilderness, May 6, 1864.
- Wm. H. Hilderth, 10th C, Co. C, Burnside Pt., June 24, 1864.
- Lewis Hervey, E and M, Co. D, Massac Creek, Aug. 29, 1862.
- Silas O. Hedges, 10th C, Co. C, Chattanooga, Aug. 9, 1865.
- George Hammer, 10th C, Co. C, Somerset, Ky., March 10, 1865.
- James Hayes, 21st I, Co. G, Jeffersonville, Ind., Feb. 23, 1865.
- Sylvanus S. Harmon, 25th I, Co. I, Bowling Green, March 24, 1863.
- Roswell Harris, 21st I, Co. E, Nashville, Feb. 14, 1863.
- Edwin E. Hurlburt, 3d I, Co. K, Washington, Jan. 20, 1863.
- Abram Haskins, 3d I, Co. B, Nashville, Feb. 13, 1865.
- Ostin Johnson, 21st I, Co. H, Michigan, Feb. 17, 1865.
- A. Jonker, 25th I, Co. I, Atlanta, Aug. 7, 1864.
- Wm. S. Jackson, 2d C, Co. D.
- M. Janson, 25th I, Co. I, Knoxville, March 23, 1864.
- Henry Jessup, 21st I, Co. G, Murfreesboro, April 16, 1863.
- John Krey, 21st I, Co. E, accident, July 8, 1863.

- Thomas Kraai, 3d I, Co. D, Washington, Aug. 1864.
- Ralph Kergers, 3d I, Co. F, Spottsylvania, May 4, 1864.
- John W. Kellogg, 3d I, Co. I, Nov. 20, 1861.
- Wm. H. Kirkland, 3d I, Co. I, June 7, 1862.
- Richard D. Koon, 8th C, Co. M, Nashville, Jan. 23, 1865.
- Alpheus C. Kroft, 3d I, Co. F, Murfreesboro, Dec. 1, 1864.
- John Kamhout, 1st Light Art., Co. B, Cheraw, S. C., March 6, 1865.
- Dirk Keppel, Wilmington Island, April 16, 1862.
- Enos Lesperance, 2d C, Co. D, Nashville, Feb. 25, 1863.
- Nathaniel Luther, 1st C, Co. C., Camp Nelson, Ky., Dec. 29, 1863.
- Almon Landon, 2d C, Co. D, Hamburg, Tenn., May 30, 1862.
- Mark Losee, 2d C, Co. D, Nashville, Dec. 8, 1862.
- Wm. Ledebear, 25th I, Co. I, Bowling Green, May 12, 1863.
- Albert H. Lawton, 21st I, Co. G, Nashville, Dec. 1862.
- David Mead, 21st I, Co. G, Chattanooga, March 11, 1864.
- Warren Maxfield, 5th C, Co. B, Washington, Nov. 6, 1863.
- Henry Mappen, 8th I, Co. D, Mechanicsville, Va., May 31, 1864.
- Luther L. Moody, 10th C, Co. C, Camp Nelson, Ky, Jan. 26, 1864.
- Charles A. Morgan, 3d I, Co. I, Groveton, Aug. 20, 1862.
- Marlin Mokma, 8th I, Co. D, Chantilly, Sept. 1, 1862.

- Franklin Marsac, 2d C, Co. E, Evansville, Aug. 15, 1862.
- John McIntyre, 5th C, Co. B, Brandy Station, Oct. 12, 1863.
- Darius A. Markham, 9th C, Co. B, Andersonville Prison, July, 1864.
- James McDermott, 14th I, Co. C, Camp Dennison, O., May 15, 1865.
- Daniel C. Marsac, 2d C, Co. C, Nashville, Jan. 28, 1865.
- Enos Malcomb, 21st I, Co. G, Murfreesboro, Jan. 31, 1863.
- Antoon Meydam, 21st I, Co. C, Nashville, Jan. 29, 1863.
- Charles Montague, 5th I, Co. A, Richmond, April 25, 1865.
- Moses F. Monroe, 5th I, Co. E, Sailor's Creek, April 6, 1865.
- Wm. R. Nelson, 102d Colored, Co. D, Orangeburg, S. C., June 30, 1865.
- Hendricus Nyland, 8th I, Co. D, Andersonville Prison, Aug. 8, 1864.
- Harvey Olmsted, 2d C, Co. C, Severnville, Tenn. Jan. 27, 1864.
- Noah Perkins, E and M, Co. D, Louisville, March 15, 1862.
- Walter C. Palmer, 15th I, Co. C, Shiloh, April 6, 1862.
- Heter E. Peiffer, 3d I, Co. I, Sept. 5, 1861.
- Isaac Polton, 26th I, Co. B, Reams' Station, Va., Aug. 25, 1864.
- Charles M. Prindle, E and M, Co. I, Wilmington, N. C., March 16, 1865.
- Fayette Porter, 9th I, Co. H, W. Point, Ky.
- Wm. Perry, 5th C, Co. B, Washington, June 15, 1864.

- George Platte, 10th C, Co. A, Knoxville, Sept. 1, 1864.
- Samuel S. Phillips, 3d I, Co. I, Georgetown, Sept. 5, 1861.
- Rence P. Polsmar, 8th I, Co. D, 1863.
- William Roon, 9th C, Co. C, Knoxville, April 3, 1864.
- Daniel H. Rose, 10th C, Co. K.
- Lewis A. Rich, E and M, Co. H, Carterville, Aug. 16, 1864.
- John Rechburg, 3d I, Co. B, Groveton, Aug. 29, 1862.
- Arie Rot, 25th I, Co. I, Louisville, Nov. 22, 1862.
- Cyrus R. Reynolds, 2d C, Co. E, Chapel Hill, Oct. 8, 1862.
- James P. Rowland, 1st Lieu. Art., Co. D, Murfreesboro, Jan. 20, 1865.
- Charles C. Randall, 3d I, Co. B, Harper's Landing, Aug. 3, 1862.
- Lewis I. Rodgers, E and M, Co. I, Savannah, Jan. 10, 1865.
- Walter T. Rice, 21st I, Co. G, Louisville, Jan. 4, 1863.
- Eldert Reenders, 21st I, Co. G, Nashville, 1863.
- Richard Robinson, 21st I, Co. G.
- John Rowlings, 3d I, Co. E, Nashville, June 1, 1865.
- Louis L. Reed, 9th I, Co. H, Murfreesboro, 1862.
- Wm. T. Smith, 5th C, Co. G, Salisbury, N. C., Oct. 28, 1864.
- Geo. S. Sears, 3d I, Co. C, Nashville, April 8, 1865.
- Elmer Spencer, 2d C, Co. D, New Madrid, April 22, 1862.
- Henry Shannon, 21st I, Co. G, at home, March 5, 1865.

Wm. S. Sampson, 21st I, Co. D, Savannah, Jan. 26, 1865.

Albert Simmons, 17th I, Co. B, Andersonville Prison, Aug. 22, 1864.

Elijah Sweatland, 1st I, Detroit, Oct. 7th, 1864.

Jehiel Scales, 21st I, Co. C, Chattanooga, March 2, 1864.

Timothy Sweet, 21st I, Co. B, Louisville.

Nelson J. Saddler, 14th I, Co. F, Detroit, July 7, 1864.

Wm. Schilling, 2nd C, Co. D, Nashville, Nov. 13, 1863.

Jerry Sullivan, 3d I, Co. C, Mine Run, Nov. 30, 1863.

Eli W. Syers, 10th C, Co. C, Knoxville, June 21, 1864.

Louis Sharatts, E and M, Co. K, Ringold, Ga., July 19, 1864.

Eleazer Smith, 1st Lieut. Art., Co. K, Lookout Mountain, Aug. 1, 1864.

George Spencer, 3d I, Co. I, Sept. 10, 1862.

Jacob Stansbury, 2d C, Co. D, St. Louis, April 8, 1862.

Joshua Stoddard, 21st I, Co. G, Stone River, Dec. 31, 1862.

Sylvester Smith, 1st Sharpshooters, Co. A, Spottsylvania, May 12, 1864.

Eli J. Swere, 21st I, Co. E, Louisville, Nov. 18, 1862.

William Scott, 9th I, Co. E, Chattanooga, March 14, 1865.

James Scott, Quartermaster, accidental.

Zenas Sweet, 21st I, Co. G, Nashville, Jan. 30, 1863.

Jacob Scheppers, 13th I, Co. D, Nashville, Nov. 21, 1862.

- Wm. Smith, 3d I, Co. Harrison's Landing, July 17, 1862.
- Stephen Scales, 3d I, April 30, 1862.
- Jack Somerville, 102d Colored Troops, Co. I, April 30, 1862.
- Wm. Skeels, E and M, Co. H, Newbern, N. C., April 15, 1865.
- Alonzo D. Smith, 7th C, Co. A, Jefferson Barracks, June 2, 1865.
- George W. Smith, 2d C, Co. D, Franklin, Tenn., June 4, 1863.
- Peter Ver Shure, 25th I, Co. I, Tebb's Bend, Ky., July 4, 1863.
- Stephen Smith, 5th C, Co. B, Brandy Station, Oct. 12, 1863.
- Reuben Toogood, 21st I, Co. G, Nashville, Jan., 1863.
- Calvin Tillotson, E and M, Co. K, Chattanooga, June 11, 1864.
- Robert F. Thompson, 25th I, Co. I, Holland, Michigan, Oct. 3, 1864.
- Frank Tate, 3d I, Co. I, Washington, Sept 4, 1862.
- Wm. Tate, 3d I, Co. I, Fair Oakes, May 31, 1862.
- Owen Trumbull, 3d I, Co. I, May 18, 1862.
- Nathan R. Tompkins, 1st Sharpshooters, Andersonville Prison, May 24, 1864.
- Wm. J. Tuffs, 6th C, Co. B, at home, May 22, 1865.
- John M. Taylor, 3d I, Co. I, Camp Bullock, Va., March 25, 1864.
- Cornelius Van Dam, 25th I, Co. I, Resaca, Ga., Aug. 14, 1863.
- Benj. Vanhaltree, 2d C, Co. D, Lou., Nov. 17, 1862.
- Wolf Van Appledorn, 25th I, Co. I, Knoxville, Nov. 2, 1863.

Walter Vannil, 8th I, Co. E, Washington, July 20, 1864.

Adrianus Vandertank, 8th I, Co. D, Wilmington Island, Ga., April 16' 1862.

John Vanderbury, 1st Sharpshooters, Danville, Va.  
Gilbert Vanderhoof, 3d I, Co. I, Nashville, June 7, 1865.

Orrin Whitcomb, 14th I, Co. F, Nashville, March 15, 1864.

Capt. Benj. K. Weatherwax, killed at Walanga Bridge, Tenn., April 25, 1864.

Stephen B. Walker, 8th I, Co. D, Middletown, Nov. 2, 1862.

Edward Watson, 3d I, Co. I, Sept., 1861.

Wm. F. Wells, E and M, Co. K, Jeffersonville, Ind., Dec. 22, 1864.

Robert Watson, 10th C, Co. D, Germantown, N. C., April 10, 1865.

Charles Whitehead, 3d I, Co. F, Nashville, April 11, 1865.

Walter Waine, 13th I, Co. I, Stone River, Dec. 31, 1863.

Daniel A. Young, 28th I, Co. C, Lincolnton, N. C., Aug. 4, 1865.

Alonzo D, Yeomans, 10th C, Co. C, Knoxville, Nov. 3, 1864.

Henry Zwol, 21st I, Co. G, Nashville, Jan. 3, 1864.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE W. C. T. U. OF OTTAWA COUNTY.

BY MRS. U. E. T. RORK.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Michigan first entered Ottawa county in 1877, through the efforts of that honored apostle of temperance, Dr. Henry Reynolds, a union being formed at one of his meetings held in Grand

Haven, April 23, of that year, with Mrs. F. C. Stratton, president.

The first regular meeting was held the day following, when the State constitution was read and adopted, by a goodly number of ladies, and the first union of Ottawa county was fairly launched on a prosperous sea. It has existed, with varying fortunes, from that time to the present.

After our National convention declared its political principles, at the St. Louis convention, in 1884, our little craft was nearly deserted; but a few brave hearts steered it safely through these tempestuous times, and its prosperity was never more assured than at the present time, under the faithful and enterprising leadership of Mrs. E. J. Orr.

#### HOLLAND.

In May of the same year, through the efforts of the same loyal friend and helper—Dr. Reynolds, a union of thirty members was organized at Holland, which, through all the subsequent years, has stood faithfully at its post, filling up its ranks as one and another dropped out by death or removal, keeping its average of thirty, perhaps never more alive and encouraged than now, under the leadership of Mrs. Emily Cook.

