

1873-74.

Sheriff-Allen D. Burr.
 Clerk-Daniel D. **Bolton**.
 Treasurer-Thaddeus Densmore.
 Register of Deeds-Henry J. Haight.
 Judge of Probate-M. D. Chatterton.
 Surveyor-T. J. Brown.
 Prosecuting Attorney-E. Dayton Lewis.
 Circuit Court **Commissioners**--Dougal McKenzie, Wm. H.
 Francis, Edward **C. Chapin** (vacancy).
 Coroners-Alex Dockstader, Philip Taylor.

CHAPTER III

INGHAM COUNTY PIONEER NOTES.

Pioneer notes and stories; plank roads of the county; burying grounds of early days; early churches; Chief Okemos; military prowess of early days; Curtenius Guards; historic Bags; story by Summit R. King about underground railroads; Ingham's coal mines; Indian dance; mint distillery; horse stealing of early days.

Wolf story given in Ingham County News for April 23, 1891, which was unearthed about that time.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
 County of Ingham and
 White Oak Township } ss

I, John **Gillam**, of the State, County and town aforesaid, being duly sworn deposeseth and saith that on the 11th day of April, 1830, I, John **Gillam**, took and killed a wolf in the township of White Oak, the head and skin, with the ears entire thereon of which he presented to us, Cyrus Post, Justice of the Peace, and John **McKernon**, Assessor.

Signed, John **Gillam**.

In said township
 of White Oak, sub-
 scribed and sworn
 to before us this

2nd day of May, 1830

We, Cyrus Post, Justice of the Peace, and John **McKernan**, Assessor of the town of White Oak, County and State above written, hereby certify that John **Gillam**, did on the 2nd day of May, 1830, present to us the head and skin, with the ears thereof entire, of a full grown wolf, which he meant in foregoing affidavit, which scalp and ears we destroyed by burning the same; and we do hereby certify that the said John **Gillam** is entitled to receive from the State and County the sum of Eight dollars for killing such wolf, agreeable to an act of the State Legislature bearing date of February the Oth, 1830, and also two dollars and fifty

cents from said county agreeable to a vote of the supervisors making provision for the destruction of wolves. It being **certificate** No. 4,

Given under our hands in White Oak this 2nd day of May, 1830.

Cyrus Post, J.P.

John **McKernan**, Assessor.

The **first** mail from Jackson to Lansing was carried by **S. H. Worden**.

Hank Donnelly, owner and proprietor of the Donnelly House in Mason, was the first man in the city to take a daily paper. He came in 1861 and his Detroit daily followed him and made him an oracle in the village.

1874.

The county papers of November, 1874, state that a large wild cat was killed two miles north of Williamston during that month. It was started out by some dogs and shot by John **Kiel**. It weighed 21 pounds.

In the Ingham County **News** for November **28** is found the following: "The Capitol Index is to be the name of a now daily paper that **S. B. McCracken**, of Detroit, proposes to publish at Lansing during the next session of Legislature. It is claimed that an independent and free criticism of legislative doings will be the leading **feature** of the publication."

It might be of interest to Ingham county residents to know that as late as June **11, 1874**, cows were allowed to roam the streets of the county seat village, and the following **petition** was presented at that date to the Common Council: "The undersigned request that **an ordinance** be passed prohibiting the owners of cows from suffering them to wear cow bells in the village," signed by twenty-three men and women of Mason. The editor added that it would be a good idea for them to add a clause requesting the council to prevent owners of cattle from using our streets and sidewalks for a barnyard.

In June, 1874, we find it recorded that Ingham county sent four convicts to Jackson prison in May of that year, the largest number sent from any county in the State.

The Soldiers and Sailors of Ingham county held their first reunion in Mason on Oct. 8, 1874.

In 1873 we find that the railroads of the State are installing windmills at stations along their routes with which to fill their water tanks. There was one installed at Williamston, "much to the relief of the little pony that has pumped water for the engines during the past winter." One was installed in Mason about the same time, and the editor of the Ingham County News gives the following account of it:

"By the kindness of Wm. **Lambert**, the builder, we had the pleasure of going down into the well under the windmill, up to the **top** of the frame of the windmill, and down to the bottom of the water tank. The mill is arranged so that it is a self-regulator, stopping when the tank is pumped full of water and starting again if there is a wind, when the tank begins to get empty, The fans of the mill are thrown in and out of position for the wind to **act** on them, by a lever down in the well by the pump. On one end of the lever is a box full of stones, which is down when the mill is in motion, On the other end is an empty box. When the tank is nearly full of water it reaches a small pipe that carries the water from the **tank** to this empty box, and fills it, and thus lowers the end of the lever, throwing the fans out of position for the wind to move them. There is a small hole in the bottom of this box, which in time empties it, and the end of the lever to which the stones are attached is pulled down, and the wind sets the fans in motion again.

"The tank holds 135,000 gallons of water, and will ordinarily feed 100 engines. It is 04 feet in circumference and 10 feet deep, and when full of water weighs nearly 400 tons. The pipe through which the water is forced into the tank is four inches in diameter. The water is raised about forty feet. With a fair breeze the mill will pump the tank full in forty-eight hours."

Some years later this was superseded by an engine in a little house close by the water tank, and there was an engineer to attend to the work. This had its day and passed on, and now (1020) there has been for some years a bargain with the Water Works of Mason, and the tank is filled by the city, with the tank between Ash and Maple streets as before, but the engines take on water at the station one-fourth mile away,

MILLS IN MASON AND INGHAM COUNTY.

The first grist mill in Mason was located in one corner of the old water mill in **1840**, the water mill having been erected some two years before by **Danforth** and Coatsworth. At the raising a great dinner was given and a fracas ensued in which Jas. Turner, a Republican from Lansing, was prominent. The trouble arose at the dinner table, and pumpkin pies were used as missiles.

The Phoenix Mills were built in **1858** by Henderson and **Mc-Robert**. G. G. Mead came to Mason from Westchester, N. Y., in **1851**, and after farming for some years took over the Phoenix Mills and continued as owner and proprietor until his death.

The first saw mill in Mason was the old water mill mentioned above, Edwin Stanton came to this State in **1838**, He started the first steam saw mill in Lansing and helped clean the stumps from the State Capitol grounds. In **1800** he began running the old Stanton mill in Mason. This was burned twice, before he gave up the business.

On September **11, 1873**, a new steam grist mill had just commenced running in Leroy township, owned by B. Mason.

FROM THE INGHAM COUNTY NEWS, DECEMBER 30,
1875,

The abstract office of William Woodhouse was made by him in 1856, At that time it cost the labor of two men for one year and one man for an additional six months. It is now under the charge of I. B. and **F. B.** Woodhouse. It is a complete abstract of all the lands in Ingham county. It was first kept by Wm. **Woodhouse** when he was Register of Deeds, and afterward by his successors to that office until **1865**, when it was placed in the hands of **I. B.** Woodhouse and has since been kept by him.

I. B. Woodhouse has been a resident of Ingham county since **1841**, and came to this city to work in the Register's office in **1862**. With the exception of seven years, five of them spent in the army, Mr. Woodhouse has been a resident of Mason since that time, He

made the abstracts of **Lenawee** and **Allegan** counties. He is now in correspondence with nearly all the owners of unoccupied lands in this county.

The strenuous life of the pioneers had a natural tendency to make them serious minded, but even then it did not always deprive them of their sense of humor, as the following story goes to show.

Anson Jackson, the first surveyor in this section, was pretty well posted in regard to the forest lands in this vicinity, and was very helpful to the pioneers who entered on these lands. John Rayner, one of the early settlers, took up a large tract of land near Mason, and depended on Jackson to lay out the boundaries for him.

Only the choicest timber was of much value in those days, and this the settlers would take wherever they could find it on the government land, if they saw a chance to make a little money on it,

One day, the story goes, Mr. **Jackson** went to Mr. Rayner and said, "I know where there are some fine black walnut trees that we can sell, and if you will furnish the team and help on the work, I think we can make a good thing out of it." Mr. Rayner consented, and after traveling a long distance they came to the trees in question, which they harvested and sold, dividing the profits.

Some months later Mr. Rayner thought he would look over his belongings, and as he traveled about he came to a place that looked very familiar to him, where was the **stumpage** of a fine lot of black walnut trees.

He immediately interviewed Mr. Jackson and learned the practical joke which had been played on him, when the surveyor led Mr. Rayner round and round through the forest to this place on his own land, where he had not only furnished the trees for the logging enterprise, but did a part of the work and all of the hauling. Tradition fails to tell how Mr. **Rayner** took the joke, or whether he ever got even with Mr. Jackson,

THE OLD DETROIT, HOWELL AND LANSING PLANK ROAD.

My earliest recollections of this road dates back to the year **1862** or 1868, when I was a small boy and traveled it in visiting an uncle with my parents. This uncle was a farmer and lived on a **fine** farm one mile east and two miles south of Okemos. It had been built eight or ten **years** previous to this time and was until **1871** the only direct route to Detroit from Lansing. The railroad route at that time was from Lansing to Owosso, then from **Owosso** over the Milwaukee R. **R.** to Detroit, the Metropolis of Michigan. The traveling public in going to Detroit over this route had to travel by stage. The stage went to Howell during the day and from Howell to Detroit it was a night **trip**. In reality,? **twenty-**four hour trip, if the roads were good, by stage to **Detroit** instead of **a three** or four hour trip by automobile now. Let us go back fifty-two years and make this trip, or part of it, to Howell at least, and try to describe some of the things and places we see on our journey.

On a bright sunny day in September, 1864, after a good old-fashioned five o'clock breakfast, we report for the **journey** at the old Butterfield Hotel at North Lansing. This hotel was on the north side of Franklin street on the ground now occupied by the Rikerd Lumber Company. It was a two-story wooden building painted yellow with a porch along its entire front. The barn where the stage and horses were kept was just, east of it. The peculiar thing that struck my boyish fancy was that of the arrangement of these two buildings-the hotel stood broadsides to the street while the barn stood end to street. Just west of the hotel was a grocery kept by a German, Walters, and west of **this** was another grocery kept by another German named Englehart. Walters' grocery always had a fascination for the kids who attended the First Ward School, for besides the candies and marbles, he made in a small way fireworks. The stage coach is before the hotel ready to start. It is a type of what we see now in the Wild West shows, i, e., heavy wheels, body hung on leather braces, deep boot and drivers seat in front and trunk rack behind. ^{Inside}

there are three seats, front, middle and back. The **middle seat** is extra wide so that four passengers can set back to back. How many passengers can be accommodated? Eight, and by some crowding twelve, three on each seat but one-half must of necessity ride backwards. Any outside passengers? One or two can ride with the driver, but this in bad weather is not a very **desirable** perch and you must have a certain understanding or social pull with the driver, as he is very particular in his choice of seat-mates. The mail bags are securely stowed in the boot under the driver's feet and the trunks lashed on behind. Jack Stapleton, the driver, after an inspection to see that all is secure-a coach is like a gun, it must be loaded right to go off right-mounts the box and with reins in hand cracks his long whip and we are off,

Down the hill toward what is now the **M. C. R. R.** tracks we go at a good pace to climb the hill beyond and make the turn by the old Camp farm, and then going southeast for some distance we turn east at the foot of the hill where Sheridan street meets Franklin and **we are** on the Plank Road proper and puss Toll Gate No. 1. This is a toll road and the rates are a cent a mile for one horse and two cents per mile for two horses, etc. If we are with private conveyance and going some distance, we pay for the whole distance and the gate keeper gives us tickets to pass us through the other gates, as we will have to pass one of 'these gates every four or five miles. At some distance east of Gate No. 1, we pass on the left a low one-story brick house, set some distance back of the road, and in an orchard *of* apple and other fruit trees the old Merrill farm, and on top of the hill east the new white house of Charles Taylor, past Charles Taylor's we come to the bottom of the second hill and **notice** a house that is on our left in a cleared field with a large sheep barn west *of* it with sheep around it, and we have the Hon. John Longyear's farm. If John is home from Congress we will no doubt see him out looking after his sheep or building fences, for he is deeply interested in agriculture and his vacations are spent here working and looking after his crops. Modern Congressmen when on vacations are patching or building political fences, but John builds worm fences. Now we leave John and climb the hill into the woods. For a mile we have timber on both sides of the road and after descending a stiff clay hill we come to the Agricultural College. College Hall is set

down in a grove and the dormitory looks lonely among the oak trees. A field of stumps between them and the road will try the muscle of the students when they plow the same. Down in a dip in the road east is a saw mill operated by a prosperous farmer named Marble. This same man was ruined and his family scattered by a domestic tragedy a few years later. With a rattle and bang we cross a bridge and just beyond the four corners we come to a large two-story-and-half farm house. This house was and is today a type of what a prosperous farmer can build. Its size and many windows foretell hospitality and the porch and doors invite you to enter and partake of same. This building reminded me of the colonial country homes we see in pictures. The architecture is of that type. This is the old Judge Chatterton home and for years the home of the Sturgis family.

One-half mile east we pass Gate No. 2 and the road crosses over the bridge of Pine Lake outlet, climbs the hill by Okemos Cemetery and turns to the southeast, along the bank of the Cedar river, and we see the spires of the Presbyterian church in Okemos. The small one-story house on our right as we enter the village is the home of Farmer Bray, an uncle of Hon. Sam Kilbourne. Mr. Bray is an up-to-date farmer and his farm shows the methods and principles he learned on a Canadian farm.

Past the hotel we go, not stopping, as there are no passengers for this place and the driver don't stop for the men to wet their whistles. The driver pulls up to Walker's store on the north side and throws off the mail for Okemos, P. M. Walker has been postmaster for years and shows by his erect bearing, politeness, gray hair and careful old-fashioned dress, Eastern culture and training.

One mile east we pass the corner-Young's Corners-it is called, and then for a mile or two we have hills galore, clay knolls and cat-holes, until we come to the log house on the south side of the road, in a flourishing orchard, the home of Hon. Sam Kilbourne's father, Joseph Kilbourne. Joseph Kilbourne was in the Legislature in Detroit when the bill to change the location of the Capitol to some inland town was up for passage. After the members had come to a deadlock he arose and moved to locate it at Lansing on the Grand river, and it was done,

From the Kilbourne farm we go east and in the edge of an oak

forest we pass a white school house, through the woods we go down a hill, and at our right Toll Gate No. 3, kept by Mr. Doyle, A long white house shows through the foliage and for a background a fringe of maples and willows denote a stream of water. This is the Mullett's home and farm. The red bridge beyond is Red Bridge and Jack throws off a mail bag for the Red Bridge post office.

