

This brought the society to its twelfth year, when the plan of a vice president for each township was adopted, and followed until 1911, when the old plan of one vice president was again taken up, and Dr. W. W. Root was elected to that office. In 1912 C. W. Root, of Lansing, was made vice president, and since that time R. J. Bullen, of Aurelius, has filled that position.

This society was organized in 1872, two years before the State Historical Society, and today (1920) not one of those who were present and helped organize are living; nor are there any names of those now living to be found on the lists until 1884, when R. J. Bullen, of Aurelius, and I. H. Ives, of Mason, are mentioned, which would go to show that they are older, in point of membership, than any others of the members.

## CHAPTER II

### INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

#### P. L. A., MASON, MICH.

General history of Ingham county; Ingham county in 1638; history of the Hog's Back; Ingham county's one lynching; early newspapers; papers by Peter Lowe and Peter Underman; pioneer officers of the county.

"The history of a country is best told in a record of the lives of its people," and no more fitting introduction to a history of Ingham county could be given than in these words of Macaulay. A writer of more obscure fame has said that to give the history of a nation is to tell of its wars, the causes and the results. The territory now known as Ingham county cannot boast of any wars, in the sense of which we speak of war, but the people of early days certainly engaged in many conflicts against the intrusion of foes found in the wilderness and morass of this territory, as they struggled to build their homes.

The elements, the fastnesses of the forests and swamps, the devastation wrought by the wild beasts which infested the country, and the tact and courage they were compelled to use in their dealings with the savages, placed them in the list with the patriot pioneers of this land. The wars and their causes are thus accounted for, and the results need not be enumerated, for we, today, are enjoying the peaceful homes, well cultivated, prolific farms, schools and churches, factories, and all improvements, conveniences and luxuries which modern methods can give, and which this early bloodless warfare made possible for us.

That this section was once the chosen seat of the Indian tribes of the northwest is a fact well known. All know the story of the noted Chief Okemos, head of a tribe of the Ottawas, and the trails that he and his braves made as they crossed and recrossed this part of Michigan are still remembered by the older inhabitants, who have no trouble in naming the exact locality of some of them.

Scientists tell us that the contents of the mounds found in dif-

ferent localities in this section, which we now call Ingham county, prove that it was inhabited long before the days of the redman.

The mammoth trees found growing in these mounds showed that ages had elapsed since the hand of man had constructed and filled them. In speaking of the early settlers, meaning those who have come into this country within the last one hundred years, the only object in referring to these people of pre-historic days is to show that Ingham county pioneers had a part in unearthing the history of these ancient people, when they discovered and opened these mounds in the years of 1866 to 1870.

It was the Indians who blazed the way for us, and made the conquest of the country a much easier matter than it would have otherwise been. The trails of the redman were always over the most direct routes from one place to another, whether for fishing or hunting excursions, and these trails the white man utilized for roads as he made his way through the unbroken forests, across swift flowing streams, as well as swamps and marshes it was impossible to avoid.

History gives no authentic account of the first white man who came onto Ingham county soil, but old records show that the history of the county dates from the time when the "Court of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace" was established by the Territorial Legislature in 1817, though as a county Ingham was not organized until 1839, by the Legislative Council of the Territory of Michigan, and the enactment was as follows:

"Sec. 9.—That so much of the county as is included within the following limits, viz.: north of the base line, and south of the line between townships four and five north of the base line, and east of the line between ranges two and three west of the principal meridian, and west of the line between ranges two and three east of the meridian, be and the same is hereby set off into a separate county, and the name thereof shall be Ingham.

"Approved October 29, 1829.

"Sec. 1.—Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Michigan,

"That the county of Ingham and the same is hereby organized, and the inhabitants thereof entitled to all the rights and privileges to which by law the other counties of the State are entitled.

"Sec. 2.—All suits, prosecutions, and other matters now pend-

ing before any court, or before any justice of the peace of Jackson county, to which the said county of Ingham is now attached for judicial purposes, shall be prosecuted to final judgment and execution; and all taxes heretofore levied shall be collected in the same manner as though this act had not passed.

"Sec. 3.—The circuit court for the county of Ingham shall be held on the first Tuesdays of June and November in each year; and until convenient buildings be erected at the county seat, at such place in said county as the supervisors of commissioner thereof shall direct.

"Sec. 4.—There shall be elected in the said county of Ingham, on the first Monday of June next, all the several county officers to which by law the said county of Ingham is entitled, and whose terms of office shall expire on the 31st day of December next ensuing, and said election shall in all respects be conducted and held in the manner prescribed by law for holding elections for county and State officers.

"Sec. 5.—The board of county canvassers under this act shall consist of one of the presiding inspectors of said election from each township; and said board shall meet at the dwelling house nearest the county seat of said county on the Thursday next after said election, at or before three o'clock P. M. of said day and organize by the appointment of one of their number chairman and another secretary of said board; and thereupon proceed to calculate and ascertain the whole number of votes given at such election for any individual for either of said offices, and shall set down the names of the several persons so voted for, and the number of votes given to each for either of said offices in said county, in words at full length, and certify the same to be a true canvass of the votes given such election in said county, and that the person receiving the highest number of votes for either of said offices is duly elected to said office; which certificate shall be signed by the chairman and secretary, and delivered to the clerk of said county, to be filed in his office.

"Sec. 6.—This act shall be in force and take effect on and after the first Monday of June next.

"Approved, April 5, 1838."

Ingham county was named from Samuel D. Ingham, Secretary of the Treasury in President Jackson's cabinet from 1829 to 1831.

The seat of justice for the county is at Mason, settled in 1338, and became an incorporated village in 1865.

County commissioners adjudicated the affairs in this part of Michigan between the years of 1818 and 1827, and from that time until 1838 the commissioners and supervisors alternated in control.

Ingham county began to take charge of her own affairs in 1838, and while the county seat was located in the "City of Ingham," in Vevay township, a few miles east of Mason, no county buildings were ever erected there. Egypt and Asia are not the only countries where are found records of forgotten cities, for a city was once platted around the quarter posts between sections 1 and 12 in Vevay township.

This was planned to be the county seat and was named the "City of Ingham." It is said that two or three lots were sold, but no house or other building graced the spot until some years later, and comparatively few of the present generation know of this city which existed only on paper.

This place was chosen by a committee of three appointed by the Territorial Governor, and their reason for deciding on this particular spot was because it was the geographical center of the county.

The different townships had elected supervisors and the time was at hand for a meeting of the board, but as there was no building at the laid out county seat, and anyway the city could not be reached for want of roads and dry land, the meeting was held in the nearest residence as provided by law, and thfs happened to be that of Hiram Parker, a well known pioneer of the county.

It is easily seen that the wheels of justic revolved slowly in Ingham county at first. For, while the county was set apart and named in 1889, it was not formally organized by Legislature until one year after Michigan became a State, and nine years after it received its name,

Another forgotten city is that of Jefferson, which was situated three and one-half miles north of Mason, and is said at one time to have consisted of thirteen houses, a saw mill and school house, "Jefferson City" aspired for county seat honors, and for a time a bitter fight was waged concerning the matter, the promoter in favor of Jefferson being George Howe, of Manchester, Washtenaw county, while Charles Noble, of Monroe, worked for Mason, and

his efforts were rewarded by having the county seat moved to Mason in 1840.

At the first meeting of the board of supervisors in Ingham county in October, 1838, there were but seven townships in the county, Aurelius including the entire west half of the county. Until that time the county belonged to Jackson county for all judicial purposes, all officers qualifying there, and all criminals were tried there. Many amusing stories are told of those early day criminals, some being sent alone to Jackson for trial, while others, according to one chronicler, were taken there by force, one being "hog-tied" and dragged there on a sled in the summer time.

Where the county business was carried on in the interval between 1840, when Mason became the county seat, and when the first court house was completed in 1843, no one seems able to tell. When the time came to erect a new court house at the county seat, it was voted by the board of supervisors on December 28, 184% "that there be an appropriation of \$800 to build a court house, \$200 of real estate and \$600 of State bonds." It was also resolved, "That the committee appointed to receive proposals and make a contract for the building of a court house be instructed that if they cannot let the job for \$800 or less, for a building twenty-eight feet by thirty-four,\* with eighteen foot posts, that they make a proposal and contract for a house as large as can be built for \$800," and they were successful in getting a building of the desired size, for the money they were authorized to pay. This building is now a dwelling house on South B street, and is in a good state of preservation.

The first bill allowed in the county was to Dr. Minos McRobert, the clerk, for transcribing the records from Jackson county, for which he received \$10.05.

Wolf bounties formed a large part of the expense at that time, the State paying \$8.00 for each scalp, and the supervisors adding a county bounty of \$2.50 per head. This meeting of 1838 was the last meeting of the supervisors until 1842, the county commissioners doing the work in the meantime.

In 1839 the total valuation of the county property was given as \$867,702, with a State tax of \$2,074 and a county tax of \$2,600.02, which presents a strong contrast to the figures of the present day.

Until 1848 the county was obliged to transport all prisoners to Jackson for safe keeping, but that year the county offices and a jail were built at a cost of \$2,000.

The first recorded action of the board in regard to the poor of the county was in June, 1843, when \$50 was appropriated for their support. In 1844 the importance of having a home for this class of people was seen, and 80 acres of land on section 21 in Alaiedon was bought for \$400. This was added to until the county owned about 200 acres of land, which cost ~~\$3,858.72~~.

In 1873 a change in the location of the county farm was talked of, and the question was agitated for several years, before the three superintendents of the poor were instructed to try and find a more desirable location, for which the farm then in use could be exchanged. The main reason given for the change was to secure some site on a line of railroad, where it would be good policy to erect suitable permanent buildings.

In 1879 the front part of the present county home was constructed, and it was said that it could easily accommodate 100 people, though the total number cared for at that time was 48. In the winter of 1879 the building caught fire and was badly damaged. There were 33 inmates, and all were taken from the building to the home of John Hammond, where they stayed that night. While repairs were being made places were found for 17.

Since the county was organized the amount appropriated has increased from \$50 in 1839 to \$8,650 in 1879. The rapid increase in the amount of funds needed was accounted for by the aftermath of the Civil War, so many helpless and needy veterans who had little or no pension from the Government, and the widows and children of those who died in the service who were left without any means for their maintenance.

At the first general election in 1838 there were 260 votes polled in the county.

In 1839 salaries were fixed for the county treasurer and the prosecuting attorney, the former at \$200 per year and the latter at \$150. By 1874 these salaries had increased until each received \$1,000, the probate judge \$1,025, and the county clerk \$800. The school commissioner was paid by the day and received \$4.50 for each day's work,

In the Michigan State Gazeteer for 1863 is found the following description of Ingham county:

"Ingham is situated in the south central part of the State, and is bounded on the north by Clinton and Shiawassee, east by Livingston, south by Jackson, west by Eaton, and contains 564 square miles. The surface is gently undulating in the southern part of the county, but in the north part it is level, and there are extensive marshes. No county in the State contains a greater variety of soil, and it is to this circumstance, added to its central position, that it was selected as a favorable locality for the Agricultural College at Lansing. The soil is exceedingly productive. The county is intersected by the Grand and Red Cedar rivers and their tributaries. The following is a list of the towns: Alaiedon, Aurelius, Bunkerhill, Delhi, Ingham, Kinneyville, Lansing, Lansing City, Leroy, Locke, Mason village, Meridian, Okemos village, Onondaga, Stockbridge, Vevay, Wheatfield, White Oak, Williamston. The population in 1860 was 17,456. The value of real estate owned is \$6,106,798; the whole number of occupied farms, 1,576; acres improved, 81,295; acres unimproved, 93,151; total wheat in 1860, 110,043 bushels; rye, 7,683.; Indian corn, 233,426; oats, 103,757; potatoes, 85,607; wool, 89,803 pounds; butter, 400,055 pounds; maple sugar, 190,514 pounds.

"There are four water and four steam flouring mills; capital invested in them, \$50,500; manufacturing 31,324 barrels of flour; annual product estimated at \$182,625. There are four water and twenty-one steam saw mills, with a capital invested of \$67,600, producing annually 11,418,000 feet of lumber, estimated to be worth \$87,717. Aggregate of capital invested in all kinds of manufactures, mills included, \$215,165, yielding an annual product of \$521,325.

