

recall the family, as most of them and their descendants have died or left that section.

Although this village of Webberville was founded long after the time limit set for the end of the history to be given in this volume, it seems fitting that it should have this brief mention, to show that as late as 1872 the settlers could be classed with the pioneers of Ingham county, as they cleared the forests and built the settlement that is now a thriving village.

CHAPTER XI.

LESLIE TOWNSHIP.

History of township and village by Elijah Grout, D. A. R.; Township Historical society gives history by school districts; pioneer sketches by Mrs. Ella Halts.

The following facts concerning Leslie history were gleaned from a little book published by Elijah Grout Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, in 1914, in their desire to preserve some of the early data. The Government survey recognizes this township as Township No. 1 North, Range No. 1 West. It was in 1834 when Joseph Wampler surveyed the eastern and southern boundaries, while the northern and western lines were surveyed by John Mullett in 1824-25, and the township was subdivided by Hervey Parke in 1826.

From that time until 1837 Leslie Township was a part of the township of Aurelius, when on December 30 of that year it was organized as a separate township and given its present name, for which Dr. J. A. Cornell, of Spring Arbor, stands sponsor, in honor of a family he knew by that name in eastern New York. When the formal act of organization passed in March, 1838, it received its legislative baptism and has since been known as Leslie. Previous to that time the settlement, where is now the village of Leslie, was known as "Meekersville," a family by the name of Meeker being among the very first to settle there, and one of their number, Dr. Valorous Meeker, was the first physician to settle in Ingham county.

The first town meeting in Leslie was held at the home of Henry Fiske on the first Monday in April, 1838. This house stood near the present site of the Allen House, and Henry Fiske presided as moderator and Benjamin Davis was elected supervisor.

Leslie Township is one of the southern townships in Ingham county. It has a slightly rolling surface with natural water courses fitting it for general agriculture.

Huntoon Creek runs across the township from north to south, and its sources are found in Mud Lake on sections 3 and 10, and

Huntoon Lake on sections 13 and 14. At an early day several mills were run by the power this stream afforded, but later the dams were destroyed and the ponds drained.

Along this creek bottom the Michigan Central Railroad and the electric line of the Michigan United Railway procured their right of way, and through these two roads the people of Leslie township are connected with the outside world.

There are two villages in the township—Leslie, situated in the southern part, and the hamlet of North Leslie in the northwestern part.

As in other parts of Ingham county, Indians were quite common when the first settlers came, as the old Indian trail from the north to Detroit, by way of Jackson, was frequently traveled by these original settlers as they went back and forth to Detroit after their pensions paid them by the government. The trails made by the red men were the roads traveled by the white men when they came into the unbroken forest of Ingham county.

The numerous stone arrow heads, skinning knives, hammers and hatchets which were discovered as the settlers began to cultivate their fields, proved conclusively that the Indians had done more than to just pass over this ground, but must at various times had camps around there. As specimens of copper were also found, it was thought the Indians must have brought them from the Lake Superior region in their wanderings through the northwest territory.

On section 20 it is said that quantities of bones were found, indicating that either a battle had been fought in that vicinity or that a cemetery had been at some time located there.

This little book of Leslie history makes no mention of the mounds found on section 17, which O. M. Barnes pronounced a remnant of the work done in prehistoric days, and which he helped to excavate in the later '30's or early '40's when he found proof for his assertion.

Many of the early settlers of Leslie were people of culture and refinement, from religious homes in the east, and churches and schools were soon organized.

These early settlers lived in a most primitive manner, because surrounding conditions made it impossible for them to do otherwise. They lived in their covered wagons until they could build

log houses, and did their cooking over fires built out of doors. Bread was baked in an iron skillet over the coals. Fires were kept throughout the night to frighten the woves away. Indians were frequent but unwelcome visitors. With hearts yearning for the homes and friends they had left, they labored diligently to establish their new homes as waves of homesickness swept over them. A letter from the old home was hailed with pleasure, though oftentimes after word had reached them that a letter was awaiting them at the nearest postoffice, they would have great difficulty in raising the money to pay the required postage of twenty-five cents. Money was a scarce commodity in those days, and there was but very little of it in circulation among the settlers, black salts and maple sugar being the basis for all their financing.

Of their hardships they never complained, and one daughter of an early settler was heard to say, "I remember when we had only salt and potatoes to eat, and we thought it more of a picnic than a hardship—at least the children did."

Elijah Woodworth built the first log house in Leslie in March, 1836, on what is now Bellevue street, near Huntoon Creek. Soon there was one built near Five Corners by Mr. Loomis; another near the Methodist church by Henry Meeker, and a frame one, now called the Dowling residence, by Mr. Elmer on Bellevue street.

The first school house in Leslie township was built in the fall of 1837, a frame building, located near where the Congregational church now stands, and is now used as a part of a carriage house by J. R. Baggerly.

The first teacher was Stillman Rice, and the second Mrs. Butler, followed by Miss Messenger. This first school house was used for both school and religious services.

One incident was told by an old resident: "I remember the school house distinctly. We spent many exciting afternoons in it, choosing sides for a spelling down contest. There was a play house too, built in the woods just west of Mr. Tuttle's residence. There the largest boy or girl was elected father or mother and they had a busy time keeping order in their unruly family."

In time the first building was vacated and a brick house erected, which is now used as a chapel by the Congregational church.

In 1868 the present high school building was erected, but its

history belongs to a later period which it is the plan of the Ingham County Historical and Pioneer Society to treat in the second volume of the county history.

CHURCHES.

As early as 1830 the Methodist Episcopal church did some work in what is now the township of Leslie, and the first Methodist society was formed in the village of Leslie in June, 1837. There were thirteen members, as follows: Henry Meeker and wife, S. O. Russell and wife, Benjamin Davis and wife, Dr. Valorous Meeker and wife, James Royston and wife, Benjamin Meeker and wife, and Denzil P. Rice. Washington Jackson and Rev. Sullivan were the pastors. S. O. Russell was the first class leader. At the time the society was organized the circuit was changed to Ingham, as was also the Conference. The meetings were held first at the home of Benjamin Davis, one mile west of the village. Afterward they were held in the schoolhouse. In 1838 the following people were taken into the church:

Josiah Rice, Laura Rice, Flavel J. Butler, Florella Butler, Richard Davis, Susan Caton, Washington Scovil, Ephraim Wortman, Anna Wortman, Susan Kirby, Laura A. Rice, Alba Blake, Catherine Blake, Nancy Carson, Laura Filkins, Louis A. Ravelin, Wm. Vredenburg, Betsy Vredenburg, Mary J. Carson, John Hawkins, Nancy Hawkins, Samuel Vredenburg, Henry D. Rice, Clarissa Dunsha, VanRansaler Polar, Bathsbeba Rice, John Parish, and Edna Rice.

The first society at Felts Plains in Bunkerhill was organized about 1848, and attached to Leslie. At that time Leslie, Mason, Okemos, Bunkerhill, Dansville, Stockbridge and some school house appointments were in the Ingham circuit. A. L. Crittenden was the pastor, and lived in Mason, as the circuit owned a parsonage there. For two years this pastor preached once in two weeks at each of the places belonging to the circuit. Hiram Law was presiding elder.

