

GRAND BLANC.

GRAND BLANC, the oldest township organization in Genesee County, is situated upon the south border, and is designated by the United States survey as township No. 6 north, range No. 7 east.

Its boundaries on the north, east, and west are the respective townships of Burton, Atlas, and Mundy, in Genesee County, and Oakland County on the south.

The surface is a rolling upland. Originally, the northern part was covered with dense forests of the deciduous trees so common to Michigan, while the central and southern parts of the township afforded a fair representation of the lands called hazel-brush openings.

Thread River, its principal water-course, takes its rise in Oakland County, and flowing to the northwest, leaves the town near the centre of the north border. This stream in its course affords good water-power privileges, which are not utilized, and, with its numerous small tributaries, renders feasible the complete system of ditching and drainage now being adopted where swampy lands exist.

Grand Blanc Lake includes a small portion of section 31; Slack's Lake, of sections 34 and 35. A small lake of some 20 acres in extent, called Smith Lake, is situated upon section 22. Numerous springs are found in various parts of the township, some of them quite strongly impregnated with magnesia.

The soil is of an excellent quality, and consists of a dark, sandy, and gravelly loam, alternating with clay loam and alluvial deposits of a vegetable character.

Peat beds are found in some portions of the township, also brick and potter's clay of a good quality. Iron ore, in small quantities, exists in the northwest and central parts.

The people are agriculturists chiefly, the staple products being live stock, wool, pork, corn, fruits, and the various cereals. In the cultivation of winter wheat they are especially successful.

The population in 1874 was 1389.

LAND-ENTRIES.

The first entry for land in township 6 north, range 7 east, was made by William Thompson and Charles Little, of Livingston Co., N. Y., and Samuel B. Perkins, from Ontario Co., N. Y.; all of whom made purchases at the same date, viz.: June 17, 1824.

Thompson's purchase embraced the northeast quarter and east half of the southeast quarter of section 9, and the southwest quarter of section 10, in all a tract of 500 acres, Little's the southeast quarter of section 15; while Perkins chose the west half of the northwest quarter of the same section. All of section 15 was taken up prior to July 4, 1829. Edmund and Rowland B. Perry purchased the east

half of the southwest quarter of section 11 Oct. 20, 1825, and the east half of the northwest quarter of section 14 eight days later. Other early entries were by Augustus M. Dutton, on section 11, Sept. 15, 1827; Edward H. Spencer, section 9, May 25, 1827; Simeon M. Perry, section 14, Sept. 25, 1827; Caleb Embury, sections 12 and 23, June 2, 1829; Caleb S. Thompson, section 23, June 2, 1829; George E. Perry, section 13, June 3, 1829; same, on section 12, Sept. 25, 1829; Jonathan Dayton and Ezekiel R. Ewing, on section 9, June 2, 1829; Charles Butler, the northeast quarter of section 35, Oct. 12, 1830.

The following list, arranged by sections, embraces the names of those who purchased in this township from the government:

Section 1, 1836: * Jacob Snapp, Rowland B. Perry, Norman Burgess, Warren Annable, Sylvester Day, Samuel Day, Francis G. Macy, Alvah Bishop, William Fairhurst.

Section 2, 1835: Samuel Colby, Xury Williams, Elihu Remington, William W. Paul, William Roberts, Rowland B. Perry, David Lyon, Samuel Thompson, Francis G. Macy.

Section 3, 1832: Alfred Brainard, Alvah Brainard, John Remington, Peter Van Tiffin, Uriah Short, William Allen, Elihu Remington.

Section 4, 1828: John Tupper, Jonathan Kearsley, Jonathan Davison, Alfred Brainard, Oliver Short, Justus Smith.

Section 5, 1832: Edward Brooks, Alonzo Ferris, Justus Smith, Chauncey Chapin, Tobias Stoutenburgh, Nicholas Bowns, Benajah Tupper, Nathaniel Ladd.

Section 6, 1835: Joseph M. Irish, Grant Watkins, Tracy W. Burbank, Zenas Goulding, James A. Kline, John A. Kline, William Blades.

Section 7, 1835: James H. Williams, Thomas Beals, Nathan Watkins, Arthur L. Ellsworth, Horace W. Bronson, Chauncey Bronson, John W. Moore, Erastus Webber.

Section 8, 1833: Daniel R. Williams, Philander Williams, Abial L. Shaw, William Blades, John Richards, Asa Bishop, Charles D. W. Gibson, Elisha S. Frost, Thomas Sheldon, Ira Davenport.

Section 9, 1824: William Thompson, Edward H. Spencer, Jonathan Dayton, Ezekiel R. Ewing, Polly Dayton, George Dibble.

Section 10, 1824: William Thompson, Jeremiah Ketchum, Ellis Miner, Joseph McFarlen, Jr., Amasa Short, John Richards, John Remington.

Section 11, 1825: Edmond and Rowland B. Perry, Augustus M. Dutton, John P. Fritz, Xury Williams, Gilbert Phelps, Thomas Barger, Simeon M. Perry.

* The figures denote the year of the first purchase upon each section.

Section 12, 1829: Caleb Embury, George E. Perry, Pearson Farrar, John I. Carr, George E. Perry, Sylvester Day, Joseph Charters.

Section 13, 1829: George E. Perry, Nehemiah T. Burpee, Thomas Cartwright, William Fairhurst, Samuel C. Robinson, William Collins, Silas Titus.

Section 14, 1825: Edmond and Rowland B. Perry, Simeon M. Perry, Benjamin Perry, Cyrus Baldwin, Edmond Perry, Jr., Ira Davenport.

Section 15, 1824: Charles Little, Samuel B. Perkins, Eurotas P. Hastings, Henry Howard, George E. Perry, Jeremiah W. Riggs.

Section 16: School-lands.

Section 17, 1833: Philander Williams, Sephrona Straw, Daniel Williams, Asa Bishop, Nathan P. Wells, Frederick F. Riggs, Gilbert Phelps, Amos Hallock, Augustus W. Hovey.

Section 18, 1835: Othniel Williams, Asa Bishop, Horace W. Bronson, Chauncey Bronson, Ira Justin, John W. Moore, James M. Wilcox.

Section 19, 1836: Gilbert Phelps, Almira Phelps, James W. Wilcox, James I. Opp, Ely T. Marsh, Alfred Putnam, Prentice Yeomans.

Section 20, 1835: John Tupper, Silas Smith, James M. Wilcox, Gurdon G. Cook, Ira Davenport, Seth Beckwith, James Adams.

Section 21, 1834: John H. Waterous, Jeremiah R. Smith, Lucy Roberts, William Roberts, Gershom Lewis, Ira Davenport, Seth Beckwith, Russell Bates.

Section 22, 1829: Jeremiah W. Riggs, Silas Smith, Moses H. Lyon, Phineas Thompson, Elbridge N. Johnson, Washington Thompson, Jeremiah R. Smith, Silas Smith, Edward Parsons.

Section 23, 1829: Caleb Embury, Caleb S. Thompson, Washington Thompson, Hiram Stevens, Robt. McCartney, David Forsyth.

Section 24, 1834: Caleb S. Thompson, John M. Winegar, Caleb Embury, Russell Forsyth, William Collins.

Section 25, 1834: Nicholas West, Leonard Carlton, Jean Pier Dat, Alanson P. Hurd, Wilson McCarty, Phineas Thompson, Samuel Thompson.

Section 26, 1831: Robert McCarty, Sarah Miller, Ira Dayton, Reuben T. Dayton, Emmons Owen, Moses P. Butler, Charles C. Hascall, Samuel Thompson.

Section 27, 1832: John M. Coe, Levi Parsons, Moses P. Butler, Peter De Graff, Joseph P. Worden, Stephen Grant.

Section 28, 1832: David M. Lawrence, Charles Little, Edward Parsons, Gurdon Waterous, Robert Pollock, Hiram Brown.

Section 29, 1835: Alpheus Chapman, Nelson H. Emmons, Abial L. Shaw, Barrage Rice, Levi Parsons, Joel Rice, Ira Davenport, Hiram Brown.

Section 30, 1835: Daniel R. Williams, David La Rue, Levi Parsons, Ira Davenport, Eliza Ripson, Ely T. Marsh.

Section 31, 1835: James Van Valkenburgh, Henry Straight, Caleb Embury, David La Rue, David Handy.

Section 32, 1831: Paul G. Davison, William Eames, Alvah Kennedy, Caleb Embury, Henry Brusie, Samuel Thompson.

Section 33, 1832: Benjamin Chase, John H. Waterous, Nathaniel Wood, Lewis Kennedy, Gurdon Waterous, Ira Davenport.

Section 34, 1835: Peter De Graff, David Butts, Charles Butler, Samuel Thompson, Ira Davenport, Jacob Parsons.