#### SPRING LAKE.

In June of the same year, 1877, when women organizers were fewer than now, we were again indebted to a loyal brother for the lengthening of our cords. Captain Linscott, while lecturing there, stirred up the temperance women of Spring Lake to join the rapidly increasing army of white ribboners, making the third union in the county. Having suffered a short suspension, the union



was re-organized, at Red Ribbon Hall, in February of the following year, since which time it has kept on its way with an average of eighteen members. In the fall of 1885 the ladies purchased a lot, onto which the hall, formerly occupied by the Red Ribbon Club, was moved, and they now have their own home, the only headquarters owned by any union in the county.

For ten years, Grand Haven, Holland and Spring Lake constituted a three-fold cord not to be broken, holding their county conventions; Mrs. Vanolinda, of Holland, a grand old veteran, leading, while Mrs. Benjamin, our district president, gave efficient help at our anniversaries.

#### LAMONT.

In April, 1887, Mrs. A. S. Benjamin, of Portland, president of fifth district, organized a union at this place, with thirty regular and eleven honorary members; since which time this union has done steady, faithful work, numbering at the present time twenty members, all active and courageous, Mrs. Eliza Robinson being president.

#### ALLENDALE.

Organized by Mrs. Benjamin, in April, 1887, with thirty-two members, Mrs. Finster leading. This much loved woman was a tower of strength till God took her. Miss E. Alice Comstock, the present efficient county corresponding secretary, is a member of this union, and Mrs. A. M. Cooley is president. They keep oil in their lamp.

#### COOPERSVILLE.

Organized by Mrs. Benjamin, in 1889, with nine members; present number, seventeen. They pros-

ecute the different departments of our work and are every way prosperous, under the leadership of Mrs. Etta Laubach.

#### LISBON.

Last, but not least, comes Lisbon union, organized in June, 1890, by Rev. Caroline Bassett, with sixteen members; present number, fourteen. From the amount of work carried on by this union, under the leadership of Mrs. M. A. Frarey, one might think it much larger. Nearly every member has her department of work.

“YS.”

In January, 1886, Miss L. J. Newcomb organized a Young Women's Christian Temperance Union, of fifty members, and twenty honoraries, in Spring Lake, which did excellent work for four years, when very many moved away, and Miss Newcomb was called to other work, necessitating its discontinuance for the present.

#### L. T. L.

Work for the children has been done at different times by several of the unions. Mrs. J. C. Post, of Holland, conducted a Loyal Templars Legion, in 1878-79, which met weekly in the school building. Later Mrs. Annis, of Holland, now removed to California, organized a large class of boys, which met weekly at her own house during two winters. In 1886 Miss Anna Gordon, of Evanston, organized a Legion at Grand Haven, under the leadership of Mrs. Rev. Sammis, which prospered for some months, but when winter came no suitable room for the meetings could be obtained, and it was in consequence discontinued.

The only living Loyal Templars Legion now in the county is at Lisbon, under the indefatigable leadership of Mrs. M. A. Frarey, by whom it was organized, March 12, 1890, with thirteen members, and has since increased to twenty-eight. They hold their meetings regularly, winter and summer, and draw full houses to their frequent concerts.

Ottawa white ribboners are increasing and lifting their banners higher for God and Home and Native Land.

THE BURNING OF HOLLAND, OCTOBER 9, 1871.

BY GERRIT VAN SCHELVEN.

A day of devastation and of woe, ever memorable in the annals of Holland, and never to be forgotten by those who passed through its fiery ordeal. And while the rebuilt city of to-day has nearly obliterated every reminiscence of that fearful catastrophe twenty years ago, and energy and thrift have doubly replaced what was then swept away, yet, our present growth and prosperity cannot be more appreciatively enjoyed than by those who, at the dawn of that fatal day, cast their mournful eye over that desolated plain.

The southern tiers of townships in Ottawa county constituting, with a part of Allegan county, the Holland colony, with the city of Holland as its commercial, social and educational center, were on the eve of celebrating the first quarter-centennial of their settlement.

During that period of nearly twenty-five years they had enjoyed comparatively, a continuous prosperity, marked not so much by the accumula-

tion of capital and wealth as by a steady, healthy growth of both the agricultural districts and of Holland City as their natural market. A variety of resources, a diversity of soil, and a growing manufacturing interest with shipping facilities by both water and rail, had combined in making Holland a prosperous and flourishing little city of about 2,400 inhabitants.

The purport of this paper is to make brief historical mention of the fire of October 9, 1871, whereby in a short space of two hours the labors of a generation were destroyed, hundreds of families rendered homeless, and many a worthy old settler, upon the evening of a well-spent life, left in straitened circumstances, from which he has never been able to recover.

For weeks preceding this eventful October night we had experienced an uninterrupted drought. In most every direction from the city the woods were on fire, and had been for many days. By hard labor the south-eastern part of the city was saved from these forest fires during the week prior to the conflagration, the locality immediately south of Hope college and the so-called orphan house being at that time particularly exposed.

During the afternoon of Sunday, October 8th, the atmosphere was very oppressive and sultry, unusually so for that season of the year. At intervals fine ashes were showered over and into the city. The very skies seemed to betoken the advent of the impending calamity. These ashes as was subsequently explained, were the first messengers of the burning of Chicago on that same Sunday afternoon.

The effect of this long drought and of the atmosphere at this time, seemed, as it were, to prepare all the combustible material in and around the city for the awful fate awaiting it.

The greater part of the south-west addition, only recently platted and sparsely settled, was nothing less than a wooded wilderness, and the ravine along Thirteenth street was filled with logs and timber. What was then called "Post's marsh," south of Sixteenth street, was still a timbered tract, and its mucky soil largely smoldering.

At 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon the wind turned south-westerly and began gradually to increase. The fire alarm was rung from the Third Church bell, and from this time on the fighting of the fire all along the timbered tracts south and south-west of the city was kept up uninterruptedly. The nature of the fire and the distance from the few fire wells we had at that time were such that our fire department, as an organization, was of no avail.

As night advanced the wind increased in force, until towards midnight it blew a hurricane, sweeping the fire and the flames from the woods with an alarming velocity toward the doomed city. The huge bark piles at the Cappon & Bertsch tannery in the western, and the Third Reformed Church in the then southern part of the city, were among the first points attacked; and from thence on the devastating fire fiend had full and unmolested sway. The burning shingles and sidings of this new and large church edifice and the flaming fragments of bark were blown toward the center of the town, sweeping

everything in their northward course. At this fatal moment the wind turned more westerly, thus forcing the fire toward the centre and more eastern part of the city, and—the fate of Holland was sealed.

Within the short space of two hours, between one and three o'clock of Monday, October 9, 1871, this entire devastation was accomplished. No one, unless an eye-witness of such a scene, can conceive of its terror or its awfulness. We shall not attempt to describe it. The entire territory covered by the fire was mowed clean as with a reaper, not a fencepost or a sidewalk, and hardly a stump of a shade tree was left to designate the old lines.

The grounds of Hope college, somewhat isolated as they were, seemed to be the only spot where one could escape with his life. Many took to the waters of Black lake, escaping in small boats.

The fierceness of the wind and the rapidity with which the fire spread, may be inferred from the fact that over two hundred and fifty dead horses, cattle and swine were found in the burned district, and a cancelled bank check, partly burned, drawn by the firm of DeJong, Van Schelven & Oggel, upon Nathan Kenyon, banker, was picked up the next day on one of the farms in section four of the township of Talmadge in this county, a distance of twenty-five miles.

The break of day on that Monday morning presented a scene, the memory whereof will outlive all other recollections in the minds of its victims, and a faint idea can only be given in

this sketch by furnishing a few statistical incidents.

The loss of human life was limited to one aged widow woman, Mrs. J. Tolk. She lived in a small house on Ninth street, near the present residence of E. Van der Veen.

The number of buildings destroyed is about as follows: Dwellings, 210; stores, shops and offices, 75; manufactories, 15; churches, 5; hotels 3; miscellaneous buildings, 45; docks and warehouses, 5; one tug and several other boats.

Amount of property destroyed, \$900,000, with an insurance of only about \$100,000, and of this only a part was recovered, inasmuch as many companies had been rendered insolvent by the great Chicago fire.

Neither was the calamity limited to the city. The damage and devastation in the surrounding township of Holland, as well as in the townships of Fillmore and Laketown in Allegan county, was also great. The recollection of the writer is, that in these localities not less than seventy families were burned out, and the relief work performed during the winter that followed includes also that number of families, besides food and shelter for their stock. No mention will be made here of the miles of fencing destroyed all through this locality, nor of the damage to standing timber.

A minute description of the fire district is not expected in this sketch. Suffice it to say that the heart of the city, including the entire business portion thereof was destroyed. A better idea of the general ruin might perhaps be obtained by simply stating what was left—a strip of houses along the extreme western and southern

parts of the city; all south of Tenth and east of Market streets; and nearly the entire first ward. In addition to this and in the order of their relative importance, we might also make particular mention of Hope college, Plugger mills, Heald's planing mill, union school, First Reformed Church, Holland Christian Reformed Church on Market street, the railroad depots, and the old town house, lately destroyed. Insignificant as this array may appear now, it created at that time a sort of a nucleus around which clustered the faint hopes for the future of Holland. And especially was this so in the case of Hope college, not so much for the money value of its buildings, but for what these buildings represented historically, and for the connecting link it had left between the early Holland colonists and their true and faithful friend—the Reformed Church of America—which had stood by them from the very hour of their arrival upon American soil, under whose fostering care they had gradually developed from the emigrant into the American, and to whom this calamity was to furnish again a new field, to demonstrate that same generosity and attachment.

Hunger and the want of shelter drove most of the people into the country, to the extent that the flames and smoke from the surrounding fires permitted them to do so. In their flight they were not handicapped by many cares, for whatever had not been buried in the ground had been consumed by the fire. All day long the roads leading east out of the city were lined with refugees.

But we must hurry on. We feel a longing to



quit these scenes of desolation. There is something in store, in connection with this calamity, which alleviates much that is painful in contemplation of so much misery.

The general conflagrations of the 8th and 9th of October, 1871, embraced not only Holland and Chicago, but also Peshtigo, Wisconsin, Manistee and the Port Huron district in this State, and several other localities; and it is a matter of history that co-extensive with this widespread ruin, were also the sympathies and charities of our fellow-men.

It will undoubtedly be remembered by many, when the news of the burning of Chicago reached New York, how James Fisk, in his displayful but effective way, gathered in a train load of provisions and supplies, and how with lightning speed he sent them on to relieve the thousands of Chicago refugees, scattered over the open prairies.

Hardly had the people of Holland, on the morning of the following Tuesday, awakened from their first slumbers, after so much anxiety and despair, and while they were yet casting around for a relic or a landmark to designate the spot which had once been their home, and with no indication of what the succeeding day was to bring—but what the generosity of their neighbors was already being manifested.

The surrounding fires had cut off our railroad communications. The bridge on the line of the then Michigan Lake Shore railroad had been destroyed, so that no trains could enter the city. Penetrating as far as they could toward the northern banks of Black river, the friends from the neighboring city of Grand Haven had un-

loaded a timely supply of provisions and other stores, the variety of which was not the least striking feature. These stores consisted not only in what the grocery and the bakery could instantly supply, but the kitchen and the pantry had also been emptied—a loaf of bread partly cut, a solitary biscuit, doughnuts, a remnant of a roast, a part of a ham, etc., etc.—creating in the minds of the hungry recipients the indelible impression that this timely contribution was the spontaneous act of sympathizing friends and generous hearted neighbors.

These supplies, as they were dealt out among our hungry people, spoke more eloquently than words, and proved more forcible than the oral message which accompanied them, that our neighbors felt for us and appreciated our condition, and, so feeling and appreciating, did not hesitate or delay to act.

And it should be stated here, that few of the many incidents, following in the trail of this catastrophe, affected the burned-out people of Holland more deeply than the receipt of these first supplies. The writer was one of those delegated to formally receive them. It was a relief, mingled with so much that was painful; and in order to fully understand this, we should imagine these people, regardless of their prior conditions or home comforts, and clad in the garments of destitution and of misery, standing in line, each awaiting their turn to receive their first allowance of food, according to the number in his or her family. It was this which brought home to them a realizing sense of their true condition, and

how, for the present, they were absolutely thrown upon the charities of their fellow-men.

On the afternoon of the next day a meeting of the citizens was called in the old townhouse, to review the general situation. Among those present was also Dr. Van Raalte, who had returned the day before from Muskegon, where he had preached on Sunday. Those of us who have known this man as a leader, may still form an idea of what was said by him on that occasion, and of the inspiring effect it had upon the people. One of his closing sentiments was expressed in the following language: "With our Dutch tenacity and our American experience, Holland will be rebuilt." And mark the co-incidence, how a similar sentiment was expressed on that same day by Joseph Medill, of *The Chicago Tribune*, in the first issue of his paper after the fire, when he wrote: "With Christian faith and western grit, Chicago shall be rebuilt."