In 1856 a Union church was built that was used by both Methodists and Baptists until 1868, when the Methodists rented a hall, where they remained until they erected a church of their own in 1870.

The first Baptist church of Leslie was organized on April 12,

1850, with the following members: Mahlon Covert, Sally Covert, Lewis Reynolds, Laura Reynolds, Martha J. Ives, Mariah Hazleton, Harriet Barden and Elijah K. Grout.

Elijah Grout was the first pastor of the church, he having been ordained in 1841. The early meetings were held in the school house. In 1856 the society decided to try and build a church of their own, and a frame building was begun and finished two years later. This was later veneered with brick, and is still in use by the society. At the time the church was built a Ladies' Sewing Society was organized with thirteen members, who worked to raise funds to be used in furnishing the building. They did all kinds of needle work, made quilts and garments, which they sold, and after a time were able to buy sash and glass for the windows and also to paint the church.

The Congregational church was organized in February, 1843, by Rev. Marcus Harrison, pastor of the church in Jackson. There were nine members, Henry Fiske and wife, William Huntton and wife, Benjamin Bingham and wife, Kendrick Leach and wife, and Elizabeth Bugbee. Meetings were held once a month for eight months, and then the organization dissolved. In 1861 another organization was formed with Rev. Edwin W. Shaw as pastor.

EARLY DAY MILLS.

Two saw mills were built in early days that utilized the water power afforded by Huntton Creek. One was built by Woodworth, Dwight and Company in 1836, and was known as the Upper Mill. The other, known as the Lower Mill, was built by Henry Meeker, on what is now Mill street. It was a few years later dismantled. S. O. Russell built a steam mill about 1850, at the corner of Bellevue and Spring street. This continued in operation about eight years. In 1867 another saw mill was built by E. Oldman and L. G. Becker on the east side of the creek, east of the M. E. church. After running for ten years it was burned, but soon after rebuilt.

The first grist mill was near the Meeker saw mill, and was built in 1838 by David Dwight. William Spears and Dell Haines owned it at different times, and it was burned while Henry Hawley was the owner.

A second grist mill was built in 1870 by John Burchard, and is now used as a storage house. This is just east of the railroad, near where the Meeker mill stood.

There was a third grist mill which after being operated some years was burned.

Rice Brothers had a brick kiln on the creek bank, and here were made the brick for the first house built of that material in Leslie, and also for the first brick school house.

A post office was established in Leslie in 1838, and Henry Fiske was the first postmaster. The first mail was brought by a man on horseback, and a cigar box would have been sufficiently large to carry it in. After a stage was put on the route the mail came once a week, then twice a week until 1865 when the railroad went through.

The first hotel was opened to the public in 1844. It was burned in 1852, and rebuilt, and after many years was again burned. The Eagle Hotel was built in 1852, and has since been conducted by various people.

In 1869 a private bank was established by Walker Allen & Co., and the First National Bank was established in 1864, with capital of \$50,000. The officers were from among the early settlers, with Arnold Walker, president; M. E. Rumsey, vice-president, and C. C. Walker, cashier. This was later reorganized as a state bank and given the name of People's Bank.

The first newspaper was the "Leslie Herald," established in May, 1869, by J. W. Allen. It later became a part of the Leslie local, and afterwards when the Republican, a paper which lived but a short time, was absorbed by the Local, the name was changed to the Leslie Local-Republican.

Other places and industries of interest were introduced a little too late to appear in the genuine pioneer list, and will have to be left for a later volume.

Leslie is wide-awake and supports several flourishing fraternities and societies, but they none of them come in the pioneer list.

EARLY SETTLERS UP TO 1850.

Elijah Woodworth was born in Mayfield, Montgomery county, N. Y. He was a soldier in the War of 1812, and also in the Mexican War. He came to Jackson county, Michigan, in 1835, by

way of Canada. Early in 1836 he cut a road through the forest to Grand river, which he crossed on a raft, then pursued his way northward to the place where Leslie now stands, and built his log house on the banks of Huntoon Creek. Amos Wortman, another pioneer, assisted him in this work.

The nearest settlement north was at DeWitt, Clinton county. That summer saw others coming to the Ingham county settlement in search of homes, the choice of homes following the line of registration. As guides were needed in the wilderness, Amos Wortman, Jasper Wollcott and Elijah Woodworth took that duty on themselves. All newcomers went to Kalamazoo to register the land they desired to take up. Elijah Woodworth was past ninety when he died, and his life was one of active work. He was interested in all matters pertaining to the pioneers, was a member of the Ingham County Pioneer Society, and also of the State Society. A poem written by him when nearing the end of his days appears in the reports of the annual meetings of the county society, and also in the Michigan Pioneer Collection.

JOSIAH RICE

And family arrived in Meekerville, or Leslie, in 1839. He was a brother of Grandmother Meeker. "Uncle Josiah," as everyone called him, had a pottery near where Mr. Kent's house stands. His work was a delight to the children as they watched him take a piece of clay, mould it into the proper consistency, throw it upon his revolving table, where with his hands and a piece of wood he would shape various dishes and utensils. In the Historical Museum at the Capitol is a vase made by Josiah Rice, of Leslie, in 1849. Mr. Rice married Laura Stone in Sheldon, Vermont, Feb. 26, 1812, and eleven children were born to them.

JACOB ARMSTRONG

Came from Charleston, Montgomery county, N. Y., in the fall of 1837. He related his experiences after reaching Michigan as follows: "I hired a man and a team to transport my goods (the inference being that he came by boat to Detroit, like the majority of the pioneers) and arrived at Freeman's bridge over the Grand river on September 9, 1837. I found the river impassable on ac-

count of heavy rains. The causeway some thirty rods long between the bridge and the north bank was afloat. I left my goods on the bank on the south side and my wife and I crossed on the floating logs by jumping from one log to another and came to Leslie that night on foot, five miles along a dim trail. The next morning I started with an ox team for my goods, and found the river still impassable for a team. By the help of three hired men we loaded into the wagon what we could draw, and drew it across on planks laid on the floating causeway. By taking two sets of planks we could shift them every length of the wagon. We worked faithfully all day, a part of the time up to our waists in the water, got them over and arrived at Leslie some time after dark. Usually when it was known that a family was at the river waiting to come over settlers would go to their assistance.

"Sometimes whole days would be taken in getting them and their household goods across. After a time rough canoes were hewn out of basswood logs, and the use of these lessened the labor somewhat. During 1836 the river was crossed on a log raft. As soon as there were men enough to warrant the undertaking, a log bridge was built. Jacob Armstrong was one of the first settlers in North Leslie in 1837.

AMOS WOERTMAN

Came to Michigan in 1835 from Genesee county, N. Y. He remained in Jackson the first winter, and on March 11, 1836, filed on section 21. He assisted Elijah Woodworth to build the first house in Leslie and boarded with him for two years. On October 28, 1838, he married Charlotte Woodworth, and the next year settled on his farm. He helped cut the first road in the township of Leslie, and helped in cutting roads in other townships while on hunting trips, though these roads were merely trails or cow-paths. By his first wife he had five children, some time after her death he married Mrs. Sybil Barnes, in 1855, and by her had three children.