Section 35, 1830: Charles Butler, Ezekiel R. Ewing, John Butler, Marston W. Richards, Mary Booge, Samuel Thompson.

Section 36, 1830: Charles and John Butler, John M. Coe, Anson Dayton, Caleb Embury, Charles C. Hascall, Samuel Thompson.

FIRST SETTLEMENTS.

Jacob Stevens and family, the first white family to reside in Grand Blanc township, and in all the territory now known as Genesee County, came from the State of New York, and arrived at Detroit during the month of August, 1822. The family consisted of Mr. Stevens and wife, sons Rufus W. and Sherman, and daughters Eunice, Martha, Charlotte, Elizabeth, and another daughter, the youngest, then some six years of age, whose name is now unknown.

They first settled in Oakland County, on the old Saginaw trail, about twenty-five miles northwest of Detroit. Here they remained until the following spring, built a log house, dug a well, and made other improvements; but, finding that the title to the land they were upon was defective, they sold out their improvements to Oliver Williams, the future father-in-law of Rufus W., and removed to Grand Blanc in the spring of 1823.

Mr. C. P. Avery, in his history of the Saginaw Valley, speaks of Jacob Stevens as follows: "He was a true type of the gentlemen of the old school, to whose moral and physical courage as a pioneer was united a rare intelligence marked by a literary taste, showing itself conspicuously even in the few scattered remnants of his correspondence which have come down to this day."

The following interesting letter, written by Mr. Stevens while his was the only white family in the present town of Grand Blanc, will prove of great interest to many readers, as it preserves to present generations facts of history which otherwise would have been lost:

"GRANBLAW, July, A.D. 1825.

"HONORED PARENTS,—The period since I wrote you I acknowledge is a long one; and I have not sufficient reasons to offer to justify so shameful a neglect. Various, indeed, have been the changes and vicissitudes of my life since that time. An attempt to describe them in a single letter would be unavailing. No family, perhaps, the size of mine can have enjoyed better health, say for twenty years past. Our doctors' bills have scarcely exceeded that number of dollars.

"I sold my farm in Lima, soon after the close of the war, for \$4000. I was some in debt, and my intention was to have waited a few years to see what the turn of the times might be, and then purchase somewhere quite within the bounds of my capital; but fate or fortune determined otherwise. The family soon became uneasy at having no permanent home of their own. Indeed, I disliked a state so inactive to myself, and determined to purchase, and did, to nearly the amount of my money. It was well laid out, but at a bad time.

"I was sensible a depreciation on property must take place, but put it off till by and by, and some way or other was blind to its approach. The farm admitted of great improvements being made, and a good house among the rest would be very convenient; and, accordingly, the best means we had were taken to procure materials, viz.: stone, brick, lumber, etc. About this time the amazing fall in the value of real estate, as well as of all other property, and the many complaints



CHARLES DE WITT GIBSON.



MRS. ARTEMISIA GIBSON.

CHARLES DE WITT GIBSON.

Charles De Witt Gibson was one of the earliest of the pioneer business men of Genesee County. His long, active career and intimate connection with the development and improvement of the county from the time it was almost an unbroken wilderness, peopled almost exclusively by Indians and wild animals, with here and there at long distances apart an embryo settlement of a few hardy and adventurous pioneers, make it proper and fitting that he should occupy a conspicuous place in the annals of a county in which for forty-two years he had borne so distinguished a part.

The ancestors of Mr. Gibson were of Welsh and Irish origin, and settled in the United States at an early date. John Gibson, the father of our subject, was a native of Montgomery Co., N. Y., where, in early life, he was married to Catharine Wason, of the same county. They reared a family of nine children,—five sons and four daughters,—of whom Charles De Witt was the second son. He was born at Palatine, Montgomery Co., on the 4th day of January, 1800. His boyhood was spent in assisting his father in the labors of farm life, and in obtaining a limited common-school education. He also learned the trade of cabinet-making. After reaching his majority he started out for himself, went to Western New York, and settled at Avon, Livingston Co., where he engaged in cabinet making. Here he became acquainted with Miss Artemisia Frost, daughter of Elisha and Artemisia Frost, old residents of Lima, in the same county. This acquaintance ripened into courtship and marriage, and they were united on the 11th day of August, 1831. Soon after his marriage Mr. Gibson began to look with longing eyes to the new and unsettled territories lying west of Lake Erie, which at that time presented a fine field for the activity and enterprise of the daring adventurer.

Accordingly, in 1833, he left home with the purpose of securing a location somewhere in the Territory of Michigan. He finally decided on settling in the interior. He purchased at second-hand one hundred and sixty acres on which there was a small improvement, and soon after two hundred and forty acres more of the government, in the present township of Grand Blanc, Genesee Co. He then returned to New York and purchased a stock of goods, which he shipped to the Territory, and then with his wife and child, his widowed mother, and a sister, came on to the new home in the wilderness. They were also accompanied by Chauncey S. Marvin, now deceased, who was for many years an inmate of Mr. Gibson's family. After his arrival Mr. Gibson opened a store and sold goods to the few early settlers, and traded with the Indians, who at that time were very numerous. Besides selling goods and clearing off and improving his lands, he in a few years became extensively engaged in other enterprises, such as building and running saw-mills, sheries, etc. He was also for many

years engaged in the purchase and sale of lands in various parts of the State, both for himself and as the agent of others, and throughout his long and active life was uniformly successful in his business undertakings. His keen insight into the motives that govern human nature, sound, practical judgment, shrewdness, sagacity, and ripe experience in so many branches of business, united to unflinching integrity, honorable dealing, and unassuming manners, commanded the unlimited confidence and esteem of all; and he was known all his life as a man whose word was as good as his bond.

Besides conducting and managing his many business interests, he at various times served his town and county as magistrate, supervisor, county treasurer, etc., and in all positions of trust and responsibility acquitted himself with satisfaction to his constituents. During his life he lost many thousand dollars by fire and otherwise, but at his death there still remained a handsome fortune for his widow and children. He was for many years a member of the order of Odd-Fellows, and in religious faith was a Protestant, with ultra-liberal views of the Unitarian and Universalist type. Mr. Gibson lived to the age of nearly seventy-seven years. His death occurred on the 3d day of May, 1876, his being the only death in the family since that of an infant daughter forty years before,—a remarkable fact in a family of eleven children.

The memory of Mr. Gibson is fondly cherished in the hearts of his children and bereaved wife, and although the kind and indulgent father, the tender and affectionate husband is no longer here, the wise counsels, useful lessons, pure life and example of one of nature's noblemen is ever present with them. A far richer legacy is an honorable name and blameless life than silver and gold, or houses and lands.

Mrs. Gibson, who is still a remarkably fine looking and intelligent lady, has nobly performed her full share of life's duties to her husband and children, and is held in great esteem by a large circle of warm and admiring friends and relatives. She resides at the old home, in the midst of kind friends and pleasant surroundings, in the peace and tranquillity of a long life well spent. Mrs. Gibson and her deceased husband were the parents of eleven children, named as follows: Thornton W., Jane W., Charles F., Chauncey W., Caroline A., Corodon De Witt, John E., Mary A., Sarah J., Frances A., and Stanford S. All of whom are now living except Jane W., who died in infancy, and all are married except Mary and Stanford, who reside with their mother at the old home.

This page, containing the portraits of this venerated old pioneer couple, with a brief notice of their life-work, will be greeted with pleasure and pride by all their old friends and acquaintances, and with love and reverence by their children and descendants.

from other people, whom I thought forehanded, but in debt to me, was alarming. I told Rufus (who seemed the boy destined to live at home) my fears, and I thought we had better sell off our lumber, etc., and endeavor to back out. Naturally ambitious, this idea he could not brook. He preferred to drive the building, and risk the consequences. We finally did, and it is only necessary to observe that it flung us completely in the background in bad times. Since that we have had many shifts, and but few shirts. Too proud to be poor among my old friends, I determined to try a new country again. Michigan seemed the most proper, being about the same latitude, and easiest of access. We arrived in Detroit the latter part of August, 1822, with about \$800 in cash and some other property. Misfortune, however, seemed unwilling to quit us at this point. Rufus had been in the country one year previous to this, and had contracted for a piece of land, second-handed, and had done considerable labor on the same. I did not altogether like the land, but concluded to make a stand and go to work. We built a good log house, dug a well, and made some other improvements, but before one year had passed we found we could get no title to the land. This place was about twenty-five miles northwest of Detroit [probably in the vicinity of Pontiac], and what to do in this case was a material question. Our expenses drew hard upon our little capital, and to spend more money and more time there was preposterous. Eventually, we agreed to try another venture. At this time there were troops stationed at Saginaw, a place about seventy-five miles northwest of Detroit, and on our route. A settlement had been commenced there, and the spirit of settlement seemed bent for the northwest. We sold our improvements to Mr. Oliver Williams, and took his notes for \$35 a year, for five years, reserving the use of the house for one year. In March, 1823, Rufus and I started to explore to the northwest. We were much pleased with the country and prospects at this place. The road thus far had no obstacles to impede a team with a reasonable load for any country, and at this time was considerably traveled by officers, Indians, traders, and settlers at Saginaw. We believed that an establishment here might not only be beneficial for ourselves, but convenient for travelers and emigrants.