John Mullett, Sr., was a civil engineer and was intrusted with the work of surveying most all of the township and east of it, establishing the meridian line of this lower peninsula of Michigan. His son, John, Jr., was county surveyor of Ingham county for several years, and surveyed and laid out the village of L'Anse, the county seat of Baraga county, Upper' Peninsula. Four miles east of Red Bridge we go and the driver is urging his team, for it is nearing the noon hour and the passengers are to dine in Williamston.

A mile from Williamston we pass a log school house on the hill and the scholars are swarming out of the low doorway and shouting greetings to Jack, the driver. On the hill beyond, on the north side of the road, is a fine young orchard and a substantial farm house, the home of Squire Leighton. We rumble across a long bridge and pass the Old Western Hotel, or Stuart House, and pull up at Lombard, Hotel for dinner and to change horses. My recollection of this hotel is of a long wooden structure with a two-storied veranda running its entire length. At the bar we find Loring, who has dispensed liquid refreshment at this place for years.

My earliest recollections of Williamston dates back to the spring of 1868, when I visited there with my father. I can remember Waldrow's store, Bill Steel's shingle mill and the old brown school house on Putnam street where Captain John Elder taught the young idea how to shoot. This old school house was the meeting house and only church Williamston had, and a Universalist minister named Olds, a brother-in-law to M. Quad, twice a month drove from Lansing to deal out spiritual comfort to his small congregation,

With fresh horses we travel eastward a mile and pull up at Phelpstown post office to throw-off a mail bag and pass Toll Gate No. 4. North of the hotel on a side hill is the saw mill that

sawed the planks we have been riding upon and for months it worked night and day for the contracts of H. H. Smith and James Turner, Sr., to supply them with material. Three miles east, of here, at a bend in the road, we pass a log house on our left which was the birthplace of Mr. York, the merchant at North Lansing. One mile east we pass a saw mill and hotel that was operated by a man by the name of Alger. Mr. Alger was considered rich by his neighbors, for he had a section of land besides the saw mill and hotel. One-half mile east we pass through a strip of timber where the thriving village of Webberville is now located.

In a small clearing on the north side and near another hotel was a small house where lived a woman who was a familiar figure in this and surrounding country. She was an educated woman, a poet, and you can find today in some of the old collections of books her pamphlet of poems and songs. A domestic trouble or sorrow in early life clouded her mind and made her a wanderer. I can see her now with her queer home-made clothing, her pack of wool or yarn, her knit socks, traveling the highway. She used to frighten the small children with her abrupt ways and crazy talk, but the older people who were acquainted with her always were kind and hospitable. She used to lecture in school houses and in the fields on moral and religious subjects, and people out of curiosity would most always give her an audience. Who was she? Clarrisa Lighthall, the traveling angel,

On half a mile east, we pass the county line and are in Livingston county; a short distance we descend a hill and cross the west branch of the Red Cedar river. Near this bridge is a log building... that was used for a grocery and dwelling. A German named Richeter sold groceries and supplies to the road and surrounding country. William Richeter, the taxidermist, was his son. Many are the stories told of the Dutch Grocery by the old settlers, Mr. Richeter's quaint German ways and his good nature was sorely tried by the young men, who, under the influence of hard cider or something stronger, tried to make a disturbance, but after the thing was over they always paid for the damages done to his property,

Half a mile east in a bend of the road was the Old Compton Hotel. Let us put up here and the hostler will give the stage horses a drink, The horses freshened by their drink quicken

their pace and with a burst of speed we pass Gate No. 5 west of Fowlerville. We stop at Fowlerville to let off passengers and discharge mail at the road house and then speed away to Howell, nine miles distant, for we must catch the night stage into Detroit. We pass through Six Corners and the Four Mile House and pass teams loaded with wheat going toward Detroit. At Four Mile House we saw lots of loaded teams that have put up for the night. We have met teams going west that have been to Detroit and now are returning home loaded with goods and supplies for the merchants in the towns we have passed. Down a long hill we go across a red covered bridge that spans a branch of the Shiawassee river; up a hill we climb and in the distance we can see the spire of a church that reflects the rays of the setting sun. Jack cracks his whip and the team breaks into a gallop and with a flourish we pull up at the Rupert Hotel in Howell for supper and to take the night stage into Detroit, with 'John Blessed as driver. Safely seated in the night coach we in the darkness dream of how in the future we can travel in a horseless carriage over a smooth road and make in comfort the same distance in four hours that it takes us now twenty-four. Good night,

Dn. F. N. TURNER.

HOW PIONEERS OF INGHAM PUT GOOD ROADS IDEA IN CRUDE EFFECT.

Plank road history out of Lansing, found in old archives by Mrs. Franc L. Adams, Mason, secretary of the Ingham County Historical Association, is contributed by her as a fitting supplement to the account of the old road from the pen of Dr. Turner, printed in these columns.

Mrs. Adams says the advent of the white man into this peninsular territory was the signal for the disappearance of Indian trails and the opening of roads, such as they were, for the accommodation of the teams and wagons which the settlers brought in, although when Lewis Cass was appointed territorial governor in 1815 Michigan was still a dense wilderness, Marked improvement, however, was seen from that time on, but not until 1826 were any

roads authorized by Congress, and that through the intercession of Father Richard, who went before Congress and pleaded for roads in Michigan.

The result of this pleading was national turnpikes leading from Detroit to Chicago, Toledo, Fort Gratiot and Saginaw. These, were crude beyond description, there being many miles of corduroy, of a type unknown to the generations of today. There were no bridges at first, and the primitive roadways had along their course sloughs almost impassable, deep sand, and widened Indian trails, later to be succeeded by plank roads in various parts of the State.

In 1832, after the government had awakened to the need of better roads, Congress directed the President of the United States to appoint three commissioners to lay out a road from Detroit through Shiawassee county to the mouth of Grand river, and during the next two years there were 10 miles of this built at a cost of \$2,500. Two years later \$2,500 more was expended in building bridges over the Rouge, Huron, Shiawassee and Cedar rivers. This road was 100 feet wide, and before Michigan was admitted as a State the road had been built to the present site of North Lansing.

Road building continued, and improvements were suggested as time passed on, until in 1845 an act was passed authorizing the use of certain taxes from non-residents for improving the Grand river road between Howell and Justice Gilkey's home in Ingham county. The session laws of that day show a road was ordered through the county seat of Ingham county in 1837, and one month later two others were laid out, through the same village. In 1839 a road running east and west was ordered through Leslie, and one from the Clinton county line through Lansing south to Mason. In 1848 roads from four different directions were ordered built in Ingham county, and it was that year that 3,000 acres of State land were set aside to contribute to the improvement of a State road running from Dexter to Mason by way of Stockbridge.

The good roads movement received a wonderful impetus about that time, and the number of roads increased by leaps and bounds until in 1861 we find Lansing connected with Bay City, while 1,920 acres of State land were set aside for road improvement in Ingham and Clinton counties. By 1848 saw mills as well as grist

mills were becoming plentiful, and, in a well timbered country, the supply of lumber was unlimited. It was at this date that a company organized to build a plank road from Michigan, as Lansing was then called, to Mason, but this particular road failed to materialize, and not until eight companies had been organized and incorporated, and failed in their intent, was a road of this kind built, and then it was east from Lansing instead of south.

Many old residents of the county still remember the Detroit, Howell and Lansing plank road, and could tell wonderful stories of the stage drivers and their experiences did they feel so inclined.

This road had seven toll gates, where travelers paid for the upkeep of the road, but it did not prove to be all that had been hoped for it and in 1870, when the residents began to find the excellent road building material that lay right at hand, the plank system was abandoned and the road made into a graveled turnpike. Then the officials found a new problem facing them, and it was necessary to have an act of Legislature authorizing them to abandon the toll system, for the charters permitting them to take toll continued in force until 1908 for the Detroit and Howell road, and until 1910 for the Lansing and Howell road.

One pioneer who traveled over this road quite extensively tells of some of the dangers that beset the path of travelers before the road was abandoned and rebuilt. At first the road was closely watched and all repairs made as soon as needed, but later the dirt foundation would frequently be washed out leaving space beneath the planks, and horses and wagons would often break through making travel dangerous.

Instead of repairing the damage, boards and sticks would be thrust into these holes, and to avoid these, one had to go slow and wind from side to side of the track, so that all felt relieved when the road was finally torn out.

Among the rubbish in the vault under the county clerk's office at the Ingham county court house was found an old book containing church and burying ground records, beginning in the year 1842 and continuing until 1853.

BURYING GROUNDS.

The minutes of but two burying ground associations were recorded.

Ingham Center, May 16, 1850, Two o'clock, P. M.

On motion of D. T. Weston the meeting was called to order by appointing Samuel Crossman chairman pro tern, and upon motion of J. C. Granger, D. T. Weston was appointed clerk pro tem. Whereas the meeting proceeded to elect a president, clerk and three trustees, treasurer and sexton.

Voted that S. Crossman be president; D. T. Weston, clerk; H. D. Granger, Wm. R. Whipple and M. Geer, trustees; H. L. Strong, treasurer; J. S. Crossman, sexton.

On motion of J. S. Crossman the constitution was adopted as now drafted. Voted that the officers should meet on the twenty-fifth day of May at five o'clock P. M, for the purpose of letting the job of building the fence around the Ingham Center Burying Ground.

Voted that the clerk should have twenty-five cents for giving notice of each meeting.

Voted that the clerk should have twenty-five cents for selling each lot and recording the purchasers name, the same to come out of the purchase money.

Voted that the officers have one dollar per day for acting in an official capacity, except the treasurer and sexton.

The treasurer is to have ten cents for receiving and receipting the purchase money for each lot, the ten cents to come out of the purchase money;

The meeting then adjourned sine die.

The following described land to wit: Situated in the town of Ingham, County of Ingham, State of Michigan.

Described as follows: Beginning at a stake and stone standing on the north line of section twenty-three, Four two North, range one east,

Ten chains and thirty-five links east of the northwest corner of said section, thence running south three chains and twenty-five links, thence west one chain and twenty-five links, thence south three chains and twenty-five links, thence east three chains and

twenty-five links, thence north three chains and twenty-five links, thence west one chain and twenty-five links, thence north three chains and twenty-five links, thence west seventy-five links to place of beginning. One acre and fifty-four rods of land.

S. Crossman, Pres.
D. T. Weston, Clerk,

We, the undersigned officers certify the above to be a true copy of the proceedings of the first meeting and description of the burying ground,

S. Crossman, Pres.
D. T. Weston, Clerk.

I hereby certify the foregoing record of the first meeting of the Ingham Center Burying Ground society to be a true copy of the original record.

The fourth day of March, 1853. A. E. Steele, Dep. Co. Clerk.

At a meeting of the Wright Burying Ground Corporation held at the School House in School District No. 4, in the township of Aurelius on this 17th day of April, A. D, 1864, in pursuance to notice.

It was resolved that Charles Young serve as chairman, and Winslow Turner secretary of said meeting. Whereby certify that William Stringham was elected president; Charles Young, clerk; Harlow Curtis, collector and R. R. Bullen treasurer of said corporation, John Wright, sexton.

Dated this 17th day of April, 1854.

Charles Young, Chairman.
Winslow Turner, Clerk.

A true copy of the original records. Recorded April 20, 1854.

Philip McKernan, County Clerk.

One page is headed, "Amount of fees received by Philip McKernan, clerk for the year 1853," and contains record of the following marriage certificates:

Jan. 4—Frederick Renn to Jane Hunt. 25 cents
 " 6—Digby V. Bell to Eugenie Thomas. 25 cents
 " "—Henry Hinckley to Susan Skinner. 25
 " 11—Edward Cochran to Mary Jane Curtis. 25
 " 17—Jas. M. Tucket to Lovinia Sturns. 25
 " 29—Martin S. Atwood to Catherine E. Hill . . . 25 (not paid)

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Feb.	4—William Basset to Sarah Morehouse. . . .	25
"	5— Stephen B. Sherbock to Rebecca Pinckney	25
"	7— Isaac Fletcher to Harriet E. Patrick. . . .	25 (not paid)
"	9— Ira O. Darling to Cordelia Case.	25
"	16— Ebin Climer to Ann Salter.,	25
"	25— A. W. Williams to Polly C. Baker.	25
"	26— Geo. M. Lyon to Harriet E. Wood.	25
"	26— Peter L. Rqse to Adelyan Harford	25

The history of **the churches** is **very interesting** and is as follows:

RECORDS SHOW ORGANIZATION OF MASON AND LANSING CHURCHES.

MASON, Jan. '6.—In searching through old records recently, County Clerk V, J. Brown came upon an interesting book of early **Ingham county** church records.

It is a record of the organization of various churches in the county nearly 80 years ago. The first entry is in regard to the **Mason Methodist Episcopal** church, and is signed by Peter Low, then county clerk, and later a Mason banker, member of the law Low, Smead and Co,

This particular entry follows exactly as transcribed in the record, for it shows in substance what all the other records are:

"To all whom it may concern. This is to certify that Isaac S. Finch, **Valorus** Meeker, Garret **DuBois**, Peter **Low**, and Jason B. Packard, have this day been appointed trustees for **the** Methodist Episcopal, **church** in the village of Mason in the bounds of **Ingham Circuit** Marahall district, Michigan Conference. The above trustees have been appointed according to the usages of **the** Methodist Episcopal church for the purpose of holding a preachers' house and the appurtenances thereunto belonging.

"Given under my hand and seal this 28th day of January, A. D. 1842,

"George Smith, L. S.
"P. E. of Marshall District."

"Witness,

" David Thomas,

" Jas Turner."

Names that have **come** down in local history are found signed to these various documents, and mentioned therein. It is interesting to note, that following Peter Low, as county clerk, was John Coatsworth, a prominent business man of pioneer days. **H. P. Atwood** is the next county clerk, whose name is **affixed** to the records, and then, Peter **Low** appears to have served a second term as clerk.

Perhaps the name of Phil **McKernan**, who went into office in **1853** and served until 1856 or longer, is the best known. It **was** **he** who later lost his life in the Civil War, and for him the local Grand Army post was named. His records fill the greater part of the book, and besides the accounts of church organizing, **during** **his term of office**, there are **several pages** devoted to "**Accounts** with the County of Ingham," which in themselves are of interest.

The First Presbyterian society of **Mason** is the second recorded in this book, as having been organized on December **2, 1844**. **Local** names of prominence in those days, mentioned in this record, are William H. Horton, James Turner, and Ira Hubbard, **also** Peter Linderman and **J. B. Chapin**.