As the news of our destruction became generally known among our immediate neighbors and the surrounding places, aid and relief was liberally forwarded. The Board of Supervisors of Ottawa county, just then in session, visited us and made ample provision for a destitution which was to be feared during the approaching winter, but which aid, thanks to a generous public, was never needed. A new assessment roll of Holland City was ordered by the Board, to make the valuations correspond with the new order of things.

A local relief committee was appointed by the citizens, consisting of the following persons, as near as we can recollect them: Dr. B. Ledeboer, chairman; H. D. Post, secretary; K. Schaddelee,

treasurer; Rev. Drs. A. C. Van Raalte, Phillip Phelps, C. Scott and A. T. Stewart; R. K. Heald, Dr. S. L. Morris, H. Meengs, J. O. Doesburg, G. Wakker, E. Heald and G. Van Schelven.

The township of Holland appointed as their relief committee Messrs. W. Diekema, J. H. Boone and D. Miedema, and a similar committee was also appointed for the burned district in Allegan county.

At Grand Rapids a general relief committee was appointed by Gov. Baldwin to distribute aid through the western part of the State. This committee consisted of Messrs. T. D. Gilbert, Wm. A. Howard, N. L. Avery, H. Fralick and R. M. Collins.

Gov. Baldwin made a tour of inspection of the several burned districts in this State, including Holland, to satisfy himself as to the necessity of furnishing state aid. The abundance of voluntary relief, however, rendered this also unnecessary.

The labors connected with the receiving and distributing of supplies were kept up during the greater part of the winter, with the town house as headquarters. Lumber and building material, hardware, provisions, clothing, household goods and furniture were being sent in large quantities. The liberality of the railroad companies in furnishing free transportation was a very important item. Through the instrumentality of Rev. John L. See, D. D., of New York, treasurer of the board of education of the Reformed Church, a cash fund of about \$40,000 was collected, mainly from among the friends of the Holland Colony in the east. The sister colony at Pella, Iowa,

was not among the least to contribute. The kin across the sea also responded. But it would be manifestly unjust to the others to further single out individuals or localities in this general outburst of good will and charity.

The distribution of this bounty developed upon the local committee at Holland. To do this in the spirit of its donors and with fairness and equity was a task requiring all the ability and discrimination it could muster, and more too. It was a noble though thankless labor.

The work of rebuilding Holland, once begun, was kept up uninterruptedly. The rebuilding of Chicago, however, created a large demand for all kinds of building material and a corresponding increase in prices. The effect of this upon Holland proved very disastrous. It added materially to the cost of every new building and enterprise, thereby creating, in nearly every instance, an indebtedness beyond the extent of the first estimate. Close upon this period came the general shrinkage in values, caused by the panic of 1873, reducing the assets and valuation of the rebuilt city fully fifty per cent., without lessening in the least the liabilities and incumbrances incurred, all drawing interest at the then prevailing rate of ten per cent.

The result of this was—and it is among the most painful reminiscences in the history of the "Burning of Holland"—that the men of push and of enterprise, who had been instrumental in making Holland City what it was up to October 9, 1871, and who had again placed their shoulders to the wheel, and who, in doing so, had assumed large financial responsibilities, were unable to

face the distressing period that soon followed. The tide of events crippled them seriously, and caused a general depression to the newly rebuilt but poverty-stricken town, which depression lasted for years. It was a cruel but unavoidable fate that awaited these men, and it seemed that the new growth and prosperity of the town were made to hinge upon the completion of their downfall. Finally, after many years of hard struggle, Holland again resumed her old time position: though many of the men who in the past had contributed to her fair name and prestige, were not permitted to share in her new prosperity. Brave as they were, they could not outweather the storm, but were ultimately wrecked along the shores of an honest and honorable ambition.

OTTAWA COUNTY—FROM 1840 TO 1892.

In the sketch of the organization of the county the history is brought down to 1840.

According to the United States census, June 1, 1840, the total white inhabitants were 208. There were 4 horses and mules, neat cattle 12, no sheep, 13 swine, no wheat, corn, oats or barley raised, only 100 bushels of potatoes raised, no wool, no dairy products, and only 193 tons of marsh hay. The manufacturing enterprises consisted of 12 saw mills, with an invested capital of \$103,500.

Numerous were the people brought into Ottawa county the first ten years after its settlement bent upon speculation, but the crash that followed President Jackson's specie circulars drove the great majority of them back to older settlements. In 1846 immigration was at a standstill, real

estate well nigh valueless, and hope at a very low ebb. Improvements had been made in advance of the demands. However, favorable changes in the policy of the national government and the state soon survived the hopes of the people, but prosperity came slow. Lumbering was poor business, in fact no business at all; and many men who afterwards made fortunes in the lumber business, at that time could not get trusted for a barrel of flour.

While the growth of the county in those days was slow, yet the census of 1850 shows considerable advancement over 1840.

The United States census of 1850 showed that the county had 1,128 dwellings, 1,134 families, 5,587 inhabitants, and the value of real estate was \$580,890. There were 204 occupied farms with 4,914 acres improved. The live stock consisted of 90 horses, no mules, 538 milch cows, 287 working oxen and 837 other cattle, 192 sheep and 1,349 swine. The products of the county for the preceding year were: Wheat, 3,814 bushels; rye, 262; Indian corn, 24,264; oats, 3,549; barley, 55; buck wheat, 553; potatoes, 9,308; wool, 1,166 pounds; butter, 30,935; cheese, 2,100; hay, 1,507; maple sugar, 42,365; one bushel of clover seed made its appearance. The value of orchard products were \$219, and of home made manufactures \$1,256.

There were 24 saw mills in the county, 11 water and 13 steam. It should be taken in consideration that up to this time Ottawa included the most of the territory of which Muskegon now consists. These mill owners had an invested capital of \$144,030, and turned off an annual pro-

duct of 49,320,000 feet of lumber valued at \$307,480. There were no flour mills at that time, and the aggregate of all kinds of manufactures, mills included, was as follows: Capital invested, \$153,540; hands employed, 323 males, no females; value of annual products, 337,548. The assessed valuation of the real and personal estate was \$435,856.

For forty years after the first mill was built in Ottawa county the manufacture of lumber built up cities and towns and kept them up, thus in every way aiding in the development of the county—employing labor and furnishing a market for the products of the farms as they were hewn out of the forest.

In 1870 the population of the county was 26,650. Of this population, 9,025 males and 8,452 females were native born; foreign born, 5,025 males and 4,148 females. There were 53 black; 31 mulatto, and 7 Indians.

There were 3,658 voters owning property, and 1,358 without property; 5,016.

The total number of acres of land in improved farms was 82,902; wood land, 106,886; other improved, 13,227 acres; cash value estimated at \$7,333,585; value of farming implements, \$125,377. The value of all farm products the preceding year was \$1,761,981; forest products, \$78,419; home manufactures, \$4,930; maple sugar, 80,739 pounds. The live stock on farms was estimated at 4,328; mules and asses, 57; milch cows, 6,452; working oxen, 1,328; other cattle, 5,632; sheep, 15,001; swine, 7,828; and the total live stock was valued \$1,044,948.

The products during the year ending June 1, 1870, were:



Animals slaughtered, in value.....	\$156,271
Wool grown, in pounds.....	50,738
Butter manufactured, pounds.....	597,842
Cheese manufactured, pounds.....	11,000
Milk sold, gallons.....	3,450
Orchard products, value.....	\$ 48,360
Wine, gallons.....	552
Market garden products, value.....	\$ 6,390

Following are the estimates upon farm products for the same year:

Spring wheat, bushels.....	348
Winter wheat ".....	217,919
Rye wheat ".....	5,897
Indian corn ".....	212,675
Oats ".....	166,824
Barley ".....	12,333
Buckwheat ".....	9,638
Peas and Beans ".....	1,978
Potatoes ".....	252,912
Hay, tons.....	23,921
Clover seed, bushels.....	24
Grass seed ".....	42
Hops ".....	8,302

In 1870 there were thirty-two saw mills, twenty-eight steam and four water power, in which the wages paid amounted to \$152,096, and in which the capital invested amounted to \$477,700. The total products were, lumber, 70,700,000 feet; lath, 3,100,000 pieces, and shingles, 1,200,000; the total value of all being \$2,108,325.

There were six flouring mills, four steam and two water power, with fourteen runs of stone. The capital invested was \$65,000, and the product was 17,000 barrels of flour, valued at \$147,500.

There were three foundries and machine shops, one boiler shop. There were six tanneries producing \$125,000 worth of leather annually. The total number of manufacturing establishments were 191, in which over a million dollars was invested; their whole products being \$2,781,867.

There were fifty-seven religious organizations in the county, with 38 edifices, having a seating

capacity of 10,620. The church property was valued at \$147,850.

There were 83 public schools with 54 male, and 98 female teachers, and 2,941 male and 2,998 female pupils. The libraries of the county contained a total of 41,566 volumes.

The total value of real and personal property is given at \$11,123,310, and the total debts of the county and minor municipalities was \$57,650.

That year it cost the county \$5,842 to entertain ninety-seven paupers, of whom thirty-eight were native and fifty-nine foreign born. The first paper was established in the county in 1851, and in 1870 there were eight flourishing newspapers and job printing establishments.

The following taken from the report of the committee on equalization of the board of supervisors, June, 1881, gives a good idea of the enormous growth of wealth in Ottawa county in less than thirty years, it might be said: Taxable land, 341,508,49-100 acres, real estate value total, \$4,016,600, personal estate, \$1,400,019.

The cereal products returned in 1880 were:

	Acres.	Bushels.
Barley.....	1,104	25,621
Buckwheat.....	696	8,439
Indian corn.....	18,830	610,442
Oats.....	10,030	317,935
Rye.....	1,242	14,978
Wheat.....	31,054	657,750

[It is safe to estimate much larger figures than appear in these reports.]

In 1890 Ottawa county had 203,228 acres of land in farms. Of this 133,934 acres were improved and 69,294 acres unimproved. There were 2,742 farms, averaging 74 12-100 acres each, exclusive of cities.

In 1889 there were 22,474 acres of wheat yield-

ing a total of 343,615 bushels, or an average of 15 29-100 bushels per acre.

There were 16,808 acres of corn in 1889, yielding 530,047 bushels of ears.

There were 13,842 acres of oats, yielding 462,500 bushels in 1889.

There were 23,268 acres of wheat sown in 1890.

Ottawa county turned off in 1889 4,721 bushels of clover seed from 3,045 25-100 acres of land.

The same year there were 2,793 39-100 acres of potatoes, yielding a total of 232,672 bushels.

There were 25,913 acres of hay yielding a total of 31,686 tons.

In 1890 Ottawa county had 2,856 25-100 acres of apple orchard and 38,919 bushels of apples were raised in 1889, and 25,347 bushels sold. There were 402 acres of peach orchards and 2,034 bushels of peaches raised in 1889 and 1992 bushels sold. The value of apples and peaches sold in 1889 was \$14,122.50.

Live stock six months old and over in May, 1890, the county had: Horses, 7,052; milch cows, 9,987; cattle other than milch cows, 7,912; hogs, 6,948; sheep, 10,909. Number of sheep sheared in 1889, 10,674; yield of wool, 54,902 pounds.

While the sale of small fruits and market garden products were immense, no reliable statistics are obtainable.

There were 78 apiarists in the county in 1890, with 1,039 colonies of bees, which produced 17,926 pounds of honey in 1889 and 1,071 new colonies.