"The whole number of children, between the ages of 5 and 20, is 6,388, of whom 5,569 regularly attend school. Amount raised by rate bill, \$1,299.51; raised by two mill tax, \$5933.39; qualified male teachers, 65; female teachers, 183. Mason is the county seat. The Amboy, Lansing and Traverse Ray Railroad is completed from Lansing to Owosso, in Shiawassee county."

INGHAM COUNTY IN 1838 AS SHOWN IN THE  
GAZETTEER FOR THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.

The volume which came into the hands of the secretary of the Ingham County Historical and Pioneer Society was owned by Alonzo Cheney, of Eaton Rapids, Eaton county, who was one of the pioneers of Ingham county, and figured largely in its early history.

The Gazetteer was compiled by John T. Blois, and published in Detroit and New York. It is divided into three parts: a general view of the State; general view of each county; topography and statistics.

The first is a very comprehensive history of the Territory and State up to the year 1838, and contains much valuable and authentic information.

In part second we find the following description of Ingham county:

Ingham county is bounded on the north by Clinton and Shin-wassee, east by Livingston, south by Jackson and west by Eaton. It was organized in 1838, and has an area of 560 square miles.

Water courses.—The Red Cedar, Willow Creek, Mud Creek Sycamore Creek.

Lakes.—Pine, Portage, Swampy. (Location not given.)

Organized townships.—Alaiedon, Aurelius, Ingham, Onondaga, Stockbridge, Vevay.

Villages.—Mason Centre is the only village in the county.

The face of the county is generally level, but somewhat uneven on the openings. The greater part is heavily timbered land. Plains and openings constitute the remaining portion, the former of which are found in the southeastern, and the latter in the southwestern part of it. It is represented generally as a rich section, with soils like those found in the other parts of the State, designated by the appellation of plains, openings and timbered lands. The timber is principally sugar maple and beech, in considerable quantities, sycamore, basswood, black walnut, etc. It is generally well supplied with water power. There were but few

settlements made in the county previous to the summer of 1837. Commencing with that period, there has been considerable emigration to it. There are many tracts of excellent land in this county still unsold. One-half of the county, including the eight townships east of the meridian, belongs to the Detroit, the balance to the Grand River Land District.

Ingham, in conjunction with Livingston, elects two representatives, and belongs to, the fifth senatorial district, which returns three senators to the Legislature, Population, 822.

In the third section we find that "Mason Centre, a village of recent origin, is situated on Sycamore Creek, near the centre of the county of Ingham; It has a store, tavern, saw mill, and several dwellings. Distant 25 miles north of Jackson."

"The Red Cedar river. This is a considerable stream, originating in the interior of Livingston county, through which it passes in a northwesterly course into Ingham; thence across the north part of Ingham, where it discharges into the Grand river in township four north, of range two west, about midway between Grindstone Creek and Looking-glass river. It is 35 yards wide, and can be ascended by small boats for 25 or 30 miles."

"Willow Creek.—A trifling tributary to Sycamore Creek, in Ingham county."

"Mud Creek.—A trifling stream, rising near the central part of Ingham county, and discharging into Sycamore Creek."

"Sycamore Creek.—A stream watering the western part of Ingham county, rising by several branches, in its southern part, and flowing northwesterly into the Red Cedar river, at its confluence with the Grand river, Its length is upwards of 15 miles, and its bottoms are covered with a rich growth of the various forest trees of the Peninsula."

"Pine Lake is a collection of water lying in the northern part of the county of Ingham, near the Red Cedar river, into which its waters are drained by a small creek."

"Portage Lake, a trifling body of water in the southeast part of Ingham county. Its waters are conducted into the Portage Lake of Huron river by Portage river."

The description of Grand river is rather amusing to us of today, and its association with Ingham county so slight that no one would dream that it would one day play an important part in the

industrial life of the county, and that on its banks would stand the Capital city of the State. It says:

“Grand river. (Indian name Washtenong.) **This** is the largest stream lying wholly within the State of Michigan. Its course from its head branches to its mouth is very serpentine. At its source are two tributaries—the east and south branches. The former takes its rise on western confines of Sharon township, in **Washtenaw** county, and the south branch on the northern border of Wheatland township, Hillsdale county. They both unite in Jackson county, a little above the village of Jackson. The river then pursues a northerly course to the northern boundary of the county, then westerly for the distance of about eight miles, when it returns to a northerly course, following the boundary line dividing Ingham and Eaton counties; then taking a northwesterly course, crossing the northeast corner of Eaton and southwest corner of Clinton, passing over the eastern part of Ionia; it then strikes a westerly course, passing through Ionia, Kent and Ottawa counties, and enters Lake Michigan fifteen miles south of the Muskegon river, 245 miles southwesterly of the Strait of **Michillimacinae**, and 75 miles north of St. Joseph river. It is **270** miles long, including its windings, and at its mouth between 50 and 65 rods wide, and of sufficient depth to admit vessels drawing 14 feet of water. It is navigable **240** miles for bateaux, and receives in its course as its principal tributaries the Rouge, Plat, Maple, Looking-glass and Red Cedar rivers on the north, and the **Thorn-apple** on the south. It is navigable for steamboats 40 miles, to the Grand Rapids, below which it has not less than four feet of water. At the rapids a canal is constructing; and after it is completed steamboats may go up ‘to the village of Lyons, at the mouth of the Maple, a distance of **50** miles from the rapids, without difficulty. The river is subject to freshets, and the intervals, in some places to inundations, though the high banks generally afford them **sufficient** protection. At the mouth it is never known to rise more than a foot, but at the rapids it sometimes rises to a height of 15 feet. The country along the river for **20** miles from its mouth is generally level, in some instances swampy with lofty forests of various kinds of timber, and bearing an almost **impene-trable** thicket of undergrowth. Proceeding upward, whether deviating to the sources of its numerous tributaries, or following

the main channel, almost every variety of soil and timber is to be met with; sometimes the fertile prairie or, plain, and again the alluvial bottom, and grove of timber. The region of county irrigated by the Grand river and its tributaries is not less than **7,000** square miles, and includes some of the richest and most valuable lauds in the State. **These** lauds are now in demand by emigrants from the east, who are fast increasing in population and improvements, and raising flourishing villages, in **testimony** of their inherent fertility.”

It calls Grand Rapids a village, situated on the south side of Grand river, and gives a full description of the rapids themselves thus :

“**Grand Rapids**.—These consist of an obstruction in the Grand river, 40 miles from its mouth, ‘caused by a stratum of lime rock, which shows itself in the bed of the river and in both banks, for a distance of a mile and a half. Its inclination is remarkably uniform, causing the water of the river to descend with a velocity due to **15** feet fall, without noise or commotion.’ Their length is about one mile. A canal is constructing by the **Kent** Company, around the rapids on the south side. Its dimensions are 81 feet wide, and 5 feet deep. There are to be two locks constructed, each 40 feet wide and 150 feet in length, so that the largest steamboats that navigate the river can pass.” **The** estimated cost of this canal was \$43,751.

At that time the Indian population of the State was said to be 7,914, there being 4,259 in the Lower Peninsula. The **total** white population then was **174,169**, while in 1810 it was 4,384.

In speaking of the minerals found in the State, the writer says: “The Upper Peninsula presents many external evidences of the existence of metallic ores. Large masses of **native** copper have been found in some of the larger rivers.”

A long description of the ancient mounds found in the State is very interesting, but it is quite evident that those in Ingham county had not been **discovered** at that time.

The supplement gives the names of the townships organized at the Legislative session of 1837-38, and among them are Alaiadon, Onondaga, Vevay and Leslie, though Leslie is in the list as belonging to Jackson county. There were 15 chartered **banks** in the State 1838, and 40 banking associations not chartered.

Henry R. Schoolcraft was superintendent of the Indian Department, and he listed 22 Indian trading posts and villages.

The State officers and the salaries they received were as follows:

Governor-His Excellency, Stevens T. Mason. . . . .	<b>\$2,000</b>
Lieutenant Governor--Honorable Edward Mundy . . . . .	
Chief Justice Supreme Court--I-Ion. Wm. A. Fletcher. . .	1,600
Associate Judges :	
Hon. George Morell. . . . .	1,500
<b>Hon. E. Ransom</b> . . . . .	1,500
Chancellor-I-Ion. <b>E. Farnsworth</b> , . . . . .	1,500
Supt. Public Instruction--John D. Pierce, Esq. . . . .	1,500
Secretary of State--Randolph Manning, Esq., . . . . .	1,000
<b>Treasurer--Henry Howard, Esq.</b> . . . . .	800
Attorney General--Peter Morey. . . . .	500
Auditor General--Robert Abbott, Esq., . . . . .	1,000
Bank Commissioners:	
Thomas Fitzgerald, Esq. . . . .	1,250
Alpheus <b>Felch</b> , Esq. . . . .	<b>1,250</b>
Kintzing Pritchette, Esq., . . . . .	1,260
Private Secretary to Governor--Calvin C. Jackson, Esq.	500
Adjutant General--Col. John E. Swartz, . . . . .	125
Quartermaster General--Col. Sheldon <b>McKnight</b> . . . . .	125
Acting Commissioner State Penitentiary--Benjamin Porter, Jr., compensation \$2.50 per day.	

Commissioners Internal Improvement :

Lansing B. Mizner, of Wayne.  
 Levi S. Humphrey, of Monroe.  
 James B. Hunt, of Oakland.  
 William A. **Burt**, of **Macomb**.  
 Edwin H. Lothrop, of Kalamazoo.  
 Hiram Alden, of Branch.  
 Rix **Robinson**, of Kent.

Douglas Houghton, M. D., Geologist, in charge of Geological and **Mineralogical** Departments and General Superintendent of Survey.

The last department in' the book is a Travellers' and Emigrants' Directory, giving the names of all places on the various routes from various ocean ports to Michigan, and distances between.

Taken all together the book is a remarkable volume, filled from cover to cover with useful information which was much needed at that time.

September 9, 1847.

At a county convention of delegates from the several **townships** held at the court house in the village of Mason, Roswell Everett, Esq., was called to the chair, and Peter Lowe appointed secretary.

**Peter Linderman**, of Vovay, and John Long, of Lansing, were appointed delegates to the State convention.

John W. Longyear, Esq., of Vevay, and O. B. Williams, of Phelpsstown, were appointed delegates to the senatorial convention.

The following persons were appointed as standing corresponding committee in the several townships:

Lansing--James Turner, T. S. **Holmes**.  
 Delhi--Alonzo Douglas, Roswell Everett.  
 Aurelius--Jas. S. Covert, J. E. **Hunt**.  
 Onondaga--Joseph Gale, Perry **Howland**.  
 Leslie--O. S. Russell, Alba Blake.  
 Vevay--Peter Lowe, Hiram Converse.  
 Alaiedon--William H. Child, Eli Smith.  
 Meridian--Sanford Marsh, Thomas **Humphrey**.  
 Phelpsstown--Horace Williams, Mr. **Leisure**.  
 Wheatfield--E. E. Cochran, Joseph Whitcomb.  
 Ingham--C. M. Howard, Samuel Crossman.  
 Bunkerhill--Henry Wood, C. P. Eaton.  
 Stockbridge--G. Morgan, P. P. Fox.  
 White Oak--L. Wilson, Jas. Reeves.  
 Leroy--Ephraim **Meech**, Henry Lee,  
 Locke--Daniel **Phelps**, Mr. Avery.

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The following were appointed a county corresponding committee:

P. Linderman, J. W. Longyear, P. Lowe, H. Converse, Geo. Matthews.

A true copy. P. LOWE, Secrctry.

The above is the account of a convention held in Mason at the time the Whig party was organized in Ingham county, as found in the "Ingham County News."

A census report of 1850, furnished by Stella Bennett, of Lansing, provides a **connecting** link between the Michigan Gazetteer of 1838 and the one of **1863**, the former furnished by Alonzo **Cheney**, of Eaton Rapids, and the latter by J. C. Squiers, of **Mason**. The townships **all** bore the same name in 1850 that **they** do today, except Williamston, which was still called "**Phelpstown.**"

The number of dwelling houses in the county was	1,597
The number of families, . . . . .	1,603
The number of inhabitants. . . . .	8,643
Lansing, showing 1,229, and Onondaga, next in size, had 819,	
The township having the least families was Leroy, with 41, while Lansing, with the greatest number, only had 241,	
The total value of real estate owned in the county.	\$1,258,780
The number of occupied farms. . . . .	1,084

Maple sugar ran higher than any **other** manufactured product, there being reported 190,004 pounds, and over **30,000** pounds of this came from **Vevay**, where were the largest sugar bushes in the State of Michigan.