The Mason Baptist church is not mentioned it having been organized in 1839, and the earliest **record** is dated January, 1842.

LANSING CHURCHES.

Several **Lansing** churches have the official account of their organizing recorded in this unobtrusive brown book.

For instance in **1848**, the **Baptists** in Lansing seemed to get busy, and **during** the year three distinct Baptist churches were organized. The First Baptist, on April 11, 1848; the Freewill Baptists, on August 10, 1848; and **the** **Second** Baptist, on October 3, 1848.

The First Baptists, according to the record met for organizing according to law, at the home of Robert **Derry**, and the trustees mentioned as elected at this meeting are E. Canfield, **S. S. Carter**, T. L. Taylor, E. **S. Tooker**, T. W. **Menil**, and D. P. Quackenbush.

The Second Baptists organized at the home of Richard Walton,

and **Lorenzo** Quackenbush, David Groome, Warren Briggs, O. F. Olas, Nathaniel Glassbrook, and Richard Walton are named as trustees.

The Methodist Episcopal church of Lansing also organized in 1848, with "F. A. Blades, preacher in charge of the **Mapleton** Circuit," appointing the following trustees: John Berry, John Jennings, Ephraim F. Thompson, David A. Miller, Joseph Kilbourne, William Wheadone.

St. Paul's Episcopal church organized on Feb. 7, 1849, met at the Senate chamber for the services, and, after the appointment of their several trustees, the record goes on to say, "It was then and there duly determined that the said trustees and their successors in office forever should thereafter be called and known as the Rectors, Wardens and Vestrymen of St. Paul's **Parish, Lansing.**"

On **Dec. 9, 1848**, the Lansing Presbyterian church was organized at the school (lower town), and five trustees elected "to take charge of the temporalities of said church."

The Universalist Congregation also worshipped in the Senate chamber at Lansing, and organized on May 9, 1848, and after electing Ephraim H. Utley, Levi Hunt and Henry H. Ross as trustees, said church was then and there duly organized by the name **and style** of the "First Universalist society in the town of Lansing," and that at said meeting it was **determined** that said trustees and their successors in office forever thereafter shall be called and known as "The First Universalist church in the town of Lansing."

These are only a part of the churches the organization of which is included in the book. Among others mentioned are the Methodist and Presbyterian churches of Stockbridge, the first organized in 1853, and the latter in **1853**. The Leslie Baptist church was also organized in 1853, "The First New Church" of Lansing, The Second Society of the **M. P.** church in the Ingham Circuit, The First Wesleyan Methodist, are among numerous other Lansing churches, the early records of which are in this book.

CHURCHES LOCATED IN LANSING IN EARLY DAYS ON THE FOLLOWING LOTS & BLOCKS.

		Chas. Fox et al.	Date of Proof to Government.	Now occupied by
Lots 7 & 8 Blk. 63		Trustee's M. E. Church, Cor. Seymour and Saginaw Sts.	Laws of 1855, Act 127. March 10, 1866.	Church.
Lot 1 Blk. 83		First New Church Society. Cor. Washington Ave. and Shiawassee St.	Dec. 21, 1850.	Riley's Photo Gallery.
Lot 1 Blk. 96		Baptist Church. Cor. Capitol Ave. and Ionia St.	1355. Final proof of property Aug. 4, 1856. See SR 13.	Church.
Lot 1 Blk. 96		St. Paul's Pariah. Cor. Washington Ave. and Ionia St.	Dec. 21, 1850.	Gladmer Theater.
Lot 6 Blk. 96		Selected for and accepted by First M. E. Church of the "Town of Michigan," Cor. of Washington and Ottawa.	Under Act 331, Laws of 1848.	Tussing Block.
Lot 7 Blk. 96		Central Presbyterian Church, Capitol Ave. and Ottawa St.	Dec. 23, 1850.	Church (Universalist Church.)
*Lot 1 Blk. 113		Universalist Church, Foot of Allegan St. E.	No Date.	Central Fire Station.
Lot 1 Blk. 137		First Presbyterian Church. Patent Surrendered and Cancelled under joint resolution. Capitol Ave. and Wash-tenaw St.	Dec. 23, 1850, 1850.	Porter's Garage.
Lot 10 Blk. 128		Trustee's "Plymouth Church and Society," So. Capitol Ave.	Sept. 27, 1867.	State Armory.
Lot 3 Blk. 245		First Westminister Methodist Church, N. Cedar St.	May 4, 1855.	Street Car Barns.
Lot 12 Blk. 136		Freewill Baptist Church, Cor. Capitol Ave. and Kalamasoo Street.	No Date.	Odd Fellow's Temple.
*Lot 1 Blk. 113		"Universalist Church" later located on Lot 7 Blk. 96.		

Furnished by Stella Bennett, Lowing.

ANECDEOTE OF PIONEER NOTES.

Joab Page, told in **1874**. "All **who** knew him **held** him in high respect, He was noted for his uprightness and candor in all matters of business, and as **much** so perhaps for an occasional dry joke. He had charge of building Mr. Seymour's large double saw mill at Lansing in 1850. Charlie _____, a man who was constitutionally tired, consequently of considerable leisure, was in the habit of making daily visits with the workmen, One day

Father Page, as he was familiarly called, came along where Charlie was sitting on a stick of timber in social conversation with one of the men. 'Charlie,' said the old pioneer, 'have you got a quarter by you?' 'I guess so,' said the unsuspecting Charlie. 'Let me have it,' said the grave old man, with a countenance as serene as the clear **blue skies** above. The desired silver was passed into his hand, and immediately slid down into his pocket, and as he walked away he said, '**Now, Charlie,** you 'may hinder that man half an hour longer,' leaving Charlie to accept it as a joke or otherwise as he saw fit."

Wheatfield, May., 1874.

Mr. A. Doan, of section **26, Wheatfield**, has been attending court as a witness this week., He has the honor to be one of the original pioneers of this county, having come here in 1886. His mother was the first white woman ever in the township of Ingham. She came into town on an old "**pung,**" shaking with the ague. **Mr. Doan** bought the farm where **he** now lives in 185%. His brother Harrison **Doan** helped clear up the land where Mason now stands, **Another** brother, **J. D. Doan,** was a land hunter in early days, and **can** tell many thrilling adventures he had in Ingham county.

Mason History, Ingham County News, Sept., 1874. Dr. R. H. Davis and wife, of Jackson, have been visiting in town for a few days, the guest of G. M. Huntington Esq. The doctor has the honor of being one- of the thirty-six voters who cast their votes at **the** first election in this village in the year 1865, He was also the first clerk of the village,'

Notes, April 9, 1874. In the "pioneer days" of Bunkerhill, an old lady residing there made frequent utterances which would have put Mrs. Partington to blush. She was conservative in her ideas and had opinions on all political topics of the day, and was free to express them. Prominent among these was the emancipation of the negroes then held in bondage. In talking with a knot of neighbors who had congregated one day, she said, "If they are **goin'** to **emaciate** the niggers, why don't they *economize* *em so **they** won't *mitigate* with the whites?"

In those days of long ago there was a murder committed near where the village of **Jefferson** then stood, in the town **of** Alaiedon, upon what, I believe, is now the farm of Isaac Drew. The mur-

derer, if I remember **aright**, was a man by the name of Hyde. He was tried in Mason, convicted, and sent to the penitentiary.

The same old lady in speaking of this event, said, "I don't see how in the world they could bring him in guilty of murder in the second degree, *without he killed tew men.*" Contributed by a Pioneer.

A LITTLE SIDELIGHT.

MRS. **THEODORE WESTON**, Williamston.

Mrs. Weston says her father came to Michigan in 1836, but settled in Jackson county, where he lived on one farm 65 years. She has often heard her father tell of Chief Bateese at Bateese Lake, whom he knew well. This chief had an Indian pony well known throughout the country. It was pure white, and the Chief often rode it from Bateese Lake to Detroit, in a day, said to be 90 miles.

When her father **first** came to Michigan there was an Indian village where Onondaga now stands, and he used to meet the braves often and talk with them. , They used often to come to Mrs. Weston's grandmother's and ask for food.

Mr. and Mrs. Weston came into Ingham county in 1879 and bought some new land of **J. H.** Rayner, of Mason, and although there were cleared and cultivated farms all around **them**, they lived the true pioneer life on their 80 acres as they redeemed it from the wilderness,

CHIEF OKEMOS.

A history of Ingham county **would** be incomplete without the story of Chief Okemos, the most noted Indian who ever dwelt within its borders, and his prowess as a **warrior** in the frays of early days has caused his name to frequently appear in the annals of Ingham county and other counties adjoining.

In a history put out by the Historical Society of Washtenaw county in **1881** is found the following condensed history of "Old" Okemos, as he was best known during the latter part of his life:

“Okemos, a nephew of Pontiac, and once **the chief** of the **Chippewas**, was born at or near **Knagg's Station**, on the Shiawassee river where the Chicago and Grand Trunk Railway crosses that stream. The date is shrouded in mystery. At the time of his death he was said to be a centenarian. The earliest accounts we have of him is that he took the warpath in 1796. Judge Littlejohn, in his 'Legends of the Northwest,' introduces him to the reader in 1803. The battle of Sandusky, in which Okemos took an active **part, was** the great event of his life, and this it was that gave him his chieftainship and caused him to be revered by his tribe. The following is his own story as condensed by the author of the Washtenaw history:

“Myself and cousin, Man-a-to-corb-way, with sixteen other braves, enlisted under the British flag, formed a scouting or war party, left the Upper Raisin, and made our rendezvous at Sandusky. One morning, while lying in ambush near a road lately cut for the passage of the American army and supply wagons, we saw twenty cavalrymen approaching **us**. Our ambush was located on a slight ridge, with brush directly in front of us. We immediately, decided to attack the Americans, although they outnumbered us. Our plan was first to fire **and cripple** them, and then make a dash with **the** tomahawk. We waited until they approached so near that we could count the buttons on their coats, when firing commenced. The cavalrymen with drawn sabers at once charged upon the Indians. The plumes upon the hats of the cavalrymen looked like a flock of a thousand pigeons just hovering for a lighting.

“Okemos and his cousin fought side by side loading and firing while dodging from one cover to another. In less than ten minutes after the firing began the sound of a bugle was heard, and casting their eyes in the direction of the sound, they saw the roads and woods filled with cavalry. The small party of Indians were soon surrounded and cut down. All were left on the field for dead. Okemos and his cousin both had their skulls cloven and their bodies gashed in a fearful manner. The cavalrymen, before leaving the field, **in** order to be sure that life was extinct, would lean forward **from** their horses and pierce the chests of the Indians, even into their lungs. The last that **Okemos** remembered was that after emptying oge saddle and springing toward another

soldier with clubbed rifle raised to strike, his head felt as though it was pierced with a red-hot iron, and **he** went down with a heavy saber cut.

“All knowledge ceased from this time until many moons afterward, when he found himself being nursed by the squaws of his friends, who had found him on the battlefield two or three days after the battle. The squaws thought all were dead, but upon moving the bodies of Okemos and his cousin signs of life appeared and they were taken to a place of **safety and** finally partially restored to health. The cousin always remained a cripple, but the iron constitution of Okemos, with which he was endowed by nature, enabled him to regain comparative health; but he never took part in another battle, this last one having satisfied him that ‘white man was a heap powerful.’”

In the “Past and Present of Ingham County,” compiled under the direction of Albert E. Cowles, of Lansing, about 1000, is found a continuation of this story as chronicled by O. E. Jenison, also of Lansing.

“Shortly after the recovery of **Okemos from** his wounds he solicited **Col. Godfrey** to intercede with Gen. **Cass**, and he and other chiefs made a treaty with the Americans, which was faithfully kept.

“Okemos did not obtain his chieftainship by hereditary descent, but this honor was conferred upon him after having passed through the battle described. For his bravery and endurance his tribe considered him a favorite with the Great Spirit, who had preserved his life through such a **terrible and** trying ordeal.

“The next we hear of Okemos he had settled with his tribe on the banks of the Shiawassee, near the place of his birth, where, for many years, up to **1837-38**, **he** was engaged in the peaceful avocations of hunting, fishing, and trading with the white man. About this time the smallpox broke out among his tribe, which, together with the influx **of** white settlers, who destroyed their hunting grounds, scattered their bands,

“The plaintive, soft notes of the hunter's flute, made of the red alder, and the sound of the tom-tom at council fires, were heard no more along the banks of the inland streams. For many years before the tomahawk had been effectually buried, and upon the final breaking up of the bands Okemos became a mendicant,

and many a hearty meal has the old Indian received from the early settlers of Lansing.

"In his **palmy** days I should think his **greatest** height 'never exceeded five feet four inches, He was lithe, wiry, active, **intelligent**, and possessed undoubted bravery, He was not, however, an eloquent speaker, either in council or private conversation, **always** mumbling his words and speaking with **some** hesitation,

"Previous to the breaking up of his band, in **1837-38**, his usual dress consisted of a blanket-coat, with belt, steel pipe-hatchet, a tomahawk, and a heavy, long English hunting knife stuck in his belt in front, with a large bone handle prominent outside the **sheath**. He had his face painted with vermilion on his cheeks **and** forehead and over his eyes. A shawl wound round his head, turban fashion, together with the **leggings** usually worn by Indians, which during his life he never discarded,

"None of his biographers have ever attempted to fix the date of **his birth**, contenting themselves with the general conviction that he was one hundred years old. I differ with them for these reasons, **namely**: being physically endowed with a strong constitution, naturally brave and impetuous, and inured to Indian life, we are led to believe that he entered the warpath early in life and his first introduction to our notice is in 1790, I reason from this that he was born about 1775, in which case he lived about 83 years,

"He died at his wigwam, a few miles from Lansing, and was buried December 5, 1858, at Shim-ni-con, an Indian settlement in Ionia county, His coffin was rude in the extreme, and in it were **placed** a pipe, tobacco, a hunting knife, bird's wings, provision, **etc.**

"**He** surrendered his chieftainship a few years 'previous to his death to his son John, but never forgot that he was Okemos, once the chief of a powerful tribe of the Chippewas, and the nephew of Pontiac,"

Okemos was respected and well treated by everyone, and old residents who knew this old Indian personally are proud to tell of the times they saw him, and the things they heard him say. Those who claim to know say that his real name was "**O-ge-mah**," but he **always** called himself Okemos, and the little village of

Okemos in Ingham county commemorates and perpetuates his name.

It seems fitting and proper that this should be so, for on the site of the village was Okemos' favorite camping place, and it was there he had a productive farm.