Following is the assessed valuation of property of Ottawa county in 1890:

TOWNS AND CITIES.	REAL EST'E	PERSONAL	TOTAL
Allendale .....	\$ 357,515 00	\$ 37,485 00	\$ 395,000 00
Blendon .....	297,805 00	9,195 00	307,000 00
Chester .....	798,205 00	63,795 00	862,000 00
Crockery .....	291,060 00	35,940 00	327,000 00
Georgetown .....	579,570 00	64,430 00	644,000 00
Grand Haven City, 1st and 2nd Wards .....	522,525 00	328,475 00	851,000 00
Grand Haven City, 3d and 4th Wards .....	554,175 00	143,825 00	698,000 00
Grand Haven Town .....	171,960 00	6,040 00	178,000 00
Holland City .....	598,150 00	267,850 00	866,000 00
Holland Town .....	757,730 00	113,270 00	871,000 00
Jamestown .....	802,030 00	53,970 00	856,000 00
Olive .....	440,545 00	44,455 00	485,000 00
Polkton .....	911,200 00	108,800 00	1,020,000 00
Robinson .....	85,850 00	3,150 00	89,000 00
Spring Lake .....	327,481 00	316,519 00	644,000 00
Talmadge .....	699,505 00	72,495 00	772,000 00
Wright .....	917,270 00	92,730 00	1,010,000 00
Zeeland .....	939,250 00	219,750 00	1,159,000 00
Total .....	10,051,826 00	1,982,174 00	12,034,000 00

## SUMMARY OF POPULATION.

TOWNSHIP (OR CITY)	1890	1880	1874	1870	1864	1860	1854	1850	1845
Allendale .....	1345	1074	765	799	298	245	192	168	
Blendon .....	1291	785	639	718	276	381	85		
Chester .....	1564	1703	1397	1405	1034	721	500	216	
Crockery .....	1247	1240	1124	1125	574	396	275	247	
Georgetown .....	1845	1815	1464	1474	918	973	457	196	133
Grand Haven City .....	5023	4861	4363	3140					
Grand Haven Town .....	857	642	677	558	1576	1359	684		350
Holland City .....	3945	2620	2469	2324					
Holland Town .....	3086	3064	2716	2354	2777		1991	985	1829
Jamestown .....	2078	2066	1806	1612	708	519	204	72	
Olive .....	1986	1601	1257	612	413	317			
Polkton .....	2584	2688	2267	2416	1242	1222	570	430	321
Robinson .....	510	439	528	406	126	128			
Spring Lake .....	2256	2384	2345	1836	844	743	655	268	98
Talmadge .....	1324	1505	1475	1451	1093	1145	746	545	
Wright .....	1611	1922	2064	2077	1584	1520	868	521	298
Zeeland .....	2834	2715	2576	2343	1693	1467	912		

## INCORPORATED VILLAGES.

The population of the following villages is included in the population given of the townships in which they are located, in the preceding table:

<i>Village.</i>	<i>Township.</i>	<i>Population</i>		
		<i>1880</i>	<i>1890</i>	<i>Incorp'd</i>
Coopersville .....	Polkton .....	645	790	1871
Spring Lake.....	Spring Lake.....	1372	1269	1869
Zeeland .....	Zeeland.....	484	785	1875

## UNINCORPORATED VILLAGES.

<i>Village.</i>	<i>Township.</i>	<i>Population.</i>
Chester.....	Chester.....	71
Lisbon .....	Chester .....	83
Nunica .....	Crockery.....	200
Spoonville.....	Crockery.....	25
Ottawa Station.....	Olive .....	30
Olive Center.....	Olive .....	30
West Olive.....	Olive .....	61
Ferrysburg .....	Spring Lake.....	378
Lamont .....	Talmadge .....	291
Eastmanville .....	Polkton .....	216
Jennison .....	Georgetown .....	192
Hudsonville .....	Georgetown .....	116
New Groningen.....	Holland.....	46
Dennison .....	Polkton .....	20
Berlin .....	Wright.....	274
Allendale Center.....	Allendale .....	117
Beaver Dam.....	Zeeland .....	44
Forest Grove.....	Jamestown .....	57
Jamestown Center.....	Jamestown .....	101
Conklin.....	Chester .....	150
Vriesland.....	Zeeland.....	
Agnew .....	Grand Haven.....	
Gooding .....	Chester .....	
Harrisburg .....	Chester .....	
Bauer .....	Blendon.....	
South Blendon.....	Blendon.....	

The population of the unincorporated towns is also included in table of population of townships. In giving the population of these towns it was necessary to use the census reports of 1884 as their population was not separated from that of the townships in which they are located in the reports of 1890.

## POLITICS IN OTTAWA COUNTY.

Ottawa county early took a hand in politics, and in 1840, for the first time assisted in electing a president of the United States.

Following is the vote from 1840 to 1888:

	<i>Whig.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Free Soil.</i>			
1840.	Harrison.....	81				
	Van Buren.....		88			
1844.	Clay.....	42				
	Polk.....		116			
1848.	Taylor.....	143				
	Cass.....		269			
	Van Buren.....			53		
1852.	Scott.....	363				
	Pierce.....		756			
	Hale.....			59		
		<i>Rep.</i>				
1856.	Fremont.....	1,392				
	Buchanan.....		998			
1860.	Lincoln.....	1,414				
	Douglas.....		1,217			
		<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>S. Dem.</i>	<i>G'back St.</i>	<i>Prob.</i>
1864.	Lincoln.....	1,345				
	McClellan.....		1,536			
1868.	Grant.....	2,441				
	Seymour.....		1,851			
1872.	Grant.....	2,630				
	Greeley.....		1,163			
	O'Connor.....			110		
1876.	Hayes.....	3,401				
	Tilden.....		2,620			
	Cooper.....				70	
1880.	Garfield.....	3,284				
	Hancock.....		2,019			
	Weaver.....				784	
	Dow.....					5
1884.	Blaine.....	3,758				
	Butler-Clevel'd Fus.		3,049			
	Cleveland.....			2,390		
	Butler.....				659	
	St. Johns.....					231
		<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Prob.</i>	<i>Labor</i>	
1888.	Harrison.....	4,302				
	Cleveland.....		3,191			
	Fisk.....			268		
	Streeter.....				57	

VOTE FOR GOVERNOR FROM 1854 TO 1890.

Following is the vote for Governor cast by Ottawa county, from 1854 to 1890:

	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>N'l. G'bk.</i>	<i>Prob.</i>
1854. Bingham .....	624			
Barry .....		729		
1856. Bingham .....	1,393			
Felch .....		1,012		
1858. Wisner .....	1,091			
Stuart .....		1,195		
1860. Blair .....	1,397			
Barry .....		1,237		
1862. Blair .....	993			
Stout .....		1,212		
1864. Crapo .....	1,355			
Fenton .....		1,542		
1866. Crapo .....	1,606			
Williams .....		1,395		
1868. Baldwin .....	2,421			
Moore .....		1,880		
1870. Baldwin .....	1,918			
Comstock .....		1,564		
1872. Bagley .....	2,549			
Blair .....		1,192		
1874. Bagley .....	2,003			
Chamberlain .....		1,756		
1876. Crowell .....	3,381			
Webber .....		2,652		
1878. Crowell .....	2,390			
Barnes .....		1,056		
Smith .....			1,719	
1880. Jerome .....	3,196			
Holloway .....		2,129		
Woodman .....			758	
1882. Jerome .....	2,849			
Begole .....		2,775		
Sagendorph .....				33
May .....			9	
	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Fusion</i>	<i>G'back</i>	<i>Prob. U. Labor</i>
1884. Alger .....	3,655			
Begole .....		3,059		
Miller .....			3	
Preston .....				253
1886. Luce .....	3,423			
Tople .....		2,639		
Dickie .....				326
1888. Luce .....	4,314			
Burt .....		3,180		
Cheney .....				258
Mills .....				63
1890. Winans .....		3,109		
Turner .....	2,965			
Partridge .....				314
Belden .....				19

## VOTE FOR GOVERNOR BY TOWNSHIPS.

The following table gives the vote cast for the different candidates for governor in 1880, 1886 and 1890, by townships.

TOWNS AND CITIES.	1880				1886				1890		
	Republican— David H. Jerome	Democrat— Fred'k M. Holloway	Greenback— David Woodman	Prohibition— Isaac McKeever	Republican— Cyrus G. Luce	Democrat— George L. Yaple	Prohibition— Samuel Dickie	Democrat— Winans	Republican— Turner	Prohibition— Partridge	
Allendale .....	135	42	32	2	187	64	23	120	126	19	
Blendon .....	54	59	16		75	78	2	105	70	3	
Chester .....	110	151	68	1	77	132	17	204	63	15	
Crockery .....	160	66	26		152	87	10	91	138	9	
Georgetown .....	162	83	75		165	115	36	196	167	20	
Grand Haven .....	46	57	25		60	69	7	66	40	7	
Grand Haven City—1st Ward .....	88	146	4		93	115	3	106	65	10	
Grand Haven City—2nd Ward .....	77	129	12		79	114	10	106	35	3	
Grand Haven City—3d Ward .....	158	125	5		216	172	10	198	188	2	
Grand Haven City—4th Ward .....	57	50	4		82	63	1	69	74		
Holland .....	275	157	8		260	157	25	202	200	30	
Holland City—1st Ward .....	61	47	4		88	66	5	85	102	17	
Holland City—2nd Ward .....	32	41	3		107	82	24	72	67	4	
Holland City—3d Ward .....	89	53	6	2	48	54	5	117	153	15	
Holland City—4th Ward .....	37	22	7		49	44	1	74	59	4	
Jamestown .....	153	67	134		183	131	15	158	142	20	
Olive .....	144	103	40		175	101	8	198	163	10	
Polkton .....	338	150	65	1	319	233	69	265	257	46	
Robinson .....	22	28	57		38	60	3	75	36	8	
Spring Lake .....	284	133	33		316	180	28	114	226	21	
Talmadge .....	173	88	98	2	170	136	15	154	154	18	
Wright .....	193	203	33		183	215	30	253	128	24	
Zeeland .....	348	127	3		301	131	6	181	308	9	
Total .....	3196	2129	758	8	3423	2639	329	3109	2965	314	

## OTTAWA COUNTY IN 1892.

For two generations the people of western Michigan have relied directly or indirectly upon the saw mills, and sent their money away for the manufactured articles they used; but thanks be to "Father Time" and improved saw mill machinery, the days of unreliable lumber manufacture have passed from Ottawa county forever.

Whatever improvements are hereafter made in the county must be made upon a solid basis. The large working population that came here



from foreign countries to labor in the mills and invest the savings of their industry in farming lands in the vicinity, have settled upon them and are devoting their whole time to building up a magnificent farming country and the providing of substantial homes for themselves, and in the cities and towns their places are being filled with mechanics.

Capital will hereafter be employed in our cities and towns in the manufacture of such articles as were formerly bought in foreign markets with monies derived from our lumber products. The day has come when our labor and capital must be employed in general manufacture for ourselves and the markets of the great north-west; and upon these enterprises our farmers will hereafter depend for their local markets.

Our capitalists have foreseen that in order to insure the permanent prosperity of Ottawa county, her chief cities, especially, must become general producers of manufactured goods, as well as consumers. That they must do their share in the manufacture of furniture, musical instruments, barrels, boxes, baskets, leather, paper, books, clothing, novelties, edge-tools, shoes, machinery, agricultural implements, iron, steel, brick, matches and the numerous other products of the factory, thus employing their labor and affording a home market for the rapidly developing farming country, and these cities have already made great progress in that direction.

With the rapid development of the state at large new and numerous industries must be built up in western Michigan within a few years. The only question is, where shall they be located?

The answer is simple. They must be located at those points affording ample room for manufacture, and the greatest natural advantages for transportation. They must be located at those points where material can be obtained the cheapest, and where their manufactured products can be shipped to the great markets of the country with the least possible delay and at the lowest possible expense.

In this Ottawa county's water fronts are superior to all other locations, and will continue to attract factories and other enterprises as the people are made acquainted with their advantages.

#### GEOGRAPHICAL.

As has been previously stated, Ottawa county is the grand western gateway of Michigan.

Its entire western boundary, 25 miles in length, is along the shore of Lake Michigan, and it has the two most important harbors upon the east shore of this great lake. One of these harbors, Holland, is less than a hundred miles, and the other, Grand Haven, but a hundred and ten miles from that great and rapidly growing metropolis, Chicago.

Ottawa county is bounded on the north by Muskegon county, on the east by Kent, on the south by Allegan, and on the west by Lake Michigan.

The dimensions of the county on an average from east to west are about twenty-two miles, and from north to south twenty-four miles; with an additional township, Chester, attached to the north-east corner, making a total area of more than 337,000 acres.

Grand river, the most important river in Michigan, flows from east to west through the central part of the county. Before the advent of railroads this river formed an important link in the great thoroughfare between the east and west, across the continent.

For many years it was lined with steamers and barges from the unassuming mud scow to the finest equipped passenger craft, and it is believed by many that the day is not distant when it will be improved to an extent that will admit of its navigation as far as Grand Rapids by the largest lake steamers. As to how soon that time will come depends largely upon the energy manifested by the large and rapidly growing population interested in the project.

Black Lake, one of the most important bodies of water in western Michigan lies wholly in Ottawa county. It is from one fourth to two miles in width and six miles in length. It is upon this magnificent harbor that the city of Holland is located. Upon this lake are also located two of the most magnificent summer resorts in Michigan, Macatawa and Ottawa Beach. Spring Lake, the most important portion of which is in Ottawa county, is a beautiful sheet of water five miles in length, surrounded by magnificent hills and picturesque woodland scenery.