At that time there were but eight flouring mills in the county, and 24 saw mills. From the first there were 5,260 barrels of flour produced annually, and from the latter **3,610,000** feet of lumber. There were 95,270, **bushels** of corn raised in the year ending June **1**, 1850, the largest amount of any grain. That butter making was quite a paying industry was shown by the **fact** that 144,080 pounds were made that year; there was also **13,243** pounds of cheese made, . . .

T H E HOGSBACK,

F. L. 'A., MASON.

Extending across the State of Michigan is an "Esker," commonly known as "the hogsback," that has always been of great interest to the 'scientific world. Geologists differ widely in their theories concerning its formation, but all agree on one point, at least, and that is that this "Esker" has been in existence since the **time** of the glacial period and the ice receded from the section of the northern continent, now known as Michigan. It crosses the State diagonally, from the southeast to the northwest, and though it disappears at intervals, it is easily traced for the entire distance.

It varies in height from **60** to **150 feet**, sometimes rising abruptly and again having long sloping sides, making the width at the base anywhere **from** 200 to **400** feet, and perhaps more in places. Its apex in some places is only a few inches wide, while in others there is a flat surface of some extent.

When the first white men came to Ingham county they found a trail extending along the top of the "hogsback" which showed evidence of long usage. The path was worn deep in the soil, and where the "**esker**" has been undisturbed one can **find** traces of it still. The top, and in places the sides, of the "hogsback" were originally covered with trees, some of them of prodigious size, and the whole formed one of the most striking landmarks in southern Michigan.

When the "**redmen**" trod the summit of this ridge roads were unknown, and had they given any thought to the material **con-**cealed in this glacial deposit, it would have meant nothing to them; it would not have entered their minds that it meant wealth for future owners, besides good railroads and high ways for the public; but could they today return to this 'happy hunting ground" and see the destruction wrought in this landmark of theirs, they would realize the force of the white man's brain and brawn.

The early settlers were ignorant of the valuable material hidden in this glacial ridge, and for over thirty years after the first



settlements were **made** in the county these pioneers expended much time, energy, and considerable money in building corduroy causeways and plank roads, while all the time there was worlds of **first-class** road making material lying right at their very doors. Not until **1866** and a railroad had been built through this section did the people realize how liberally Dame **Nature** had provided for their needs, and even then they were slow about utilizing her gift.

In 1878 when **L. F. Robb** bought his farm about two miles south of Mason he found that the Michigan Central Railroad had leased three **acres of** land where it procured gravel with which to ballast the roadbed, and had put in a side track for the accommodation of the company. In 1882 **Mr. Robb** opened a gravel bed on his farm and operated it for about three years. In **1886** Peter Malcolm, a sturdy Scotchman from Bay City, who was interested in railroad construction, bought thirteen acres of gravel land of **Mr. Robb**, and continued to add to this until "Kilwinning," as he named his possession, contained seventy **acres** of as good gravel land as could be found in Michigan. These grounds were on the **east side** of Sycamore Sreek, and about one mile in length. After taking off the soil for some distance on the west side, the workmen made their excavation for gravel, lengthwise, through the center of **the ridge**. The magnitude of the work is best realized when one stands in the highway at the south city limits and gazes many feet down into the great hole which extends to the highway, with railway tracks, cars and a huge steam shovel at the bottom of it.

This gravel pit is **now** a thing of the past, but for over thirty years the output was enormous. There are many miles of railroad in the northern part of the State that are ballasted entirely with **Kilwinning** gravel, besides miles of highway in the **same** section built of material from that gravel pit.

When **Mr. Malcom** first bought his land on section **16**, Vevay township, he ran a stone crusher, and farmers in this vicinity found there a good market for the **stones** on their land, which **after being crushed** were shipped out the same as the gravel was later. A portion of the "**hogsback**" just north of the **Kilwinning** bed had been procured by the company, and as soon as work ceased in the old pit the working **paraphernalia** was moved there and operations begun. This wonderful formation, which at this

place formed the one beauty spot in Vevay township, is a scene of desolation with its beauty all obliterated. For years "**Old Baldy**" was a favorite resort for school **children**, and many "**beef-steak feeds**" and "**weiner roasts**" were noted by them as historic events. Several years ago Hugh Campbell, of Bay City, purchased a tract of land north of the city containing a half mile strip of the "**hogsback**" and opened up a gravel bed there with **Mr. Harbeck**, of Armada, as superintendent.

This bed was excavated by hand, with a crane for hoisting the gravel to the cars. The digging was all done lengthwise through the center of the ridge, and the output has been about the same accordingly as that from the Kilwinning bed. When the supply in this bed was exhausted, **Mr. Campbell** extended operation by purchasing several hundred acres adjoining it, and is still operating there, now using a steam shovel instead of picks and barrows.

In **1914** the output for the two beds for the summer was **1,291** car loads, averaging 70,000 pounds to the car.

Men who make a business of well digging **claim** that the material of which the "**hogsback**" is composed is not the same on the east and west sides of Sycamore Creek.

When digging wells they say they seldom have any difficulty on the west side of the creek, where they find more sand than gravel, but on the east side they are nearly always obliged to "**shore up**" their wells to avoid cave-ins.

**Mr. Harbeck**, the **north** gravel pit superintendent, explains this in a different way, and says: "In my judgment the creek has nothing whatever to do with this, but **it** is all owing to the glacial action. I have found that where the '**hogsback**' runs east and west it is always the south side where the best gravel is found, and where it runs north and south, the digging is always more successful on the west side." In 1913 **Mr. Harbeck** made the statement that the gravel along the M. C. R. R. in Ingham county was good for an eighteen or twenty year supply at the rate of export at that time.

There is only one point in the county where a stream breaks through the "**hogsback**," and that is in Mason where Sycamore Creek made a natural gap in the ridge, and early settlers can remember when sharp bluffs on each side came down to the banks of the stream.

When the matter of good roads first came up in Ingham county the State highway commissioner was present at the meeting of the board of supervisors and urged the need of good roads being built before the county's supply of material was exhausted. He told of his surprise when after examining a piece of model road in the far north he was told that the gravel from which it was built came **from** the gravel beds of **Ingham** county.

Conservation of Michigan resources is one of the important topics of the day, and it behooves Ingham county to look a "leedle out," and conserve her gravel supply to meet the demands "good roads" are making. **Even** a casual observer **can** see that at the present rate of export it will not be many years before the county will find itself in the same predicament as "Old Mother Hubbard" with her "cupboard bare." An ounce of conservation now will be worth many pounds of hustling when the need of gravel becomes imperative.

**Gravel** mining has been one of the industries of this section since **1866**, and in the path of the miners are found fossils of interest to the scientific world. Often they find fossilized **stumps** and roots of trees, sometimes many feet below the surface. From one side they will look as though the entire stump or root was there but in reality it will be a thin scale of stone, the rest having become 'mixed with gravel, and what is left soon disintegrates when **exposed** to the air.

In times **past** this "hogshack" was a perfect treasure house of Indian relics, and an occasional arrow head or stone ornament is still found there. One of 'the most interesting stories of this "hogshack" is the fact that every year, before the advent of the white man, the Indians of the state came to the part of the ridge lying in **Ingham** county to hold their council meetings. Okemos, a **famous** chief of the Ottawas, and the hero of many wars, was prominent in these councils, and was noted for his wisdom and sagacity. He was said to be over **100 years old** when he died, and some of the older inhabitants of the county remember him in his last days,

Some years ago a human skull was unearthed in the "hogshack," and there was much speculation over the object, until study and research proved that without doubt it belonged to **some** Indian who had been buried there. It is now **preserved** in the high school museum at Mason.

Among the treasures that were concealed in this huge gravel deposit and discovered by different people are handsome agates, a few garnets encrusted in rotten stone, and an occasional geode.

One of the most picturesque bits of scenery found in Ingham county is where the road traverses the "hogshack" between Mason and Holt. From the time the road was first built until quite recently the track of the highway followed the trail made by the Indians for about a mile on the highest point of the ridge. On one side one could look off several miles and see well **cultivated** farms, and the landscape dotted with well built and well kept farm buildings, where at an early day was the unbroken forest. At the other side of the road one looked almost straight down for many feet through heavy timber to the low land at the bottom. The road was one difficult for teams to draw heavy loads over, but to lovers of nature this **seemed** of little account, and as the road **commissioners** were thinking of speed and not beauty they decided this grade must be lowered, and now one sees but little of the old beauty as he follows the road on a lower grade **along the** side of the "hogshack" instead of **over** the top.

There are gravel beds near Lansing in the "hogshack" of which, doubtless, an interesting story could be told.

## INGHAM COUNTY'S ONE LYNCHING,

D. B. HARRINGTON.

Each year as the **23rd** of August draws near one hears the story of Mason's lynching episode revived, and no two people seem to remember it alike.

This hanging of a negro boy named John Taylor, on August **23rd**, 1866, has ever been a dark spot on Mason's escutcheon, but those who claim to know the actual details say that but two or three wild, **reckless** boys, who **claimed** Mason as their home, had a part in the **transaction**.

D. B. Harrington, now living in Delevan, Wisconsin, was at that time publishing a paper in Mason, and in **1866** he sent the following **letter** to his former **paper**:

"The affair will be remembered by the older citizens, and the account shows to the younger generation how unjust a lynching must be in the heat of excitement.

"On the 23rd of August, 1866, occurred the death of a negro boy at the hands of a mob, on account of which the good name of Mason **has** suffered unjustly all these **years**, for although the tragedy occurred in the county seat village, it **was** organized and conducted **entirely** by persons from adjoining counties and towns, but two or **three** of Mason's citizens participating in that midnight murder, and **I would** not reopen the memory of that tragedy but for the vindication of the city and its good citizens who have borne the odium of that bloody **deed** so long.

"As editor of the Ingham County News at that time, I took unusual pains to obtain and publish the facts, which were substantially as follows:

"A negro boy, named John Taylor, a slave in Kentucky, became a camp follower of a Michigan regiment, and was brought to Lansing when the company returned from the war. Being homeless and needy, he sought work, and finally hired out to Daniel Bucl, a Delhi farmer, where he **remained** several weeks. He was exceedingly anxious to attend school during the coming winter, and had arranged with a colored family near Owosso to board with them when the district school commenced. He was destitute of clothing save the **tattered** garment he wore from the South, and he asked his employer for some money to purchase a suit. Mr. **Buck** refused to pay him **so** the boy left. He quartered for a few days with some colored families **in** Lansing until forced by them to hunt for another job. **He** visited Buck two or three times in the hope of receiving his wages, but without success. Finally, **half** starved, penniless and nearly naked, he resolved on an earnest effort to get his dues. About ten o'clock at night he went to the Buck place. Fearing that Mr. Buck might attempt to put some of his former threats into execution, as he passed the woodpile he picked up the axe with which to defend himself in **case** of attack. He **entered** the house, which was dark, and proceeded to the bed of Mr. Buck, 'To his surprise the bed was empty, although it was warm. **Then** it occurred to him that this was some trap laid to get him into trouble and he at once started for the **front** door, being well acquainted with the arrangement of

the house. He groped in darkness for the door, and because of Buck's absence which bewildered him he missed his way and as he wandered he aroused **Buck's eleven** year old daughter, who was sleeping on a lounge near the door. The girl began to scream, and as she jumped from the lounge her head came in contact with the axe, making a slight wound. Her screams brought her mother to the scene, and she pounced upon the negro, who then began **using** the axe to **defend** himself, hitting Mrs. **Buck** a slight blow with the side of the weapon. At this point Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Buck's mother, came into the room bringing a light. She joined in the fray, and also **received** a side blow from the axe. By this time the negro was able to get out of the house and fled.

"The reason given for Mr. **Buck's** absence was that a slight **rain** had come up **and** he had **left** his **bed** to go to the fields to cover a partially erected oat stack. He was called in by the frightened 'women and the news soon communicated to the neighbors. Soon a posse was organized 'to pursue the **fleeing** boy. He was captured in two or **three** hours near Bath and brought back and lodged in the Mason jail, in charge of Sheriff Moody.