"It is an old Indian settlement, situated about twenty miles from our first place, and about the same distance from the farthest white settlement northwest of Detroit. There are some French families seven miles northwest of us [Flint], and no more until we reach Saginaw. Rufus and I flung up a small log house, and on the 23d of May, 1823, Eunice, myself, two youngest children, Rufus and Sherman, with a good team, and as many goods as would make us comfortable, arrived here. We cleared, plowed, and sowed with wheat and oats about ten acres, completing the same June 10th.

"Mrs. Stevens and the children then returned, and one of the girls kept house, and so through the season. At this time we felt morally certain of having neighbors the next spring; but here, sir, I must inform you that the government saw fit the winter following to evacuate the post at Saginaw, which measure has, so far, completely paralyzed all settlements to the northwest, turning the tide of emigration, which has been very great, to the south and west. This was, indeed, very discouraging, but for us there was no fair retreat."

After speaking of his Indian neighbors, who were very friendly, he concludes as follows:

"Several purchases have lately been made of premises adjoining us, and we have little doubt, will be settled next spring; and preparations seem to be making once more for a settlement at Saginaw. We have this year 170 shocks of wheat and about 9 acres of corn, the stoutest growth of corn I ever raised. If nothing befalls, I anticipate 50 bushels to the acre. We have two yoke of oxen, two horses, five cows, plenty of hogs, and a number of young cattle; and such is the country that they keep fat summer and winter. The winters are surprisingly mild. Last winter, in fact, was no winter at all. We did not spend three tons of hay with all our stock. A large portion of the country is opening, and the cattle get their living in old fog and basswood sprouts in the swales. The greatest country for wild feed and hay I ever saw. We can summer and winter any number of cattle if we had them. Blue point is the principal grass in the low meadows. On the higher parts is found considerable red-top and foul meadow grass. *Jemima** has a family, and lives in the State of New

* *Jemima* (Mrs. Samuel B. Perkins), Horatio, and Augustus were children of Jacob Stevens, who remained in the State of New York.

York. Horatio and Augustus are merchants in that State. Horatio, I understand, is quite forehanded. Augustus is also doing well. Eunice and Charlotte are there at present on a visit. Patty keeps school this summer in the Territory. The rest of the family are in the woods."

The elder Stevens is described by those who saw him here in 1826 as a gentleman of fine proportions, about sixty years of age, who was then living in a comfortable log house which stood upon the site of Col. Sawyer's present residence. His son, Rufus W., had built a small log house upon the site of the present hotel, and was engaged in trade with the Indians,—trading whisky, tobacco, flints, cheap brooches, and such articles, for furs.

The log trading-house of Rufus W. Stevens was replaced in 1828 by a more pretentious one, the walls of which were constructed of timbers hewn square and placed upright side by side. This building, inclosed by clapboards, now forms part of the present Grand Blanc Hotel. He then, besides following his vocation as an Indian trader, became the post-master of Grumlaw, and opened the doors of his house to the public as a "place of entertainment."

Many Indians were still located herabouts. It is related by Mr. Brainard, in his pioneer sketches, that the Canadian government at this time gave every male Indian, young or old, a yearly bounty of fifty cents in silver, besides blankets, etc. On their return to Grumlaw they would spend it all with Stevens for whisky. To catch their half-dollars he sold them whisky for fifty cents per gallon. They would appoint one of their number to take charge of their guns, knives, and hatchets, whose duty it was to secrete the weapons and remain sober. A general drunk would be inaugurated, which lasted some two or three days, during which time they fought, shouted, and performed all manner of antics. Stevens would then begin to water the whisky he sold them, and by degrees they became sober. This was his way of getting rid of them.

In 1829, Rufus W. Stevens purchased a portion of section 19, in Burton township, and a year later, of Daniel Le Roy, a tract which adjoined his, though situated on section 18 in the same township. This place afterwards became noted as the Thread Mill property. A saw-mill was commenced by Stevens in 1830, and soon after a grist-mill was erected, which for years supplied all the people living between Pontiac and Saginaw.

The Stevenses never purchased of the government any lands situated in Grand Blanc. The land upon which they first settled was entered by Samuel B. Perkins, Jacob Stevens' son-in-law.

The elder Stevens, with the majority of his family, returned to New York about 1831, where was passed the remaining portion of his life. Rufus W. Stevens removed to Flint a few years later, and became identified with its interests. Sherman, the other son, was connected with the building of the first railroad between Detroit and Pontiac.

In October, 1825, Edmund and Rowland B. Perry entered lands situated upon sections 11 and 14. Rowland was a nephew of Edmund Perry. During the following February, the same, accompanied by Simeon and Eliza, children of Edmund, left Avon, Livingston Co., N. Y., and traveled through Canada with horse-teams to Detroit, thence by the Saginaw trail to Grand Blanc. They were

twenty-five days upon the road. Upon their arrival here they were received under the hospitable roof of Jacob Stevens, where they remained some four weeks, or until a house of their own could be erected. The Fourth of July, 1826, was celebrated by all the white inhabitants of Genesee County sitting down to a banquet spread under a cherry-tree which stood in Jacob Stevens' yard. Those assembled were entirely of the Stevens and Perry families.

In the fall of 1826 Edmund Perry returned to New York, and brought out with him the rest of his family, viz., his wife Mercy, and children Clarinda, Edmund, Jr., Seymour, Irene, Esther, and Manson. Edmund Perry, Sr., died Jan. 13, 1864, aged eighty-five years. He was a native of Rhode Island, and an educated Quaker. His great energy and force of character, united with his love for pioneer life, induced him to battle with the wilderness, clear a number of farms, then leave them to plunge again into the forests when neighbors became too plenty. He was a respected member of society, an excellent citizen, a kind friend, and believed in doing good without ostentation. His surviving sons were Simeon, Edmund, Seymour, and Manson. Isabella, a daughter of Simeon, was the first white child born in the county. Mary Perry, a daughter of Edmund, now the wife of Addison Armstrong, Esq., was born soon after.

Edward H. Spencer, from Windsor, Vt., purchased lands situated upon section 9, May 25, 1827, and became the next settler, during the same spring.

In the spring of 1828 William Roberts came into the settlement, also George E. Perry, from Connecticut, Judge Jeremiah Riggs, with his sons Augustus C., Frederick T., and others of a large family. They located where Phineas Thompson now resides, and purchased from the government a large tract of land. Augustus C. Riggs was the first constable and collector in the township, and for several years township clerk. It is related that at the time of his marriage a general invitation was extended to the citizens of Grand Blanc and its vicinity to attend the "infair."

At this gathering Sam Russell and his fiddle were particularly conspicuous, and during the festivities of the evening, while the merry party assembled were in the midst of a dance, the sleepers gave way, and the floor caved in, funnel-fashion, precipitating to the cellar beneath with their fair partners, Phineas and Caleb Thompson, Rowland B. and Simeon Perry, Jeremiah R. Smith, Jonathan Dayton, Joseph McFarlen, John Todd, and others. No bones were broken, but the party was, and the dance was terminated. Joseph McFarlen, who married Eveline, a daughter of Edmund Perry, Sr., in 1824, came from Rush, Monroe Co., N. Y., and settled in Grand Blanc during the month of May, 1828. He purchased a fine tract of land from the government, which he cleared, and where he resides at the present time. Mr. M. is eighty years of age; his wife seventy-seven. Jeremiah Ketchum came at about the same time. He boarded with Jacob Stevens, purchased land upon section 10, and died soon after, his being the first death in the township.

On the 9th day of June, 1829, Caleb S. Thompson, Jonathan Dayton, Caleb Embury, and Ezekiel R. Ewing came into the settlement. Ezekiel R. Ewing was from

Windham, Vt. He purchased land situated upon section 9, then returned to the East, and did not become a permanent settler until two years later.

Messrs. Embury, Thompson, and Dayton were from Livingston Co., N. Y. They also bought lands of the government, and settled the same year (1829).

Mr. Thompson, who is still a resident of the township, was married to Clarinda Perry, daughter of Edmund Perry, Sr., in 1830. He relates that at the time of his arrival here there were about forty-five persons in Grand Blanc, all of whom, with one or two exceptions, were from Avon, Livingston Co., N. Y. Edward H. Spencer had a rough log house, and about one acre cleared and planted to corn, potatoes, etc. The Stevenses had some forty acres under cultivation, and there were some fifty or sixty acres in cultivation in the Perry settlement. Judge Riggs and his sons had also made a good beginning. Thirteen lots lying along the Saginaw road, and seven lots on Perry Street, had already been purchased, and ten more eighty-acre lots were entered during the remaining part of the year 1829. The Saginaw road was laid out and staked so that it was easy to find it, but no work had been done upon it. The traveled highway, which followed the Indian trail, went rambling around through the woods, avoiding hills and swamps, and was quite a comfortable wagon-road. The streams and low places had been bridged some time previous by the United States soldiers stationed in garrison at Saginaw.