SIDNEY O. RUSSELL

Came from Seneca Falls, N. Y., and filed on land in sections 20 and 29, Leslie, in 1836. The following year he brought his family and settled on his farm. The same year he sowed the first wheat

in Leslie Township. Indians were numerous, and were frequent callers at his log house, and their demands for food were never denied. Chief Okemos was a common visitor. In 1842 Mr. Russell moved into the village of Leslie and bought a water-power saw mill. He added a small store to this and began his mercantile career. He afterward erected a steam mill which furnished employment for a number of men. He built a brick business block, also his residence on Bellevue street. He married Mary Fox, of Seneca Falls, N. Y., and to them six children were born. After her death he married Rumina Haynes. He died in November, 1894. He was an active member of Ingham County Pioneer Society and filled various offices in the society.

JOHN J. TUTTLE

Was born at Metz, N. Y., and settled on section 7, in Leslie, in 1836. In 1837 he brought his wife, Emma Warren Tuttle, to the log house he had erected on his land. She was a granddaughter of General Warren of Revolutionary fame.

It is told of him, "that it was five years after taking up his abode in this new country before a team passed his door, or he was able to see the smoke of any dwelling but his own. His good wife was ever ready to help indoors or out. Often she assisted him in clearing land by piling and burning the logs. Lye was obtained from the ashes by leaching in sycamore guns, then boiling it down into "black salts," which could be sold for making salaratus for cooking purposes. This and maple sugar were the only products which could be sold for cash in those early days.

Mr. Tuttle was a good friend to the Indians who frequently camped on his land. He was a strong-minded man, a good story teller, and always tried to make others happy. During his life he served at different times as supervisor, justice of the peace and coroner of Ingham county. Both Mr. and Mrs. Tuttle were members of the Ingham County Pioneer Society, and many of Mr. Tuttle's delightful stories of pioneer experiences were told at the annual meetings of the society.

Three children were born to this couple. Mrs. Tuttle died in September, 1887, and Mr. Tuttle in January, 1903.

DANIEL ACKLEY

Was born in Batavia, N. Y., and in 1829 he married Sarah Wortman. They migrated to Leslie in 1836 and settled on a farm north of the village. Bears were plentiful at that time. One Sunday morning as Mr. and Mrs. Ackley were taking a walk she saw an animal which she mistook for an Indian pony, but Mr. Ackley shot the animal, which proved to be a bear seven feet and two inches in length. Two children were born to this couple.

BENJAMIN DAVIS

Of Jefferson county, N. Y., came to Michigan in 1836, but remained in Wayne county until January, 1837, then moved to the land in Leslie on which he filed a claim in May, 1836. He was twice married, and was the father of eight children.

JAMES ROYSTON

Was born in the State of New York in 1800. He came to Michigan in June, 1836, and located on the place where L. A. Royston now resides. The family came by way of Buffalo to Detroit on the lakes, and from Detroit by ox team. At the time Mr. Royston built his log cabin there was but one other family within the limits of Leslie. He can well be called one of the founders of the township, as he was elected justice of the peace at the first township election held 1838. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Royston, one of them, William, died of sunstroke at Resaca de La Palma in the Mexican War.

ELISHA GODFREY

Came to Leslie in 1836 with his family. When he reached Grand river he found a bridge made of logs which would sink into the water when stepped upon. The father was unwilling to venture with his family in the wagon over this primitive crossing. His little daughter, Betsy, who was a cripple, bravely placed her crutches on a log and pressed it down until it was stationary, then swung herself onto the log and treated the next one in the same manner, until she crossed in safety. This little girl certainly deserves a place in the list of heroic pioneers. Her father was not

strong and she was thrown upon her own resources early in life. Her school privileges were few. When about fifteen years old she had earned and saved money enough to pay for eight yards of calico at twenty-five cents a yard, of which she made her a dress. Later she added two light calico aprons and a cape to her wardrobe. These capes were made to cross in front, and were considered quite dressy, but she had no shoes. Fortunately an aunt bought herself a new pair, and gave her old ones to Betsey. These she had nicely mended, and though they were two sizes too large she wore them to school all winter, and then when she began teaching in the spring, and from that time she was self-supporting Elisha Godfrey married Polly Barden, and to them were born thirteen children.

CLARK GRAVES

Came to Leslie about 1836. He married Fornia Rice, daughter of Josiah Rice. They had no children but adopted a daughter, who is now Mrs. Palmyra Hahn.

MAHLON COVERT

Settled in Leslie Township in 1837 on a government claim of 200 acres. He came from New York, and before leaving was married to Sallie Chandlers. He began at once to clear his land and built his log cabin, which in 1855 was replaced by a modern home. Four children came to this household.

REV. ELLIAH K. GROUT

Of Fairfax, Vermont, in 1838 came to Leslie in a covered wagon bringing with him his wife and three young children. He purchased forty acres where the village now stands, but afterward sold this. He built a plank house on the hill on Bellevue street, and with blankets or pieces of carpet in the place of doors and windows they lived in it for many years before it was completed. In the spring of 1839 Mr. Grout organized a Baptist church in Leslie, and was ordained as a minister in 1841. He rode his pony through the woods, following the trails by the blazed trees, fording streams, often to the sound of howling wolves, as he spread the gospel through that vicinity. For nearly thirty-seven years

he lived the life of a pioneer minister, and his death was sincerely mourned by everyone.

Mrs. Grout held a prominent place among the pioneers, as she was a sister of Henry and Dr. Valorous Mecker, her father being Benjamin Mecker, one of the earliest settlers.

Rev. Grout was the grandson of Elijah Grout, a Revolutionary soldier, for whom Elijah Grout Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution of Leslie was named.

JOSEPH NIMS

Came from Ohio to Leslie in 1838, with his wife and eight children. He had to go to Eaton Rapids to mill, it often taking a week for the trip, and as the mother had died the children were alone during his absence.

WASHINGTON SCOVEL

Came to Leslie in 1838. His eldest son Jerome, in 1912, was said to be the oldest man living in Leslie who was born there. When he was nine years old he helped drive the seven yoke of oxen while Eli Barden held the plow when the sod was broken on what is now Main street. Some years before this while he was riding behind an ox team with his father their dog began barking, and the father thought he had treed a squirrel, but it was found to be a large black bear. Like all early settlers, Mr. Scovel had his gun with him and soon dispatched Sir Bruin, and received ten dollars for his pelt.

NELSON NOWTON

Came from New York in 1838, with his wife and one child. He brought some stock with him. When he reached Leslie he had only ten dollars in his pocket, and it took nine of that to buy a barrel of flour. He bought an eighty acre farm one-half mile south of Leslie, where not a tree had been cut, but soon had a log house built. For fresh meat he would hunt deer, which were then quite plentiful.