Upon the shores of this lake are located the famous villages of Spring Lake, Ferrysburg and other popular summer resorts.

#### SOIL.

Few whole states in the union possess a greater diversity of valuable soil than Ottawa county. There is not a rod of land in the county

that is not valuable for cultivation; all that is necessary is to find what each particular kind of soil is adapted to. Nearly 100,000 acres are already under profitable cultivation.

#### CLIMATE.

In temperature and climate Ottawa county enjoys a very great advantage over interior regions of country, in the same latitude, on account of the influence of the waters of Lake Michigan upon the atmosphere. The prevailing winds are from the west and the presence of this vast body of water immediately upon the west of the county, operates to prevent extremes of heat and cold, at all seasons of the year. Through the modifying influences of Lake Michigan, Ottawa county may be said to lie in a semi-tropical climate. With the greater portion of western Michigan, Ottawa county is still new and holds out great inducements to people to settle upon its large tracts of undeveloped lands, hundreds of acres of which are still in the market at reasonable prices, considering their close proximity to prosperous cities and unrivaled markets.

Ottawa county affords advantages to the rich or poor, high or low, that far outshine anything in the far west or south.

Ottawa county boasts of no "wild cat" towns, on paper, but offers realities in cities, villages, markets, soil and climate, unsurpassed in this great country of ours, "A country upon whose vast domains the sun has never set."

#### SCHOOLS OF OTTAWA COUNTY.

A sketch of the schools of Ottawa county, in the mind of the writer, should commence with at

least brief biographical sketches of the two most eminent pioneer educators.

AUNT MARY WHITE.

To Miss Mary A. White, sister-in-law of Rev. William M. Ferry belongs the honor of teaching the first school in the county. Miss White was born in Ashfield, Massachusetts, September 18, 1813, and was educated partly at Sanderson Academy and partly under the instruction of that famous teacher, Miss Mary Lyon, from whom she feels she gained her first inspiration as a teacher.

At the age of sixteen she commenced teaching at Ashfield, first a private and then a district school. Then she and her sister for a time taught a boarding school at Amherst, Massachusetts. June 10, 1835, she arrived by sailing vessel around the lakes at Grand Haven. Soon after her arrival she opened a private school—the first school in Ottawa county—at the home of Mr. Ferry. On the organization of the public school she took charge of it and continued with the exception of a few months until 1852. She then taught a year at Steubenville, Ohio, and after that ten years in the seminary at Rockford, Illinois, as associate teacher. Senator Ferry and many of Grand Haven's most prominent men and women were Miss White's pupils in childhood and youth. She and her distinguished nephew, the ex-senator, now occupy the Ferry residence at Grand Haven.

Says Miss White: "It was my privilege to lay the first rough stone in the foundation of the polished educational structure that is now the pride of Grand Haven. It has been my privilege, from being for many years the only teacher in

Ottawa county, to see hundreds rise to take my place, and from the little group that gathered in my room, to see over a thousand children flocking at the sound of the school bell." "I count it, too, an honor that I organized and for sixteen years had charge of the first Sunday school in the county."

"Of the little band who formed the first Church of Christ, I am now the only one connected with it."

PROF. A. W. TAYLOR.

Augustus W. Taylor was born in Litchfield county, Connecticut, July 16, 1819. At the age of eight years he lost both father and mother, and was left entirely destitute of means of support.

Struggling on in poverty, working during the summer months and choring during the winter for support, he was able to attend the public school during a three months winter term. At length, having mastered the branches usually taught in the public schools at that period, he took an academic course and became a student at Williams College, Massachusetts, at the age of eighteen years, class of 1841, made up largely of students who became men of historical prominence in professional life. Prof. Taylor chose the profession of teaching, taught his first school just after passing the age of sixteen years and some portion of each year following in long succession. The public schools of Erie county, New York, near Buffalo, became the chosen field of his work for several years, notably among which was the fine graded school at Lancaster, of which he was chosen its first principal. At that place he married his present wife, Miss Alvira Smith, and

with her took up his residence in Crockery township, Ottawa county, Michigan, their present home, in September, 1853, and taught his first school in a little log cabin near by the following winter at a salary of \$16 per month. In the fall of 1854 he was chosen principal of the Grand Haven schools with one assistant teacher—the place then containing but a comparatively few inhabitants. In 1865 he was again chosen to the superintendency of the schools which had increased to several departments, but during the second year of service he was obliged, on account of failing health, to resign the trust. In 1856 he was elected Judge of Probate of the county and re-elected in 1860, and after serving eight years in that capacity continued for the following three years to do the principal work of the office for his successor, Judge Parks. In 1867, the law creating the county superintendency of schools becoming operative, Rev. C. Vanderveen, the first elected as superintendent by the popular vote, very soon thereafter resigning, Prof. Taylor was appointed by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Hosford, of Olivet college, to fill the vacancy. On the expiration of that term of two years he was retained in the position by the will of the people until the change of the law to the township superintendency, with the exception of one term. On the change of the law to township supervision he was elected from year to year to supervise the schools of Crockery township until 1881, when by another change in the school law creating the board of county school examiners he became a member of the first board, and continued to act as such

for ten years following, a portion of the time as secretary and visiting officer of the schools of the county. During his service as township superintendent of schools and member of the board of county examiners he acted as superintendent of graded schools, six years at Spring Lake and several years each in the Nunica and Coopersville schools, closing his school room work at the last named place. Thus after thirty-eight years intimate connection with the school interests of Ottawa county, striving to discharge faithfully and well every trust committed to him, Prof. Taylor retired to private life in 1891. It may be in place here to state that under the county superintendency the schools and teachers of the county increased rapidly in efficiency—less under the township system and more again under the control of the board of school examiners and its visiting officer. Early in the 80's a county teachers' association was organized, subsequently a second one, the N. O. T. A. Prof. Taylor has been continuously its acting president. Mr. Taylor has been recently enrolled a member of the Williams College Chapter of the Delta Upsilon fraternity, now established in some twenty of the leading colleges and universities, east and west, and embracing in its membership many of the first men of the nation, statesmen, jurists, etc. Mr. Taylor has done a vast amount of newspaper work in addition to his other duties, and has always been considered a valuable contributor to the press.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The first school teacher in Holland was Ira



Hoyt, an American by birth. The school district was organized in June, 1848.

There is no connected record of the schools of Ottawa county up to 1852. Thirty-two districts reported that year. These districts enrolled 1,056 pupils. In 1869 there were ninety-one school houses, fourteen of which were built of logs. In 1883 there were 122 school houses; fifteen were brick and the balance frame. There were as many children attending school in 1852 as now, according to population, but the length of time that children are in school has about doubled since that time. The number of teachers employed in 1855 was seventy-eight; now, between three and four hundred are enrolled.

Excellent graded schools were established in the cities and villages as fast as the population would warrant it. Grand Haven graded schools employ twenty-seven teachers, with Prof. E. P. Briggs at the head, a gentleman eminent in the profession. The library contains 2,500 volumes.

Holland city has nineteen teachers, with Prof. S. E. Higgins, superintendent, an educator of high reputation. The library contains 1,250 volumes.

The district library system in the interior has always bordered upon failure. The following villages have graded schools: Zeeland, Coopersville, Spring Lake, Ferrysburg, Berlin, Drenthe, New Groningen, Lamont, Lisbon, North Holland, Nunica, Vriesland.

In pioneer days each township had three school inspectors, whose duty it was to organize districts, apportion school monies to the districts, examine teachers, grant certificates and visit

schools. In the main this system remained until 1867, when the county superintendency was established. The township system was revived in 1875 but proved so unsatisfactory in its results that in 1881 a compromise measure, combining township supervision with county examinations, was adopted. With various changes the last system is proving very satisfactory both to teachers and the people.

Colon C. Lillie, secretary of the county board, about four years ago introduced the graded system in the schools of the county, and wherever the patrons have had the good sense to support it, the schools have been greatly benefited.

Ottawa county has 119 district schools that will compare with the district schools of any county in the state of Michigan.

With two colleges and her excellent public schools, who shall say that Ottawa county is not perfect in educational facilities?

#### PROVISIONS FOR THE POOR.

Says William N. Angel: "Ottawa county is one of the few counties in the state that makes a distinction between town and county poor. Where such distinction exists all persons residing one or more years continuously in any town or city, self supporting, are town or city charges if needy after such settlement. In such case the county paupers come from the transient class and those who have gained no settlement in town or city.

The county has a commodious brick building of three stories above basement situated upon a 240 acre farm upon the bank of Grand river in the township of Polkton, about one and a half miles below the small village of Eastmanville,

and commanding a charming view of the adjacent country in all directions. Sixty persons can be kept within the poor house main building and hospital (a small frame house), although the average has been only a little above thirty inmates for the seven years since the present building was erected. Any town or city desiring may have their poor supported at the county poor house by paying into the county poor fund \$1.27 per week for board, lodging and washing, and the clothing at the actual cost.

The poor-house keeper is hired from year to year on a net salary of \$460 to \$600, depending much upon experience and adaptation to the difficult duties of the position. The last keeper filled out ten years of service on the 9th day of March last, and for most of the time received the highest salary. Religious services, alternating between American and Holland clergyman, have been a feature of the management at the poor-house for ten years past.

The superintendents of the poor, three in number, are usually selected upon the principle of locality as well as fitness. By law, one of them must reside at the county seat. Of the other two, for many years Holland has had one and Polkton or Wright the other. The present board consists of: Wiekpe Diekma, Holland; Alexander Noble, Coopersville; Wm. N. Angel, Grand Haven.

The name of the present keeper of the county house is Albert H. Winchell, and his postoffice address is Eastmanville.

#### ROADS, BRIDGES AND BUILDINGS.

“The road is that physical sign or symbol by

which you will understand any age or people. If they have no roads, they are savages, for the road is the creation of man and a type of civilized society." This is the motto on the title page of *Good Roads*, a monthly magazine devoted to the improvement of the public roads and streets. If it were literally accepted, the United States would stand very low in the scale of civilization, since our common roads are notoriously the worst in the world. The appearance of this magazine, however, which is published by the League Roads Improvement Bureau, is proof of a healthy agitation to remove this stigma. Ottawa county has contracted the fever, and the people generally are becoming converted to the movement, to improve the main thoroughfares, and much good work has already been done. However, there is yet ample room for further improvements, and the friends of good roads should continue to advocate their cause with vigor.

Grand river should have at least four bridges within the limits of the county and with its more perfect development the people will see their way to construct them.

In the way of buildings, the county may justly take pride in her infirmary, and she is the proprietor of a substantial jail, but sadly is she in need of a court house. That may be constructed however, at any time, without any visible expense to the people; and probably soon will be.

#### PUBLIC MEN.

Ottawa has more men of wide reputation than any other county of the same population in the

state. Statesmen, lawyers, clergymen, professors, writers, authors and financiers, are included in the list. The county never goes without representation in any department of life.

#### STOCK RAISING.

In no department has Ottawa county progressed more rapidly than in stock raising—and especially of horses. Several horses have been produced in the county, the names of which are familiar to horsemen the world over. Horses for every department of labor are being successfully bred; from the heavy coach horse to the 2:20 timer or better. Several of our horsemen have gained national prominence within the last few years.

#### SECRET SOCIETIES.

Secret societies have always flourished in Ottawa county, and it has many different organizations.

The first Masonic lodge—Ottawa, No. 122—was organized at Eastmanville, and received its charter January 13, 1860. Since that time, and within a few years after, lodges were organized at Grand Haven, Holland, Spring Lake and Berlin.

The Odd Fellows also have large and prosperous organizations.

The Knights of Labor, Good Templars and various insurance societies are well represented. Among the insurance societies are the Royal Arcanum, Knights of Honor, Chosen Friends, Maccabees, Modern Woodmen, etc.

#### FREE MASONS.

Grand Haven Lodge No. 139, F. & A. M.—Dispensation was issued June 10, 1862, and

charter granted at January session of Grand Lodge, 1863. The charter members were: George E. Hubbard, James C. Rice, William H. Parks, Robert Howlett, Heber Squier, Robert Cowley, John E. Walker, George Parks, Charles Reynolds, Edward P. Ferry, Charles T. Pagelson, Isaac H. Sanford, Charles J. Pfaff. The present membership is about 115.

Regular communications are held the Wednesday on or before full moon.

Corinthian Chapter, No. 84, R. A. M.—Received dispensation October, 1872; granted charter at January session of the Grand Chapter, 1873. Regular convocation first Tuesday of each month; annual convocation December 6th; membership, 104. First high priest, William J. Pickering; first secretary, Chas. T. Pagelson. Charter members: William J. Pickering, George E. Hubbard, H. W. Burwell, Chas. T. Pagelson, Geo. W. Stone, Charles P. Sellick, Joseph Greer, Charles J. Pfaff, John H. Mitchell, Hammond Wilson, Robert Sinclair.