In the fall of 1829 Mr. Thompson returned to New York, and taught school the following winter. Feb. 22, 1830, he again began a journey to Michigan. He drove out an ox-team, and was twenty-five days on the road. His father, Washington Thompson, and brother Phineas, from Monroe Co., N. Y., became settlers in Grand Blanc the same year (1830).

Judge Jeremiah R. Smith, long a prominent man in the township, Silas Smith, R. T. Winchell, Clark Dibble, Thomas Cartwright, the first hatter, George Dibble, Jonathan Davison, and Pearson Farrar all settled prior to the winter of 1830-31.

In 1832 the settlement was still further increased by the arrival of John Tupper and sons,—Alden, Charles, Benjamin, Reuben, Newell, and Harrison, from Rush, Monroe Co., N. Y.; Uriah Short and sons, from Otsego Co., N. Y.; Alvah Bishop, Montgomery Co., N. Y.; Charles, John, and Moses P. Butler, from Genesee Co., N. Y.; Albert Miller, afterwards prominent as Judge Miller, of Bay City, Mich.; John P. Fritz, from Rush, Monroe Co., N. Y.; Amasa Short, a brother of Uriah, and soldier of 1812; Alfred and Alvah Brainard, from Monroe Co., N. Y. Mr. Alfred Brainard was prominent as one of the founders of the Baptist Church, and a respected citizen. Alvah Brainard, who died in April, 1879, claims to have erected the first frame dwelling-house in Grand Blanc without whisky, in March, 1833, and the first brick dwelling-house in Genesee County, July 4, 1850. During the last years of his life he prepared for publication a small pamphlet, entitled "A Pioneer History of Grand Blanc," wherein several amusing incidents are told in an amusing manner.

During the year 1833, Ellis Miner, Emmaus G. Owen,



S. D. HALSEY.



MRS. S. D. HALSEY.

SILAS D. HALSEY.

The family of Mr. Halsey dates back to an early period in the history of the settlement of the English colonies in this country. His father, Abraham Halsey, was born at Hanover, Morris Co., N. J., on the 19th day of February, 1764. He was married, in 1791, to Miss Nancy Beach. After his marriage he removed to Dutchess Co., N. Y., where he remained until his death, which occurred May 27, 1822, at fifty-eight years of age.

He became eminent as a physician, and was a man of great influence and consideration. His wife died in 1805, at thirty-eight years of age. She was the mother of Wm. E., Susan D., Samuel B., Abraham A., Silas D., and Electa D. The doctor's second wife was Lucretia Green; they were married in 1806. By this marriage there were no children. She survived the death of her husband but a short time, dying the same year.

Silas D. Halsey was born at Fishkill, Dutchess County, on the 22d day of November, 1801. His boyhood days were passed in the schools and on his father's farm until he came to manhood, when he left home and became a clerk for his brother-in-law, at the Rockaway Iron-Works, in New Jersey, where he remained until 1831. During this time he had become acquainted with Miss Stella A. Ross, of Rockaway. They were united in marriage on the 12th day of September, 1826. In 1832 he became a manager in the iron-works of William Scott, of Powerville, N. J., where he remained one year. He then removed to Avon, Livingston Co., N. Y., where he purchased a farm, upon which he settled, and from that time to the present farming has been his principal occupation.

At Avon Mr. Halsey was bereaved in the death of his loved wife and companion. She died on the 10th day of September, 1834, at the age of twenty-nine years. She was the mother of four children, named David R., Wm. J., Mary A., and Samuel P. Mary and Samuel are still living, and reside in Brooklyn, N. Y., the latter being the pastor of a Presbyterian church in that city. The death of his wife was a sore loss and affliction to Mr. Halsey, as he was left desolate and alone, with the care of three young children. Both inclination and necessity combined to provide a second mother for his little ones, and a companion to fill the vacancy in his heart and home. He sought and obtained the hand of Miss R. C. Pierson, the daughter of David and Huldah Pierson, old citizens of Avon.

They were united on the 11th day of February, 1835. In 1837, Mr. Halsey, having made an exchange of his farm in Avon for two hundred acres of wild land in the town of Grand Blanc, Genesee Co., Mich., removed his family to their new home. On his arrival he erected a log house, dug a well, and moved on to his land. The first season he cleared off three

acres, and from that time on he was busily engaged in clearing up and improving his new farm.

At the first town-meeting after his arrival he was elected assessor, which office he filled successively for the next seven years; he was then elected supervisor, and afterwards treasurer, and then again supervisor; and nearly all his life Mr. Halsey has served the public in some position of responsibility, with honor to himself and satisfaction to the public.

By his second marriage there are three children, named Amanda M., David P., and Sarah J. Amanda died at five years of age. David is married to Artemisia Watrous (daughter of John H. Watrous, an old settler of Grand Blanc). They reside at Flint, and he is the present county clerk; they have one child. Sarah is the wife of Charles J. Case, and they reside on their farm, adjoining that of Mr. Halsey, and they have two children.

In politics Mr. Halsey is a staunch Republican. In religious faith a Presbyterian, of which church he has been an honored member for over fifty years.

Mr. Halsey has always enjoyed the unlimited confidence and esteem of a large circle of acquaintances. A man of modest and unassuming manners, courteous and polite in social intercourse, charitable and tolerant to those with whom he differs in opinion, a kind and indulgent father, a tender and affectionate husband. He is honored by his friends, loved and revered by his relatives.

Mrs. Halsey has nobly redeemed her promise made at the marriage-altar, forty-four years ago. She has been to her husband a helpmate indeed, and has borne her full share of the labors and privations of a pioneer life, and to-day she enjoys that best reward of the fond and affectionate mother, — her children settled in comfortable homes and occupying honorable positions in society and in the esteem of their fellow-citizens. She was born at Avon, Livingston Co., N. Y., on the 11th day of November, 1811. She is still an active housewife and incessant worker, a member of the same church with her husband, and they together are walking hand in hand up the highway that leads to the Eternal City.

Mr. Halsey and his estimable wife, by industry and good management, have accumulated a comfortable competence for their declining years, and are to-day living in the peaceful enjoyment of the fruits of a well-employed life. Mr. Halsey, who is at this time seventy-eight years of age, still acts as notary-public, and transacts business for his neighbors with all the ability of his younger days.

This page, containing their portraits, and this brief notice of their life-work, is by them dedicated to the patrons of this work, and to their children and descendants, with their benediction.

and Josiah Owen, from Genesee Co., N. Y.; Gilbert Phelps, John and Elihu Remington, Peter Van Tiffin, Xury Williams, a soldier of 1812; Philander Williams, Daniel R. Williams, Othniel Williams, James H. Williams, all from Monroe Co., N. Y.; Dr. Cyrus Baldwin, the first resident physician, who was from Lysander, Onondaga Co., N. Y.; and Charles D. W. Gibson, a prominent and most worthy pioneer merchant, from Livingston Co., N. Y., settled in the township.

The year 1834 witnessed the settlement of Elbridge N. Johnson, from Massachusetts; Lewis and Alvah Kennedy, from Onondaga Co., N. Y.; John H. Waterous, Abial L. Shaw, and — Nobles, from Livingston Co., N. Y.; Charles Bates, Yates Co., N. Y.; Dr. John W. King, well known as one of the pioneer physicians of the county; Judge Samuel Rich, — Burrage, and Joel Rice, from Steuben County, N. Y.

Judge Rice was an early supervisor, and served his townsmen in that and various other official capacities for many years. He was also the first judge of probate in Genesee County. Mr. Nobles was the first wagon maker, and Mr. Shaw the first blacksmith. Together they made the first wagon ever manufactured in the county. The iron was procured from Detroit, and every screw was made by hand. This wagon was constructed in 1834.

In 1835, Messrs. Stage and Wright established the first store, Mr. Orrin Safford clerk. Their stock consisted of a general assortment, including drugs and medicines, and was valued at \$20,000. They continued here from October, 1835, to June, 1836, when the goods were removed to a building prepared for them in Flint River village.

Edward Parsons came from Marcellus, Onondaga Co., N. Y., in May, 1835, purchased land from the government, and immediately began an improvement. He built a small log house, which was situated near his present dwelling, and for several months kept bachelor's hall. His lonely condition in life afforded much amusement to his Indian neighbors as they repeated the words, "white man got wigwam, no squaw." Their remarks must have had a marked effect upon him, however, for we find that in 1836 he chose as a life-partner Miss Baldwin, a daughter of Dr. Cyrus Baldwin, and together they still continue life's journey, the centre of a wide circle of friends and relatives.