CALVIN EDWARDS

Came from Cayuga county, N. Y. They came in a covered wagon

around Lake Erie through Ohio, and it took five weeks to make the trip at ten miles a day. He settled on section 6, in Leslie, and later moved to section 18. He married Jemima Wade in 1814. She died in 1817, and later he married Phoebe Tuttle in 1818. He died in 1851.

JOTHAM MORSE

Left New York in 1831 and stopped in Ypsilanti and there married Sarah Harwood. In 1841 he settled on a farm two miles south of Leslie. His first house was of primitive build, the logs were paced off for length, the roof made of split shakes held in place by binding poles, and for a time the earth was the floor. A blanket served as a door. The chimney was of the stick and mud variety, common in pioneer days. In order to sharpen his ax he was obliged to go two and one-half miles to Deacon Freeman's, the only man near who had a grindstone. After making a woodpile he went some miles from home to work on a threshing job for Alva True. The threshing was done with a flail. He received five bushels of wheat in payment for his work. This he carried to a mill fifteen miles away with an ox team before it could be made into flour for the family. He lived on that farm for forty-eight years and died in 1890.

WILLIAM BARDEN

Came to Leslie in 1837, driving a horse team instead of oxen. When they reached Grand river they crossed on the floating log bridge. Mrs. Barden was so anxious for her children to have an education that she started a school in her home, and taught all who came free of charge.

MRS. ABBIE HAYNES

Left New York in 1837 with her three children and traveled through Canada to Michigan, where she settled in White Oak Township, but later lived in Leslie.

LESTER MINER

And his wife Emily Jones Miner came to Leslie in 1838. They had seven children.

WILLIAM DOTY

Came to Leslie in 1837. S. O. Russell was to assist him in locating a claim, and invited Mr. Doty to stop for dinner when he arrived, but he declined saying he did not have time to stop just then. Mrs. Russell gave him a slice of bread which he ate as he ran to keep up with Mr. Russell, who took him at his word and at once started out into the woods to locate the desired land. They located 160 acres three and one-half miles north of Leslie, now known as the "Campbell Farm." For a time he and his brother built cisterns, and later he sold that farm and bought a farm one mile north of Leslie. Here he had a large stove and cooperage business, operated by horse power, for which he kept fifteen horses. He also dealt quite extensively in producing maple sugar. Wolves were so common he gave them little thought, because his great physical strength gave him such a sense of security. He was said to have seen more daylight and worked more hours than any other man in Leslie Township. He died in 1895 at the age of 83 years. He married Matilda Page in 1840 and they had two children.

NELSON B. BACKUS

Came with his bride, Nancy Bugbee, and settled in Leslie in 1837 on section 9. Their first child, James, was born the following year. He is said to be the first boy and the second white child born in the township.

SILAS KIRBY

And his brother Isaac settled in Leslie Township in 1837, on what was later known as the "Tufts Farm." Silas Kirby had seven children, the fourth, Stephen, ran away at night in borrowed clothing to enter the life of a sailor, his father having taken away his clothes to prevent his going. This love for marine life descended to the third generation, and Frank E. Kirby, a son of

Stephen, is known throughout America as the greatest marine engineer of the age. He designed the largest passenger boats on the Great Lakes, among them the Tashmoo, the Eastern States, the Western States, the See and the Bee. Washington Irving, the superb passenger steamboat from Albany to New York, with a capacity of 6,000 people, was also designed by him. He has represented the United States in many important marine conferences, and went to Europe as one of the delegates from the United States to the International Marine Safety Conference.

HOMER KING

and his wife, Asenith Giles, came to Leslie in 1836. Mrs. King said that the wolves would at times come so near the cabin that she could see their eyelashes. Mr. King was a well known hunter, and received a ten dollar bounty for the first wolf killed in the township. When out at night he was often obliged to carry a burning faggot to scare away the wolves that would follow him. Indians would come and beg for buttermilk, and it was the custom at the King home to set out a stone churn full of this beverage when a band of Indians came.

ISAAC HUNTOON

Came from Vermont to Michigan in 1841 and settled in Leslie. This family of father, mother and nine children, came with an ox team by way of the Erie canal and Lake Erie to Detroit, then to Leslie by the way of Ann Arbor and Jackson. Huntoon Lake and creek were named after this early settler. R. B. Huntoon was the seventh son in this family and was familiarly known as "Uncle Doc." He was always much interested in the children of Leslie, especially at Christmas time, and when he died the school was closed during the funeral that the children might thus honor their friend.

In 1840 we find that Theodore Clark and his wife, Delia Parish, and Thomas Peach and his wife, Clarissa Harlow, were among the newcomers.

In 1841 Orange Barlow and wife, Elizabeth Whaley, Hiram Austin and wife, Mary Jared, and T. J. Blake are mentioned as having settled in Leslie.

In 1842 came Truman Wilbur and Abram Housel with their families.

In 1843 the names of John B. Dunsha, Harlow Norton and Erastus L. Lombard appear among the settlers of the township, while 1844 notes the arrival of Harry Backus, on whose farm a well known "deer lick," Arnold Walker, an early captain of Curtenius Guards of Mason, that won many prizes in state contests, and Lyman Minar. In 1845 the names of Edward Variell and James Harkness were added to the list, while 1850 saw Dr. J. D. Woodworth and John Craddock enrolled as taxpayers.

Each of these pioneers had experiences different from those of any other settler, but they can all be summed up in the statement that it was only by their courage and perseverance that they made comfortable homes for themselves in the wilderness, as they endured the hardships and privations that fall to the lot of all who go into a new country and overcome the primitive conditions found there.

TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

On November 18, 1921, a Township Historical Society was organized in Leslie, under the auspices of the Ingham County Historical Society, when the history of the township was presented by school districts. Mrs. Palmyra Hahn, a pioneer, was elected president. The meeting was called to order by Col. L. H. Ives, county president, then turned over to Mrs. Ella Haltz, township chairman.

Address of welcome by Mrs. O. B. Thurston, whose father, grandfather and greatgrandfather all cleared farms in Ingham county, their name, Winchell, being one well known in this section. She called a meeting of an historical nature like this "a memorial to our ancestors" and thought there should be more of them, in order to impress upon the minds of the children what we all owe to the pioneers.

Mrs. Daisy Call Bartley, county school commissioner, responded to the cordial welcome; she said that children knew but little concerning the Ingham county history, and urged that they

receive more instruction regarding the past. Many noble things have been done in Ingham county. She pleaded for improved schools and an advanced school system.

Rev. W. B. Hartzog, of Mason, called attention to the value of accuracy in historical matters, and spoke of the Pioneer History of Ingham County, being compiled by the county secretary, and urged that all possess themselves of the volume as soon as it came from the press.

Mrs. Hattie Carpenter, who is the daughter of a veteran, the wife of a veteran, and the mother of a veteran, then gave a history of the Woman's Relief Corps in Leslie. Mrs. Adams, county secretary, told of attending the National American Legion convention held a short time before in Kansas City, where so many military nobles of world-wide reputation were present.