"The community in the vicinity of **the** Buck home was greatly excited, people congregating at various **places** threatening vengeance. The most hair-raising and exaggerated reports were told and retold, until the belief became general that the entire family had been murdered. That was the exact report that reached Mason the next morning. Supposing the reports to be true we felt warranted in going to the scene to obtain the facts, which, in company with Dr. Wing, we did.

"On arriving at the place, and after questioning the inmates, we found the above **to** be the facts. Not a drop of blood was shed from those reported butchered except from the little girl, and so far as we could see no one **was** seriously injured. Mrs. Buck and her mother were both suffering from nervous excitement, which lasted a day or two.

"During the day intimations of trouble cropped out. Threats of vengeance and the stealthy appearance of strangers in town aroused apprehensions. After consulting with leading citizens, a **committee** was sent to the sheriff asking him to take the culprit to Jackson, or some other jail, so as to prevent any lynching in Mason, as was feared. **To** this the sheriff agreed, but at the same

time assured the committee that **there** was no danger, as he had an efficient force of deputies, well armed, sufficient to protect the jail. On this assurance the citizens went to their beds satisfied.

"At **about** eleven o'clock that night several wagon loads of men drove into town. The men alighted and marched in a procession to the jail. There were nearly 100 men, and some of them carried guns. A man named Norton, from Lansing, was their captain and leader. The mob **was** met at the jail steps by the sheriff and two deputies, who **inquired** their business. The mob then demanded the negro, Taylor. The sheriff replied that they could not have him, that he was safely locked in the **second** cell, and he had the keys in his pocket. With drawn revolvers the **officers** ordered the men to leave. As if by a previous understanding that the men were harmless, the mob boldly approached the sheriff, throwing him down and taking the cell keys from his pocket.

"With a sledge they then broke down the outer door, unlocked the cell, rushed, in and seized the negro and dragged him out. A rope was placed around his neck and he was dragged to a beech tree near the railroad freight house, and the rope thrown over a limb. A man named Cook, from Eaton **Rapids**, then told the victim to pray, for he had but a few minutes to live. The **frightened** negro did pray, and prayed so fervently that Capt. Norton became so affected that he refused to have anything further to do with the proceedings. Cook then assumed command and made a blasphemous prayer, calling upon God to "damn the nigger's damned soul and send it down to the hottest corner of hell, etc." He then gave the command and the terrified creature was **drawn** up, when the inhuman Cook and two or three others fired shots into the struggling body. After carousing around for a half hour under the tree the lifeless body was taken down and dragged down the Lansing road for three and one-half miles, until near the James Harper farm, where they dug a shallow pit and after cutting off the head and otherwise mutilating the body they threw the remains in and partly covered it with earth. The mob then separated, a young doctor from Lansing **taking** the head as a trophy of the night's work.

"And thus ended the scene for which Mason got the blame, notwithstanding but two or three Mason men were connected with

the outrage, and they have long since gone to their reward. It was unfortunate for the city, for its prosperity seemed to have received a check from that day. Our ears have tingled with shame more than once while riding on the train to have the tree pointed out to those on the cars with the remark, 'That is the tree on which Mason folks hang niggers.'

"It is hoped that Mason has lived down the odium she so unjustly suffered on account of that tragedy which occurred at her door.

: "D. B. HARRINGTON."

James Thorburn, Sr., now night **watchman** in this city (1920), tells how he and another boy about his age were standing near where the Harper school house is **between** ten and eleven o'clock on the night of **August 23**, and **saw** wagon load after wagon load of men go by from **the** north, and although they suspected their destination and errand, they were not **positive until** the following morning. Mr. **Thorburn** tells how Mr. Harper found the partially buried body of the colored boy in the hole by the roadside near his home, when he went out the morning following the **execution** of the boy by the mob, and called some of his neighbors together for a conference. It was decided not to leave the grave so near the highway, and Mr. Harper gave permission for the second burial to be made in some wild land which he owned, **one-fourth** of a mile southwest of Harper Crossing.

"William and James Somerville, James and **Asher** Harper, James Thorburn, who furnished this story, and his father, all helped in this, and when they took up the body found only a headless torso, as a doctor from either Holt or Lansing had secured the head. A few weeks later William Maxwell came from the East and bought a portion of the land owned by James Harper, and erected a house, on which Henry **M.** Brown, now a deputy sheriff living in Lansing, did the carpenter work.

"Mrs. Maxwell did not learn of the grave only about sixty feet from the new house until the building was nearly completed, and she refused to move there **until** the body had been exhumed and taken away. James **Thorburn** and Henry Brown one night took the remains away and buried them in the woods one-half mile from there. It is told that the doctor who had the head was the

ghoul who obtained possession of the rest of the bones and set up a perfect skeleton.

"If the boy was guilty of murderous intent he paid the full penalty for his assault in a manner that was no credit to Ingham county, and that made Mason a term of reproach for years, though **but** few of **her** citizens **were connected** in any **way** with the **outrage**.

"A man who moved into Mason the day after the event occurred says he found the entire population in a state of frenzy, not only on account of the lynching, but from the fact that every one still believed that the entire Buck family had been murdered in cold blood. All of the family lived to a good old age, and **only** the girl, who became Mrs. Nichols, could show any **mark** of the assault made by the negro that night, and she carried a small scar on her temple for the rest of her life. Only three of those who assisted in the later obsequies of the boy are now living: James Thorburn, who assisted at two interments, James Somerville and Henry M. Brown,

"The tree where the hanging occurred was a repulsive landmark for years, and everybody was glad when this memento of the foulest deed ever perpetrated in Ingham county was destroyed.

"There are those who believe this young colored boy received a just punishment and think the assault he made was premeditated with murderous intent, and they tell the story in a far different way from these who have been cited.

"The story is now **being** told to the third generation, and has been handled in many different forms, but the following which a Mason high school boy wrote for an exercise in American literature is the most unique of all:

"One night last spring three of us fellows drove to Lansing to see an opera. We supposed the show would last until after the last car left for Mason but **were** determined to see the whole performance, so we drove.

"We saw the opera and were starting for home when we saw a car that had been delayed just heading out for Mason, and my two companions deserted me and boarded the car, as the ride would be a warmer one in that way, so I drove on alone.

"Ordinarily it **would** have been a mere pleasure drive, but the night was dark and the sky starless. I felt a strange nameless fear creeping over me. Try as I might I could not shake it off.

I came to where the road branches, one branch going over the **hogsback** and the other around it. On **our** way over **with** three in the buggy we had taken the lower road, even though **it** took considerable longer to go that way, but now I chose the upper and shorter way.

"**The horse** crept at a snail's pace up the first rise and down **into a little hollow**, past the one house on this lonely section of the road, **then** up again into a track **barely wide enough for the buggy**, **the** hubs scraping the bushes on either side. **This**, and **the soft** swish of the wheels in deep sand, were the only sounds to be heard. I might have been in the upper wilds of the Yukon for all of any hints of civilization that presented itself. All this time that feeling of impending **danger** kept growing.

"I sat straight in the buggy, clinching the lines in one hand and the whip in the other, then to cap all previous\* nervousness my thoughts ran onto the story of the negro who was lynched in town fifty years before.

"I had heard it in detail recently from one who had a hand in the transaction, and every scene was stamped indelibly on my mind. I saw him swinging on a large **tree** **at** my right, then came men who cut his body down and dragged it away. I could distinctly hear their footsteps among the bushes, and my blood froze within me. Now I was exactly where they first buried him. They were forced to exhume the body and take it farther in the woods, as the children were afraid to go by that grave by the roadside as they went to school.

"When they exhumed the body the head and one hand were missing, and I remembered with a shudder that all the old **inhab-**itants believed that on the anniversary of the deed, one hour after midnight, the headless body, accompanied by the head and hand, appeared and traversed three times the course which the men took when they carried his body from its first to its last resting place.

"Just as this was running through **my** mind my horse stopped, snorted, then jumped **sidewise** with a celerity I had never credited him with.

"I looked in the direction of the disturbance and my tongue clove to the roof of my mouth from sheer fright. I lost all power of speech, and even the control of my muscles; the lines dropped

loosely on the horse's back, for there on the ground by the elders was a hideous black face staring up at me, and on a level with my eyes was a black hand waving slowly up and down.

"I gave one unearthly shriek, the horse jumped ahead and then oblivion. I came to my senses just as the horse stopped in front of the barn at home. He was breathing hard and covered with foam,

"The next morning I was up **betimes** and determined to find out what had unnerved me so, and took the first car north, <sup>Get-</sup>ting off at the crossing nearest the place where I had my fright, I ran up the hill where were my tracks of the night before, no one having passed there since I did, and I could plainly see where the tragic **scene occurred**. There on the side of the road where the negro had leered up at **me**, the **farmers** had dumped their rubbish, and what had seemed to **be** a face the night before was only an old tin steamer, I believe it is called, rusted to a reddish black, lying upside down in a patch of snow, Only three of the **six** holes in it were visible, owing to a length of gas pipe lying across the others, and this formed the mouth to the face, Two holes made the eyes and one the nose, and the snow background made it very vivid in the dark.

"Beside this grew an elder, and some farmer had thrown an old canvas glove, blackened with coal dust and age, and it had caught in the elder, and this swaying in the breeze was the black hand I had seen the night before."

#### EARLY NEWSPAPERS,

Angus Barnes, of Alaiedon township, has in his possession two of the first papers published in Ingham county, of which the following is a detailed description:

The Ingham Herald was of the date of January 9, 1845. <sup>The</sup> Herald was the official **Whig** organ of that day and was published by Child & Stillman. Later **Stillman** left the firm and edited the Ingham Democrat. The Herald, according to some of the old residents of Mason, met its fate at the hands of irate citizens, who were angry because it was published only when remunerative legal

printing was to be had. During one of its temporary suspensions the plant was wrecked by citizens, and the type and **machinery** dumped in an old "sink hole" near the southeast corner of the present court yard. The copy of the **Ingham Democrat**, also owned by Mr. Barnes, was dated August 10, 1846. It was established a few months after the Herald. Both papers were yellow with age but in a fair state of **preservation**. <sup>Poetry and</sup> fiction held a prominent place on the first page of both. There were no display advs. and very little local news. <sup>Neither paper</sup> had any illustrations. Following is: a synopsis of the two newspapers: .

#### INGHAM DEMOCRAT.

Among the prominent business men in Mason in 1846, according to the August 10, 1846, issue of the **Ingham Democrat**, were Joseph Woodhouse, Notary Public; Edward Crafts, <sup>Indian</sup> Botanic, Physician and Surgeon; Silas Beebe, a dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Boots and Shoes, and John W. Phelps and Minos **McRoberts**, who were physicians and surgeons. Hiram Bristol was Justice of Peace for Vevay township at that time.

The following item appeared in this issue: "The **steamship** Hibernia which left Liverpool on the 19th of July, **arrived** at Boston Wednesday. She brings the ratification of the Oregon treaty by the British government. The new ministry **seems** stronger than the old. American provisions remain firm." <sup>An</sup> another page appears a three column article, the opening paragraph of which follows: "Below we give the messages of the President, and the Oregon treaty, as it was finally signed by the representatives of the **two** government? It will be seen that Mr. Polk did not compromise his own views but placed the **responsi-**bility on the Senate, his constitutional advisors."

The Democrat run the following advertisement: "Wanted, wheat on subscriptions, at this office, **A** high price will be allowed. A good price will also be paid for corn, oats and all other kinds of farm produce."

There seemed to be considerable ill-feeling between the **Ingham Democrat** and the **Ingham Herald**, Whig organ, according to the editorial columns of **the** papers. The Herald strongly accuses

the Herald of falsehoods, claiming that the Democratic Associations which were **formed** in this county **were** not secret as was claimed by the rival paper. Two of the editorials taken from the Democrat are:

"By what right or authority did the board of supervisors give the Ingham Democrat ten dollars for publishing the annual report of the supervisors?"—Ingham Herald.

"By the right vested in all representatives of the people, to reduce the public expense. In 1845 a Whig board gave a Whig press **25** dollars for publishing the annual report. In 1846 a democratic board gave the democratic press **20** dollars for the same work, thus saving five dollars of the people's money. If the Herald wishes a still lower price paid, we only ask it to put its professions into practice and instruct the present Whig board to get their printing done at the lowest possible rates."