O. A. Jenison, an early settler in Lansing, secured a picture of Okemos, which can be **seen** in the Historical Museum at the Capitol. He claimed it was the only picture **Okemos** ever had taken, but in later years this has been disputed, and there is said to be **at** least one other, taken with two white men.

Mr. Jenison says, "Okemos sat for this picture, to my certain knowledge, in 1857, and it has never been out of my possession from that day to this." (Feb. 11, 1879.)

B. O. Williams, of Owosso, who was for many years an Indian trader and spoke the Indian language fluently, has told many **stories of** Okemos which he had directly from the lips of the old warrior, among them the description of the battle of Sandusky as given above.

Freeman Bray, of **Okemos**, is also an authority on matters connected with Okemos, for when he settled where the village of Okemos now **stands** the chief had his principal village there, and was at the head of a mixed band of Tawas (the common rendering of Ottawa) Pottawatomies and Chippewas, All the Indians who took part with the British in the War of 1813, Mr. Bray called "Canada Indians."

The band had a burial ground on the low land near Okemos, and used to **cache** their corn on the knoll where the school house was built. Mr. Bray said the Indians planted corn for two or three years after he settled in Okemos **on land** which he plowed for them and allowed them to use.

The band remained in the vicinity until in about 1845-46, when they became scattered. Many of those belonging to the Ottawas and Pottawatomies were picked up by the United States authorities and transported beyond the Missouri river. On one occasion a band of some 600 were encamped near **Mr. Bray's** place, and had among them a number of sick, including several **squaws**. Mrs. Bray helped to take care of one of these, a young woman apparently in the last stages of consumption, and afterward her

mother visited the old camping ground and made Mrs. Bray a present in appreciation of what she did for the sick one.

While this large band was encamped there, Mr. Bray told how a couple of braves without arms of any kind made their appearance suddenly from the south. On the same day some of the Indians borrowed a few pounds of nails from Mr. Bray, and the next day the entire band had disappeared. It was later learned that the nails were wanted to use in making litters on which to carry the sick and aged. The two unarmed men were fugitives from a detachment of **United** States troops, and had come to warn the band **that** the soldiers **were** after them. They were exceedingly reluctant to leave the country.

Okemos, or his people, had another village at Shim-ne-con, in Ionia **county**, but the principal one was where the village of Okemos now stands. After about the year **1845** the band became so reduced by death and the scattering of its members that the Chief had a very small following. He became eventually a wandering mendicant, travelling round the country and living on the charity of the whites.

He had a large family, as did many of the Indians, but they seemed to die of disease very rapidly. He left two sons, John, who succeeded him as chief, and Jim. John always drank considerable and never was anything but an Indian. **Jim became** a farmer and lived near Stanton, Montcalm county.

Mr Bray told of one occasion when John stayed at his home over night. **In** the morning they had griddle-cakes and Mrs. Bray had made a quantity of nice syrup from white sugar. This so pleased "Chief Johnny," as he was sometimes called, that he kept the women busy for a long time making cakes for him.

Johnny was a frequent caller in the homes of people around Mason, and onetime he stopped at the house of a man he had known for many years; but found his friend had died since he last visited the place. Noticing his picture on the wall, he stood before it and said, "He was a good man., Johnny Okemos has lost his good friend."

Turning from the picture his eyes rested on the cradle in which were sleeping twin babies. He **gazed** at them with a pleased look on his face, then turned to the mother and said, "Johnny Okemos' squaw do that." The last time he visited his old haunts

in the vicinity of Mason his friends heard the sound of his pipe or flute about daylight one morning and remarked that "Johnny Okemos was somewhere **around**," but from that time they never heard those soft, musical tones of his instrument nor saw his face again, and that was about **1880**. He had a son who was a successful farmer, but was pronounced "no Indian" by his father, for he would not hunt.

Chief Okemos in his wanderings around the country was generally accompanied by a troop of papooses whom he called his children. Mr. Bray said he would never speak of his former life unless he had been drinking. He was **scarcely** ever drunk, but would sometimes take enough to loosen his tongue, and he was then very communicative. The story of **the** fight at Sandusky, as Mrs. Bray says Okemos told it to him many times without any alterations, differs somewhat from the way Mr. Williams says it was told to him, and the difference is so great that if one story is told the other should be, as both claim to be authentic.

According to Mr. Bray's version, there was about **300** Indians together at the time of that fray. The **redmen** had heard that a strong force of cavalry was coming toward them, and they met and held a council of war to determine whether they should attack it. Okemos was opposed to this attack, but told the chiefs and warriors that if they said fight he would **fight**. The decision was to fight.

Okemos, Korbish (his cousin) and other chiefs led their men into a marsh where they concealed themselves in the high grass and awaited the approach of the Americans. Okemos said there was a "heap of them," meaning the white men, and he distinctly remembered how the leader looked with his big epaulets. When the Indians fired they seemed to have aimed too high, and Okemos thought they did not kill a man. He **said** the commander instantly drew his sabre, and giving, the command to charge they were among the Indians so suddenly that they had no time to reload their guns, and the sabres very quickly did their bloody work. The chief received a tremendous cut across his back which remained an open sore the remainder of his life. He was for a time unconscious, and when he came to himself and looked around not a living soul was to be seen. He made a noise like an owl and no one **answered**. Then he gave the cry of a loon, and someone

replied, Soon after he found **Korbish** and one other chief alive in the crowd of dead. In his story to Mr. Bray, Okemos said he thought these three were the only ones left alive among the 300. They got into a boat and floated down the Sandusky river, and finally escaped, though they had to pass within sight of an American fort, thought to have been the one at Lower Sandusky.

This was the only open fight Okemos ever took part in, but "when in **his cups**" he would often boast of how many Americans he had killed and scalped. His custom was to waylay the **express-riders** and bearers of dispatches between Detroit and Toledo, He would lie in wait and listen and when he heard one coming he would step behind a convenient tree and spring upon him as he passed and tomahawk him.

Mr. Bray disagrees with other historians, and thinks Okemos was over one hundred years old at the time of his death, but agrees with them in regard to **the** time he died, which was in 1868, near Dewitt, Clinton county,

In 1852 Mr. Bray made the overland trip to California, and tells an interesting experience he had while on his way. When about seventy miles below St. Joseph on the Missouri river he stopped at a landing and there found a number of Indians he had known in Michigan before they were transported to the West. They **recognized** him at once, and urged him to leave the boat he was traveling on and stop at their reservation for a time. This he would have gladly done, but his wagons, goods **and** teams were on the boat where he could not unload them easily, so was forced to continue his journey,

Mr. Bray in his article confirms the universal statement that the squaws were the burden bearers and performed all menial work, Each year large numbers of Indians were accustomed to visit their old camping ground near Okemos to bring food for the dead in their burial ground there, and the last thing before they were taken to the West they gathered there to say farewell to their d e a d .

One bleak day in December, 1858, a small train of Indians entered Dewitt drawing a **handsled** on which were the remains of Chief Okemos, Those who drew the sled were his only kindred and were taking the body of the deceased from his favorite hunting ground on the Looking Glass river, **five miles** from Dewitt,

where the old chief had died the day previous. The friends bought tobacco and filled his pouch, powder to fill his horn and bullets for his bag. Contrary to the usual custom of the **redman** they bought a **coffin** in which they placed the remains, which they had brought that far wrapped in a blanket. When all these things were done they again took up their silent march toward the village of **Shim-ni-con**, on the Grand river, twenty-four miles from Lansing, which during the later years of his life had been the residence of this noted man. The story of any other chief would cause but little comment, but the character of this man and the part he bore in pioneer history in Ingham county, and the surrounding country, makes him a conspicuous figure.

Okemos divided his life, quite impartially, between two periods, the former of which was spent in fighting and the latter in telling of the part he took in these activities. It would be hard to say which he enjoyed most. He boasted-Indians were given to boasting-first of his prowess and next of **his** descent.

He was as proud of his ancestry as are we who came of Revolutionary stock, and though Pontiac was only an Indian, he was one of prominence among the Indian tribes of North America. The biographer of Okemos in the "Past and Present of Ingham County" takes several lengthy paragraphs in support of the authenticity and accuracy of the old Chief's recitals of events and says, "The facts **stated by** the Chief, and especially the harmony and unanimity of his story, many times repeated as to its prominent incidents, leads to **belief.**" This writer gives such a vivid and realistic word picture of Okemos and his times that it would be a mistake not to make place for it in this **history**. He says: "The last interview of the writer with this old chief was in the fall of 1858, a short time before his death, on a train on the Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad. He had been visiting a chief living on the Flint river in northern Michigan, and was returning to his home at Shim-&con.

"He was in the baggage car smoking and talking when the conductor came for his ticket. The old man produced a trip pass which some officer of the road had given him, upon which the **conductor** inquired pleasantly if he was an editor, Okemos did not understand the question and from the smiles of the by-standers thought something offensive was meant, and started to his feet

and said, 'Big Chief, me--plenty fight once!' This answer, brief as it was, told the story of his life. The explanation which followed put Okemos in good humor and he laughed as heartily, as the others at the joke,

"Aside from the scenes in which Okemos took an active part, how eventful was the age in which he lived! The old French war, the American Revolution, the career of Napoleon, complete, the War of 1813, the Mexican war, the Crimean war and the bloody contests of Epst India, all occurred during this Indian's life. Empires rose and fell, government were changed, potexitates, princes and warriors grew to manhood, achieved fame, and slept with their fathers, leaving the events of their lives to become history, while this Indian ranged the forest, trod the hunting grounds and paddled his canoe over the waters of the Northwest Territory and adjacent country, He struck the warpath which led to the Erie frontier as early as 1791, where his exploits, both physical and mental, soon made him a leader of braves and a chief of the Ottawas.

"Upon the eastern shores of Lake Erie Okemos fought against St. Clair, whom he despised and derided, and against Wayne, whom he respected and hated. Okemos spent many hours when in a communicative mood in relating scenes and events in which he had a part. Unlike most Indian narratives, his were not always upon one side, At times he would tell of his own defeat. A rich, quiet, inward drollery was that-with an unctuous chuckle, with which he would recount the effect upon his command of braves of Mad Anthony's mounted swivels, or 'cannon on horse-back,' as the old chief called them, which were made to be handled among thick woods and underbrush where more weighty ordnance could not be employed. In an unexpected attack on Okemos and his braves the first shot sent the Indians on a double-quick run for the marshes, where they knew the horses could not follow them. Okemos never admitted that he ran, but compromised, like all great political and military leaders, by saying, 'Me hide up, plenty quick.'

"Okemos was a little man, not over five feet tall even in his prime, but upon occasion he could assume such an attitude of dignity that no one would think of approaching him except in a respectful manner.

"Okemos was a chief, not only by artificial rank in his own tribe, but in his instincts, talents and courage. He began his career with an implacable hatred toward Americans. This famous chief of the Ottawas was the greatest Indian warrior who ever held sway in Michigan.

"It was Okemos to whom credit is given for driving out of Michigan Elkhart, the famous chief of the Shawnees (in the same connection they are called Pawnees) who attempted to seize the rich hunting grounds of southern Michigan; some of the most savage Indian wars of this territory were fought at that time, and with Okemos leading the Michigan tribes the intruders were driven out."

The question of marking the grave of Okemos at Shim-ni-con has been discussed by Stevens T. Mason Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, of Ionia, and in this the Lansing Chapter has been asked to have a part, for so much of Okemos' life was spent in Ingham county that it seems fitting this county should help perpetuate his memory,

In Volume 17 of the Michigan Historical Collection in the history of St. Clair county, as given by Mrs. B. C. Farrand, of Port Huron, is found a short sketch of Okemos, in which she makes mention of the wife of this warrior in an appealing and pathetic anecdote, and is the only place where the compiler of this book has found any account of this woman. As it is short, the sketch is given in full:

"Ogemos or Okemos was a nephew of the-great chieftain Pontiac, and like him was a bold and daring warrior, He was in person fleshy and short, full of life and ambition, He was buried in Ionia county, December 5, 1858, and was not less than 100 years old. On one occasion when on his way to Sarnia for the purpose of obtaining his annuity granted by the Canadian government, he with his wife and children stayed over night near Port Huron. His wife at that-time was very ill with consumption, and he manifested toward her much sympathy and kindness, himself dressing her feet and waiting upon her much like an attentive white husband. He carried her in his arms to the canoe in which they were to cross the St. Clair river. When near the middle of the stream he hoisted the British flag, but he did not receive the payments for which he made the trip. He said he

had much trouble; his wife died on the way, and he returned to bury her, taking her body to the Riley settlement and afterward went down to Malden to straighten out the annuity business. How he succeeded is not known, as he had given his allegiance to the United States after the battle of Sandusky. After his recovery from the frightful wounds he received at that time he took the oath of fealty to the United States, and always faithfully observed it. There seems to have been some question regarding his right to claim the protection of the British flag in 1844 (when his wife died) but perhaps his poverty knew no law. At the time he and his family stayed over night with Mr. Brakeman in December, 1844, the two men conversed in the Indian language the entire evening. Okemos stated that he was well known throughout southern Michigan, and showed the scars of the fearful wounds made by the tomahawks and guns in the battle of Sandusky. The totem of Okemos was the bear."

MILITARY PROWESS OF EARLY SETTLERS OF INGHAM COUNTY.

1919. MRS. FRANC L. ADAMS.

To all appearances not much stress was laid on the military record of the early settlers, perhaps because their thoughts were more on the work they had before them, in trying to carve for themselves homes from the wilderness into which they had come, and they had no time to dwell on their war records when they were exerting all their energies in trying to invent tools with which to work on the land, as well as to make furniture for their rude homes. Or it may be, that like the veterans of the World's War of today they shrank from telling of their military exploits lest people should think them braggarts. Whatever the reason, it is very hard in this stage of the world's history to get their names, records and places of burial.

Since the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Daughters of 1812 first established Chapters in Michigan, they have taken great interest in locating the graves of these early-day soldiers and marking them in a suitable manner.

It is to the credit of the Ingham County Pioneer and Historical Society that quite a number of those who served in the early wars of our country have had their graves located. It has taken over four years of quite strenuous research work to get the names of these, also their history as far as possible, while there is every reason to think that the list is till far from complete. An effort was made to get the school children of the county to assist in this work by searching the cemeteries and township records, and a few schools responded, but the requests for help sent to the schools throughout the county did not arouse the enthusiasm for the work that it was hoped it would, for in addition to the help it would have been to the county society, the pupils would have absorbed considerable local history which would have been of value to them.