✓ The exodus from the northwestern counties of the State of New York to the wilds of Michigan, during the years from 1836 to 1840, was unprecedented. Districts and towns in the old State were almost depopulated by the emigration of a class of hardy yeomanry who desired cheap lands and homes of their own. Grand Blanc and adjacent towns received a due share of these settlers, among whom were Sylvester and Samuel Day, from Genesee County; James Adams, Warren Annable, William Allen, Tracy W. Burbank, William Blades, Thomas Beals, Asa Bishop, Thomas Barger, Russell Bates, David W. Butts, Chauncey Chapin, John J. Carr, William Collins, John M. Coe, Alpheus Chapman, Gurdon G. Cook, Ira Dayton, Peter De Graff, Anson Dayton, A. L. Ellsworth, William Eames, Alonzo Ferris, Russell Forsyth, Zenas Goulding, Amos Hallock, Adam C., John A., and James A. Kline, brothers; David Lyon, Nathaniel Ladd, Gershom Lewis,

David M. Lawrence, Robert Pollock, Levi Parsons, Jacob Parsons, Marston W. Richards, John Richards, Thomas Sheldon, Nathan Watkins, Grant Watkins, James M. Wilcox, Nicholas West, Joseph P. Worden, Nathaniel Wood, Gurdon Waterous, Walter Walker, from Monroe County; Henry Hoffman, Genesee County; John Burrington, England; Silas D. Halsey, Livingston County; George Rinehart, Ontario; David McNeil, Vermont; and Col. Edward Sawyer, from Canandaigua, N. Y. Mr. Sawyer, now about ninety-two years of age, resides upon the farm opened by Jacob Stevens in 1823. ✓

Asa W. Darling, from Ontario Co., N. Y., settled in the township in 1845; also at about the same time Addison Armstrong, Esq., the present postmaster, and senior member of the mercantile firm of Armstrong & Son, Grand Blanc; James Greattrack, from Livingston Co., N. Y., located in the southwestern part of the town in 1847.

The following alphabetical list embraces the names of all the resident tax-payers in the township in 1844:

Adams, James.	Goff, Charles W.
Allen, William E.	Goff, James M.
Allen, David B.	Gillman, Dudley.
Allen, Adin L.	Golden, Zenas.
Annable, John R.	Gamball, Joseph.
Abbott, Joshua K.	Gibson, Charles D. W.
Abbott, C. H.	Hempstead, Richard B.
Brainard, Eli.	Hamilton, Thomas J.
Boss, John S.	Hewett, Cyrus.
Burrington, John.	Hallock, Amos.
Bates, Charles.	Hallock, Harmon C.
Brainard, Alvah.	Hallock, Alfred.
Brainard, Gurdon S.	Hempstead, James.
Brainard, Alfred.	Halsey, Silas D.
Brown, Chauncey.	Hall, James.
Bardwell, Joel.	Harger, Stephen.
Bigelow, Hiram.	Hempstead, Peter.
Blades, William.	Jennings, Elisha O.
Bishop, Julian.	Johnson, Elbridge N.
Bishop, Asa.	Kennedy, Horace.
Butts, David W.	Kennedy, Lewis.
Butler, Moses P.	Kennedy, Alvah.
Butler, Charles.	Kempfield, Nehemiah.
Burbank, Tracy W.	King, James.
Chapel, Samuel B.	Kline, Adam C.
Chapel, William.	King, William.
Chapman, Alpheus.	King, John W.
Collins, William.	Kane, Francis.
Cartwright, Nathan.	Lewis, Gershom.
Chapin, Chauncey.	Ladd, Nathaniel.
Curtis, Samuel.	Lowden, Thomas.
Cartwright, Thomas.	Lyon, David.
Chapin, Barton B.	Long, Peter.
Cook, Gurdon G.	Lyon, William H. C.
Dayton, Jonathan.	Miner, Philo.
Dayton, Ira.	McFarlen, Joseph.
Dayton, Anson.	Main, Henry.
Dickinson, Luther.	Main, Henry V.
Day, Samuel.	McNeil, David.
Day, Sylvester.	Owen, Emmaus.
Embury, Caleb.	O'Donahue, James.
Eames, William.	Parsons, Edward.
Eckley, William.	Pollock, Major R.
Ferris, Alonzo.	Pettis, Charles.
Fritz, John P.	Perry, George E.
Farrar, Pearsons.	Perry, Rowland B.
Forsyth, Russell.	Perry, Edmund.
Forsyth, Orlando.	Perry, Edmund, Jr.
Fritz, Alfred T.	Perry, Simeon M.
Ferguson, Charles.	Perry, Seymour.
Goff, Sylvester D.	Pierson, Charles C.

Phelps, Gilbert.
Richards, Maaton W.
Remington, Elihu.
Remington, Levi.
Roberts, William.
Rice, Samuel.
Remington, John.
Russell, Nicholas.
Reed, John.
Shaw, Abial L.
Southworth, Edward.
Sheldon, Thomas.
Schram, Isaac.
Stephens, John.
Swift, Seth.
Smith, Silas.
Smith, Jeremiah R.
Sawyer, Edward.
Smith, Zar.
Seaver, Aaron.
Townsend, Abial.
Thompson, Phineas.

Thompson, Caleb S.
Tyler, Lewis S.
Turner, William.
Tupper, Newell.
Tupper, Benajah.
Van Valkenburgh, James.
Van Tiffin, Peter.
Woodworth, Amos.
Williams, Xury.
Wakefield, Daniel B.
Wood, John.
Williams, Othniel.
Walker, Walter.
Waterous, John H.
West, Nicholas.
Worden, Joseph P.
Williams, Philander.
Watkins, Grant.
Williams, Daniel.
Watkins, Nathan.
Watkins, Henry.

Alexander W. Davis was born in Westerlo, Albany Co., N. Y., Oct. 30, 1824. His father, Ebenezer Davis, removed to Lewiston, Niagara Co., N. Y., in 1826, and was one of the jurors during the trial before Judge Marcy of the Morgan abductors. In May, 1836, the family began a journey to Michigan via Canada to Detroit, thence by the Saginaw road to the region now known as Tuscola County, then Sanilac County. The place of their settlement was in the present township of Tuscola. They brought with them from New York a team of horses and two cows, which were the first owned in Tuscola County, and they were the second family to settle there, Mr. R. L. Hurd's being the first.

In 1844, Alexander W. Davis, the fifth child and fourth son of a family of fourteen children, came to Grand Blanc and commenced work for Jeremiah R. Smith, remaining with him for several years.

In April, 1847, he enlisted in Company A, 15th Regiment United States Infantry, and accompanied the regiment to Mexico, serving for a period of eighteen months, or until the close of the war. This regiment was commanded by Col. George W. Morgan, and assigned to Gen. Pillow's division. In the battle of Churubusco Davis was severely wounded. After the close of the war Mr. Davis returned to Grand Blanc, married the daughter of Joseph McFarlen, bought a farm, and, with the exception of two journeys to the Pacific coast in 1853 and 1873, has continued his residence here to the present time. He represented the First District of Genesee County in the State Legislature during the session of 1861-62, and has served as a justice of the peace for a long term of years.

CIVIL HISTORY.

By an act of the Legislative Council of the Territory of Michigan, approved March 9, 1833, the township of Grand Blanc was formed as follows: "All that district of country comprised in townships 5, 6, 7, and 8 north, in range 6 east, and townships 6, 7, and 8 north, in range 7 east, and townships 6 and 7 north, in range 8 east, shall form a township by the name of Grand Blanc; and the first township-meeting shall be held at the house of Rufus W. Stevens.

"This act shall be in force on and after the first Monday of April next."

The above-described territory included the present townships of Fenton, Mundy, Flint, Mount Morris, Grand Blanc, Burton, Genesee, Atlas, and Davison.

Its name is French, signifying *Great White*, and was pronounced by the early French as though spelled *Gron Blong*, and by many of the earlier settlers and Indians as *Granblaw* or *Grunlaw*.

Its derivation is unknown to present residents, as the locality now known as Grand Blanc village obtained the name of Grand Blanc long prior to the settlement of Jacob Stevens in March, 1823, or of any other English-speaking people.

FIRST TOWNSHIP OFFICERS.*

The first township-meeting for the election of officers was held at the house of Rufus W. Stevens, April 1, 1833. Jeremiah Riggs, Lyman Stow, and Jeremiah R. Smith were chosen as Inspectors of Election, Mr. Riggs served as Chairman, and Mr. Stow as Clerk of the Board.