"The Herald had some commendable remarks upon "party spirit." We only **wonder** that the Whig organ, whose whole business is the **utterance** of the promptings of a bitter spirit of partisanship—who is continually **pampering**, fostering and exciting party prejudices and passions—should declaim in such a manner, It is clearly sheer hypocrisy, When **we** consider the lengths to which the partisanship of the editor of the Herald has carried him, we cannot otherwise explain it."

Upon the back page of the paper is printed the Ingham County tax sale, also some probate notices., Amos E. Steele was Judge of Probate.

#### INGHAM HERALD,

Child & Stillman were the publishers of the Ingham Herald, charging **\$1.50** a year for the **paper** in advance; otherwise two dollars. In the January **9**, 1845, issue the names of the county officers were given as follows: Ephraim B. Dansworth, Mason, John R. **Bowdish**, Stockbridge, Associate Judges; Daniel L. Case, Mason, Prosecuting Attorney; Henry Fiske, Leslie, Probate Judge; Joseph Hunt, Stockbridge, Sheriff; Chauncey A. **Osborn**, Vevay. Under Sheriff; George Matthews, **Meridian**, Treasurer; John Coatsworth, Mason, County Clerk; William H. Horton, Mason, Register of Deeds; **Anson** Jackson, Mason, County Surveyor; Coroners, James Reeves, White Oak, and **Henry H.**

North, Delhi, The superintendents of the poor were Peter **Lin**derman, Vevay, George Matthews, Meridian, and Marcus Beers, Ingham. The Board of Supervisors consisted of David Rogers, Stockbridge; Henry Wood, Bunkerhill, Lester Miner, Jos. Gale, Onondaga, John **Clements**, White Oak, Sam **Skaden**, Ingham, Hiram Parker, Vevay, **Z.** Barnes, Aurelius, Ephraim **Meech**, Leroy, Wm. Thompkins, Wheatfield, D. W. Morse, Alaiedon, R. P. Everets, Delhi, David Phelps, Locke, J. W. Williams, Phelpstown, George Matthews, Meridian, Joseph E. North, Jr., Lansing.

In this issue the following adv. appeared: **SPORTSMEN—ATTEND.** On Saturday the 25th Inst., will be put to be shot for at Mason, Michigan, forty acres of good wild land of the following description: the n w  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the n e  $\frac{1}{4}$  of sec. 14, T 3 N, of R 1 W. Terms and rules made known on day of match. A good title will be given." This is the land now owned by Frank E. Thomas of Alaiedon township.

Jems Roberta made the **announcement** of the opening of a tailoring shop over the James Turner store on Main street.

**J. W.** Longyear, being aware of the disadvantages of the times, opened a Select School in this city. His terms for common English branches for a course of eleven weeks were \$3.00; for higher English, including mathematics, \$4.00; French and Latin languages, **\$4.50**. A part of the advertisement follows: "No pains will be spared in rendering this school worthy the patronage of the enlightened community. It is **highly** important that students should begin at the commencement as the classes are then formed for the quarter. Board can be obtained in the vicinity at from \$1.25 to \$1.50."

In another part of the paper is an 'article on "Errors in the treatment of horses" and another on the method of curing obstinate horses.

The following was a notice taken from the local column: "We have been informed by those who have the facilities for knowing and are requested to state, that from circumstances which have developed since William **L.** Hubbard left the village, he is proved entirely innocent of the charges preferred against him liere about the first of November last. We are highly gratified at being able to lay this information before the public."

Another local, "Mr. McDuffie and Col. Benton have each a bill before Congress for the annexation of Texas. It reviews the relations of the United States, and the history of the late **proceedings** of the different governments in regard to annexation, breathing through the whole a warlike spirit,"—Ingham County News,

#### PIONEER NEWSPAPERS OF INGHAM COUNTY,

Written for the Ingham County News by D. B. Harrihgon, in 1874.

On the first day of June, 1858, the writer arrived in the village of Mason, with his entire worldly **possessions** loaded in a farmer's wagon, for the purpose of establishing a **newspaper** in that, then, decidedly rural village. The aforesaid "effects" consisted of the **debris** of what was once known as "The Public Sentiment" printing office, a small newspaper that was published by B. F. Burnett, at Grass Lake, and especially devoted to redressing alleged **grievances** occasioned by the "Great Conspiracy" between the Michigan Central Railroad and certain citizens of Jackson and **Wash-tenaw** counties. The "Sentiment" was particularly severe on the railroad company, each issue being filled with personal attacks **aimed** at the general managers of the road, written in a bold and fearless manner by the unscrupulous editor.

I saw an article recently in the Detroit Post, written by J. C. Holmes, Esq., giving a brief history of the pioneer newspapers of Michigan. In that article the writer claims that **the first** paper printed in Michigan was "The Michigan Essay," established at Detroit in 1808, I believe his statement is correct. The type upon which the "Essay" was printed after passing from one owner to **another**, was finally purchased by the aforesaid B. F. Burnett, and used to print his "Public Sentiment," and it was with what remained of that battered, much worn **and much abused old** French type, that the first number of the Ingham County News was printed; so if a history of this paper has no other merit, it may justly claim the advantages of antiquity in its "dress," being printed, from the first types that were ever brought into Michigan.

There are some persons so addicted to "moving" that the only signs of ambition they ever show is when there is the prospect of a migration in view. The story of the man who moved so often that whenever a covered wagon drove into his barnyard his hens would throw themselves on **their** backs and bold their legs up to be tied is a fair illustration of that peculiar character. But for us to choose between a "move" and a **burn-out** there is but **little** difference, especially if well insured. **In 1859** there were no railroads reaching into Ingham county, and consequently the process of transportation had to be in **the** old-fashioned **pioneer** method by wagon, overland.

The journey from Grass Lake to Mason, a distance of **35** miles, was an almost continuous **dense** woods, the roads for a long distance being new and very rough. **The** reader can **judge** of the demoralized condition of our "effects" as **well** as of our mind, at beholding upon arriving at Mason the entire outfit of **type** loose in the bottom of the wagon box. This was actually shoveled up into pails to convey from thence into the office in that elegant condition known among printers as "pi." Not being a professional swearist, we had to omit that ever-ready resort for persons whose souls are not possessed with **patience**; but had some professional profaner been present we are not certain but like the Quaker we should have accepted his price to swear for us, provided he could have done the subject justice.

Alone among strangers, without money, about to commence an important enterprise with unskilled hands, and our main reliance for the success of the work in an almost worthless condition before our eyes, was a more severe test of our nerves than we had ever before experienced. The English language does not furnish adjectives of sufficient superlativeness to express our lugubriousness. The only consolation was the fact that the whole concern was covered by a chattel mortgage of \$500, five times what it was all worth. Then we would have thanked the holder to foreclose at sight, and saved us the labor, mortification and sin of putting it in shape again. But there was no alternative, and at work we went with as much courage as we could command, and for ten mortal long, hot summer days, with the help of a lad, we sat at the editorial table sorting "pi."

On the **23rd** day of June the first **number of the News** was



issued, and we doubt if in all Christendom its like was ever seen before or since. We have a copy of that first number before us now, and one single glance over its columns produces a sensation similar to having your hair combed with a three-legged stool by a spunky wife. With only type enough to "set up" one page at a time (the balance having been sifted into the highway), and that of three or four different sizes, all of which had to be used on the same page, to which might be added a total ignorance of the art of newspaper making, no wonder that it was unanimously voted a monstrosity the moment it made its appearance. The editorial matter was in worse condition even than the mechanical work. When we came to write we learned where the real labor of making a newspaper was. After two or three hard days labor and the spoiling of many sheets of good paper, the following "editorial" was produced, which is copied as near like the original as can be done with modern type:

"Having located in this village, for the purpose of establishing a newspaper, it is but just and proper that a few words of explanation be said. The first thoughts we had of settling here were suggested by two or three business men of the town. Plattered by the representations made by them, we concluded to visit Mason. The Citizens seemed all awake, and the prospect of a Newspaper being printed at their county-seat, seemed to coincide with their views. We concluded, at once, that if the business men would unite in the support of a paper we would try the experiment," etc., etc.

The above is the first that we ever made to write for the press, but its production was the best lesson of our whole life. In that we beheld unmistakably our total ignorance of composition, and lack of literary ability. We learned, too, that if we should ever become even a passable scribbler, study and practice were necessary. The resolution to succeed was then and there formed, to which may be attributed the influence and prosperity of the News afterward.

We have given the above specimen of editorial skill contained in the first number. This may look tolerably well to an eye unpracticed in the "art preservative" but come to dress it up in the mechanism of the original and it presents a very different appearance. The following is a sample of the mechanical skill displayed

in setting up the type. Possibly one or two typographical errors may be discovered, the result of that remarkable overturning the types received in riding from Grass Lake, and in the hurry and anxiety to get "to press," not being discovered until too late for correction:

#### "Our List."

"We have quite a good list for a newspaper consipering the circumstances under which we started but we need more and have no time to Canvass for them: will not our friends aid us in this enterprize. Let evry one circulate a cobby in his vicinity and give the "New " wide circulation."

If any modern publisher could rend No. 1, Vol. 1, of the Ingham County News without his teeth chattering, he tlescrves a drill-master's commission in a regiment of spooks.

The office was located in the second story of Kent and Eddy's building now owned by Mr. Flora, for which we contracted to pay fifty cents per week, but afterward varied the bargain by which Messrs. Kent and Eddy took our old exchanges in payment for rent. They run a fourth-class whiskey shop, and if we did not get "steamed up " occasionally it was not because there was any lack of steam below.

Mason was then but an insignificant little burg, barely entitled to the name of village. The only important places of business were the stores of John Coatsworth, J. W. Phelps and Co., and John Dunsback. Where now stands the beautiful brick row opposite the Court House was then only a few old rotten wooden shanties, built in the cheapest; manner possible. A little old "corner grocery " building occuiped the corner where Pratt & Millspaugh's block now stands. There were but five other buildings north on Main street. Maple street was unknown. The residence and shop of J. L. & C. D. Huntington and the residence of Peter Lindermn, were all the houses between Main street and the woods east. Main street running south extended only to the "Hog's Back" where it branched off into the woods in various directions. The lores-t came up to the very doorstep of the village on every side, and those fine farms now adjoining were then known as "the commons."

There was at that time but one church building in the village,

though there were two church societies, viz: the Methodist and Baptist. The church was used alternate Sundays by these societies, but was burned a few years ago. We think the Presbyterians were not then organized. The pastors were Rev. N. Mount, of the Methodists, and Rev. IT. B. Puller, a most excellent man, who preached for the Baptists for the remarkable salary of \$500 per year, receiving that stipend in whatever eatables, drinkables or wearables his parishioners saw fit to bestow, and at whatever prices their magnanimous hearts chose to set upon the payments. But those were days when ministers were not frightened at sight of a plow handle, or any field labor, which was Rev. Fuller's method of getting a support for himself and family. During the many years of his pastorate in Mason no man ever saw a frown upon his face, or heard him utter a word of complaint because his salary was not large and promptly paid. He received cheerfully what friends saw fit to give, and preached the Word boldly and earnestly, without fear or favor of any one. If those who sat under his faithful ministrations were not better men and women, it is because they let the solemn warnings and earnest admonitions of Rev. Fuller go by unheeded.

Rev. H. Kittridge soon afterward commenced his labors with the Presbyterian society, and his plain teaching and faithful labors, together with a stainless life, did much to improve the morals of the place.

Speaking of the morality of the town reminds us of an incident which we witnessed that is a fair illustration of the reverence of one class of the citizens of Mason in 1859. One celebrated hunter and trapper, whose name the old settlers would remember should I give it, was not strictly orthodox, strictly speaking, in his religious views, regarding Sunday as good as any other day, if it gave him good weather for hunting, but manifesting no other reverence for it. During one Sunday afternoon while the minister was discoursing to his audience in a key audible to all within a dozen rods of the church, this hunter emerged from the woods with his gun at a "right shoulder shift," and a merry twinkle in his eye. A loungee in front of the tavern suggested that he should not go gunning on the Sabbath, but should attend the "meeting". Just then a small bird alighted on the spire of the church, and the hunter stepped in front of the building, took deliberate aim, shot

the bird, and as Jelibcrutely shouldered his gun and trudged off homeward.