In a little rural cemetery in the township of Onondaga, called the Lane Cemetery, one finds in the southeast corner a family lot of considerable size, where are buried several members of the "Champe" family. In the center of the well kept enclosure stands a slender marble shaft, and on one side is found this inscription; beneath two crossed swords, carved in the marble:

"John Champe, An Officer in the Revolutionary War, Died 1708."

For some time it was thought the body of this patriot laid in this lot, but through a correspondence with Miss Elizabeth Champe, of Detroit, a great granddaughter of John Champe, the following bit of interesting history was revealed.

John Champe was born in Loudoun county, Virginia, in 1757 (one record says 1752, which corresponds better with his age at time of death), just twenty-five years after the first settlers located there. The early records fail to tell of his early life, only that he lived with his parents in their pioneer home near Waterford, on the road to Clark's Gap near Catocin church, and in 1910 the old house was said to be still standing.

The records in the War Department at Washington show that John Champe enlisted in 1776, when nineteen years old, as a private in company of First Light Dragoons Continental Troop, commanded by Capt. Harry Lee, better known as Light Horse Harry. He was promoted to the rank of corporal soon after, and was later orderly sergeant, then sergeant major. His name appears on a roll bearing date of August 25, 1783, at Council Chamber Continental Congress as doorkeeper and sergeant-at-arms.

Sergeant John Champe had been a scout in Washington's army and had made a brilliant record, but his greatest daring exploit was his effort to capture Benedict Arnold, the arch traitor. After Arnold's traitorous dealings with Washington's army, he deserted and joined the British forces, where he was made brigadier general and placed in command of New York. Washington heard of the derogatory remarks Arnold was making regarding the Continental Army and thought the best way to counteract their effect would be to capture him. After a talk with Col. Lee (Light Horse Harry), it was decided that Sergeant John Champe was the man best fitted to go on this mission.

Sergeant Champe quite unwillingly entered into this scheme, for he would be obliged to feign desertion from the American army, make his way into the British camp at New York, and endeavor to join Arnold's command. He was able to carry out Washington's plans to the letter, and after joining Arnold and convincing him that 'he had really come into the British army from choice, it looked as though the hardest part of the work was accomplished. Soon everything was in line for the capture, when all of Champe's work was frustrated by Arnold's Legion being sent to the south by Sir Edward Clinton, and Arnold himself being assigned to another command. As he could not under those circumstances carry out Washington's orders, Sergeant Champe deserted while on the way to Carolina and made his way back to the Continental troops. This' extra hazardous service for the American cause was thought by Gen. Washington to be worthy of some special recognition, and as an edict of death has been published against Champe by the British, in case they could lay hands on him, and in order to save him from this fate Washington gave him an honorable discharge, though the term of his enlistment had not expired. This kindly act of Washington made trouble for Champe's widow and children in after years when they tried to, get a pension and land grants from the government.

Sergeant Champe accepted the position of Sergeant-at-Arms in the Continental Congress at Trenton, N. J. Indoor life was not congenial to one of his strenuous nature, and when Congress adjourned he resigned and returned to Loudoun county, where he married Phebe Barnard, and began farming near Dover, about three miles north of Middleburg, Va. Later he moved to Hen-

tucky, where he died in 1708, and lies in an unknown grave in the vicinity of Louisville.

During John Adams' administration when American commerce was assailed upon the high seas, Gen. Washington was again placed in command of the army, with Col. Harry Lee in charge of the cavalry.

Knowing Champe's ability and courage they sought for him to work with them, only to learn of his death. An American poet wrote a poem of twenty-eight stanzas concerning the Revolution and three of them were in commemoration of John Champe's services, as follows:

"Come sheath your swords my gallant boys
And listen to my story,
How Sergeant Champe one gloomy night
. Set off to catch a Tory.

"Lee found a sergeant in his camp,
Made up of bone and muscle,
Who never knew a fear and many a year
With Tories had a tussle.

"To Southern climes the shipping blew
' And anchored in Virginia,
Where Champe escaped and joined his friends,
Among the Picaninni."

While John Champe is not buried in Ingham county, the county is honored by having a monument erected in his name, and this makes his story a part of the history of the county. After 1800 the family moved to Ohio, and there Nathaniel, the son of John Champe, like his father, fought for American supremacy, and was with the forces that went against the British in 1812, and also like his father held the position of sergeant in his company. He fought in the battle of Monguagon, on August 8th, 1813, in a company of Ohio volunteers. They were under Colonel Antoine Dequindre's command, "and gallantly entered the enemy's work at the point of the bayonet."

Nathaniel Champe was born in Virginia in 1703, and when

twenty years old he enlisted in Col. Duncan **McArthur's** regiment at Dayton, Ohio. That regiment with the regiments of Cass and **Findlay** formed the army of Gen. Hull that marched for the relief of Detroit. After the surrender Champe enlisted in the Regular Army, and was at Fort Meigs on the Maumee. He was mustered out of service in **1815**, after having been recommended for lieutenant by **Col. McArthur**.

In **1814** Nathaniel **Champe** married Almenia Thomas, and because of the following story for which her granddaughter vouches, she is deserving of a place on the list of 1812 patriots. As a child she was intensely interested in American affairs, and while still a young girl she proved her patriotism by entering the British lines in an endeavor to get information for the American army.

This she scratched on a piece of birch bark with a pin, then hid it in the hem of her petticoat. She was arrested and brought before the British **officials** but owing to her extreme youth and innocent air she was allowed to return to her home without punishment, while the information she brought proved of valuable assistance to the American side. Many deeds of like daring her **descendents** tell of her performing. The names of Nathaniel Champe and his wife are both **carved on** the same stone with that of John Champe'; with this verse beneath Mrs. Champe's name:

"Free from all care and pain
Asleep our Mother lies
Until the final trump shall call
The dead in Christ to rise,"

Some time after 1850 Nathaniel Champe moved with his family to Onondaga, Ingham county, where he bought a saw mill which he conducted. He died in Onondaga **Feb. 13, 1870**, aged 78 years.

Not until 1918 was it discovered that **Ingham county** really had a Revolutionary soldier buried in its soil, and that is Martin Dubois, who lies in the Fitchburg Cemetery, and whose history is given with that of the Dubois family. This **grave** has been properly marked by Elijah Grout Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution of Leslie.

In 1020 it was found through the U. S. Pension Department that Ephraim Whedon, or **Wheaton** (as the name was later spelled),

enlisted Feb. 14, 1781, from Northampton, Hampshire county, Mass., and was discharged on Dec. 18, **1783**.

He held the rank of fifer, under Capt. Dean and Colonel Benjamin Tupper, of Massachusetts. He was engaged in the battles of Kingsbridge, Fort Washington and at the surrender of Cornwallis.

Applied for pension Jan. 8, 1828, and the claim was allowed. Residence at that time Lewiston, Niagara county, N. Y., and his age 67 years. Died Apr. **20, 1853, in Stockbridge**, Ingham county, Mich.

Married Eunice (last name and date not given). She was allowed a pension which was executed Oct. 4, **1853**, at **Stockbridge**, when she was **91 years old**.

In 1823 the children were Alice, 24, Jerome, 17, Locenia, 14, Calvin, 12, and Barton, 11. There were five others who were married, and their names are not given. Ephraim **Wheaton** is buried in the North Stockbridge Cemetery, and the Lansing Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will place markers at his grave, and also the grave of Ferris Reynolds, who is buried in a cemetery in Washtenaw county.

Ferris Reynolds, as found in "New York in the Revolution," on page **208**, was in the Westchester Militia (land bounty rights) 4th regiment, Adjutant Thomas Hunt-in enlisted men.

One woman of Ingham county is deserving of mention as a connecting link between **Ingham** county and Revolutionary times, Mrs. Lovey Aldrich, who is buried in the cemetery in Leslie, was the widow of Jacob Aldrich, a Vermont soldier 'in the Continental army. She was the last Revolutionary pensioner in the West. Mrs. Aldrich was a direct descendent of Hannah **Dustin**, of colonial fame, who when captured by a band of Indians in **1697** single-handed and alone killed and scalped twelve redskins and made her way back to her home, and was the first woman in the colonies to receive a **pension** from the government,

SOLDIERS OF THE WAR OF 1812.

Maple Grove Cemetery, Mason,

Ira Beech came from **New York** at an early day. His granddaughter, Miss Effie Beech, of Mason, has in her possession a bill against the government, which was issued to Ira Beech in 1857 calling for \$42 and some cents, as remuneration for money he ex-

pended for clothing while in the War of 1812. He wrote to the officials to get his money and was told that, while the bill was good, the treasury was empty. In the late fifties Mr. Beech was able to secure forty acres of land in Barry county, Michigan, granted by the government for services rendered.

Asel Mead at the age of twenty-five went from Westchester county, New York, to serve his country in the War of 1812. He, with others of his townsmen, embarked on a privateersman and captured many valuable ships belonging to the enemy. They were finally shipwrecked on the coast of Norway, where, after enduring great suffering from cold, they again embarked and were driven in their disabled boats onto the Orkney Islands. Here they were made prisoners by the British and confined for a year in Her Majesty's prison ship. The treatment they received was that given in those days to any one who opposed the crown. From the ship they were transferred to Dartmouth prison, a place made notorious by the atrocious treatment given to all Americans who entered there. Once when on the verge of starvation the prisoners became desperate and a revolt took place, with a demand for food. Fearing the Americans would make good their word and force the prison walls, they were promised better treatment if they would remain quiet for a few hours. In the meantime the prison guard had called for reinforcements, and to show how little fear they had of the prisoners they were all called out and a volley fired among them, killing and wounding many. Mr. Mead was one of those who escaped death, and when released at the close of the war he returned home and engaged in business, coming to Mason some years before his death to spend his last days with his son.¹ He died in 1874.

Others buried in the Mason cemetery are:

Bela Watkins, Benjamin Stid, Nathan Rolfe.

Lane Cemetery, Onondaga.

¹Besides Nathaniel Champe and his wife are found the graves of these 1812 soldiers: Henry Gibbs, Samuel Fry, John Hunt, Elisha Smith, Leonard Gilman, William Houser.

Onondaga Cemetery, Onondagai

Loring Sherman, born in Danby, Rutland county, Vermont, 1705. Came to Onondaga with his three sons in 1844, died in 1860; Thos. K. Baldwin, of Vermont.

Fitchburg (or Dean) Cemetery, Bunkerhill Township.

John Macumber, Wm. B. Dean, Joseph McCreery, John Gee, D. Parmerlee, Hubbard Fitch, the latter has a government 1812 marker at his grave, and all of these names are inscribed on a unique monument, made from cut field stone which Bunkerhill township in Ingham county, and Henrietta township in Jackson county united in erecting in memory of its soldiers that are buried in this cemetery.

Meridian.

Joseph Henry Kilbourne, father of S. L. Kilbourne, of Lansing, was a captain in the Patriot War of 1838, and is buried at Okemos.

Leslie.

Elijah Woodworth, War of 1812 and Mexican War.

Lansing.

Melzor Turner was a musician in the War of 1812, from Monroe county, New York. He came to Okemos in 1841. Was a cabinet maker and carpenter, and built the first frame house in Okemos, which is still standing. Soon after the Capitol was located at Lansing he moved there and died at the age of 78, and is buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery, on Lot 40, Sec. D. His youngest child of the four born to him, Mrs. Mary Young, aged 87, now (1020) lives in Worcester, Mass., and furnished this information.

North Cemetery, Delhi Township.

Jacob S. North.

Stockbridge.

Orrin Ives, who participated in the battle of Lundy's Lane.

Bunkerhill.

Daniel S. Beers.

John McIntee died in Bunkerhill in January, 1879, aged 113 years. He was born in Ireland in 1706, came to America in 1801. Served under Gen. Jackson in 1812 and was in the battle of New Orleans.

North Stockbridge Cemetery.

John Bullock.

Whitney Cemetery, Stockbridge.

John Whitney.

Dansville Cemetery.

Jacob Rowe, born in New Hampshire, died in Dansville, 1863; Zenas Atwood, Gaylor Hatch.

Dubois Cemetery, Alaiedon.

Abel Irish,

Aurelius Center, Aurelius.

Erastus Bateman,

North Aurelius, Aurelius.

Henry Ferry, John C. **Youngs.**

Howard Cemetery, Ingham Township.

Aaron J, Hunt.

Grovenburg Cemetery, Delhi Township.

Ezekiel Williams.

Rolfe Cemetery, Vevay Township.

Wm. Marshall, Benjamin Rolfe,

MEXICAN WAR VETERANS.

Jacob Boam, Lansing; William Field, Dansville; Capt. **Asa** Shattuck, Lansing; Capt. Townsend, Mason; John Aseltiae, Alaiedon.

Canadian soldier, Eden, Vevay Township.

William Kirby, Lieutenant Colonel, Co. I, Missisquoi Rangers.

CRIMEAN WAR.

George S. Wilson was a familiar character in Ingham county for many years, and not until a short time before his death did the public become aware that he served in the Crimean **War** and that the slight limp he had was not caused by rheumatism but the result of a Russian bullet which he received on the field of historic Inkerman. Mr. Wilson was born at Bawtry, Yorkshire, England, and was only sixteen years old when he entered Her Majesty's service in Company **2** of the Thirteenth Light Infantry, of which regiment Prince Albert was then colonel.

After three years service his regiment was one of those ordered to the seat of war in Russia, Their sailing vessel proved unseaworthy, and they were beached on the coast of Spain and forced to stay there two months. In October, **1854**, Mr. Wilson was on the skirmish line during the battle of Balaklava and **saw** the "Six **Hundred**" **make** their immortal charge. Eleven days later, with a 60 pound knapsack and **100** rounds of ammunition, he took the ten mile march to Inkerman, where he was severely

wounded, All that winter he endured the horrors of a Crimean military hospital, the only bright spot being the fact that Florence Nightingale, the "Angel of the Crimea," was one who helped minister to his needs, One of the soldiers composed a poem in her honor, and the **boys** surprised her one day when she entered the hospital by singing this song, which they had found music to fit, After the fall of Sebastopol the 400 survivors of his regiment set sail for England, landing at Gibraltar in **1868**. Asiatic cholera attacked the troops and many of them died. Upon his return to England Mr. Wilson did recruiting service at Hull, England, then went to Port of Good Hope, Africa, on garrison duty. He was invalided home from there and put on garrison duty at Femoy, Ireland. In 1859 he obtained a **furlough and** as soon as he reached England he took ship for America, without a chance to bring with him the various medals he had received while in service. He landed in New York on New Years Day, 1880, without a penny in his pocket, but **by** hard work and thrift he acquired a modest fortune before his death, which occurred **in Mason** in 1918.