Col. Ives told an interesting story connecting the Civil War with the present. While in camp not far from the enemy he found a sixteen-year-old boy who was doing picket duty asleep at his post. He awakened the boy, and impressed upon him the penalty which followed such a deed, but because of the boy's youth he did not report him, feeling sure the act would never be repeated. Gratitude still lives in the hearts of men, and the boy never forgot the kindness shown, and a few years ago when he saw Col. Ives name in a published article he wrote to find if it was his colonel, and in 1921 this boy, now a gray-haired veteran, came to the Ives home to thank his benefactor for sparing his life.

W. B. Longyear, a well known drummer boy for the Michigan G. A. R., then gave a history of Dewey Post in Leslie. Mr. Coon, another G. A. R. man, told some of his army experiences, followed by Moore Blakely, who related an incident similar to that told by Mr. Ives, which did not terminate so happily, as in this case the soldier was shot.

The afternoon session opened with community singing, after which further welcome was extended to the guests by W. F. Prescott, the mayor of the village. He spoke of the improvements in Leslie during the last half century, and defined the troubles the Council were having in the road improvement now under way. Mrs. Haltz, the chairman, read portions of a letter written at an early day, then told of the farm owned by her uncle on the shore of Bateese Lake. That the people of an earlier

day were inclined to be superstitious, as in a storm one night her uncle's people saw a strange light, which they called a spirit light, but when one brave soul investigated he found it to be a piece of tin on an apple tree, which the lightning had shone on.

Rev. Hall told of the hardships endured by the pioneers, as he had heard it when a boy in Macomb county.

Dr. G. N. Fuller, of the Michigan Historical Commission, told a funny story, and said "the spirit of this meeting is fine, and I am glad to see this line of work done in the county. It is a simple matter of justice to the pioneers to gather this history, and it is our duty to see that it is preserved for the generations to come. He then gave a part of an address he has prepared on the "Relations Between Great Britain and America," which was just a little bit foreign to the trend of the day's program.

Mr. Barnard, an old-timer, came from Ann Arbor to attend the meeting.

His people came into this section in 1845 with an ox team from south of Jackson. He described the first school house built in Leslie Township, primitive of course, as everything was in those days. There he was taught the three R's. At one time there were 106 pupils and one teacher. Friday was "speaking" day, and this the scholars all enjoyed. Chipmunks and squirrels often came into the school house and got into the dinner pails, to the consternation of the girls and the delight of the boys. He described the old-fashioned games they played, and said the present day model school system owed much to those early day teachers who built the foundation on which it stands.

MRS. ROBERT WRIGHT.

Read by MARGARET BLACKMORE.

The curtain of Time rolls back.

A picture comes to my thought today of a young man, Mathias Housel, and his young wife, formerly Miss Elizabeth Bevier, of Seneca county, N. Y., as they are planning to move to the west, and, like Horace Greeley advised, to grow up with the country.

With a babe five weeks old they came to Michigan, where, with the aid of an ox team, they arrived at a small settlement north and east of Leslie. Many times the blazed trail was so deep with mud that the goods had to be taken from the wagon, carried to higher ground, then after the wagon had been pulled out of the slough it was reloaded and another start taken. In the spring of 1848 they halted in the wilderness and took 80 acres of land from the government. Like a moving picture I will only bring out some facts relative to their early struggles. The little log school house was primitive. A long seat extended around three sides of the room, facing crude desks, well marked with the children's initials. Classes were called to the teacher, and toed the mark on the hewed logs floor.

Time passed and five children from the Housel family were in attendance—Mary Jane, Josephine, Louisa, Edwin and Dora. The old log school house was on the Babcock farm now owned by Jake Kelly. Fire destroyed this building, and the next school was held in a building owned by Mr. Sage, who had taken his family back to New York. The first teacher was Barbra Robinson, and the second Amanda McClure, who was promoted from the log building to the new school house built on a half acre of the Housel farm, and named in honor of this brave settler. Philo Abbey and Lo Whitney of Rives were the contractors and the building was finished in 1868. The last log building was used for stock on the farm of John Galloway, who came from Adrian.

The personnel of the early settlers follows: William Dewey, C. Smith, A. Housel, William Miller, William Whitney, J. Hackett, G. Higdon, John Freeland (a soldier in the Black Hawk War), George Young, Jeduthan Fuller.

Fever and ague gave the early settlers a hard struggle and loss of appetite. This was a disease incident to the new country.

With a pail of butter on one arm, for which the maker received about six cents per pound, and a bucket of eggs on the other, the long walk to the Jackson market would commence. These commodities were exchanged for corn meal, a small supply of wheat flour and a "bit of tay," with other needed groceries, to be "toted" back to the settlement.

Indians were camped between the Scoville and Housel school

houses and were often seen roaming through the forests. They loved pie and were very friendly when their wants were supplied.

In early spring Mr. Housel would go to the farm of Mr. Dewey and help sort apples. The supply was then divided and the children of both families would have a feast. Many years have passed, but one of the finest orchards in the district is located on the Housel farm.

Graded schools were unknown in those early days, but a practical education was considered as great an honor as a graduated course of today. All the early settlers have passed on to a much needed rest, and Mrs. Robert Wright is the only one now a resident of the district. William Galloway, of Leslie, was a former pupil there.

Mathias Housel was a Civil War veteran, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wright are "Gold Star" Parents.

DISTRICT NO. 4, LESLIE.

By Mrs. Abbie Stiles.

About 78 years ago school was kept in an old log building on the northwest corner of where Albert Stitt and Leon Taylor now own farms. The district was large, the east line including the Theodore Clark farm, now known as the Jim Bailey place.

In 1843 Elizabeth Godfrey taught in this building. The seats were slabs, smoothed with an adze. Long pegs were driven in auger holes made on the under side to form the legs. The desks were built against the sides of the buildings, and those wishing to write turned completely round on the backless seats, and used the desk behind him.

Miss Waterhouse, Miss Morehouse, Phoebe Holmes, Ada Whitmore and George Phelps were teachers in this old building. Two pupils who attended school at that time are still living—Mrs. Mary Austin, aged 87, and Mrs. Lacta Abbey, aged 84.

Seventy years ago Alfred Young taught there. Mr. Young took much interest in John Leach, then 21 years old, and advised him to come and get a better education so that he might do something easier than the hard work of those times. He attended

school one month, was taken sick, and his schooling ended there. Mr. Leach is now 91 years old.

Later the district was divided, part going to No. 9. A new log school house was built where the present building stands. The district had no deed of the land until Oct. 12, 1880, when one was executed and signed by Albert J. Wilson and Martha A. Wilson, his wife.

Ebenezer Young, Sarah Celey, Mr. Rogers, Miss Taft, Joe Freeman, Thomas Henry, Lorinda White and Adeline White were teachers in the new log structure.

Daniel Miner, Ed Shaw and Hattie Godfrey Small are the pupils now living. Sallie Peek was a pupil. She had beautiful hair which she wore in two braids, and the Indians who came to her home to beg would call her "petite Papoose," which means "pretty child."