The school was kept in an old dilapidated rookery, standing down near the marsh, surrounded by stables and pigpens, where numerous hired pedagogues whaled the rising generations of Mason six months of the year, at a salary of from \$16 to \$25 per month, and "board 'round."

Notwithstanding the unprecedented littleness of Mason, the News was not the first paper printed there! Long before the Republican party was organized a Whig paper, called the Ingham County Herald, was published there by D. W. C. Smith, lute county clerk of Jackson county. Afterward the Ingham Democrat was published in Mason by a Mr. Danforth. We believe Dr. McRobert was also connected with the latter publication. These pioneer papers were supported principally by the income from publishing the "tax sales," which at that time yielded a handsome revenue.

It was in Mason where the celebrated Wilber F. Storey, present proprietor of the Chicago Times, started in his editorial career, once publishing a Democratic paper there. Other celebrities have also plied the quill for the Mason press. Hon. Morton S. Wilkinson, one of the United States Senators from Minnesota, was at one time a resident of Aurelius or Onondaga, and wrote stirring political articles for the Mason papers. Wm. I. Clark, Esq., your marble man, was once a devil in a Mason printing office, from which he went out to print a paper of his own. So you see Mason had furnished its full share of newspaper celebrities. Nor has the village been without its newspaper sensations, for we can distinctly remember hearing "old settlers" relate the circumstance of one of Mason's printing offices being mobbed by a band of indignant citizens, who entered the office in the night and destroyed the type and presses. During the war a like attempt was made at three different times to destroy the News office, and lately we learn that some miscreant attempted to destroy the office by setting it on fire, while to crown all else, we learn that the present editor has got a \$10,000 libel suit on his hands. (This was Kendall Kittridge, but the case was quashed.) The year of 1859 was emphatically a year of hard times. Money was never so scarce before. The principal articles of export, upon which the

settlers depended for supplies, were maple sugar and black salts, That spring the maple sugar crop was an entire failure, so the settlers had to devote more time than usual to raising a crop of grain for the coming year, but killing frosts in June and July entirely destroyed the wheat, corn and potatoes, Under those distressing circumstances, the only resort for those owning land was to mortgage their farms, frequently paying as high as 25 per cent interest, for means to live until the next regular maple sugar season should afford them relief, while those who could sold out and left the country, Think of starting a newspaper in a village with only seventy voters, under such circumstances, We distinctly remember the first money that was paid into the office, It was about three weeks after the first paper had been issued, when Dr. McRobert came into the office and paid for three months subscription, leaving us a Spanish silver quarter, Small and insignificant as the sum was, we never had money come more timely, for important letters had lain on our desk for a long time because we had not the money for postage.

The News was started as a neutral paper, and the price \$1 per year. This was advised by the men who first encouraged the enterprise, and was published as such until 1860, when on account of the withdrawal by the Democrats of all patronage, we felt it our duty to enter the political field and labor for the success of the party of our choice. This step at once separated us from the Democrats, and speedily brought down their united strength against us. They fought us just as hard as they fought the Union during the rebellion, and with about the same success, Their object was to drive us out of town, while we stubbornly refused to go. They sought to destroy the office, but finding that we were prepared to defend our property, they next resorted to personal attacks that resulted in frequent—well, we will leave it to our Democratic friends to tell how it used to turn out, It never cost much for liniment to cure our bruised body after one of these "shindies," If we are not mistaken, they don't believe it at all profitable to "lick" a Republican editor,

Several amusing incidents occurred as the result of the political change of the paper, one of which we will relate: One individual called upon an attorney for advice as he proposed to sue the editor of the News for damages, claiming that he subscribed for a

neutral paper, and as it had turned out to be a black Republican sheet, we had broken the contract. He said the paper had never been worth a copper, but he would not stand for being swindled that way, His subscription would not expire for three weeks yet, and he proposed to sue for the three remaining neutral papers. After stating his case with great unction as the attorney quietly listened, that dignitary leaned back in his chair and asked the irate gentleman, "If the paper during the last six months has not been worth a copper, how are you going to figure the worth of the three papers you say are still your due?" Something outside just then called the complainant's attention, and he vanished and no more was heard about the matter. The cream of the joke, however, was the fact that he had never paid a penny for the paper and was in debt to us for nearly six months subscription, which he later paid in good Democratic coin, and was for years thereafter a good paying subscriber.

Another individual, who had requested that his name be put on our subscription book, after a year had expired, was presented with a bill for one dollar, and asked to pay. He was greatly shocked that we should presume to ask him to pay, declaring soberly that he never expected to pay, and when asked why he put his name on the list, replied in all the candor of his soul, that he subscribed "to help the paper along!" His idea of supporting a paper was not altogether new, nor does he stand alone.

A good natured Dutchman of the village had, for some cause, conceived a great antipathy toward Mr. John Dunsback. His hatred was so intense that even the advertisement of Mr. Dunsback's store in the paper was offensive to him, and he finally called into the office and requested that his paper be stopped unless the objectionable advertisement was cut out. We did not like to lose so good a subscriber as this man was, so we finally agreed to cut the advertisement out, which we did for nearly two years. We never charged Mr. Dunsback for the extra advertising this gave him, but believe he reaped a larger profit from this little circumstance than from all his other advertising.

After hoisting the Republican flag subscriptions and patronage began to increase, and the edition rapidly ran up to 500 copies. Leading members of the party contributed to its columns, and we

venture the assertion that the News never did a better campaign work than it did for Abraham Lincoln in 1860.

During the progress of the rebellion the News was an earnest advocate of the Union cause. We believed in the government and warmly supported every effort to whip the rebels. At that time we had but two mails a week, and not infrequently the news was a week old before we could obtain it from the papers. The whole community was in a state of anxiety and thronged our office to get any bit of information that might be in our possession.

This state of affairs suggested a little enterprise on our part. Accordingly we established a private "pony express" on our own hook between Mason and Jackson. A lad was in readiness every other day on the arrival of the mail train in Jackson, and **obtaining a single daily paper** as soon as possible mounted a horse and **came** with it to **Mason**. As soon as he arrived the important war news was cut out, and all hands would work on it till nearly morning. At daylight the melodious voice of our devil was heard in the streets, crying the "Daily News" containing the very **latest** intelligence from the seat of war. In this manner for nearly a year we appeased the craving appetite of our citizens for news, besides reaping a good profit.

As we have mentioned before, there were no railroads in Ingham county in 1859, not even the old "Ramshorn" being in operation. This was a serious drawback to the prosperity of the county, to say nothing of the inconvenience. All products of the county (maple sugar and black salts) had to be carted to Jackson, a **distance** of twenty-five miles. The road was through a dense swamp for a long distance, and this was bridged with logs, forming what pioneers knew **as** a corduroy road. **The** reader can imagine the pleasure in exporting goods over such a thoroughfare. It took two days with a good team to make the trip, and often the third day saw them still on the road. No other remedy was thought of but a railroad, but to build one seemed almost entirely out of the question, as there were but few men in the county able to invest in such an enterprise. **We** published editorials and **communications** without number in endeavoring to arouse the public to the importance of the project. We had no trouble in awakening the people, but to **devise** a method **whereby** the necessary funds could be raised was beyond our ability. At last a scheme was devised

by **O. M. Barnes, Esq.**, which if successful would **secure** the building of the road. Mr. Barnes was well known throughout the county as a good lawyer, and had been nominated **as a candidate** for the Legislature on the Democratic ticket.

He was earnestly in favor of a railroad, and his friends promised that if he should be elected he would procure legislation that would **secure** to us the road. On this account many rabid Republicans for once laid aside their political prejudices and voted for **Mr. Barnes**. We doubt if Mr. Barnes **ever** knew why it was that he was so immensely popular just then, and received such large majorities from the surrounding townships. On entering the Legislature he set himself to work at once to obtain some **railroad** legislation.

We believe he originated the plan of towns and counties voting aid to those corporations, and finally succeeded in getting a bill **passed authorizing Ingham county to subscribe** for \$40,000 worth of stock, and afterward another authorizing townships along the projected line to take a limited amount of the stock, for building a railroad from Jackson to Lansing. An election was soon held, and the \$40,000 stock proposition was carried by a small majority. This was a starting point. A call was immediately issued for a meeting to be held at the Court House in Mason on the **22nd** day of December, **1863**, to organize the Jackson & Lansing Railroad Company. The meeting was well attended, and was presided over by Judge Boreland, of Ohio. A subscription was started, and in a short time \$28,000 was subscribed. The meeting then proceeded to an election of directors, resulting in the choice of Hon. H. A. Hayden, Hon. P. **B. Loomis**, D. **B. Hibbard**, **David** Dwight and J. **H. Thompson**, of Jackson, John Dunsback, Minos **McRoberts**, John Coatsworth, Hon. **J. D. Woodsworth**, Hon. Wm. H. Chapman, Hon. James Turner **and** Hon. H. H. Smith, of Ingham county. Mr. Hayden was chosen president, Mr. Turner, treasurer, and Mr. Barnes, secretary and attorney. The company proceeded at once to build the road, which was accomplished in an incredible short time, and Mason was set free from the wilderness.

The dense woods around Mason used to be a common home for wild beasts, and it was not until a late day that they were finally exterminated. In the summer of **1859** Deacon Drew, then living

where **C. E.** Eaton now resides, heard a strange noise in his barn. Taking his lantern, and in company with a neighbor, he proceeded to the barn, where in the middle of the floor sat a huge bear holding in fond embrace **after** the bruin **style** Mr. Drew's dog. **The** men beat a hasty retreat after reinforcements, but before **firearms could be obtained the bear had escaped.**

**The same year while walking in the woods near where Huntington's sawmill now stands, just across the creek, we were faced by two bears. We turned to run, and either the prodigious strides that we made or the timely arrival of a man with an ox team frightened the animals, and they scurried off into the woods.**

In the winter of 1800 a very large wild cat was killed by a farmer, who had suffered the loss of several lambs and hens before he discovered what the marauder was.

||| March, 1802, three large wolves that had taken up their abode in a swamp in Alameda, four miles from Mason, committed great depredations and were hunted by a band of Ingham county men. Farther north and east in the county it was no unusual thing to meet these animals in the woods,

Indians were frequently seen in Mason. The old **settlers** will remember Johnny **Okemos**, arrayed in his war paint, seeking a dram at the saloons and bars, but it rarely happened that he could **succeed** in getting a "nip." On one occasion, however, he succeeded in purloining a bottle of fire-water, and the next **morning** was found between two **buildings** covered with ice, and **frozen** to the ground dead-drunk,

#### PETER LOWE,

The first **secretary** of the Ingham County **Pioneer** Society, in June, 1874, tells some facts concerning the early history of the county in which he rather contemptuously corrects some of the **statements** made by **D. B. Harrington** and Peter Linderman in a previous issue of the Ingham County News. (This only proves how difficult it is in 10.20 to get the early history perfectly **accurate**, when even the pioneers living in the very time of those events failed to make the facts exactly coincide, Ed.)

In a somewhat belligerent mood Mr. Lowe addresses **Kendell Kittridge**, editor of the Ingham County News, as follows:

"The writer of this article the more readily complies with **your request** to furnish a brief history of the first newspapers published in the county, for the reason that a correspondent of the News has recently **published** in that paper a number of articles on that subject, and other matters connected with the **history** of the county, which are full of gross misrepresentations and blunders. A few of these only will be noticed.

"In regard to the name of the county, the News correspondent **says**, 'The county was named after one Judge Ingham, a prominent official at Washington, who was appointed by Gen. Jackson a **commissioner** to visit Michigan to investigate **some** difficulties that had arisen in regard **either** to the survey or boundary, and in his report he made mention of this part of the State in such glowing terms that it was called Ingham.'

"Twaddle! The absurdity of the **nonsensical reason** assigned for the name of the county will be obvious when it is **recollected** that the Territorial Legislature of Michigan, during President Jackson's first term of **office**, named a county **in** this State after each **member** of his cabinet, to-wit: Van Buren, Branch, Berrien, Barry, Eaton and Ingham; the last named after Samuel D. Ingham, of Pennsylvania, Secretary of the Treasury; Calhoun county after John C. Calhoun, then Vice President of the United States, and Jackson county after the old hero himself,

"Relative to the early publication of newspapers in Mason, the same correspondent says, 'Notwithstanding the littleness of Mason the News was not the first paper printed there., Long before the Republican party was organized a Whig paper, called the Ingham County Herald, was published there by **D. W. C. Smith**, late county clerk of Jackson county. Afterward the Ingham Democrat was published by a **Mr. Danforth**. We believe Dr. **McRobert** was also connected with the latter paper. These pioneer papers **were** supported principally by the income from **publishing** the "tax sales," which at that time yielded a handsome revenue.'