He came of a military family, his grandfather having fought with Wellington at Waterloo, and received fourteen medals in recognition of his services. Mr. Wilson had an older and a younger brother in the English army for twenty-one years and who helped crush the **great** Sepoy rebellion.

BLACK HAWK WAR, 1831.

Jonathan Freeland, participated in the Black Hawk War, and is buried at the Felt **Plains** Cemetery, Bunkerhill. He was born at Kingsclear, Maine, 1806. Died in Bunkerhill, 1880. His two sons, Henry C. and John, served in the Civil War, and his grandson, Dr. O. H. Freeland, of Mason, was assistant **surgeon in** the **31st** Michigan Infantry in the Spanish-American War.

J. J. Tuttle, of Leslie.

Gustavus Adolphus Smith, of Stockbridge.

John Mullett, of Meridian, best known as a surveyor in Michigan and Wisconsin, during the War of **1812** was an officer in the "Buffalo Home Guards," **and** was present at the battle of Black Rock. His work as surveyor in **1822** involved him in the little fracas between the Indians and whites which gave Battle Creek, Michigan, its name. He was in Wisconsin surveying when the

Black Hawk War occurred and he and his companions were driven out by the Indians, after which he was employed by Gen. Scott to go East and bring wagons for the transportation of troops. He moved to Meridian Township, Inghnm county, in **1853**, and died there in 186% Is buried in a little rural cemetery near Okemos.

His father, James **Mullett**, was born in England, and while living in London was seized by a press-gang and brought to America with Burgoyne's army to serve King George III. He had just learned the tailors trade and was about to return to his home when **he was** forced into the **war-with** the colonies, and from that time he was lost to his home and friends.⁸

At the battle of **Bennington** **he** was taken prisoner, but escaped, and later joined the Continental army, his sympathies being with the American people, who were striving **to** cut loose from the rule of King George III. After the war he settled in Vermont and married **Sylvania** Perry, a descendent of **the** Pilgrims and a **real-**tive of Commodore Perry.

THE CURTENIUS GUARDS,

By F. L. A,

That one of the inheritances of the early settlers of Ingham county was **the** military spirit of their forefathers was shown by their enthusiasm on "General Training Day," and the **organiza-**tion of a military company as early as **1857**. "Uncle" George **W.** Shafer, a man prominent in affairs in Mason at that time, took an active interest in the formation of the "Curtenius Guards," as the first military company was called, and was commissioned a colonel of the State Militia by Governor Barry, Col. Frederick W. Curtenius, a Mexican War veteran, whose home was in **Kala-**mazoo, came here to act as mustering officer, and for him the company was named. In that way the name "Curtenius" becomes linked with the history of Ingham county, and the family was one of such note in the United States that it does not seem out of place to give a brief **sketch** of it here.

His father, Peter **Curtenius**, was a general in the War of **1813**,

and commanded troops quartered in New York City. He was afterward made New York State Marshal and while holding that position arrested Aaron Burr for treason. He was a member of the State Legislature several terms. Both his father and his father-in-law, grandfathers of **Col.** Frederick W. Curteniué, gave distinguished service in the Revolutionary army. The father of Peter **Curtenius** **sold** his business in New York City for **\$16,000** and expended the whole amount for the benefit of the army, On July **11, 1776**, he read the Declaration of Independence in New York, the first time it was ever given in public. With Alexander Hamilton, Mayor of New York, and other city officials, he placed **himself** at the head of the "Sons of Freedom," a local organization, and with him as their leader the party marched to where the equestrian statue of King George III stood, demolished it and sent the pieces to **Litchfield**, Conn., where the loyal women of that place made the lead into musket balls for the use of the American army,

Frederick W. Curtenius was born in New York City in 1806 and graduated from Hamilton College, Oneida, N. Y., in 1838 and began to study law.

His inherited military taste proved stronger than his love of books, and *after* a short time he gave up his studies and went to South America to join the patriots who were making an effort to free themselves from Spanish dominion. **He** was made a lieutenant and gave good service until the close of the war, when he returned to New York, where he later commanded a regiment of State Militia. In 1835 he came to Michigan and settled in what is now Kalamazoo. In 1847 he raised a company for the First Regiment of Michigan Infantry, commanded by Col. T. B. W. Stockton, was made captain of his company and went with it to Mexico, where he stayed until the end of the war. In 1855 he was made Adjutant-General of Michigan, and held that position until **1861**. He was then commissioned as colonel of the Sixth Michigan Infantry. He did garrison duty in Baltimore for six months, then the regiment was made a part of the Gulf Division under Gen. B. F. Butler and moved to New Orleans. This regiment, after the capture of the city, was the first to take charge of the United States Mint. Some time later Col. Curtenius was placed in charge of United States property at Vicksburg, and owing to

an incident which occurred there he left the service. Some slaves had sought refuge with his regiment, and the general commanding the brigade ordered the colonel to hand them over to their owners. This he would not do, saying the State of Michigan had not commissioned him to deliver slaves to their masters, and for this **reply** he was placed under arrest. The proceedings so **displeased** him that he resigned his commission and returned to his home, and the State of Michigan upheld him in the course he had taken.

He served as State Senator two terms, **besides** in other **high** official positions. His death occurred in Kalamazoo in July, 1888.

(The above facts were gleaned from Volume 7 of the Michigan Pioneer **Collection**.)

It was while he was serving the State as Adjutant-General that he came to Mason and organized the **Curtenius** Guards that proved a dominant note in the military symphony of the county,

Its muster roll contained the names of many of the most **prominent** men in the county. Amos E. Steele was the first captain (one writer says Arnold Walker, *of* Leslie, was the first), and he **was** succeeded by Philip McKernan, who was still in command when Lincoln's call for men came in 1861. The Curtenius Guards **promptly** tendered their services to the Governor. They were accepted and assigned to the position of Co. B, 7th Michigan Infantry, then in camp at Monroe, I. R. Grosvenor, colonel. The "Guards" left Mason August **15**, 1861, with 100 able-bodied men and served gallantly through the war, participating in nearly all the battles in Virginia, acquiring distinction on account of their bravery. Only about seven or eight of the members returned, and they "with crippled bodies and health impaired." The following is a **list** of the officers and men who were members of the original organization that went into service:

Captain-Philip McKernan, died at Poolesville, Md., Sept. 26, 1861.

1st **Lieut.**—Amos E. Steele, Jr., promoted, to Lieut. Col., and killed at the terrible battle of Gettysburg.

2nd **Lieut.**—John B. Howell, resigned after a short service.

1st **Sergt.**—F. B. Siegfried, wounded.

2nd **Sergt.**—R. Reynolds, wounded.

3rd **Sergt.**—E. G. Eaton.

4th **Sergt.**—H. D. Bath, wounded.

Corporals-R, **B.** Godfrey, J. E. Sabin, W. W. **Bowdish**, **L. A. Holden**, N. H. Wilkins, **V. L.** Northrup, H. **S.** Felt,

Privates—James Butler, **S.** B. Bement, W. **H.** Child, Jr., **M. A.** Converse, C. D. Clough, **W. W.** Everts, H. N. Gunn, A. Gibbs, A. J. Hill, A. N. Lombard, A. **B.** Laycoqk, F. Overholt, **Geo.** Palmer, W. H. Palmer, C. **B. Pelton**, G. W. Perkins, **D. B.** Reynolds, A. Tennant, D. **E.** Walker, M. Walker, A. Wilson, **L. Bowdish**, M. J. Chalker, O. C. Chapman; **J.** Gibbs, **R. B.** Huntington, I. D. **Harlow**, N. Irish, A. D. Palmer, Jehial Rayner, **M. S.** Rice, F. Searle, C. Smith, R. P. **Tryon**, C. **B. Wheeler**.

Several others who were members of the "Curtenius Guards" enlisted and served in other regiments. Among the names, found are those of Chas. Rhodes, J. **C.** Freeland, **B. F.** Darling, Henry **V.** Steele, Robert Hall, **J. H.** Sayers, with 'probably others.

Three members of the Curtenius Guards were given a lasting memorial in Mason when two posts of the Grand Army of the Republic were named for them. The first post organized in the city was given the name of Phil McKernan Post No, **58**. This was organized in the early eighties, and nearly a score of 'years later a second post was **formed** and given the name of Steele Brothers', in honor of Amos E. and Henry V. Steele.

After the war the "Curtenius Guards" was never resurrected, but the military zeal and patriotic spirit of the veterans, who had returned to their homes, was **so** vigorous that a new militia company was formed, known as the "Mason Light Guard." This was an independent organization which existed during the years from 1869 to 1877, **with** only Civil War veterans in its ranks. During the winter of 1877 the company lost all its arms and equipment in a fire which destroyed the armory.

Through the efforts of Hon. Stanley **M.** Turner, Representative from this district, an act was passed allowing the Light Guards to reorganize and enlist in the State service, and on May 16, 1877, it became Co. **K.** of the First Michigan Regiment, Col. W. H. **Withington**, of Jackson, in command. The company was mustered into service in June by Inspector General L. W. Heath, of Grand Rapids, Lieut. John **C.** Squiers, of Mason, acting as mustering **officer**, in the company's headquarters on the third floor in the rear of the Odd Fellows Hall. The names on the muster-in roll have a familiar sound to many today (**1920**), so will give them:

Captain-Alonzo **Cheney**.

First Lieutenant-John **C. Squiers**.

Second Lieutenant-Lewis A. **Holden**.

First **Sergt.**—Charles A. **Perry**.

Second **Sergt.**—Elmer **G. Curtis**.

Third **Sergt.**—Marcus J. **Christian**.

Fourth **Sergt.**—Solon D. **Neely**.

Fifth **Sergt.**—Henry **McNeill**.

Corporals—Robert **T. Mason**, Charles M. **Shafer**, Frank S. **Stroud**, Frank L. **Gardner**, Thomas E. **Royston**, Joseph P. **Smith**, James **P. Horton**, Charles F. **Hammond**,

Privates—Alexander **Bush**, Benj. C. **Baker**, Charles H. **Beardsley**, Lorenzo A. **Call**, William I. **Craig**, Isaac **Crich**, Harvey **Canfield**, George **F. Day**, **Alonzo** Ellsworth, Thomas M. **Fay**, Elwin R. **Guy**, Alfred J. **Gilbert**, Oliver F. **Griffin**, David D. **Lindsay**, Reuben D. **Maxwell**, James H. **Morey**, **Wilton S. Mead**, Andrew **W. Mehan**, Albert F. **Norris**, **Edson** Rolfe, Charles H. **Stroud**, Geo. **W. Storey**, N. A. **Seaman**, Henry **Whitelly**, **J. Vernon** Johnson, Aaron E. **Ball**, Clay E. **Call**, Royal **D. Corey**, Julius **F. Crittenden**, George **J. Cotton**, Willis **F. Cornell**, Herman **Darling**, Charles E. **Fowler**, **Benj. J. Fritz**, Daniel **B. Green**, Wm. H. **Goucher**, Frank B. **Hyatt**, Charles **F. Lyon**, Frank P. **Millbury**, Jay **D. Morrow**, James **McMichael**, James H. **Newberry**, Elihu **P. Rowe**, Geo. **W. Swiggett**, **Smith** Simons, Fred **Stanton**, Cassius **M. Smith**, Seymour **H. Worden**.

Some time during the years 1885-86 the name of this company was changed from "K" to "F," and the residents of Ingham county all know the part Co. F had in the 31st Michigan Regiment during the Spanish-American War,

When, later, this company merged into a battery, the armory was sold to the city, and the pictures and flags turned over to Phil **McKernan** Post, G. A. R., the pioneer post of the city, and are now in the hands of the Ingham County Pioneer and Historical Society, These flags form valuable county souvenirs. At first the flag used by the Curtenius Guards was with the others, but this disappeared some years ago, In 1878 Mrs. George Mead and Mrs. Jesse Beech, two patriotic women who have passed to their reward, raised \$50 by popular subscription and purchased a silk flag for Company K, which was presented at the celebration

held in this city on July 4 of that year. This is now "simply a flag, tattered and torn and hanging in rags," but the associations connected with it make it invaluable as an historic relic. The "field" on one side bears Michigan's coat of arms, and on the other 87 stars represent the States of the Union. The red stripes have faded until the striped portion of the banner is now white, and the end is simply a mass of fine tatters. There are two Company F flags, in quite a good state of preservation, but the style of construction show they were made at dates considerably apart. One has gilt stars pasted on the blue field, while the other has embroidered stars. Having played a part in the history of the county it seems only right that they should be in charge of some county society of a patriotic nature, and they are highly prized by the County Historical Society which counts itself as patriotic to the core.

Since the time of the Curtenius Guard three generations have taken their part in the military activities of the county, and our boys today are as ready to stand for the defense of right as were their ancestors. The part Ingham county took in the Civil War and the World's War would make a story too long for this first volume of Ingham county history, in which it is aimed to give the earliest events concerning the county that can be found, though to complete their history it has been necessary to bring some of them down to the present time.

Although this volume does not include the story of, Ingham county in the War of the Rebellion and the wars which have followed, it will not be out of place to follow the story of our early patriots with a list of the patriotic societies to be found in the county,

Not until the '80's were there any posts of the Grand Army of the Republic found within its borders. Chas. T. Foster Post of Lansing, No. 42, was the first to organize on Feb. 2, 1882, with 88 charter members, and Rush J. Shank as commander; the next in line was Phil **McKernon**, of Mason, No. 53, organized on April 8, 1888, with Comrade **Henson** as commander; Dewey, No. 60, of Leslie, started with 19 charter members on May 25, 1882, W. W. Cook, commander; Frank Hicks, No. 78, of Dansville, organized on September 18, 1882, with 23 charter members, with A. Beers as commander. This post disbanded in June, 1917. Fred **Turrell**

Post, at Webberville, No. 93, organized on November 21, 1882, with 22 charter members, Alpha Carr, commander. This disbanded in 1906. Eli P. Alexander, No. 103, of Williamston, organized on January 16, 1883, with 24 charter members, W. L. Robson, commander. G. H. Ewing, No. 203, of Stockbridge, organized on December 14, 1883, with 12 charter members, Andrew D. Grimes, commander. This disbanded in 1911.

The last to organize was Steele Brothers', No. 441, December 31, 1897, under a charter issued by A. T. Bliss, then Department Commander. All the others received their charters from Gen. Byron D. Pierce, Department Commander.

Chas. T. Foster, Phil McKernan, Dewey and Eli P. Alexander Posts have strong societies of the Woman's Relief Corps auxiliary to them, while those of Fred Turrell and G. H. Ewing surrendered their charters at the time the posts did theirs.