The officers elected were as follows:

"Norman Davison, Supervisor; Jeremiah R. Smith, Township Clerk; Rufus W. Stevens, Lyman Stow, Charles Butler, Assessors; Norman Davison, Lyman Stow, Jeremiah R. Smith, Justices of the Peace; Augustus C. Riggs, Constable and Collector; John Todd, Edmond Perry, Jonathan Dayton, Highway Commissioners; Elijah N. Davenport, Constable; Loren P. Riggs, Clark Dibble, James W. Cronk, Trustees of School Lands; Jeremiah Riggs, Jeremiah R. Smith, Norman Davison, Commissioners of Schools; David Mather, Paul G. Davison, Caleb S. Thompson, School Inspectors; Edmund Perry, Director of the Poor.

"*Overseers of Highways*.—District 1, George Oliver; District 2, Jonathan Davison; District 3, Norman Davison; District 4, Ira Dayton.

"*Voted*, not to allow stud-horses to run at large. *Voted*, to adopt the school act of the Territory. *Voted*, that this meeting be adjourned to the barn of Rufus W. Stevens, until the first Monday of April next.

(Signed) "LYMAN STOW, Town Clerk.

"Dated at Grand Blanc, April 1, 1833."

At a meeting of the township board, composed of Messrs. Rufus W. Stevens, Supervisor, Norman Davison and Lyman Stow, Justices of the Peace, and Caleb S. Thompson, Town Clerk, held Sept. 30, 1834, the following accounts were presented, examined, and allowed, viz.:

Lyman Stow.....	\$7.50
A. Park.....	28.25
Jeremiah Riggs.....	6.50
Alfred Brainard.....	5.00
C. S. Thompson.....	9.75
E. N. Davenport.....	14.50
James W. Cronk.....	8.25
Norman Davison.....	2.00
Rufus W. Stevens.....	1.00
Total.....	\$82.75

* The proceedings of township-meetings, lists of officers elected, and various other records, from 1833 to 1848 inclusive, and from 1870 to 1878 inclusive, have been lost through the carelessness of those who in previous years have had the records in charge. It seems as though inefficient township clerks had conspired to leave a *grand blank* to the searcher for historical data. The compiler has endeavored, as far as possible, by referring to county records and various other sources, to fill up the missing links in the civil list.

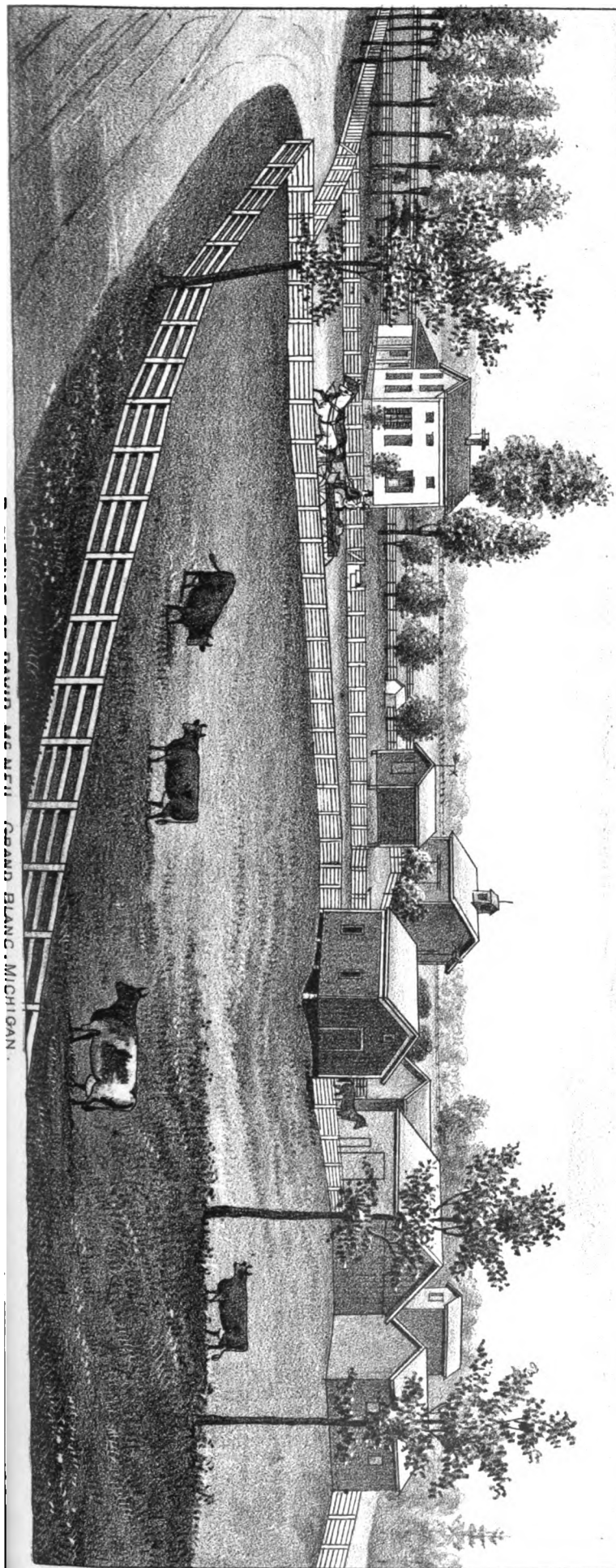
The report of the first township-meeting was obtained from the files of the *Wolverine Citizen*, and is from an article contributed by Hon. J. R. Smith in 1858.



MRS. DAVID McNEIL.



DAVID McNEIL.



DAVID McNEIL, OSBORN BLANC, MICHIGAN.

On the 30th of March, 1835, the same board of auditors held a meeting, and examined and allowed the following statement of accounts :

Norman Davison.....	\$2.50
Edmund Perry.....	11.00
E. N. Davenport.....	9.75
Jeremiah R. Smith.....	7.75
F. F. Riggs.....	1.50
James J. McCormick.....	7.50
Lyman Stow.....	1.00
Jeremiah Riggs.....	4.00
J. W. Cronk.....	9.75
William Roberts.....	2.63
Caleb S. Thompson.....	2.50
Rufus W. Stevens.....	1.00
Ogden Clark.....	4.00
James W. Cronk, Clark Dibble, and Loren P. Riggs, trustees of school lands.....	13.00
	<hr/>
	64.88
Audit of Sept. 30, 1834, brought forward.....	82.75
	<hr/>
	\$147.63

We thus find that the total amount of expenditures for township purposes for the year ending March 30, 1835, in the territory embraced by the nine townships previously mentioned, was \$147.63.

Jeremiah R. Smith's fees for services as township clerk for the year ending April 1, 1834, amounted to \$11.

The itemized account of Norman Davison, supervisor and school commissioner, for the year ending April 1, 1834, reads as follows :

Town of Grand Blanc,

To Norman Davison, Dr.

To holding election, 1 day.....	\$1.00
" returning votes from said town to county clerk's office, 4 days.....	4.00
" services as school commissioner, $\frac{1}{2}$ day.....	50
" " " axeman on road, $\frac{1}{2}$ day.....	50
" " with town board, 1 day.....	1.00
	<hr/>
	\$7.00

The first board of highway commissioners met April 1, 1834, and submitted the following report :

"Amount of days assessed, 224 $\frac{1}{2}$, which was returned satisfied by the overseers of highways of the several districts. Commute-money not expended, \$2.18. We have an opinion that there is no use for raising money for the repair of bridges or roads in said town.

" JOHN TODD,

" EDMUND PERRY,

" JONATHAN DAYTON,

"Dated April 1, 1834.

Commissioners of Highways."

EAR-MARKS.

At an early day, when the flocks and herds of the pioneers roamed at will, and mingled together, it became necessary for the owners to have some marks upon them by which to distinguish their own from their neighbors'. Hence arose the custom of marking the ears of cattle, sheep, and swine, and of recording each one's special mark in the office of the township clerk. The following list, besides showing the names of many early settlers, also describes their individual mark :

Norman Davison, square crop off the left ear.

Paul G. Davison, square crop off the right ear.

O. P. Davison, square crop off the right ear, and slit in the same.

James W. Cronk, swallow fork in the left ear.

E. N. Davenport, swallow fork in the right ear.

Jeremiah R. Smith, square crop off the left ear, and slit in the same.

Joseph McFarlen, slit in the left ear.

John Butler, slit in the under side of the left ear.

E. R. Ewing, slit in the under side of the right ear.

Jonathan Davison, slit in both ears.

Rufus W. Stevens, square crop and half crop off the left ear.

Ira Dayton, a ha'penny on the under side of the right ear.

Caleb S. Thompson, notch in the under side of the right ear.

Augustus C. Riggs, half crop, the upper side off the left ear.

Nathaniel Ladd, crop from the back side of the right ear.

Silas Smith, slit in the right ear, and ha'penny in the back side of the left ear.

John Tupper, half crop off the back side of the left ear.