"**Mr. Smith**, above alluded to, was never in any way whatsoever connected with the Ingham Herald, '**A Mr. Danforth**,' alluded to in the above extract as though he **was** a wayfarer, here today and there tomorrow, was the Hon. Ephraim **B. Danforth**,

one of the very earliest settlers in the village of Mason. In 1837, in company with Charles Noble, of Monroe, he erected the first saw mill in the county, and in **1838** the first grist mill. Together they owned **seven-eighths** of the land in the old village plat of Mason.

"On the organization of the county in **1838**, Mr. **Danforth** was elected one of the Associate Judges of the county. He was elected to the same office again in 1843. On two occasions the voters of this county gave him a large majority for the office of Senator. He was a member of the State Senate in 1847, and, Hon. Joseph **H. Kilbourne**, of Meridian, was in the House of Representatives. They worked with untiring zeal and energy to secure the location of the seat of the State government at Lansing. **Fortunately** for the prosperity of this section of the State and the more northern portions of the Lower Peninsula, their labors were crowned with success,

In **1848** Judge **Danforth** was appointed by the Governor and Senate commissioner to lay out and construct a road from the village of Mason to the city of Lansing.

"In **1840** he was elected a delegate to and was a very useful member of the convention which framed the present Constitution of this State.

"In all public positions held by Judge **Danforth** he discharged his duties with honor to himself and the full satisfaction of his constituents. In public, as in private life, his character was above reproach,

"The true history of the early settlement of **Ingham** county can never be written by any one without mentioning in laudable terms the name of Hon. **E. P. Danforth**, and his labors for its **advance-**ment and prosperity. It is a matter of deep regret that any man or any newspaper should allude in such an insignificant manner to one of the most useful and most prominent men among the early pioneers of the county; In **1850** Mr. **Danforth** sold his interests in the village of Mason and moved to Lansing, where he again engaged in the milling business. He died very suddenly in that city August 17, 1853.

"The first paper published in Mason, or in the county, was the Ingham Telegraph (neutral), by M. A. Childs. The first number appeared in April, 1841. At that day it was useless to attempt to

keep up the publication of newspapers in the new counties of the State unless they had the advantage of publishing the tax lists. At the election in this county in 184% Jason P. Packard, then late of Jackson, was elected county treasurer. There was a delinquent tax list, not a tax sale list, to be published in the January following, which Mr. Packard absolutely refused to publish in the Telegraph, but made arrangements with G. W. Raney and **R. S. Cheney**, of Jackson, to establish a Democratic newspaper in Mason and publish the tax list, consequently Mr. Childs moved his establishment to Dewitt, Clinton county.

"In due time the Jackson firm sent materials to Mason and commenced the publication of a paper. The tax list was put in form at Jackson and brought to Mason, and a boy did all the work of the establishment. After about ten months this boy committed an act which rendered him odious to the community and he returned to Jackson. Then appeared one James **R. Wells** to do the work on the paper. About the same time the name of **Mr. Cheney** was withdrawn as one of the proprietors, and probably the name of Mr. Wells appeared as editor or publisher. The last number of this sheet appeared just before the election in **1844**.

"At the session of the Legislature in 1844 the control of publishing the tax lists was given to county treasurers, each in his respective county.

"At the election in 1844, that able man and staunch Whig, the late Geo. **Matthews**, of Meridian, universally esteemed for his noble traits of character and many good deeds, was elected county treasurer. The election of Mr. Matthews, it was believed, offered a good opportunity for the establishment of a Whig paper in the county. **J. H. Child** and **H. P. Stillman** purchased of Mr. Raney the printing materials in Mason, and in December, 1844, commenced the publication of the Herald. In January following they entered into a contract with the county treasurer to do the tax advertising of the county. At that time the influence of the Democratic press of the State was all powerful. In several counties Whig treasurers had been elected, and some of the 'spoils' were liable to go to the enemy. So the Democratic Legislature, on or about the **21st** of March, 1845, passed an act restoring to the Auditor General the entire control of the tax advertising.

"Storey and Cheney, of the Jackson Patriot, immediately

packed printing materials for publishing a paper, and started the same for Eaton county in charge of a competent printer. They found the field already occupied by a party from Marshall. Then 'twas right about face. They made up from the columns of the Patriot forms for a newspaper, christened it the 'Ingham Democrat,' then took these forms to Leslie to the office of Hon. Henry Fiske, then Probate Judge of this county and former president of the wild-cat bank at Kensington, and there with a brush printed off a few copies of the Democrat. Judge Fiske made: affidavit that the paper was printed in Ingham county, and with that affidavit and a copy of the paper they posted off to Detroit and placed them in the hands of the Auditor General, and that officer on the first day of April designated the Ingham Democrat to do the tax advertising for that year.

"Almost the **first** intimation that the people of Mason had that another paper **was** to be published in the county was a rumor that a jaded span of horses, with a wagon freighted with printing materials, was **coming** through the mud and mire on the old Columbia road, After being dragged through the swamps and sloughs of Eaton county and part of those of Ingham in search of a tax list, the materials found a resting place in the village of 'Mason.

"For several weeks no one appeared to take charge of the Ingham Democrat, Some time in May Mr. Child, of the Herald, entered **into** articles of **agreement** with Storey and Cheney to publish the Democrat in their name until the conclusion of the advertising and then to purchase the establishment, About **one-third** of the purchase price was paid down, Whatever amount was realized from publishing the list was to be **placed** to the credit of Mr. Child, After the list was placed in form ready 'for **publication**, Storey and **Cheney** replevied and removed **the** materials, Again appeared the obnoxious youth before referred to as **employed** by another Jackson firm to print **their** paper in Mason, and who had suddenly disappeared from, the village. These **proceedings** caused a **great** deal of ill feeling and excitement, But a few days passed, when one night most of the materials were removed from the Democrat office, no one knew whither. After a series of years some of them **were** found secreted in several places

**about the town.** The proprietors of the Democrat sent on other material and concluded the advertising.

"Soon after this Mr. **Stillman** withdrew from the Herald and with the assistance of Judge **Danforth** and Dr. **McRobert** **purchased** the Democrat office and continued the publication of the paper until October, 1847. The names of E. B. **Danforth** and **Minos** McRobert appeared as proprietors. Mr. Child continued the publication of the Herald for a year or more after Mr. **Stillman** withdrew."

The secretary of the County Pioneer Society **states** that "of my own knowledge **I** know the truthfulness of almost every statement in the above article."

#### INGHAM COUNTY.

Written by Peter **Linderman**, in 1860, and published in the Tnghnm County News in May, 1874.

The first meeting of the townships of the county was in the spring of **1838**. The county was a dense wilderness, and had less than **100** inhabitants.

The first meeting of the board of supervisors was in October, 1888, at the home of Hiram Parker, Esq., about four miles east of Mason, The act organizing the county required that the board should meet at the house nearest the county **seat** site, which had been located by commissioners appointed by the Governor, at the quarter posts of sections **12** and 1, town **2** north, range 1 west. There was no building, improvements or inhabitants nearer this than Mr. Parker's home, At this meeting seven townships were represented by supervisors **as** follows:

Vevay-Peter Linderman.  
 Leslie-Benjamin Davis.  
 Aurelius-John Barnes.  
 Phelps-town-Henry Lee.  
 Stockbridge—Orrin Gregory.  
 Onondaga-Amos E. Steele.  
 Alaiedon-Wm. Lewis.

The office of supervisor was not as profitable in those days, we conclude, as at present, Mr. Linderman's salary amounting to the modest sum of \$4.75. The auditing committee allowed C. A. Osborn \$6 for making ballot boxes, more than the highest salary paid to any supervisor. We believe one of those identical ballot boxes is now used in the Vevay elections.

The county was named after one Judge Ingham, a prominent official at Washington, who was appointed by President Andrew Jackson a commissioner to visit Michigan to investigate some difficulty that had arisen in regard to either the survey or boundary, and in his report; he made mention of this part of the State in such glowing terms that it was called Ingham.

The first election of county officers was held in 1838, during the existence of the Whig and Democratic parties. There was quite a strife between the two parties.

Peter Lowe was nominated for sheriff by the Whigs and his brother Richard R. Lowe was nominated by the Democrats, so as to keep the office "in the family." The whole number of votes polled was 146, resulting in two or three majority for the Democratic Lowe.

At that time the only settlement of any importance was "Jefferson," in the township of Alaiedon, about three miles north of Mason. It was a central place for all the meetings of the town. A post office was located there, and we think a store besides some shops and dwellings. For several years it was the rival of Mason, which was only decided in favor of the latter when the county seat was located.

The township of Vevay was organized in 1838, and an election of officers was held on the 2nd day of April of that year. The meeting was held in an old log tavern that stood where A. E. Steele now lives. A preliminary meeting was held first to appoint the necessary officers to conduct the election. Dr. McRobert was chosen moderator and Anson Jackson clerk, Hiram Converse, Hiram Parker and B. I. Smith were appointed inspectors of election. There were but 24 voters in the township, and the result of the election was as follows:

Supervisor-Peter Linderman.

Town Clerk--Anson Jackson,

Assessors-Ira Rolfe, M. McRobert, Abner Bartlett.

Magistrates-P. Linderman, H. Converse, II. Parker, Benj. Rolfe.

Collector-Henry A. Hawley.

Road Commissioners--Hiram Austin, B. F. Smith, A. Jackson.

Constables-John Daggett, Henry A. Hawley.

Directors of the Poor--Geo. Searles, B. Rolfe,

School Inspectors--Nathan Rolfe, M. McRobert, Wm. II. Horton.

Fence Viewers-Hinman Hurd, E. R. Searl.

The meeting took into consideration the many depredations committed upon the settlers flocks, and wisely voted to pay a bounty of \$2 for every wolf killed within the township limits. It is said that the Indians brought in "much scalp" so that the treasury was soon emptied. It was afterwards ascertained that the "scalps" were like the Democratic voters of Vevay the first spring that Dr. Root was elected supervisor of the township--"residents of other townships;" so the bounty act resulted in no great profit to hunters after the first few weeks.

"Fence viewers" were then part of a legal township organization, and at this election it was decided that a "lawful fence" should be at least four and one-half feet high. Hogs were declared a nuisance, and stricken off the list of "free commoners." The question in our mind is, if they are any less a "nuisance" now than they were then that they are privileged to pasture in the streets and gardens of the township.

In the year 1839 a strictly party ticket was run by the Whigs and Democrats. At this town meeting Hiram Converse was nominated for supervisor by the Whigs, and Charles Gray was the Democratic nominee. The latter was elected by a very small majority. In 1840 party candidates were again nominated. The whole number of votes cast was 56, of which Charles Gray received a majority of two. At this election the sum of \$75 was appropriated for school purposes.

Mason was then called "The Center," and afterward "Mason Center," after Stevens T. Mason, the youthful Governor of the State. The salary voted to the collector for gathering taxes was \$15.

Wright Horton, Whig, was elected supervisor in 1841, and Peter Linderman, Whig, in 1843. At a meeting of the town board



in 1844 a complaint was made against Abner Bartlett, a tavern keeper, who had failed to be supplied at all times with provisions and lodgings for travelers, and stable room and provender for horses. For this offense his license was revoked, the severest penalty that could be inflicted by pioneers. In 1843 Mr. **Linderman** was again re-elected over John B. **Chapin**, the Democratic nominee. The Democrats were successful in 1844, electing Hiram Parker over Issachar Hammond by eight majority. In **1845** there was a tie between Mr. Parker and Mr. Linderman, which was decided by lot, Mr. Linderman being successful.