Lester Miner, Daniel's father, was director for many years. He lived just south of the school house, and the district bears his name.

Later the frame building now standing was built, the log house being burned to get it out of the way. The early teachers in this building were Helen Archer, Carrie Harkness, Anna Shaw, Hattie Wicks and Miss McClure, and all "boarded round."

"There are no girls like the good old girls,

Against the world I'd stake 'em;

As buxom and smart and clean of heart

As the Lord knows how to make 'em.

They were rich in spirit and common sense,

And pretty and all-supportin'.

They could bake and brew, and they taught school too,

And they made such lively courtin'."

Daniel Miner is authority for the most of this information, as the records to 1890 are lost. He also gives a partial list of the pupils in the early days of the frame building: In the Jones family were found Lafayette, Helen and Eveline; in the Norton, Theodore, George, Albert, Addie, Carrie, Alma and Alice; the Craddock family had John, Charles, Eliza; the Clark, Polly and Charles; Marston, James, John and Esther; Miner, Washington, Harrison and Daniel; the Stitt, John and Rosetta; in the Wood,

Ellen and Sarah; the Pettis, John and James, also Hattie Godfrey, Ed Shaw, Carlos Barden.

Mary Hanchett taught in 1868. Other teachers were Sara Craddock, Mrs. Tibbets, better known as Mrs. J. S. Wilson, Lillie Holling, Alice Norton, Joseph Compton, who taught at least two winters. (On the last day of school he gave each scholar his picture, and one small boy, now a man living in Leslie, took the picture home and asked if it was worth keeping, it was so small.) Eveline Jones, Maggie McCann, George Hull.

About this time the district acquired a clock which had the words "C-R-E-A-M—M-U-S-T-A-R-D—" on its face instead of the usual figures.

W. W. Cook taught in 1880, and other teachers were Anna Norton, Libbie Fry, Mrs. Hodges, of Eden, Ari Butler, Miss Grimes, Della Wooster, Della Wright, Ella Giles, Eva Demarsh, Marcia Root, Della Pickett, Ada Culver, Ed Pickett, Abbie Pickett, Allie Alexander, Irene Stitt, May Standish, Susie Reynolds, Pauline Rumsey, Hazel Mitchell, Hazel Opdike, Edna Berry, Emma Pickett, Edith Lankin, Blanche Douglas, Lorna Metcalf, Rhea Harvey and Cecil Steffins.

HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

By Mrs. ELLA HALTZ and Read by Mrs. CHILDS.

John K. Leach, at the Taylor picnic Aug. 8, 1906, told the following story: "My father came to Rives, near the Ingham county line, and bought 320 acres of land for which he paid the government \$1.25 per acre. The following year he came again (1836) and built a house and in August of that year we left our home in Cayuga county, N. Y., and started for our new home in the wilds of Michigan. We came by water to Detroit and there father met us with a horse and a span of oxen attached to a covered wagon with which to convey us and our scanty goods through the wilderness.

"Besides father and mother there were five children, ranging from one to fourteen years. I was then about six years old. The roads were terrible and it took us about eight days to get from

Detroit to our destination. Streams had to be forded, as there was scarcely a bridge between Detroit and Jackson. Often a kind settler along the way lent his oxen to help draw us out of the mud. At this time Jackson boasted of a log tavern, general store, quite a few log houses and shanties, and one poor bridge made of logs and covered with poles. The best time we made was when we drove from Grass Lake to George Woodworth's north of Jackson. Here we spent the night, Mrs. Woodworth taking great pains to make us comfortable. The next day we reached the Grand river, which lay between us and the Ingham county line. This was the largest stream we had encountered, but a problem lay before us. The canoe was on the opposite side of the river. John Crowover, who lived near, came to our aid, however, and lent us his pony, which father rode through the river and brought back the boat. It was getting dark so the wagon was left, but we crossed over and were met by three neighbors each bearing a firebrand torch.

Later the wagon was brought over, the oxen swimming and dragging the wagon behind. One neighbor lived in a house 12x16 feet in size, with a log roof, hollowed out. The first layer was put on with the hollowed side up and the next with the hollowed side down. Here we stayed for several weeks, ten of us in all, until our house was finished enough to live in. We moved in before the doors or windows were in, with only the ground for a floor, but before winter we were quite comfortable. Our house was 20x26 feet, all in one room, with chamber above, and stood on the farm now owned by Henry Leach.

The furniture was rude and meager; our bedsteads for instance, though made of the same fine woods they use now, were not quarter-sawed, not highly polished, but made stationary in the corners of the room. A short post was made fast to the floor and poles from this into the wall made the frame, then more poles laid across made the springs.

Neighbors were scarce; a few north and south of us, but you could probably go 20 miles west without finding a white man, and farther east than that. There was a settlement of Indians at Batteese Lake and another on Grand river just west of the state road bridge, with about one hundred Indians in it, and a well worn path between the two camps. They gave us considerable

uneasiness. I have seen as many as twenty in our house at a time. Very unwelcome visitors. Many a night do I remember father placing the gun or ax handy in case of emergency. Later, in about 1844, the government sent troops who gathered them up and moved them to the west.

"When the flour gave out we had to go to Ann Arbor to mill, taking four or five days.

"These things we could stand if we were only well, but sickness came on—nearly everyone had chills and fever. About 1850 a scourge of dysentery visited this section, and at times there were hardly enough well ones to bury the dead. A young lady by the name of Schoonmaker died and Lyman Case and I were the only men able to carry the casket to the grave. One family of father, mother and four children died.

"In 1837 or 1838 a new school house was built, and this served also as a church. People came from miles around, women as well as men walking a long distance through the forests.

"Sometimes we took the ox team and took a load of folks 30 miles east to quarterly meeting. We did not wear very fancy clothes then. My pants and shirt were made of factory cloth colored with white oak bark. Hat of straw, home made bruid of seven strands, then sewed in shape. Did not need coat or shoes in warm weather.

"Our table was not overloaded, we sometimes could have eaten more if we had had it. The neighbors were in the same circumstances, so there was no rivalry, but hearty good will and brotherly kindness.

"I sometimes think that except for the sickness there was more real comfort and happiness in those days than now."

Across the road from the Steven Wyman farm and through to the hills on the farm recently owned by James Coon many Indians camped in early days. Here the white children came to play with the friendly red ones. One day a strange boy came with the others, and when they were gone the Indian boys discovered that one of their bows and arrows had disappeared. Inquiry was made by the Indians, but all of the white boys denied any knowledge of the act. At last the chief became very angry and said, "I raise the scalp," which frightened the boy and he ad-

mitted the theft and gave up the articles, but was warned never to come near the camp again or he would be burned at the stake.

To show their friendship to the good boys, the Indians made each a bow and arrow for himself, and peace was restored.

Among the Indians best known in Ingham county was Chief Okemos; he was a good Indian when sober, but a bad one when drunk. His trails through Ingham county are still remembered, and may some day be marked.