Grand Haven Council No. 51, R. & S. M.—This council received dispensation March 18, 1881, and charter granted January 16, 1882. George E. Hubbard was the first T. I. M.; Charles T. Pagelson first recorder. Present membership 23. Regular assembly first Friday of each month. Charter members: George E. Hubbard, W. J. H. Saunders, Dan Gale, Chas. T. Pagelson, Chas. N. Dickinson, A. L. Holmes, Hiram Prum, James Walsh, E. G. Bell, C. J. Pfaff.

Ottawa Lodge No. 122, F. & A. M., of Eastmanville was granted a dispensation by the Grand Lodge, May 13th, 1859, and the charter is dated

January 13th, 1860. First meeting held June 6th, 1859. James M. Kelley, W. M.; Timothy Eastman, S. W.; John W. Denton, J. W.; John G. Colgrove, Secretary.

Berlin Lodge No. 248, F. & A. M.—The following named persons were charter members: H. A. Norton, Wm. L. Norton, R. B. McCulloch, Abram Biglow, Elisha Martin, Charles L. Lawton, Job H. Trefry, Isaac Walker, Ezra Halling, John T. Haley, Benj. S. Whitman, John T. Dayton, Wilson Millard, Benj. F. Norton, Joseph Sever, Alvin Decker. The first regular meeting was held Tuesday, March 3d, A. L. 5868, and the officers were: H. A. Norton, W. M.; W. L. Norton, S. W.; R. B. McCulloch, J. W.; J. H. Trefry, Treas.; Charles L. Lawton, Sec.; A. Biglow, S. D.; E. Martin, J. D.; John T. Haley, Tyler.

Holland Lodge.—Unity Lodge No. 191, meets on or before first Wednesday of full moon. Unity Lodge was organized January 23, 1866, with the following charter members: George Lauder, George G. Steketee, Otto Breyman, Jacob O. Doesberg, George N. Smith, William K. Joslin, Joshua Myrick, William L. Hopkins, Joseph A. Gray, B. R. Platt, Gerrit Van Schelven. Officers, George Lauder, W. M.; George G. Steketee, S. W.; Otto Breyman, J. W.

Spring Lake Lodge No. 234, was organized January 8, 1868, with the following officers: Henry W. Cleveland, W. M.; Edwin Thayer, S. W.; Daniel Menzell, J. W.; John Thompson, S. D.; James Thompson, J. D.; James A. Wilson, treas.; Allen C. Adsit, sec'y.

There are six Grand Army Posts in Ottawa

county, as follows: Weatherwax Post No. 75, Grand Haven; Bartholomew Post 136, Nunica; Randall Post 238, Coopersville; A. C. Van Raalte Post 262, Holland; Perkins Post 279, Spring Lake; William Thurkettle Post 388, Allendale.

The following members of the ex-Prisoners of War Association reside in Grand Haven: E. B. Holmes, Co. F, 7th Michigan infantry; Myron Scott, 33rd New York; C. N. Dickinson, Co. G, 21st Michigan infantry.

The Grange societies of the county have been successful from the start, and many are the farmers that owe their prosperity to the Grange. There are seven Granges in the county as follows: Ottawa, located at Herrington, Wright township; Talmadge, in Talmadge township; Georgetown, in Georgetown township; Hudsonville, at Hudsonville; Allendale, at Allendale Center; Olive, at Olive Center; Lisbon, at Lisbon. These Granges have a total membership of about 600, and each society owns its own hall except Olive.

The Patrons of Industry developed wonderful strength in the county during 1890-1, but in numbers are now rapidly declining.

The Farmers' Alliance has also found a welcome in certain localities.

#### CITY OF HOLLAND.

BY G. A. MITCHELL.

Holland, with a population of about 5,000, is located on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan, 100 miles from Chicago, 180 miles from Detroit, 80 Miles from Milwaukee, directly east, and 25 miles from Grand Rapids. It is the market place



and natural center of a fine farming country containing a population of 25,000 people within a radius of fifteen miles, the land tributary to the city being excellently adapted for fruit growing, celery and market gardening.

Following the Holland fire, and before the citizens had had time to recover from the blow which had almost overwhelmed them, came the financial panic of 1873 which still further retarded the growth of the place, in common with that of the entire country. Gradually, however, the city resumed its wonted activity, and a new era of prosperity was ushered in. Energies were directed and capital employed with a view to giving the new city such characteristics and advantages as would place it far in advance of the old one. Substantial brick and stone buildings took the place of frame structures in the business part of the town; modern and beautiful residences were built where formerly stood the plainest of dwellings; new and handsome schools and churches were erected; streets were broadened and carefully graded; new avenues were opened up; shade trees were planted, and, in every direction, foundations looking to future growth and prosperity were laid. The effect of this general activity soon became apparent. Manufacturers from the outside world were attracted by the spirit of enterprise so practically manifested, and investigation conclusively proved that for industrial and manufacturing advantages, no better city than Holland could be selected. The result was the establishment of several new industries, the accretion of additional capital, an increase in population, and a substantial and healthful

stimulus to all the city's interests, which has continued up to the present time. In everything that tends to constitute a prosperous, progressive city, Holland is well equipped and supplied. Its industries are greater and more varied than those of any other town in the state in proportion to its size and population. With educational advantages, which for thoroughness and efficiency are unsurpassed in any community; with religious opportunities represented by numerous churches embracing nearly every denomination; with railroad and shipping facilities, which, so far as the requirements of commerce are concerned, are superior to those of most western cities; surrounded by one of the finest and most productive agricultural regions in the west; supplied with an abundance of pure water; having ample and efficient protection against fire; possessing numerous commodious and well stocked retail stores, Holland offers opportunities and inducements to all classes such as are seldom found combined in larger and more pretentious cities.

Its industries comprise many of the finest factories and mills in the State, and several of them have an almost national reputation for the extent and quality of their output. Following is a list of the most prominent:

The Cappon & Bertsch Tanneries, Standard Roller Mills, City Flouring Mills, West Michigan Furniture Company, Ottawa Furniture Company, Lakeside Furniture Company, Van Putten Tub and Pail Factory, C. L. King & Co.'s Basket Factory, Keystone Planing Mill, Huntley Machine Shops, Kleyn's Novelty Works, Holland Stave and Cooperage Factory, Crystal Creamery, Union

Wagon Works, Demming's Foundry, Van Dyk's Saw Mill, Waverly Stone Company, Huntley Manufacturing Works and Planing Mill, Phoenix Planing Mill and Lumber Yards, Vindicator Fanning Mill Company, Wilms' Harrow Works, Flieman's Wagon Factory, Kole's Wagon Depot.

These concerns are all suitably equipped for the manufacture and production of their various specialties. Their annual output represents more than two millions of dollars, and they give employment to over 1,000 workmen, a large number of whom with commendable prudence and economy have utilized their savings to such advantage that they now occupy their own homes.

In the matter of schools and educational advantages, Holland is to be congratulated upon the excellent opportunities afforded to the young. Its public school system is as nearly perfect as it is possible for careful and wisely directed management to make it. The present availability of the school system consists of a central, ward and high school. In addition to this, Hope College and Western Theological Seminary, one of the best known institutions of learning in the north-west, is situated here.

The religious advantages of Holland are in advance of many cities of greater area and population. The citizens are essentially a church going people, and they give freely and liberally to the support of their religious institutions. There are established here, eight churches, divided as follows: Three Reformed, two Christian Reformed, one Episcopal, one German Lutheran, and one Methodist. The churches are prosperous, and have a large attendance, and the

most cordial relations exist between pastors and people.

It can be asserted without fear of contradiction, that the railroad, shipping and transportation facilities of Holland are unsurpassed by any other place in western Michigan. They are in fact so favorable to manufacturers and shippers, that taken in connection with the city's industries and its commercial relations with other industrial centers in this section, the town must in time hold a commanding position as a distributing point. Its location at the junction of the two divisions of the Chicago & West Michigan, and Detroit, Lansing & Northern systems of railroads, gives direct rail communication with Chicago, Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Detroit, and all points east, west and south. The freight and passenger accommodations afforded by these roads and their connections are excellent. Thirty-two passenger and eighteen freight trains leave Holland daily, and the railroad traffic is increasing faster here than at any other station on the line. In respect to the volume of railroad business, the city ranks third in importance on the road, its annual traffic being valued at over \$100,000, which figures are only exceeded by Grand Rapids and Muskegon, while the yards at this point are conceded to be the most extensive along the line. As regards transportation by water, Holland is particularly favored. The city is connected with Lake Michigan by a magnificent sheet of water known as Black Lake, a fine natural harbor which affords a dock frontage for the entire western portion of the town. The channel is of sufficient depth to permit the navi-

gation of vessels drawing twelve feet of water, thus giving ample facilities for the large vessels employed in the great lake traffic. During the fruit season, a large part of the product of Michigan's splendid fruit belt is shipped to Chicago and Milwaukee by this route, while the passenger accommodation is furnished by a daily steamboat line running direct to these points, at exceedingly low rates of fare. From the facts enumerated it will be seen that Holland is admirably provided with all that is essential in point of transportation facilities, the value of which must be readily apparent to all who give the matter consideration.

The year 1891 was marked by an expansion in the building trade of Holland never before equaled in its history. In addition to several new business blocks of substantial structure and embodying in a high degree the improvements and conveniences of modern architecture, over one hundred dwelling houses were erected, the total value of the year's building transactions amounting to over \$100,000. This creditable record is in no sense due to a "boom" such as frequently marks the mushroom growth of many western cities, to be followed in many cases by periods of depression and disaster.

The city owns and operates a complete system of water works, has electric lights, and the fire protection is perfect.

A sketch of Holland would be incomplete without a reference to the celebrated summer resorts with which its name is so closely identified. These are the far famed Ottawa Beach and Macatawa Park, whose attractions draw to them

thousands of visitors during the summer season from this and other states. During the heated term, each of these beautiful and healthful resorts presents such varied and attractive claims upon the attention of those seeking rest and recreation, that the hotels and cottages, of which there are many, are taxed to their utmost capacity. They are connected with Holland by both railroad and steamboat lines, the distance from the city being but six miles.

#### HOPE COLLEGE.

Hope College was established by the Reformed Church of America. Beginning with a "pioneer" school in 1851, it became an organized academy in 1857, and an endowed college in 1865. A theological professorate was added by the General Synod in 1867, which was soon followed by a regular Theological Department or Seminary. The object of the institution is to furnish liberal courses of study and education, or scholastic discipline, of high order and approved merit. This object has been steadily pursued, as may be seen by an examination of the curriculum of the college and the scholarship of its graduates. The alumni of the grammar school have been 425, of the college 158, and of the theological seminary 46, but in all 174 from the institution have studied for the ministry. In 1865-6 the total of students was 48, and the number has gradually increased until in 1891-2 it is nearly 200, exclusive of the classes of the "summer normal." The faculty, beginning with three professors in 1865-6, has become a corps of twelve teachers of acknowledged skill and experience who have generally held their positions for

years, and have abounded in labor for the school. The first president was Rev. Philip Phelps, D.D., who directed the affairs of the college from 1865 to 1878. He was succeeded by Rev. G. H. Mandeville, D. D., who held the office from 1878 to 1880, and was succeeded by Rev. Charles Scott, D. D. Dr. H. D. Bois Mulford, of Syracuse, N. Y., the present incumbent, succeeded Dr. Scott. The invested funds have reached the sum of \$120,000, besides considerable real estate held for endowment. The campus contains eighteen acres of most pleasant and attractive appearance, and on the grounds are eight buildings for college purposes. The library contains 8,000 volumes, and this, with all the apparatus, is progressive.

In order to meet its increasing requirements, a fine new building is contemplated, plans for which will doubtless soon be prepared. An interesting feature connected with the college is a monthly publication by the students entitled *The Anchor*, which displays considerable literary talent on the part of those' who edit and contribute to it.

#### GRAND HAVEN CITY.

The original plat of Grand Haven contained 340 lots and only extended east to Fourth street. Rix Robinson's name appears as proprietor, and it was filed for record April 14, 1835, at Kalamazoo, Michigan. One lot was offered to each of the first four Protestant denominations that would build respectable houses of worship, within ten years, one lot for a public academy or seminary, one lot for a court house, and one lot for a jail, if built within ten years. The old cemetery (now park) also appears upon this plat.

In 1851, sixteen years after its original plat was recorded, it only had four merchants, Ferry, Albee, Gilbert and Griffin, and depended almost entirely upon the lumber trade to keep it up.

Up to 1853 their trade with the outside world was mostly by small freight schooners engaged in the lumber trade. In April of that year, the steamer Detroit, commenced making regular trips to Chicago. The population in 1854 of the unincorporated village of Grand Haven was only 671.