In 1846, **Geo.** Shafer, Whig, was elected over Hiram Parker. The township at this election voted against the granting of license to sell liquors, Mr. Linderman was elected supervisor in 1847, and Hon. John W. Longyear, now U. S. District Judge, was chosen town clerk, Since then **the** following have been 'the supervisors elected:

- 1848—Peter** Linderman, Whig.  
**1849—George** Shafer—Whig.  
**1850—Henry A. Hawley**, Whig.  
**1851—Anson** Jackson, Democrat,  
**1852—A. M. Chapin**, Democrat.  
**1853—Amos** E. Steele, Democrat,  
 1854—J. L. Huntington, Democrat,  
**1855—George W. Shafer**, Whig.  
**1856—Wm.** H. Horton, Democrat.  
**1857—Geo.** W. Shafer, Republican.  
**1858—James** Fuller, Republican.  
**1859—James** Fuller, Republican.  
**1860—Wm.** H. Horton, Democrat.  
 1861—R. F. Griffin, Republican.  
**1862—R. F.** Griffin, Republican.  
**1863—Peter** Lowe, Republican.  
**1864—John Coatsworth**, Democrat.  
**1865—John** Coatsworth, Democrat,  
**1866—Perry** Henderson, Democrat.  
**1867—Perry** Henderson, Democrat.  
 1868—W. W. Root, Republican.  
 1869—W. W. Root, Republican.  
**1870—W.** W. Root, Republican.

- 1871—W. W. Root, Republican.  
 1872—R. F. Griffin, Republican.  
 1873—W. W. Root, Republican.  
**1874—Alex** Bush, Republican.

By the above it will be seen the Democracy have elected their supervisor in Vevay thirteen years, the Whigs ten years, and the Republicans thirteen years.

### INGHAM COUNTY POST OFFICES IN 1863.

Michigan State Gazetteer.

- Alverson.  
 Aurelius.  
 Bunkerhill.  
 Dansville.  
 Eden.  
 Felt's,  
 Fitchburg.  
 Holt.  
 Lansing.  
**LeRoy**,  
 Leslie.  
**Locke**.  
 Mason (county seat),  
 North Aurelius.  
 North Leslie.  
 Norton.  
 Okemos.  
 Onondaga.  
 Phelpstown.  
 Red Bridge,  
 Stockbridge.  
 West Delhi.  
 White Oak,  
 Williamston.  
 Winfield.

The following is a list of Representatives in the Legislature, Associate Judges, and other county officers chosen at general or special elections, from the time the county was organized until the year 1874, as carefully prepared by Hon. O. M. Barnes for the Ingham County News:

#### REPRESENTATIVES.

Ingham and Livingston.

- 1839—Kingsley S. Bingham.  
 1840—Chas. P. Bush, Amos E. Steele.  
 1841—Chas. P. Bush, Kingsley S. Bingham.

Ingham and Eaton.

- 1842—John M. French, Sr.  
 1843—Hiram H. Smith,  
 1844—Benjamin Knight,  
 1845—Whitney Jones.  
 1846—Whitney Jones,

Ingham County.

- 1847—Joseph H. Kilbourne.  
 1848—George Matthews.  
 1849—Joseph H. Kilbourne.  
 1850—Amaziah Winchell.  
 1851-52—John L. Crossman,  
 1853-56—Ferris S. Fitch.  
 1857-58—Peter Linderman, Levi Rowley.  
 1859-60—John W. Phelps, Dorman Felt.  
 1861-62—H. B. Shank, M. M. Atwood.  
 1863-64—O. M. Barnes, J. D. Woodworth.  
 1865-66—Lucian Reed, J. D. Woodworth.  
 1867-68—R. C. Kedzie, D. L. Grossman.  
 1869-70—George P. Sanford, D. L. Crossman.  
 1871-72—Alvin N. Hart, M. M. Atwood.  
 1873-74—L. H. Bartholomew, Arnold Walker.

#### ASSOCIATE JUDGES.

- 1838—Ephraim B. Danforth, Amos E. Steele.  
 1839—Amos E. Steele, Wm. Childs.  
 1840—Amos E. Steele.  
 1841-42—Amos E. Steele, John R. Bowdish.  
 1843-47—Ephraim B. Danforth, John R. Bowdish.  
 1847—Joseph E. North, Joseph Hunt,

#### COUNTY JUDGES.

- 1847-48—Benjamin Davis.  
 1849-50—W. H. Chapman.  
 1851—Mason Branch.

#### COUNTY OFFICERS.

1838.

- Sheriff—Richard R. Lowe.  
 Clerk—Valorous Meeker,  
 Treasurer—Hiram H. Smith.  
 Register of Deeds—Minos McRobert.  
 Judge of Probate—Peter Linderman.  
 Surveyor—Anson Jackson.  
 Coroners—Horatio N. Forbes, James Phillips.

1839-40.

- Sheriff—Amaziah Winchell.  
 Clerk—Peter Lowe.  
 Treasurer—Hiram H. Smith.  
 Register of Deeds—Minos McRobert.  
 Judge of Probate—Valorous Meeker.  
 Surveyor—Anson Jackson.  
 Commissioners—1839—Peter Linderman, Jacob Loomis, and Henry Lee. 1840—Henry Lee, William A. Dryer, Jacob Loomis.  
 Coroners—Henry Wood, Palmer Rossman.

1841-42.

- Sheriff—Amaziah Winchell.  
 Clerk—George W. Shafer, Anson Jackson.  
 Treasurer—John W. Burchard.

Register of Deeds-Zaccheus Barnes.  
 Judge of Probate-Valorous Meeker.  
 Surveyor-Anson Jackson.  
**Commissioners—1841—Wm. A. Dryer, Jacob Loomis, Caleb Carr, 1842—Wm. A. Dryer, Caleb Carr, George Matthews.**  
 Coroners-Palmer **Rossman**, Joseph Hunt,

**1843-44.**

Sheriff-Nathaniel **R. Hammond**.  
 Clerk-Peter Lowe,  
 Treasurer-Jason **B. Packard**,  
 Register of Deeds-Thomas North.  
 Judge of Probate-Hiram Fiske.  
**Surveyor—Anson** Jackson.  
 Coroners-Joseph Hunt, Joseph **L. Huntington**.

**1845-46.**

Sheriff-Joseph Hunt.  
 Clerk-John Coatsworth.  
 Treasurer-George Matthews.  
 Register of Deeds-Wm- H. Horton.  
 Judge of Probate-Amos E. Steele (vacancy),  
 Surveyor-Anson Jackson.  
 Coroner&James Reeves, Henry H. North.

**1847-48.**

Sheriff-Joseph L. Huntington.  
 Clerk-John Coatsworth.  
 Treasurer-George Matthews.  
 Register of Deeds-Wm. H. Horton.  
 Judge of Probate-Richard Ferris.  
 Surveyor-Anson Jackson,  
 Coroners-Henry **M. North**, Stephen V. Kinney.

**1849-50.**

Sheriff-Joseph L. Huntington.  
 Clerk-Henry **P. Atwood**.  
 Treasurer-Samuel Skadan.  
 Register of Deeds-Wm. II. Horton.  
 Judge of Probate-Griffin Paddock.

Surveyor-Lewis D. Preston.  
 Coroners-Daniel Gorsline, John McKernan,  
 1851-52.

Sheriff-Chauncey A. Osborne,  
 Clerk-Peter Lowe.  
 Treasurer-Samuel Skndan.  
 Register of Deeds-Wm. Woodhouse.  
 Judge of Probate-Griffin Paddock.  
**Surveyor—Anson** Jackson.  
 Prosecuting Attorneys-Wm, W. Upton, Orlando **M. Barnes**.  
 Coroners-Henry II, North, **Wm. Post**.

## 1853-54.

Sheriff-Chauncey A. Osborne.  
 Clerk-Philip McKernan.  
 Treasurer-Franklin **LaRue**.  
 Register of Deeds-Wm. Woodhouse.  
 Judge of Probate--Wm. H. Chapman.  
 Surveyor-Anson Jackson.  
 Prosecuting Attorney-Orlando M. Barnes.  
 Circuit Court Commissioner-Griffin Paddock.  
 Coroners-Mosely A. Baldwin, John **C. Granger**.

**1855-56.**

Sheriff-Perry Henderson.  
 Clerk-Philip McKernan.  
 Treasurer-Franklin **LaRue**.  
 Register of Deeds-Wm. Woodhouse.  
 Judge of Probate-Wm. **H. Chapman**.  
 Surveyor-Anson Jackson.  
 Prosecuting Attorney-Orlando M. Barnes.  
 Circuit Court **Commissioner—Griffin** Paddock.  
 Coroners-Mason Branch, Elisha **Elwood**.

## 1857-58.

Sheriff -Richard R. Lowe.  
 Clerk-A. R. L. Covert.  
 Treasurer-John H. Mullett.  
 Register of Deeds-Zaccheus Barnes..

Judge of Probate-Wm. **H.** Pinckney.  
 Surveyor-Thomas Brown.  
 Prosecuting Attorney-George I. Parsons.  
 Circuit Court Commissioner-Horace B. Williams.  
 Coroners-Marvin Geer, Hiram Bristol.

1859-60.

Sheriff -Edy Baker.  
 Clerk-A, **R. L.** Covert.  
 Treasurer-Lemuel Woodhouse.  
 Register of Deeds-Zaccheus Barnes.  
 Judge of **Probate--Wm.** H, Pinckney.  
 Surveyor-Thomas Brown.  
 Prosecuting Attorney-George I. Parsons.  
 Circuit Court Commissioner-Griffin Paddock.  
 Coroners-David F, **Rath**, John R, **Bowdish**.

1861-63.

Sheriff-Truman **Spencer**.  
 Clerk-Lucian Reed,  
 Treasurer---Lemuel Woodhouse.  
 Register of Deeds-Joseph S. Pierson.  
 Judge of Probate-Wm, H. Pinckney.  
 Surveyor--James G. Stafford,  
 Prosecuting Attorney--Stephen D, Bingham.  
 Circuit Court Commissioner-Horatio Pratt.  
 Coroners-Edwin Hubbard, S. O, Russell.

1863-64,

Sheriff-Frederick P, Moody.  
 Clerk-S. P. Mead.  
 Treasurer-Abram Hayner.  
 Register of Deeds-Wm. Woodhouse.  
 Judge of Probate-Wm. **H.** Pinckney.  
 Surveyor-Wm. Rayner,  
 Prosecuting **Attorney--G.** M. Huntington.  
 Circuit Court Commissioner-Horatio Pratt.  
 Coroners-Philip **J.** Price, Samuel Skadan.

1865-66,

Sheriff-Frederick **P.** Moody.

Clerk-H. P. Henderson.  
 Treasurer-Abram Hayner,  
 Register of Deeds-Wm. Woodhouse.  
 Judge of Probate-Horatio Pratt.  
 Surveyor-Wm. Rayner.  
 Prosecuting Attorney-R, C. Dart.  
 Circuit Court Commissioner-Mason D. Chatterton.  
**Coroners--Orton** Williams, Stephen T. Gidney.

1867-68.

Sheriff-Truman Spencer.  
 Clerk-Stanley W. Turner.  
 Treasurer-John A. Barnes.  
 Register of Deeds-Charles H. Darrow.  
 Judge of Probate-Horatio Pratt.  
 Surveyor-Wm. Rayner.  
 Prosecuting Attorney-R. **C.** Dart.  
 Circuit Court **Commissioner--Mason D.** Chatterton.  
 Coroners-James I. Mead, Elliott II. Angell.

1869-70.

Sheriff-Horace **Angell**.  
 Clerk-Stanley W. Turner.  
 Treasurer-John A. Barnes.  
 Register of Deeds-Charles H. Darrow.  
 Judge of Probate-Horatio Pratt.  
 Surveyor-Wm. Rayner.  
 Prosecuting Attorney-H. **B.** Carpenter.  
 Circuit Court Commissioner-John R. **VanVelsor**.  
 Coroners-James I, Mead, Gardner Fletcher.

1871 - 73 .

Sheriff-Wm. Spears.  
 Clerk-Daniel D. **Bolton**.  
 Treasurer-Thaddeus Densmore.  
 Register of Deeds-Henry J. Haight.  
 Judge of Probate-Horatio Pratt.  
 Surveyor-John N. Mullett.  
 Prosecuting Attorney-H. **B.** Carpenter.  
 Circuit Court **Commissioners--Dougal** McKenzie, Moses A.  
**Hewett**.  
 Coroners-Wm. **W.** Root, **Benj. S.** Peets.