J. P. Fritz, square crop off the left ear, and hole in the same.

Alonzo Ferris, notch in the under side of the left ear.

Newell Tupper, crop off the left ear, and swallow fork in the right.

Benjamin Pearsons, square crop off the right ear, and slit in the left.

Edmund Perry, half crop off the under side of the left ear.

William Roberts, square crop off the left ear and slit in the right.

Cyrus Baldwin, square crop off the left ear and slit in the under side of the same.

Simeon M. Perry, half crop off the right ear and slit in the left.

Emmaus Owen, slope crop off the upper side of the left ear.

Luman Beach, hole in the right ear.

Jonathan Dayton, crop off the left ear and ha'penny in the forepart of the right.

Ebenezer Bishop, half crop from the forepart of the right ear.

Benjamin Kimball, slope crop off the left ear.

Frederick F. Riggs, notch in the under side of the left ear and slit in the same.

Chauncey Chapin, slope crop off the upper side of right ear.

Moses P. Butler, swallow fork in left ear and hole in the same.

C. D. W. Gibson, a slit in the right ear.

Charles Bates, square crop off the left ear.

Xury Williams, square crop off the right ear.

Samuel Rice, swallow fork in both ears.

Benajah Tupper, slit in the under side of right ear.

Col. Sawyer, half crop in the under side of the right ear and swallow fork in the left.

J. W. King, square crop off the left ear and a slit on the under side of the same.

Nelson H. Emmons, slit in the left ear.

James Van Valkenburg, notch on the under side of the left ear and slit in the same.

Alfred Brainard, crop off the left ear and half crop off the under side of same.

Amos Hallock, crop off the under side of right ear.

George E. Perry, crop off the right ear and notch on under side of the same.

Edward Parsons, notch on upper side of left ear, near the end.

Charles Ferguson, a hole through each ear.

Adin L. Allen, square crop off the right ear and slit in same.

Philander Williams, crop off the right ear and a notch in the upper side of left.

Alpheus Chapman, notch on the under side of right ear and slit in the left.

Philo Fairchild, half crop under right ear and notch under the left.

Parson Farrar, square crop off the right ear and two ha'pennies in the left, one above, one below.

William Eames, slit in the right ear.

J. K. Abbott, square crop off both ears.

Charles C. Pierson, square crop off right, slit in the left.

David McNiell, notch from the under side of left ear.

Garrett Freland, square crop off the right ear and two half crops from under side of left.

C. L. Knowlton, square crop off right ear and hole in the left.

Jeremiah Slack, square crop off right ear and hole in same.

Othniel Williams, square crop off right ear, notch in the under side of same, and a slit in the upper side of the same ear.

John W. King, square crop off the right ear.

Lewis Kennedy, square crop off the left ear.

James Greattrack, half crop in upper side of the left ear.

Stephen C. Douglas, notch or ha'penny in the under side of the left ear and slit in the same.

Orson Seaver, a hole in the right ear.

Dudley S. Reed, square crop off the left ear and a slit in the under side of the same.

Elisha Taylor, a hole in the left ear.

Hannah Hallock, slope crop off the right ear, notch on under side of the left.

The following is the manner of entering notices in the "Estray-Book:"

"Came into the inclosure of the subscriber, about the 1st of November, 1838, one horse brown, with one white hind-foot and white spot in fore hedd, and white streak oblique across the nose."

"Come into the inclosure of Abial L. Shaw, on the eve of Saturday, Nov. 25, 1843, two oxen, of good size supposed to be about ten years old, one of them entirely red, with large long horns, the other red, with the exception of a small white spot under the belly, and a part of the tail is white with the horns sawed off."

TOWNSHIP OFFICERS.

List of the principal officers from 1833 to 1879, inclusive, except for those years which cannot be filled by reason of the loss of town records, through the carelessness and neglect of township clerks:

Supervisors.	Township Clerks.	Treasurers.
1833. Norman Davison.	Jeremiah R. Smith.	No record.
1834. Rufus W. Stevens.	Caleb S. Thompson.	"
1835. Samuel Rice.	Augustus C. Riggs.	"

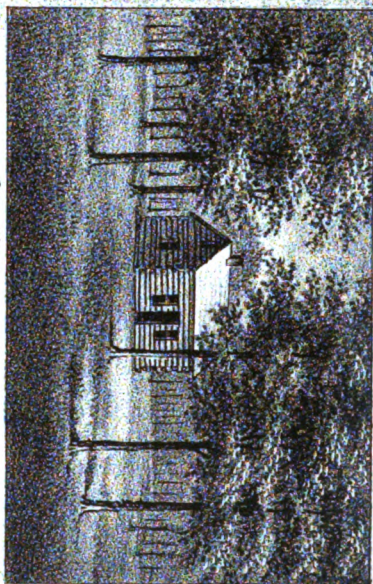
Supervisors.	Township Clerks.	Treasurers.
1836. Samuel Rice.	Augustus C. Riggs.	No record.
1837. " "	" "	"
1838. " "	Caleb S. Thompson.	"
1839. " "	" "	Jeremiah R. Smith.
1840. " "	" "	" "
1841. " "	" "	Alfred Brainard.
1842. C. D. W. Gibson.	Joshua K. Abbott.	" "
1843. " "	" "	" "
1844. William Blades.	" "	Jeremiah R. Smith.
1845. Jeremiah R. Smith.	Caleb S. Thompson.	" "
1846. " "	Joshua K. Abbott.	Silas D. Halsey.
1847. Silas D. Halsey.	" "	No record.
1848. Jeremiah R. Smith.	" "	" "
1849. " "	" "	Asahel King.
1850. Julian Bishop.	Othniel Williams.	Nicholas West.
1851. Jeremiah R. Smith.	" "	Thomas Cartwright.
1852. Julian Bishop.	" "	Silas D. Halsey.
1853. John Remington.	" "	" "
1854. Julian Bishop.	Simeon M. Tyler.	Alexander W. Davis.
1855. " "	" "	Addison Armstrong.
1856. Jeremiah R. Smith.	Cicero J. K. Stoner.	" "
1857. Julian Bishop.	Charles L. Smith.	Morgan L. Curtis.
1858. Dennis Wolverton.	" "	Benajah Tupper.
1859. " "	" "	" "
1860. John Remington.	" "	Zerah Curtis.
1861. " "	" "	" "
1862. Silas D. Halsey.	Morgan L. Curtis.	Thomas Cartwright.
1863. " "	Charles D. Long.	Elisha O. Jennings.
1864. Alfred Hallock.	Morgan L. Curtis.	" "
1865. " "	" "	Alfred B. Miner.
1866. " "	" "	" "
1867. " "	" "	David P. Halsey.
1868. " "	James Parsons.	" "
1869. " "	John W. Snell.	" "
1870. T. Porter McWain.	No record.	No record.
1871. John Slack.	" "	" "
1872. Michael Ferguson.	" "	" "
1873. " "	" "	" "
1874. " "	Daniel E. Salisbury.	Addison Armstrong.
1875. Edwin Harvey.	Charles J. Case.	" "
1876. " "	G. R. Parker.	" "
1877. Jonathan Crapser.	And. J. Hempstead.	" "
1878. " "	Arthur C. McCall.	" "
1879. Oscar C. Beals.	" "	Arth'r B. Armstrong.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