The only manufactories were lumber mills and Albee's tannery. In 1856 the propeller Troy plied between Grand Haven and Chicago and the Barber between Spring Lake and Chicago.

Grand Haven had no local government until 1867, when it became a city.

The bill incorporating the city was approved by the governor, March 15, 1867, to take effect March 30th, same year. The first election occurred April 1, 1867, and the Democrats were successful. The total vote cast for mayor was 340.

The successful ticket was: Mayor, George Parks; recorder, Charles T. Pagelson, (also ex-officio justice of the peace); treasurer, Jacob De Boe; Wm. M. Ferry and Dr. A. Vanderveen, school inspectors; Wm. Wallace, director of the poor; Wm. N. Angell, James Donnelly and Jacob Despelder were elected justices of the peace. The aldermen elected were: First ward, Dr. A. Vanderveen and J. A. Rice; second ward, John W. Hopkins and William Wallace; third ward, Isaac Sanford and Peter Van Weelden; fourth ward, Henry S. Clubb and Harman Bosch. In



1858 when the first railroad, the Detroit & Milwaukee entered the city on the opposite side of the river, the town had but 1,100 inhabitants, and was only considered of sufficient importance to warrant a weekly mail; but in 1867 it was a full fledged city. Following is a list of the mayors from the organization of the city to the present time, with their terms of office:

George Parks.....	1867-68
Robert W. Duncan.....	1868-69
Dwight Cutler.....	1869-70
Dwight Cutler.....	1870-71
Henry Griffin.....	1871-72
George E. Hubbard.....	1872-73
George E. Hubbard.....	1873-74
John A. Leggart.....	1874-75
John A. Leggart.....	1875-76
Wm. M. Ferry.....	1876-77
George C. Stewart.....	1877-78
Major B. D. Safford.....	1878-79
Major B. D. Safford.....	1879-80
George E. Hubbard.....	1880-81
Major B. D. Safford (Resigned Dec. 18, 1881).....	1881-82
H. C. Akeley.....	1882-83
H. C. Akeley.....	1883-84
Samuel L. Tate.....	1884-85
Levi Scofield.....	1885-86
Joseph W. O'Brien.....	1886-87
Thomas W. Kirby.....	1887-88
Thomas W. Kirby.....	1888-89
Thomas W. Kirby.....	1889-90
Dwight Cutler.....	1890-91
Dwight Cutler.....	1891-92
Thomas W. Kirby.....	1892-93

GRAND HAVEN FIRE.

Grand Haven has been visited by several quite serious fires, the most destructive of which occurred October 1, 1889, when over \$250,000 worth of property was destroyed. However, its effect upon the business of the town was but slight, and temporary. With the single exception of the loss of the former Cutler house, the conflagration proved a blessing in disguise. Many imposing residences now stand where old rookeries stood before, and a new Cutler house

well adapted to the demands of the city has succeeded the old.

#### GRAND HAVEN'S ADVANTAGES AND RESOURCES.

Grand Haven is the county seat of Ottawa county, and with the suburban towns of Spring Lake and Ferrysburg, has a population of nearly 7,000. She has a magnificent harbor, formed by the flowing of Grand river, the largest and longest river in the state, into Lake Michigan. This river empties an immense volume of water which continually sweeps well out into the lake, such natural accumulation as would otherwise obstruct navigation. It is easily accessible by heavy draft ships in a gale and consequently has a high reputation as a harbor of refuge. It is 400 feet wide, with a depth of from twenty to twenty-four feet between the piers, which are being extended so as to traverse the first and second bars, and extend to the outer bar, which will insure twenty-four feet of water and a safe passage for the deepest loaded lake carriers. There is about two and three-eighths miles of piling and revetment around the interior of the harbor offering the finest dockage for manufacture in the north-west. There passed in and out of Grand Haven harbor in the year 1890, as shown by the government report, 866,649 tons of shipping, the largest tonnage of any port on the east shore of Lake Michigan except Manistee. The tonnage of Grand Haven consists of miscellaneous freight and but very little lumber. There has been no hindrance to navigation the last three winters by ice.

Grand Haven enjoys the advantages of three

trunk lines of railway; the Detroit, Grand Haven & Milwaukee, the western terminus of which is here; the combined system of the Detroit, Lansing & Northern and Chicago and West Michigan, and the Grand River railway. Grand Haven is only thirty-one miles from Grand Rapids, with which it is connected by both lines of railroad and the Grand River Packet line. It is only eighty-four miles from Milwaukee, with which it is connected the year around by the elegant line of Grand Trunk passenger and freight steamers.

It is only 110 miles from Chicago, the great metropolis of the west, and second city of the United States, with which it is connected by the new and magnificent daily line of Goodrich steamships. Grand Haven is not a lumber town, but a manufacturing city of healthy growth and great diversity of industries. Its two ship yards turn off annually more ships than any other city of its size on the great chain of lakes.

Its principal articles of manufacture are agricultural machinery, refrigerators, furniture, stationary and marine boilers, stationary and marine engines, the celebrated Dake engines, barrels, pails, wagons and sleighs, carriages, steam yachts and clinker boats, leather, cigars, harness, flour and matches.

Grand Haven is backed up by a fair agricultural country. Among the numerous agricultural and horticultural products of the vicinity, the most important are celery, apples, peaches, grapes, strawberries, raspberries. Celery and the small fruits are grown in great abundance.

Grand Haven's educational interests are repre-

sented by the Akeley Institute, with which the people of the state are familiar, and a union and four ward schools that will compare favorably with the schools of any similar city; it also has a public library of 2,500 volumes. There are twelve churches, opera house, water works, gas works, electric light plant, telephone exchange and three weekly and two daily newspapers.

Here are located the following government offices: Custom house, being the principal office of the district of Michigan; office of the superintendent of the ninth lighthouse district; office of life-saving service of eleventh district; office of local inspector of boilers and hulls for the district of Michigan; civil engineer's office, ninth district; office of weather signal service, and office of local engineers. A marine hospital is also located here.

Highland Park is a very popular summer resort only a mile from the center of the city, which may be reached in five minutes. It has a fine hotel overlooking the lake and nearly a hundred cottages of the various styles known to popular watering places and more are being continually built. The park has one of the finest sand beaches for bathing, shallow out into Lake Michigan a distance of 250 feet, and it is one of the safest and most healthful places for children in the world.

One of Grand Haven's important and permanent industries, is the taking of fish for the market from Lake Michigan, employing five steam tugs, five sail boats, and about fifty men. Chicago is the principal market.

Grand Haven is one of the few cities in this

country in which matches are successfully manufactured. F. F. Sommers first built up and successfully operated a plant for several years, and within the last year a company has been formed of enterprising Grand Haven capitalists. This new company has erected several substantial buildings, and with improved machinery, the product of Grand Haven's inventive genius, it is predicted that they will be able to put matches upon the market cheaper than any other company in the world. The agent of a Pennsylvania company, recently bought out by the Diamond monopoly, stands ready to take the product of the new factory and put it upon the market.

Henry Bloecker has a high reputation along the entire chain of lakes, as the builder of marine engines.

The Dake engine, invented by William F. Dake, of this city, and manufactured by the Dake Engine company, has gained a world-wide reputation for cheapness of construction, economy and utility.

The Grand Haven Furniture company's plant is an important accession to the city, and its products are meeting with a prompt sale upon the general market.

The factory of Silas Kilbourn & Co. is an enterprise of great importance to the city, and its products may be found in nearly all the markets of the western country.

The Challenge Corn Planter and Refrigerator Works are as large if not larger than any other similar establishment in the world. They are organized with a capital stock of \$200,000. The plant occupies twenty acres of ground and has a capacity of five hundred men.

Grand Haven has two ship yards—the Grand Haven Ship Building company's and the Mechanic's Dry Dock company's—Duncan Robertson being master builder of the former and J. W. Callister of the latter. From these yards have been turned off many of the stanchest crafts of the lakes.

The Grand Haven Leather company's plant was put in operation in 1885, burned to the ground in 1886 and immediately rebuilt. They use a carload of between four and five hundred hides a week, and about 2,000 cords of bark a year. They employ forty skilled men the year around, and their business is increasing. They have all they can do to fill their orders. They have 300 feet of water front and dockage, and a branch of the Chicago & West Michigan railway to their buildings. The officers of the company are: A. J. Nyland, president; D. Vyn, vice-president; George Stickney, treasurer; John VauPELL, secretary.

#### HORTICULTURAL AND FLORAL.

Grand Haven may justly take pride in her greenhouses, gardens and celery beds, principally the result of the indomitable will and perseverance of George Hancock, who, though 75 years of age, is as active and enthusiastic in his work as ever. He was born in Devonshire, England, and came to this country about forty-three years ago. After following market gardening in New York State for several years he came to Spring Lake and engaged in lumbering. A few years later he again engaged in market gardening, moving to this city about fourteen years ago. He started in his present location with one small

greenhouse. He now has twelve, the covering of which consists of over 26,000 square feet of glass. From the first Mr. Hancock devoted considerable time to the growing of celery, being the first to introduce that important industry in this locality, and to ship celery from this county. It is estimated that there are now more than 500 people employed in celery growing in this vicinity. Last year Mr. Hancock alone shipped over 500,000 heads. Market is found for celery in various sections of the country. About eleven years ago Mr. Hancock added the floral department to his business, making carnations a specialty, and of which he now has over 150 varieties, comprising all the newest and most desirable. He cut over a quarter million carnation blooms the past season. Another feature is the propagation of young carnation plants, especially the newest varieties. Last season Mr. Hancock added still another department to his business in the way of canning tomatoes of his own growing, putting up many thousand cans. During the busy season it requires at least fifty people to handle the different departments of Mr. Hancock's business.

From the beginning made by Mr. Hancock, Grand Haven and many of her citizens have derived great benefits.

#### AKELEY INSTITUTE.

In the year 1887 the Hon. H. C. Akeley, now of Minneapolis, Minnesota, but formerly of Grand Haven, Michigan, gave his beautiful residence and grounds to the Diocese of western Michigan to be used as a school for girls. The gift was accepted most gladly and a board of directors

appointed with Bishop Gillespie at the head. The necessary steps were taken to change it into a school, and on September 12, 1888, Akeley Institute was opened with eleven boarding pupils and about twenty day scholars. The Rev. J. E. and Mrs. J. E. Wilkinson, with a competent corps of teachers, were put in charge. From the beginning the aim of those in charge was to found a thoroughly first-class school at small cost. The school became quite popular and had splendid success. At the end of the second year the school was overcrowded, and it became necessary to rent a second building to be used as a dormitory. This led to the consideration of a new building on the grounds. After much discussion the trustees accepted plans, and on June 11th, 1891, ground was broken with appropriate ceremonies for a new building to accommodate about one hundred boarding pupils, and having dining room and kitchen, with large gymnasium on third floor. Each year has seen the course of study improved so that to-day it ranks with any girls' school in the west. It has a course for entrance to the University of Michigan, its own classical and English courses, in which it endeavors to fit a young lady who cannot go longer to school to take her place in society as an educated, Christian woman. Students may also take elective courses, choosing those subjects which will best meet their needs. The cost of tuition in either English or classical course is put at \$200 a year. Superior advantages are also offered in vocal and instrumental music and in art. Teachers in all branches are thoroughly competent and capable.



## NATURAL ADVANTAGES OF SPRING LAKE.

Both Spring Lake and Ferrysburg join Grand Haven; both are in Spring Lake township, and each possesses natural advantages similar to those of Grand Haven.

\*Spring Lake village is located upon a beautiful peninsula, bounded upon the north by one of the most magnificent small lakes in Michigan, and on the south by Grand river. Both the lake and river are navigable for the largest boats on the great lakes. There is a continual line of docks on two sides of the town three miles in length, and they might, if necessary, be extended to twelve miles. The village joins the city limits of Grand Haven on the northeast and is but two miles from Lake Michigan and Grand Haven harbor.

Spring Lake is not only located upon two great railroad systems, the Detroit, Grand Haven & Milwaukee, and the Chicago & West Michigan, but lies only 86 miles from Milwaukee and 110 from Chicago—the second city in the United States and the great distributing point of the boundless west.

Spring Lake is in daily communication with both Milwaukee and Chicago by two magnificent lines of boats, the Grand Trunk and Goodrich. By way of the Goodrich line she is also in communication by water with all the cities on Lake Michigan. As with all Ottawa county towns, she is backed up by the immense hardwood forests of northern Michigan, easily accessible by rail, for manufacturing purposes. Spring Lake has good, substantial homes for 2,000 people; has an excellent water supply and elegant streets, being

well graded. Her public schools are the pride of the town, and are morally backed up by six good churches.