Bateese, or Batiste, the trader, was at the head of a small band of Indians in the northeast part of Jackson county, and lived near the lake which bears his name, and was well known in the southern part of Ingham county, where were many early settlers who traded with him. He was not a full-blooded Indian, but had French blood in his veins. He was a trader, with several daughters but no sons. His wife and daughters were often seen in the richest of silks and were the envy of many. One daughter married a Frenchman named Beureaus, and it is said that Batiste Beureaus traded with settlers in Michigan as far back as 1815. He not only had a large log store, where he kept a big supply of goods, but a farm where he raised much farm produce. Batiste and his wife are buried on top of the hill in the Miner cemetery just over the line in Jackson county, and it is said his wife was buried with much fine jewelry upon her body.

Among the early pioneers in Bunkerhill was John Vicary, who came from Devonshire, England, when what is now farm country was unbroken forest with only a footpath trod by the Indians. He wrote back to his family in England, "Boys, hurry up as fast as you can. I've got a farm for each of you, with just enough stone to stone up a well and build a stone fence."

This saying was handed down in the family, and the son William had the stone well on his farm, and James the stone fence as foretold by the father.

Many a time have the Indians entered the log house of William Vicary in the night and laid down on the floor by the open fireplace, close to the trundle bed in which slept the two little girls, Sara and Laura V. Vicary, the latter Mrs. Arthur Holling, of Leslie. The Indians called the little girls "pretty papooses," and

always left the house before the break of day, for in those days the latch string always hung out, and doors were never locked.

Mrs. Allen gave a short sketch of District No. 1, which was organized in 1866, in the corner of Leslie and Onondaga, Ingham county and Thompkins and Rives of Jackson county. There was a little school house built, and just back of it was a rural cemetery. In 1873 the present school house was built. One teacher kept her position there for ten years, with but little equipment. She named many teachers of early days. Many farms are still owned by the descendants of the men who took them from the government.

HISTORY OF DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, ELIJAH GROUT CHAPTER.

By Mrs. ELVA MURPHY VAN CAMP.

Elijah Grout Chapter, D. A. R., was organized in Leslie on October 7, 1910, by Mrs. Kittie Bailey, with sixteen charter members. Leslie has the distinction of being the smallest town in the state with a Chapter of the D. A. R. It has at times taken up various lines of work, but as we today are especially interested in pioneer history, I will mention only the work it has been our privilege to do in honor of some of the men and women who have made such history.

To our Chapter belongs the honor of caring for the grave of Lovey Aldrich, now sleeping in the Leslie cemetery. She was the widow of Caleb Aldrich, who was enrolled as a soldier of the Revolutionary War, New Hampshire and Rhode Island line. He was born in 1766, and died in New Hampshire, aged 84 years. Mrs. Aldrich was born in Belknap county, New Hampshire, in 1800, and was married in 1821 to Mr. Clark, a soldier of the War of 1812, who died in 1829. In 1833 she married Mr. Aldrich, and upon his death became his pensioner, and for some years was the only Revolutionary pensioner living in the west. She was a descendant of the historical Hannah Dustin.

On June 11, 1920, our Chapter marked the grave of Martin

DuBois, in the little rural cemetery at Fitchburg, in Bunkerhill Township. To Elijah Grout Chapter comes the honor of having been the first to discover the grave of a Revolutionary soldier in Ingham county, and to mark the spot with an official "Soldier of the Revolution" marker. In the same grave sleeps his wife, Margerite Avery, who passed away the same day that he did.

Martin DuBois and his father, Conrad DuBois, both served in New York regiments from Ulster county. Martin was a bugler, and the conch shell which he used as a bugle is still preserved in the family. In passing, I would say that Mrs. Francis L. Adams, of Mason, did this research work for us, tracing the DuBois history back to 1066.

We have done another work of which we are justly proud. During the year 1913 and part of 1914 we devoted our time largely to writing the early history of Leslie, a labor of love and patriotic devotion. This was published in book form, and forms a lasting memorial of our historical work.

DISTRICT NO. 9, LESLIE.

By Mrs. FAUGHT.

In the summer of 1858 the pioneer residents of the southeast quarter of section 36, Leslie Township, consisting of the families of Theodore Clark, Isaac Clark, John, Daniel and Samuel Martin, William James, William Peacock and James Craddock, felt the need of a school in which to educate their children. A meeting was held and officers elected, Theodore Clark being the first director. After the district was organized a half acre of land was bought from the farm of James Craddock, for a school house site. This was erected in the early fall of 1858, but no school session was held until the spring of 1859. In the meantime the family of Jehial Hull had moved into the district from Parma, Jackson county, and the family of Jonathan Faught from Blissfield, Lenawee county.

Miss Helen Archer, of Henrietta, was hired as the first teacher. The first term was held in the new school house before it was lathed or plastered, and with rough oak benches for seats. The

teacher's salary was \$1.25 per week. The school was supported by what was called a "rate bill," parents paying a certain sum per capita for each child attending.

The fuel was provided in much the same way, one cord of wood, chopped and hauled to the ground, for each scholar. No taxes were paid at that time for the support of schools, only for building school houses and roads. The teacher did not pay board, but was boarded by the district, a week at each home, what was termed "boarding around."

This was for many years called the Clark school. No road was open to the west of the school house, only an Indian trail led through the forest along the field now owned by Geo. Faught, south of the school house leading across the Houghton place, thus going to the Clark home in the northwest part of the district. The landmarks of the early pioneers in the form of the log cabins erected by them in the district are all effaced and in their place are fertile fields, except in two instances. The log house built by Daniel Martin in 1858, long since beyond the condition for any use, still stands on the Gibbs brothers property, now owned by Lee Rivard. The other is still in a good state of preservation on the William Way farm, doing service as a cosy home for its owner, Champion Down. The native Indian was still here in 1858, having a camping ground on the farm of Isaac Clark, now owned by Bert Olds. They were very peaceful and law-abiding Indians, and as the white men came and disturbed their hunting grounds they moved to the deeper forests, and later to the reservations furnished by the government.

Many specimens of their handicraft were found by the settlers; arrow flints, stone hatchets, stones for grinding their corn and wheat. Their burial grounds were also found. About 1900, as he was digging a post hole in his barn yard, Theron Faught found a well preserved skull bone, the bones of the face, eye sockets and the jaw bone with the teeth in perfect condition, and other times while digging around the little knoll by his barn he has found leg and arm bones, showing plainly that this was a burial place for the red men.

It was thus in those primitive days, while carving homes from the forest of southern Michigan, these humble pioneers laid the foundation of the board of education in District No. 9, and we

hope to see in the not far distant future, as a culmination of their persevering efforts, a beautiful building erected in a central location, with all modern equipment, a building we may point to with pride as the consolidated school building of the township of Leslie.

LESLIE WOMAN GETS UNWELCOME CALL FROM CHIEF OKEMOS IN EARLY DAYS.

(Editor's Note. This is the second in a series of articles concerning the early history of Leslie by Mrs. Ella Haltz. Other articles will appear in The State Journal from time to time.)
Special to The State Journal.