There is one camp of Spanish-American veterans, located at Lansing. There are American Legion Posts, composed of World War veterans, at Lansing, East Lansing, Mason, Leslie, and Stockbridge, with American Legion Auxiliaries at Lansing, Mason and Leslie. A strong society of Veterans of Foreign Wars at Lansing.

There are two Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution in the county, the Lansing Chapter, at Lansing, and the Elijah Groat Chapter, at Leslie. The Sons of Veterans and the Daughters of Veterans each have a camp in Lansing, besides several societies bearing different names, which are subordinate to the various orders engaged in patriotic work.

All are busily engaged in carrying on the work for which they were organized.

HISTORIC FLAGS OF INGHAM COUNTY.

BY FRANC L. ADAMS, MASON.

It is impossible for the children of today, with flags in evidence everywhere, to realize that seventy-five years ago one could not buy a flag in Ingham county for love nor money. In fact, many of those living here at that time had never seen a flag, and the truth of this is being made more and more evident, through the relics being displayed at the Ingham County Township Historical meetings.

At the meeting held in 1921 in Aurelius Township, the first church flag used in Ingham county was given a prominent place on the platform, and its unique appearance made it an object of interest. A Sunday School rally was to be held in that township some seventy-five years ago, and the people being of a patriotic nature greatly desired a flag for the occasion. Jackson was at that time the only trading point within reasonable distance, and every effort was made to procure a flag from that place, but to no purpose. Mrs. Fowler, whose two sons were present at the meeting in 1921, decided there should be a flag for the great day, but had very vague ideas upon which to work, but necessity proved to be the mother of invention in this case as in many other pioneer events, and she proceeded to create a flag, and the result showed that she didn't fully understand the original plan of George Washington and Betsy Ross. This flag consisted of a piece of unbleached muslin about two feet by three in size. The field was in the right position, but was made of inch strips of white alternating with pieces of figured red and blue calico, the same width. Thirteen big red calico stars were sewed at intervals on the muslin foundation, and this was mounted on a suitable staff. So the Sunday School had a flag to which all showed reverence for what it represented, and their patriotic spirit is not to be doubted.

At the Leslie Township meeting held in 1921 another flag of about the same date as the one described was exhibited and used as the flag salute was given by all present. This flag is the property of Mrs. Palmyra Hahn, and was made for a Fourth of July celebration held in Leslie in 1846. This was made by Mrs. Clark

Graves, Miss Laura Rice and Josiah Rice, Jr. As in the case of the Aurelius flag, no flag could be procured in Jackson or any other nearby trading post, but these people were determined not to be foiled in their plan for having a flag in their patriotic parade and proceeded to make one. This was made of a piece of muslin about two by three feet in size, but contained no field. Instead, the Rice boy had drawn with ink, on a large sheet of paper, an eagle with outstretched wings and pasted this in the center of the cloth, while around it were sewed thirteen red stars. As in the other case, it served its purpose, as it was proudly borne at the head of the gala-day procession.

Another historic flag is one owned by Mrs. Harriet W. Casterlin, of Mason, which was made by her brother, Kendall Kittridge, just before the Civil War, when he was a boy thirteen years old. Not being able to purchase a flag, but with a correct conception of its appearance, he sewed together his stripes of red figured calico and white muslin, made a field of blue denim and sewed the white stars to this. It is still mounted on the staff on which it was carried in all the patriotic demonstrations so common "befo' de wah."

About 1847 the first military company was organized in Mason by Col. Frederick Curtenius, of Kalamazoo, and was known as the Curtenius Guards. When Lincoln's call for troops came, they to a man responded, and of this 100 men only a few returned, and the name was known only in history and through the company flag, which a few years ago came up missing.

After the Civil War another branch of militia came into being and developed into Co. "K" of the State troops. On July Fourth, 1878, a flag was presented to them by the citizens of Mason, and though "tattered and torn and hanging in rags" is being preserved by the Ingham County Historical and Pioneer Society. The red stripes are faded white, but the blue field still bears the gilt paper stars pasted on one side with Michigan's coat of arms on the other.

Among Ingham county's keepsakes are also two flags carried by Co. "F" previous to the time it entered the Spanish-American War.

These old flags tell in part the story of Ingham county's mili-

tary activities, but are there not other equally as interesting histories of flags that can be added to these?

There is some prospects of having the Ingham County Pioneer History published soon, and everything pertaining to the historic flags of the county should be found in that book.

Look among your relics, recall the stories told by your grandmothers and grandfathers, and then write them out and send them to the secretary of the Ingham County Historical and Pioneer Society, Mrs. Franc L. Adams, Mason, Mich.

Mason, 1919.

At the last meeting of the Ingham County Pioneer and Historical Society, Clarence E. Holmes, of Lansing, in his address dwelt largely on these words taken from the Mayflower compact, "Due submission to the laws as made." Summit R. King thought there were times when the "submission" should be modified, and to prove his point told the following story:

"Obey the law? Yes, when the law is right. But there are exceptions to all good rules. This takes me back to the time when the South succeeded in getting the Dred Scott decision, the Missouri compromise, and then loaded on the fugitive slave law. Would we stand for all that? No. Making every Northerner a criminal who did not help return runaway slaves. We built the 'underground railway,' and I am proud that my father's house was one of the stations and I a fireman.

"I want to tell you of one of the passengers that got through to Canada some time during the '50's. A Kentucky slave had got into Lenawee county and his master had trace of him and he was about to be captured. To avoid this the escaping slave was given a horse and told to flee, then a warrant was sworn out for him charging him with horse stealing and he was convicted and sent to Jackson prison for one year.

"When the year was nearly up seventeen Kentuckians, with revolvers and dirks, came to Jackson and declared they would have their 'nigger' or wipe Jackson off the map. My father being a leader, there was a gathering at our house to see what should be done, some bringing rifles and some shot guns. While they were still there, there came a man on horseback who said, 'Keep away from Jackson, and especially bring no guns, for the affair is

all fixed up.' When the darkey finished his last day's work his master appeared at the prison and demanded that he be turned over to his owner, but the authorities said, 'No, his year is not up until morning.'

"The next morning the man who delivered this message was not to be found, neither was the negro, for at midnight, when his time actually expired, he was taken over the back wall of the prison, where the father of O. F. Miller (the latter a resident of Mason for many years) met him with a horse and buggy and Kentucky saw that slave no more, his master returning to his Southern home with rage in his heart."

Mr. King says he is the last man alive in Ingham county who was "Under the Oaks" in Jackson when the Republican party was born, and he has always taken an active part in the political history of both Jackson and Ingham counties. He relates proudly the little part he had in conducting one of the underground railroads in this section, when one night a darkey came to his father's house and stayed over night and the next morning "my father sent me with a horse and buggy to carry the escaping slave to the next station, and I left him with Aaron Ingalls."

Until crippled by a fall from a tree a few years ago, Mr. King had annually made the trip north with the deer hunters from this section, and his observations led him to believe that many colored people who escaped from slavery stopped short of Canada, where they were popularly supposed to have gone, and lost themselves in the wilds of the northern part of the Southern Peninsula. An old darkey that Mr. King met while on a hunting trip told him the following story, which he said was the experience of a fellow slave, though Mr. King had the feeling that the man was telling of an event in his own life. He said, "During the first of the Civil War a colored man escaped from his master's plantation and made his way to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and joined a negro settlement there, but his master got trace of him and came into the settlement to look for him. He was successful in his search and one day as he had his hands on the slave ready to take him into custody the black man in his efforts to get away from him killed his master and made his way into northern Michigan, where he built up a home and lived quietly and comfortably." As the narrator had a home of about 100 acres with good buildings, and

seemed so familiar with the conditions attending the story, the most logical inference was that he was the man about whom it was told.

In the Ingham County News for January 8, 1874, is found the following:

MASON'S MINE OF WEALTH.

Extensive Coal Reds Discovered. Stock in the Coal Company Over 500 Per Cent Above Par.

Many rumors have been afloat in this village and vicinity lately concerning the finding of coal in the village, and many have doubtless wondered that this paper, that should be eager after all such items of news, and be the first to spread them, has said nothing about the subject.

Well, the reason we have not mentioned the fact of the prospecting for and the finding of coal before, is, because we have been earnestly requested to "keep quiet" by those most interested, and because we thought an excitement might be raised in regard to the subject, that would have as little foundation as that raised a couple of years ago at finding coal about three miles north of this village. Now, the indications are so good and the prospects so favorable, that the stockholders in the "Mason Coal Company" say "you may blow off."

The history of the present coal discovery is substantially as follows: About the first of last October (1873) several gentlemen in discussing the matter among themselves thought that something might be done to develop the mineral resources of this place, providing there were any to be developed.

The supposition that there might be was caused principally because pieces of coal, outcroppings along the bed of the Sycamore were often picked up, and from a statement made as long ago as 1838 by Douglas Houghton, the State geologist at that time, to Dr. McRobert, of this village, that coal could be found by digging along the creek south of Mason.

Acting upon these facts and suggestions, an informal meeting was called and thirteen persons, capitalists and business men of

the place, organized into a sort of stock company to carry on the work.

The names of the stockholders are as follows: John Dunsback, Dr. M. McRobert, Dr. C. H. Sackrider, Peter Lowe, Perry Henderson, Frank White, Stanley W. Turner, F. T. Albright, Elza Flora, O. W. Halstead, H. H. Parker, L. C. Webb, and M. A. sweet.

The assessment made on each member up to the present time is about \$35.

About the 20th day of October the company obtained the services of James Jenkins, an experienced miner from the Porter mines in Jackson, and commenced prospecting for coal. They first bored on Old's addition, directly west of the Union School building, and eight or ten rods west of the bank of the creek.

They went down thirty-three feet, going through sand rock and slate, and finding eight inches of coal. Each time they went down they found a rich vein of fire clay averaging four feet in thickness, which would supply an extensive pottery.

The next hole they sunk was one on the Noble property some distance south of the first. This they abandoned before going very deep on account of a lack of tubing. From there they went onto Mr. Wightman's farm, but had no particular success except in striking a splendid vein of fire clay. Last week they sunk another hole on Old's land, about twelve rods west of the first hole, and found a vein of coal two feet and eight inches thick. Northwest of this hole, twelve or fifteen rods, last Tuesday they found the vein to be forty inches thick. They are now boring about twenty-five rods southwest of the last hole, and if they find as good indications as in the other localities, they will believe they have as good a vein of coal, from thirty to forty feet underground, as can be found in this part of the State.

The coal is hard, of excellent quality, containing but little sulphur. An experienced miner who visited the place this week claims it is a better quality of coal than that found at Jackson or Williamston.

The stockholders of the company feel highly elated over the present prospects, and if they find the vein reaches greater depth will feel justified in floating shares in the company, feeling assured

that the venture will be a success and add materially to the wealth and prosperity of the village.

In 1916 the attention of a correspondent for the Ingham County News was called to the above article, and L. C. Webb, the only stockholder among the thirteen mentioned, then living, was interviewed and completed the story of the enterprise that began so hopefully in a search for "dusky diamonds."

As nearly as can be located, the "diggings" were made on land lying just west of Sycamore Creek between Ash and Elm streets.

After each stockholder had sunk about \$135, with only some holes in the ground to show for the outlay of money, work was abandoned and all hope of this becoming a coal mining region was given up, and the little excitement it had created died a natural death.

The stockholders were said to feel quite chagrined over the failure of their venture, for they had made such thorough investigations before making their plans known that they felt reasonably sure of success.

In 1872 it was announced that coal had been found three miles north of Mason in Alaiedon Township, and for a time considerable excitement prevailed, but the mining idea soon died out, and was not revived until in November, 1874, when the following item appeared in the Ingham County News:

"The prospects for a successful venture in coal mining on the Brown farm in Alaiedon seem now to be good. About two years ago there was considerable stir raised about this mine, and Brown succeeded in leasing his farm to an eastern miner who predicted that there was valuable deposits of coal there.

"Later the party, for some reason, seemed to become discouraged about the matter, and forfeited the amount he had advanced to Mr. Brown to secure the lease.

"It was thought then, and has so been considered since, that the mine was a failure, but Mr. James Jenkins, of Jackson, has recently prospected in different places on this farm, and becoming convinced that there is a good show for coal has leased the farm of Brown.

"Mr. Jenkins is a miner of experience, having been mining captain of the Woodville Mine at Jackson for seven years. He claims that he has got as 'good a thing' as there is in the State,

and refuses to sell any interest in the mine, although we are told he has had good offers to induce him to part with some of it. About seven tons have already been taken out, and the coal pronounced the best Michigan coal yet found, and equally as good as that produced in Pennsylvania.

"The vein that is now being worked is about four feet thick, lies about twenty feet below the surface, and can be taken out with little expense."

The following is a clipping from the Jackson Patriot which appeared about the same time as the above:

"Coal-Mr. James Jenkins called yesterday and left us a sample of the coal being taken out near Mason. It is of a firm, close character, and can hardly be surpassed by any in the State. He took north last night a force of miners to begin work on the mine, which is situated three miles north of Mason."

COAL IN AURELIUS.

Some time during the '70's there was good prospects for a coal mine on the farm of Rose Sanders, one-half mile east of the Barnes school house in Aurelius. A vein of coal three feet four inches thick was discovered underlying many acres of land. This was examined by experts and pronounced a good quality of cannel coal, but did not prove to be a paying proposition any more than the others.

Again in 1888 coal was found on the farm of D. P. Whitmore; the vein was twenty-two inches thick and thirty feet below the surface of the ground.

In 1911 while workmen were digging a well on the premises of Mrs. Albert Butler in the southeastern part of Mason, just east of Sycamore Creek, there were found indications of coal deposits, and again there was a ripple of excitement, and it was said some prospecting would be done, but the matter fell through without anything being done.

A talk with the State Geologist in 1916 about these schemes of early days in regard to Ingham county's mines, brought forth the remark that there was no doubt about this part of Michigan being

underlaid with a coal strata, but the quantity or Quality would not tempt experts to make any effort to go into the mining business, in fact, said in substance that "the game would not be worth the candle" under present conditions.