As a manufacturing town or summer resort, her natural advantages are excellent, beyond description. She has several manufacturing establishments in a prosperous condition.

#### COOPERSVILLE.

The village of Coopersville is the most prosperous town upon the Detroit, Grand Haven & Milwaukee railway, between Grand Haven and Grand Rapids, and is sixteen miles from each. It is the chief market of a prosperous farming district and is blessed by an unusually enterprising class of business men. It has excellent schools and churches and a full quota of factories and enterprising business establishments of various kinds. Coopersville is connected with the Michigan telephone exchange, and is literally and figuratively upon a live wire.

#### ZEELAND VILLAGE.

Zeeland is the live metropolis of that excellent farming township of Zeeland, and is located upon the Chicago & West Michigan railway, five miles from Holland City and seventeen miles from Grand Rapids. No town of her size in Michigan excels Zeeland in the importance of her manufacturing industries. Every department of her business is in a thriving condition, and her schools and churches do her credit, not on account of imposing buildings, but on account of the solid moral influence they exert upon the surrounding community. Zeeland enjoys all the advantages of the ordinary city and must in

every way be considered the banner town of her size in Michigan.

#### OTTAWA COUNTY PIONEERS.

The names of the early settlers, and those who have been prominently identified with the county's history are too numerous for us to even refer to in this brief work. Following are short references to some of the more widely known pioneers:

##### DWIGHT CUTLER.

Dwight Cutler, was born in Amherst, Massachusetts, November 14, 1830, and came to Grand Haven in 1850. He was first for three years in the employ of Gilbert & Co., forwarding and commission merchants. He then bought out his employers and carried on the business six years himself, buying several steam and sailing vessels during that time. In 1860 Mr. Cutler engaged in the lumber business with Hunter Savidge, of Spring Lake. Out of this co-partnership grew, in a short time, the Cutler & Savidge Lumber company, one of the largest and for years, most prosperous lumber firms in western Michigan. In 1872, Mr. Cutler built and furnished the Cutler House at an expense of nearly \$250,000. He has frequently held the position of mayor of Grand Haven, and such other offices as he could be prevailed upon to devote his time to. For years he has been at the head of many heavy financial enterprises.

##### THE FERRYS.

The Ferrys were for many years the leading spirits of Grand Haven. So prosperous were Ferry & Sons in lumbering, shipping and mercan-

tile pursuits that at Rev. Wm. M. Ferry's death, which occurred December 30, 1876, the estate was estimated at over a million dollars in value.

Col. Wm. M. Ferry developed Ferrysburg, built up the Ottawa Iron Works, and was quite prominent as a Democratic politician. He was supervisor of Spring Lake and afterwards mayor of Grand Haven.

E. P. Ferry was for many years a Grand Haven business man of remarkable energy.

Major Noah H. Ferry was shot down and instantly killed at the battle of Gettysburg.

Hon. Thomas W. Ferry, ex-United States senator, was born at Mackinac June 1, 1827, and was but six years old when the family came to Grand Haven. At the age of twenty-one he was elected clerk of Ottawa county. Two years later, 1853, he was elected a member of the state legislature, and in 1854, state senator. He was a delegate at large at the convention that nominated Lincoln; in 1863 was a commissioner for Michigan of the national soldiers' cemetery at Gettysburg; in 1864 was elected to congress, and re-elected several times. January, 1871, he was elected United States senator; was president of the senate, and on the death of Wilson became vice president of the United States. He was president of the joint meeting of the two houses of congress during the exciting Hayes and Wheeler electoral count, and has the pen at his home in this city with which he signed the election certificates. He was re-elected in 1877, and closed his services in the senate in 1883.

THOMAS W. KIRBY.

Captain Thomas W. Kirby came to the city

first in 1857. He sailed on the ocean ten years and several years upon the lakes. He established a ship yard in Grand Haven in 1869. For thirteen years he was one of the directing spirits of the Michigan Barge company, with headquarters at Grand Haven. Captain Kirby is a business man of wide range, and has marine and general business interests of large dimensions scattered over the country. He is the present mayor of the city.

THOMAS HEFFERAN.

Thomas Hefferan, president of the People's Savings Bank, Grand Rapids, was born in Washington county, New York, July 28, 1831, came to Barry county, Michigan, in 1840, and to Eastmanville in 1848, where he was employed by Dr. Timothy Eastman three years, and then by Galen Eastman, as manager of his lumber interests in Chicago, until 1858, when he returned to Eastmanville in the employ of Galen Eastman, and after seven years, embarked in the lumber and real estate business for himself. He accumulated property rapidly, and in October, 1889, moved to Grand Rapids and engaged in banking and real estate. The People's Savings Bank is patronized by Ottawa county people to a very large extent, and with them is continually growing more popular.

**. The .**  


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**Stanton**  


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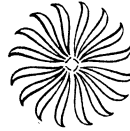
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*REFERENCES—Merchants National Bank, Chicago.*

**LIST OF POSTOFFICES.**

List of postoffices in Ottawa county, with the names of postmasters.

\*Money order offices.

POSTOFFICE	NAME OF POSTMASTER.	TOWNSHIP
Agnew .....	Geo. W. Harris.....	Grand Haven
*Allendale ....	I. J. Quick .....	Allendale
Bass River ...	A. J. White.....	Allendale
Bauer .....	Emma Hague .....	Blendon
Beaver Dam..	Wm. Karsten.....	Zeeland
*Berlin.....	John Mead .....	Wright
Blendon.....	Angus McDonald.....	Blendon
Borculo .....	Fuda Reumsma .....	Blendon
Conklin .....	Henry Miller.....	Chester
*Coopersville..	George T. Peck.....	Polkton
Dennison.....	Susan McLellan .....	Polkton
Drenthe.....	J. Riddering .....	Zeeland
East Holland.	D. Brandt .....	Holland
Eastmanville.	Simon Leifers .....	Polkton
Elgin .....	Ephriam Parmenter .....	Talmadge
Ferrysburg...	Charles Strobe.....	Spring Lake
Forest Grove.	L. Pickaart.....	Jamestown
Furonde .....	John Van Furonde.....	Blendon
Georgetown ..	H. C. Lowing .....	Georgetown
Gitchell.....	H. Lanning .....	Jamestown
*Grand Haven.	Thos. A. Parish.....	Grand Haven
Hanley .....	.....	.....
Harrisburg ...	Wm. H. Harrison.....	Chester
*Holland.....	G. J. Van Duren .....	Holland
Herrington ...	George Seavy .....	Wright
Hudsonville ..	Chas. K. Hoyt .....	Georgetown
Jamestown ...	J. DeVries.....	Jamestown
Jenison .....	Luman Jenison.....	Georgetown
Lamont .....	Miss Mary Hedges.....	Talmadge
Lisbon .....	F. Pomeroy.....	Chester
N'wGroningen	Mrs. E. Brinks.....	Holland
New Holland.	A. Wagenaar .....	Holland
Noordeloos ..	J. Meyering .....	Holland
*Nunica.....	John Pickett.....	Crockery
Olive Center..	John Vinkermulder .....	Olive
Ottawa Beach	.....	Holland
Ottawa Station	Adam Lick.....	Olive
Pearline.....	John Everhart .....	Allendale
Reno .....	Sanford Sievers.....	Wright
Robinson.....	William Foster .....	Robinson
South Blendon	Henry Havikhorst .....	Blendon
*Spring Lake..	S. S. Rideout .....	Spring Lake
Talmadge.....	Warren S. Root.....	Talmadge
Ventura.....	G. W. Joscelyn .....	Holland
Vriesland ...	C. Den Herder .....	Zeeland
West Olive...	Samuel Mountford.....	Olive
Wright.....	John Raddamacher .....	Wright
*Zeeland .....	C. Van Loo.....	Zeeland
Zutphen.....	B. Sterken.....	Jamestown.

*J. W. HANNEN, Pres.**J. J. EMERY, Sec'y & Treas.**A. J. TUCKER, Asst. Sec'y & Treas.*

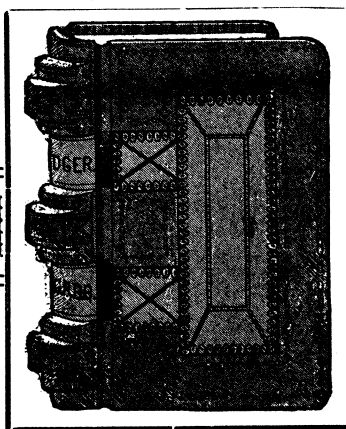
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**GRAND RAPIDS.**



## TABLE OF DISTANCES.

Table showing distances, by wagon road, and by rail (to towns reached by rail) from Grand Haven and Holland to all points in Ottawa county having a postoffice.

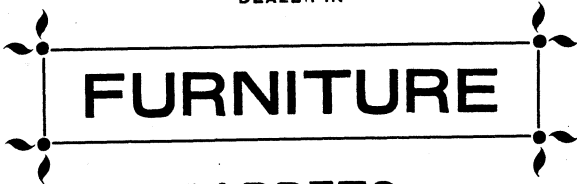
POST OFFICE	TOWNSHIP.	DISTANCE FROM GD. HAVEN		DISTANCE FROM HOLLAND	
		ROAD	RAIL	ROAD	RAIL
Agnew .....	Grand Haven .....	9	8	17	13
Allendale .....	Allendale .....	19		19	
Bass River .....	Allendale .....	12		19	
Bauer .....	Blendon .....	22½		18	
Beaverdam .....	Zeeland .....	23		10	
Berlin .....	Wright .....	21	21	30	41
Big Springs .....	Chester .....	24		37	
Blendon .....	Blendon .....	21		18	
Borculo .....	Blendon .....	20		10	
Conklin .....	Chester .....	25		35	
Coopersville .....	Polkton .....	18	17	28	38
Dennison .....	Polkton .....	14	14	27	35
Drenthe .....	Zeeland .....	30		9	
East Holland .....	Holland .....	27		6	
Eastmanville .....	Polkton .....	16		22	
Elgin .....	Talmadge .....	23		26	
Ferrysburg .....	Spring Lake .....	1½	2	24½	23
Forrest Grove .....	Jamestown .....	33		14	
Farowe .....	Blendon .....	27		15	
Grand Haven .....	Grand Haven .....			23	21
Georgetown .....	Georgetown .....	27		18	
Gitchell .....	Jamestown .....	35		14	
Hanley .....	Jamestown .....	35		21	
Harrisburg .....	Chester .....	29		39	
Holland City .....	Holland .....	23	21		
Herrington .....	Wright .....	23		30	
Hudsonville .....	Georgetown .....	30	34	16	13
Jamestown .....	Jamestown .....	34		16	
Jenison .....	Georgetown .....	30	39	22	18
Lamont .....	Talmadge .....	19		23	
Lisbon .....	Chester .....	31		38	
New Groningen .....	Holland .....	23		5	
New Holland .....	Holland .....	18		5	
Noordeloos .....	Holland .....	20		5	
Nunica .....	Crockery .....	8	9	30	30
Olive Center .....	Olive .....	14		9	
Ottawa Beach .....	Holland .....	20	26	4	5
Ottawa Station .....	Olive .....	12		11	
Pearline .....	Allendale .....	21		19	
Reno .....	Wright .....	23		30	
Robinson .....	Robinson .....	9		14	
South Blendon .....	Blendon .....	26		14	
Spring Lake .....	Spring Lake .....	2	3	25	24
Talmadge .....	Talmadge .....	25		23	
Ventura .....	Holland .....	16		9	
Vriesland .....	Zeeland .....	25	32	10	11
West Olive .....	Olive .....	12		13	
Wright .....	Wright .....	28		35	
Zeeland .....	Zeeland .....	24	27	6	6
Zutphen .....	Jamestown .....	32		14	

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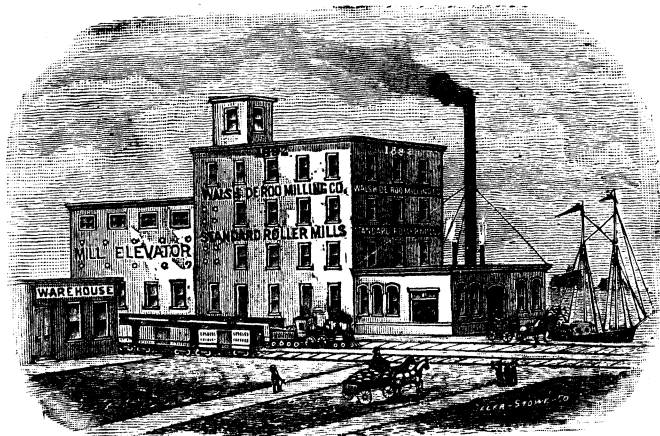
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