LESLIE, Aug. 2.—While log houses were being built in Leslie during the early days it often happened that two or more families occupied one house, moving into their own as soon as a shelter covered the logs, doing chinking, fixing the fireplaces, hewing the logs for a floor and other needed accommodations later. Blankets were hung at windows until glass and sash could be procured. A little better protection had to be given windows at night on account of the wolves. One boy, seeing some wolves, said he thought there were a good many dogs in these woods. One man on coming into Leslie said he was looking for the village, and on meeting a man asked how far it was to the village of Leslie. He was told that he was already in the village, and in Main street as well. He said, "I thought it looked more like the woods."

The Indians were quite annoying to the settlers, and especially to the women, who as a general thing were afraid of them. They were beggars, too, always wanting flour, bread, biscuit or something. Have often heard this amusing story told on one dear old lady, who, on being left alone, always pulled the latch string in, for Indians never stop to rap, but always stalk in unbidden. On this occasion she was alone and protected herself from intrusion by pulling in the latch string. Presently a rap was heard, and on looking out she beheld the Indian chief, Okemos. She kept very quiet, but the rapping continued with increased violence. She was so terrified that she exclaimed "there's nobody at home." He went to the next house and laughing heartily said, "White squaw wigwam head scare, me rap, she say, nobody home."

Years went on. At first election of township officers every man was obliged to accept an office for it took every man in the township to fill them. The only controversy being which man was best fitted for which office. Work was plenty, men and women were busy from morning until night, often till midnight hour carding wool, spinning and weaving. Sewing and knitting in the evenings by the light of one tallow dip.

The first white boy born in Leslie was a son born to Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Backus (James D. Backus, born 1837 and died January 26, 1921, in Lansing). The first death was of a girl of Mr. and Mrs. Critchett, who died during the winter season. The body was conveyed to the place of burial on a sled drawn by oxen, the driver having to use great care in picking his way among stumps and trees. The relatives of the deceased followed on foot. They also assisted at the burial services by singing.

Sunday services were not forgotten from the earliest settlement of Leslie. Families met at the homes of each other. Prayer meeting was held twice a week. In summer services were held in the open air when the weather would permit. If no minister was present someone would be called upon from the audience to officiate. At evening services the grounds were lighted by building a great fire. The speaker's special light in the earliest times was a cloth burning in a saucer of grease, and later on a tallow dip was used which was a much more brilliant light than the first mentioned.

After the first school house was built religious services were held there. The steady industry and perseverance of the people brought better times financially and socially, and they began to enjoy the fruits of their labors.

The first Fourth of July celebration in Leslie occurred in the year of 1842. Dinner was served on the ground near where the Adventist church stands. Roast pig, chickens, quail and berry pies were served.

Maple sugar was made quite extensively during the latter part of February and through March. Sugar parties were quite frequent throughout these weeks. It is said that one bright moonlight night Thomas Austin hitched up his ox team to the sled and with plenty of straw in the box a blanket being provided by each passenger made the sled quite comfortable. He drove around from

house to house until the sled was filled with a jolly lot of young people who were delighted to go. They drove out to a farm which was all of three miles to attend a self-invited sugar party, where they arrived in due time all unexpected to the host and hostess. They tipped over once or twice on the way, because they said the driver purposely found all the small stumps in his way. He, however, laid the blame on the team, saying that it was a strange team. They were welcomed at the little log house with its one room. Supper was served, also plenty of warm maple sugar, and after a pleasant evening they started on the return trip.

When near the upper mill-pond Mr. Austin stopped and unhitched the oxen and drove them down to the mill pond to drink, leaving his passengers sitting and shivering in the cold, frosty night. He said the team was thirsty and must have a drink.

Leslie was growing quite rapidly. People were prospering. Steps were taken for the building of another school house. A new brick school house and the Congregational chapel were built. Preparations were made to build a church which in due time was in shape so that services were held in it, but it was some time before it was finished.

LESLIE, Aug. 10.—In the early day when one had to go from Leslie to Dexter for flour and walk to Jackson for supplies of sugar and other necessities and often had to carry a basket of butter and eggs to trade, it seemed that one was entitled to a feast.

Luke Prime had 11 children and when one of the neighbors died and left an orphan he was adopted and the 12 were as one family. Mr. Prime was born in New York in 1806, and his wife, Rebecca, was born in 1813. At an early age they were married and a long journey "to the wilderness of Ingham county" was taken for a wedding trip. They bought government land. Rich or poor, every newcomer was a neighbor. A well, a mile away, was used until the family could dig one of their own. A yoke fitting the shoulders was hewn out so two pails of water could be carried at once. In the spring the yoke was used to carry the sap to the boiling kettle for making maple sugar.

The following is taken from the family Bible: "The Indians were friendly or the reverse. Thanksgiving was approaching and the goodies were made. Eleven children and the little orphan

were dreaming of the morrow. The dream did not come true. A horrid war whoop awoke them and as they descended the ladder the Indians were disappearing with the last of the feast. They scattered to the bushes and crept behind logs and tears filled the children's eyes. However, they gave the most heartfelt thanks to know that their lives had been spared." Automobiles, airplanes, and associated charities were unknown in those days and no one appeared with well filled baskets to take the place of the stolen goodies. The home was left intact.

Luke Prime died in 1883 and Mrs. Prime in 1901. Two sons survive, George, who resides on the old homestead, and Frank, who lives one mile south of Leslie. They often refer to the sad Thanksgiving of many years ago. George has three sons and one daughter. Frank has two sons and two daughters. The two sons and one daughter remain of the Luke Prime family.

Sidney O. Russell, of Seneca Falls, N. Y., filed a government claim on section 20 and 29 in May, 1836. The following year he moved his family here and settled on his farm. Having made a small clearing, he sowed that fall the first field of wheat in Leslie Township. Indians were numerous and made frequent calls at his log house, demanding flour and numerous other things. One morning Mr. Russell had started out for his work and a little later the latch string was pulled and Chief Okemos walked in and asked for flour. He was a very friendly Indian, but the little mother knew better than to deny the request. She went up the primitive ladder to the loft and was filling a small sack when "Ice" screamed. She made short work of reaching the ground floor and presenting the sack. After the chief had left she discovered that all the knives and forks had gone too. He may have thought it only small payment for the "many happy hunting grounds" the whites had taken possession of.

In 1842 Mr. Russell moved into the village of Leslie that he might operate a water-power saw mill he had bought. A small store for a supply place was built on the present location of the brick store on Main street and was used for storing supplies for the men that worked for him. A better building that later was moved to Armstrong street replaced the first shack. Alba Blake was in business with him for a few years. A steam mill was erected which furnished employment for a large number of men.

The last of his building operations were his brick business block on Main street and his brick mansion on Bellevue street, where Mrs. Mary Baggerly and her son, Russell J., now reside.

Mr. Russell's first wife was Mary Fox, of Seneca Falls, N. Y. To this couple six children were born, two of whom are now living, Mrs. Baggerly and W. S. Russell, of Jackson. Three grandsons, Russell I. Baggerly and Linford Torrey, of Leslie, and Clayton Torrey, of Dowagiac.

S. O. Russell died November 8, 1894.