In 1893 the coal question in Ingham county received an added impetus when in digging a well on the A. D. Hawley farm in Vevay township there was found a vein of coal six feet in thickness. This part of the county, which lies exactly between the well known mines of Corunna and Jackson, gives strong indications of the existence of coal, and causes the land owners to feel sure that their efforts to uncover coal in paying quantities will be successful. Messrs. L. S. Bates and L. J. Lincoln are so firmly convinced that coal is to be found that they have leased 800 acres of land in the southeastern part of Vevay, three miles from Mason, and will at once begin prospecting. Their leases give them the privilege of boring for and mining coal, and if they find veins two feet thick they will continue to work. The farms are owned by A. D. Hawley, Jesse Gray, Ira Teall, Selwin Bush, Dennis Stevens, W. S. Chalker, F. Searle and others, all of whom are long since dead, but not until their hopes of fruitful coal mines had died before their eyes.

WILLIAMSTON COAL DEPOSITS,

Williamston Enterprise, March 13, 1918.

At the regular meeting of Williamston Lodge No. 205, I. O. O. F., last Thursday evening Thomas M. Jenkins gave a very interesting talk on the coal deposits of Williamston and anecdotes in connection with the mining thereof.

Among other things, he described how, during his recent operations here, the miners working for him broke through into the old workings of thirty-six to forty years ago. The shaft put down by Mr. Jenkins was not far from the old shaft which had been filled with water for nearly forty years. His miners, however, worked in a different direction for many months and did not come near the old workings, but finally in attempting to reach another pocket- of coal their tunnel broke into the old mine. There was

a head of about nine feet of water, and the men were pretty soaked for a time, but they managed to get out without injury.

The workings were then pumped out and the miners made explorations into the tunnels which had been the scene of much activity forty years ago.

Mr. Jenkins stated that among other things they found some partially squared timbers that had been taken into the mine, probably two score years ago. These were floating about in the water and were as sound as when they were put into the mine. Some had the bark still on them, and this was as stringy and tough as though it had just been cut. The other timbers used in the shaft and for props were found to be in almost perfect condition. In operating the mines here Mr. Jenkins states that he has never found any black damp except in the tunnels of the old workings.

An interesting story was related by him in reference to, the stripping operations which were carried on when he first started in work here. The earth was being removed to a depth of six or eight feet to uncover a vein of coal which lay near the surface. While removing this earth a chunk of coal was discovered which was entirely surrounded by earth similar to that being removed, though it was several feet, nearer the surface than the vein they were uncovering. The chunk was about a foot square and two and one-half feet long. The earth about it had never been disturbed by man, and the question was, how the coal came to be in that position? It seems to have been a very striking illustration of glacial float deposit, the coal not being in a natural position with its "feet" down, but turned up instead.

Mr. Jenkins states that when coal lies in its natural state underneath it are impressions something like feet or roots running out almost flat and directly beneath the coal. These *can very frequently* be observed, though not always, and the float above referred to was not in a natural position.

COAL VEIN DISCOVERED BY WEBBERVILLE DITCHER.

Burned With Intense Heat in Cook Stove.

1919.

Last week while Archie Hawley, of Webberville, was digging a drain near the village he run into a vein of coal; taking some of the newly discovered article home and putting it into the cook stove he found it burned with an intense heat and very little smoke. It undoubtedly is a part of the vein which underlies the whole section of that part of the country.

A short time ago Guy Haskins was digging a drain on the George Millis farm near Webberville and found a large deposit of shale, resembling that used for glazing tile and brick. Mr. Millis submitted a sample of it to a company in Jackson, who pronounced it first class, and predicted that if it was there in quantity a brick and tile factory would be built in Webberville in the near future.

An Indian dance as described in the *Ingham County News* for August 5, 1875, and signed "Pioneer." Not even the location was given.

"The representation of an Indian dance in Barnum's show in Lansing on July 5, was quite a tame affair compared with one I witnessed in this county (Ingham) in the fall of 1897. There were about 200 of the redskins present. Our Indians, that is those encamped in our vicinity for the winter, numbering about 50, commenced preparations for a two day feast several days previous to the appointed festive time by clearing a piece of ground, about 40 by 200 feet, of every obstruction, cutting the few small trees that grew on the otherwise smooth and level plat of ground close to the surface of the earth.

"Then crotched sticks were driven into the ground lengthwise of the cleared plat, leaving them about fifteen inches above the earth, and on these poles were placed. White ash wood cut about two feet long and split fine was then placed with one end on the ground and the other leaning against the poles. The meats for the feast had already been prepared. On the day preceding

the dance the Indians came in squads from every direction and pitched their tents in a very different way from that of Barnum's showmen.

In the forenoon of the first day of the feast two squaws received all the guns, tomahawks, axes, knives-in'fct every implement of any such character, and carried them into a tamarack swamp close by where they stacked them up in a hidden place. These squaws kept themselves aloof from the festivities of the day. About two o'clock the feast commenced and lasted until dark. Then the long line of wood was set on fire and the dance, or hop, jump and whoop began, the Indians chasing one another round and round the fire, making as great a variety of sounds expressive of glee as the human tongue can utter. And such antics! I will not attempt a description, for words fail me. Some that became weak-kneed from the use of too much fire-water fell down and were run over by the others before they were able to get up and crawl away. This continued until the fire burned down and out, when those that were able went to their wigwams. The next morning the two squaws that had taken care of the weapons the previous day delivered them on the dance grounds. Two other squaws removed them to the swamp again, hiding them in a different place, and like their predecessors took no part in the play of that day, which was simply a repetition of the previous one. In a few days the visiting parties returned to their own hunting grounds, and the pow wow came to an end."

From the Ingham County News for October 22, 1674. MASON, Michigan.

"We suppose the greater part of the community, as we were until a few weeks ago, are ignorant of the fact that a mint manufactory is being carried on quite successfully about two miles north of this village, on what is known as the Lansing road. There is such a distillery being carried on by Charles Mead, who moved into this State from New York about two years ago. Before coming here he followed the same business of distilling to some extent. He carries, on this business in connection with his farming and makes it quite profitable. He is willing to talk about his mode of operation and gave us a couple of bottles containing samples of his peppermint and spearmint, which look as clear and

strong as any we have ever seen. We don't care to divide with our readers the contents of the bottle, but will try to be liberal with the information we received.

"For distilling there is a large, tight wooden box or vat, into which the herbs to be distilled are put. This sets over a large sheet iron pan for holding water, and this rests on an arch in which the fire is built. The bottom of the vat is filled with holes through which the steam enters and permeates the herbs. The only way the steam can escape is through the worm that rests in a tub of cold water near the vat, one end fastened to the box containing the herbs. In passing through the worm, which is a coiled pipe forty feet long, the steam condenses and the oil and water flow into a receiver placed ready for them. The oil rises to the top and is dipped off, bottled, and is then ready for market.

Mr. Mead says it is very little trouble to raise the herbs for these oils, and the expense of distilling them is not heavy. The average yield is from twenty to thirty pounds of oil to the acre, and at \$5.00 per pound he felt well paid. From two acres set out this year he realized 52½ pounds of oil, which was a small yield owing to the dryness of the season. He has four acres sowed out, peppermint, spearmint, fire-weed and golden-rod."

Then follows an appeal from Mr. Mead to the farmers of this section to enter into this work, as he thinks they could find no easier way to make money than by raising herbs and having them distilled.

About 1900 Earl Lee came into Aurelius Township from Athens, Mich., and purchased what was known as the McRobert farm. Finding some of his land well adapted to raising mint, he put several acres under cultivation and installed a distillery, where he manufactured peppermint oil for a few years, making a very satisfactory product. A few years later he sold the farm, and the business was abandoned.

HORSE STEALING IN INGHAM COUNTY.

Although it is the object of the compiler of this volume to only bring the history of the county down to Civil War times, there are some stories of early days which have their ending in the present

time, and the history would be incomplete without taking it in its natural sequence.

In O. W. Howe's "Chronicles of Break o' Day" he uses many historical facts as a basis for his story, tells of the "Jerusalem Wagon" (mentioned elsewhere in this volume), the Bohemian Oats scandal which was the main topic of conversation for some years, and the depredations of organized bands of horse thieves that had their strongholds in the swamps in the southern part of this county. An article which appeared in the Leslie **Local-Republican** in 1895 forms a sort of sequel to the story told by Mr. Howe, and is as follows:

"**The** historical Johnson swamp, four miles west of Leslie, is the famous Johnson swamp to which **people** came from all directions and from miles around in big wagons to pick the berries found **there** in **great** profusion.

"Since the 'Chronicles of Break o' Day' appeared there has been some discussion as to the part Onondaga contributed to the romance. Many interesting details have, unfortunately, been forgotten, but the Local-Republican, as correctly as possible, and as fully as it has been able to gather it presents **the** fragmentary traditional history on which certain chapters of Mr. Howe's novel are based.

"In the spring of 1850 Rev. William Jones moved from Waterloo Township, Jackson county, to what is now known as the Jones farm, three and one-half miles west of Leslie. He owned a large, powerful dog, which had bull blood, and 'was very ferocious. In the night, just after he had retired, when the boxes, barrels and miscellaneous traps that had been brought by wagon were still on the porch and scattered around the yard, he heard the dog growl from his newly-found den under the porch.

"Mr. Jones called to him to 'be still.' The animal continued his growling, and at last barking angrily advanced into the yard, He was quieted by Mr. Jones, who had gone to the door, fearing that the dangerous brute might attack an innocent passer-by, It was about midnight when the occupants of the house heard a horse running furiously along the road to the eastward, The next morning Onondaga Township was wild over the announcement that a horse had been stolen from Elmer D. Hunt, who lived on the farm now owned by Thomas Symonds. Although Hunt

spent the price of the horse, and that was no mean figure, he never recovered his stolen property.

"The Johnson swamp was then as wild and lonely a spot as could be found in central Michigan. At all times of the year, except the very hottest months of summer, it was surrounded by a zone of water which was waist deep. Its bushes in many places were so thick that a person 'in the midst of them could see but a few feet ahead, Berry pickers often searched for hours before reaching dry land.

"**During** the term of the Ingham County Circuit Court, which was held early in 1861, a large portion of the cases were criminal and had come from the township of Onondaga. Those legal giants, Austin Blair and Henry H. Shaw, were arrayed against each other in contests, the earnestness and bitterness of which must make them long memorable. Then it transpired that this accumulation of criminals from one township was not accidental. According to the confession of Peter Waggoner, he belonged to a gang organized for purposes of robbery and theft, But the trials ended without a single conviction, They were not, however, without their result. They broke up the organization that had so terrorized the community, They furnished local history that has been narrated with zest for more than fifty years."

As the years rolled on horse thieving continued, and occasionally an animal was taken that was never again heard from, the general belief being that some gang was operating and the horses were securely hidden in the impenetrable swamps of southern Michigan and northern Indiana, until the time came when it was considered safe to dispose of them.

One of the most interesting incidents connected with the series of horse thieving in southern Michigan occurred in Mason in October, 1885. The first the public knew of this event was when John C. Squiers, of this city, then deputy sheriff of Ingham county, issued the following notice:

"Stolen. \$60.00 Reward!

Span large bay work horses and lumber wagon.

"From pasture of Ira Adams, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles southwest of Mason, Mich., on the evening of October 1, 1885, one pair work horses, viz: One four-year old bay horse with no white hairs, weight 1,400 pounds. About 17 hands high, black mane and tail.

"Other, bay mare, weighs about 1,300, white snip, right hind foot white, a peculiar white spot on one hip, small star in forehead, about 12 years old. Both horses shod in front, barefoot behind,

"The same night the same thief stole from John S. Sweet, in the southwest corner of Delhi Township, this county, one Coquillard lumber wagon, sold and warranted by Knapp and Carr of Eaton Rapids. Six unmarked grain bags in wagon.; The thief is evidently making north to the pinery, Last heard of him he was in Eaton county going north.

"I will pay \$25 for the thief locked in any jail in the State, also \$25 for the horses and \$10 for wagon and bags.

"J. C. Squiers, Deputy Sheriff, Mason, Ingham Co., Mich."

On the morning of October 2 Mr. Adams went to the pasture to get his team in order to take some friends to the early train going north through Mason, and not finding them thought at first they might have wandered from his place during the night, but when he was looking for them he found that a neighbor on an adjoining farm had discovered that a part of his harness was gone, and a few hours later he learned of the theft of the wagon and grain bags, and decided that his horses formed a part of that outfit that was seen traveling West. The trail was followed as far as the Eaton county line and there the travel of the morning had destroyed it.

It was reported that the thieves had headed for the north woods, and the hunt was directed that way. Descriptions of the horses were sent in every direction, the peculiar markings of one of the animals leading to the belief that it could be easily identified. Although it was understood that there was a lair for horse thieves in northern Indiana, in what has since been known as "The Limberlost country," not much attention was paid to that fact as the course taken by the thieves was in the opposite direction,

When five days had passed without anything being heard of the missing horses, Mr. Adams gave up all hope of ever seeing them again, but on the morning of the sixth day a peculiar incident occurred,

A farmer living near Kalamazoo happened to wake about one o'clock at night, and as he turned his eyes toward the window, to his surprise, he saw someone light a match at the door of his barn across the road. With the thought of, incendiaries in mind, he called his hired man and they started out to investigate.

Tied to the corner of the barn they found a team hitched to a lumber wagon, that was loaded with boxes, and they could hear someone stumbling around inside of the barn. They stationed themselves where they could capture the intruder when he came out, They got their man, and when they asked him what he was doing there at that time of night he said he was driving across country and was delayed, so thought he would stop and get a feed for his team. The farmer did not believe the story, and refused to accept the pay the man offered him, saying that an officer lived next door and they would call on him and talk the matter over.

They started down the road with their prisoner between them, when he asked the privilege of taking off his overcoat so he could walk more easily.

They consented, and as the stranger slipped from his coat he slipped from their grasp at the same time, and disappeared in the darkness.

Having heard of the loss of the Ingham county farmer, the man at once notified Mr. Squiers, who when he reached there thought it was not the team he wanted, for there was no white spots on either horse, but a close investigation showed that all whiteplaces had been carefully colored, and by removing the dye the team was easily identified. The boxes in the wagon were found to contain goods which had been stolen from a store in Potterville a few weeks before, and the trip the thieves made after these was what led them to drive north and put their pursuers off the track. After all it is the small things which sometimes count, and the glimmer of a match, in this case, led to the Kalamazoo farmer getting \$60 reward, and the owners of the stolen property getting their belongings back.

Had the driver of the team continued his journey until morning he would have reached the fastnesses of the "thieves Paradise" in the Limberlost swamp, and could have disposed of his loot at his leisure, Now, with all that land cleared and drained, the thieving gangs seem to have gone out of business, though for years there has been an occasional theft of the kind, in some instances the animals dropping from sight forever, and again the owner being fortunate enough to recover his property before some thieves haven had been reached,