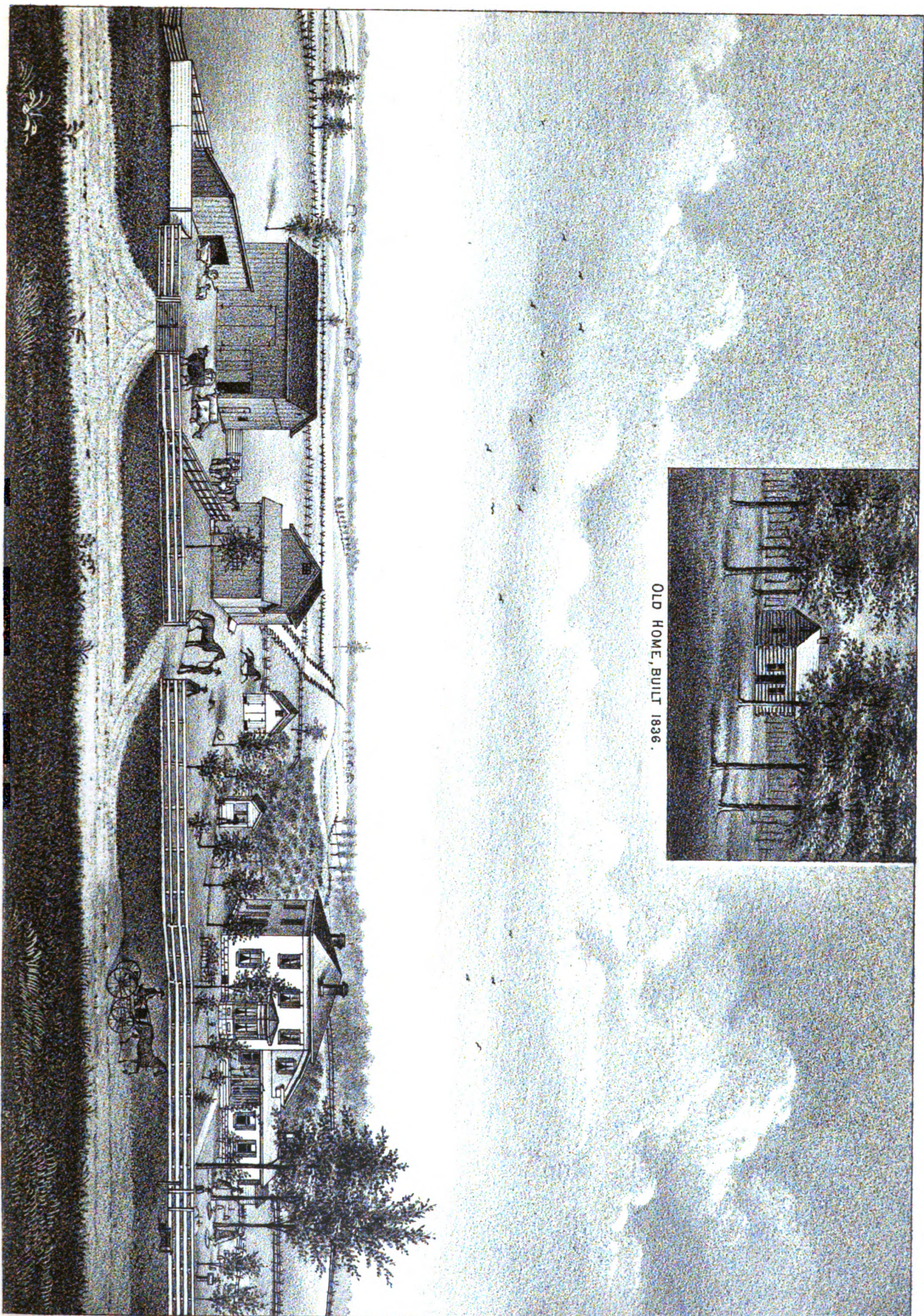
Jeremiah R. Smith, Thomas Lowden, 1849; John Remington, 1850; Gurdon Waterous, 1851; Charles Butler, 1852; Jeremiah R. Smith, 1853; James M. Goff, 1854; Philander Williams, 1855; John Slack, 1856; Jeremiah R. Smith, 1857; James M. Goff, 1858; Alfred Hallock, 1859; David P. Halsey, 1860; Jeremiah R. Smith, 1861; Gibson B. Shaw, John Slack, 1862; Alfred Hallock, Chauncey S. Marvin, 1863; John Slack, 1864; Alexander W. Davis, 1865; Chauncey S. Marvin, 1866; Alfred Hallock, 1867; John Slack, 1868; Alexander W. Davis, 1869. No record for the years from 1870 to 1873, inclusive. Hugh McCall, John Slack, Dennis Wolverton, 1874, 1875; David J. Morse, 1876; Alexander W. Davis, Joseph P. Cook, 1877; Joseph P. Cook, John Slack, 1878.

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS.

Gurdon G. Cook, John Remington, John Butler, 1841; Gurdon G. Cook, Alvah Brainard, Jeremiah R. Smith, 1842; Gurdon G. Cook, Alvah Brainard, 1843; Caleb S. Thompson, Alvah Brainard, James Van Valkenburg, 1844; Caleb S. Thompson, Xury Williams, Ira Dayton, 1845; Othniel Williams, James M. Goff, A. L. Ellsworth, 1846; Othniel Williams, James M. Goff, A. L. Ellsworth, 1847; William Eames, James M. Goff, Othniel Williams, 1848; Arthur L. Ellsworth, Othniel Williams, 1849; Joseph McFarlen, 1850; Alfred Hallock, 1851; Xury Williams, 1853; Alfred Hallock, 1854; Isaac Schram, 1855; John Remington, 1856; Alfred Hallock, 1857; Isaac Schram, 1858; Russell Forsyth, 1859; Alvah Brainard, 1860; Isaac Schram, 1861; Russell Forsyth, 1862; Isaac Schram, 1864; Lucius King, 1865;



OLD HOME, BUILT 1836.



RESIDENCE OF JOSEPH P. COOK, GRAND BLANC, MICH.

Alvah Brainard, 1866; Isaac Schram, 1867; Benjamin Newman, 1868; Alvah Brainard, 1869. No records for the years from 1870 to 1873, inclusive. Joseph P. Cook, 1874; Alvah Brainard, 1875-1878.

CONSTABLES.

Asahel King, Lucius King, 1849; Dudley S. Reed, Nicholas West, 1850; Nicholas West, Dudley S. Reed, 1851; Alanson Burt, Asahel Goff, 1853; Asahel Goff, John Case, 1854; Asel Goff, Lester H. Williams, 1855; James A. Rice, Lucius King, 1856; Charles A. Baker, Morgan L. Curtis, 1857; Benajah Tupper, Theodore J. Wells, George Kline, Asel Goff, 1858; Lucius King, Willard J. Lamb, Edward A. Sawyer, Asahel Collins, 1859; William J. Lamb, Orville Owens, Asel Goff, Horace Embury, 1860; John J. Case, Asel Goff, 1861; Asel Goff, John J. Case, Thos. Sheldon, 1862; Benajah Tupper, Lucius King, Orville Owens, 1863; Benjamin Newman, Asel Goff, William H. Butts, 1864; Alfred Bushaw, Benajah Tupper, Benjamin Newman, Robert Barnes, 1865; Benajah Tupper, Benjamin Newman, Robert Barnes, 1866; Benjamin Newman, Benajah Tupper, Henry Eckley, Joseph Wakeman, 1867; Wing C. Eames, Benajah Tupper, Benjamin Newman, Edward C. Waterous, 1868; Benajah Tupper, Harrison Williams, Benjamin Newman, Daniel D. Howell, 1869. No records for the years 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873. William B. Evatt, Benajah Tupper, Benjamin Newman, Wing C. Eames, 1874; Benjamin Newman, Daniel D. Howell, Benajah Tupper, George Borden, 1875; Daniel D. Howell, Benjamin Newman, John Scott, Joseph Taylor, 1876; George W. Thompson, Arthur McCall, Benjamin Newman, Jos. A. Wakeman, 1877; Arthur C. McCall, Benjamin Newman, John G. Cook, D. Freeman Kline, 1878.

SCHOOL INSPECTORS.

Joseph King, 1849; Edward Parsons, 1850; Julian Bishop, 1851; Joseph King, 1853; Edward Parsons, John Slack, 1854; Levi L. Way, 1855; Morgan L. Curtis, 1856; Edward Parsons, 1857; Henry C. Fairbank, 1858; Jacob L. Parsons, 1859; Henry C. Fairbank, 1860; Morgan L. Curtis, 1861; Marcus D. Curtis, Henry C. Fairbank, 1862; Jacob L. Parsons, 1863; Henry C. Fairbank, 1864; Charles J. Case, Jacob L. Parsons, 1865; Darius H. Stone, 1866; Charles J. Case, 1867; Morgan L. Curtis, 1868; George R. Parker, 1869. No records for the years 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873. Edward D. Parsons, 1874; Jesse P. Dewey, 1875; Wing C. Eames, 1876; George S. Porter, 1877; Charles J. Case, 1878.

The officers elected in April, 1879, were Oscar C. Beals, Supervisor; Arthur C. McCall, Township Clerk; Arthur B. Armstrong, Treasurer; Darwin H. Forsyth, T. Porter McWain, Justices of the Peace; Charles Baker, Jr., School Superintendent; Charles J. Case, School Inspector; Isaac Schram, Highway Commissioner; George R. Shear, Drain Commissioner; Arthur C. McCall, George W. Thompson, G. F. Campbell, Freeman Kline, Constables.

VILLAGES.

The village of Grand Blanc, a station on the line of the Flint and Pèrre Marquette Railway, is situated seven miles southeast of the city of Flint. It contains two churches (Congregationalist and Methodist Episcopal), two stores of general merchandise, one drug-store, one agricultural implement store, one small steam grist-mill, post-office, school-house, several small mechanical shops, and about 250 inhabitants.

Although it is the point where the Stevenses first settled in 1823, is situated on the old Saginaw road, and for many years was prominent in the history of Genesee County, its growth as a village dates only from the completion of the railroad in 1864. The post-office—Rufus W. Stevens, postmaster—was established in 1826. He opened his house to the public at about the same time. Previous to

this, and for some years after, he sold goods to the Indians. The first regular store was opened by Robert F. Stage and Ira D. Wright in October, 1835.

Thomas Irish and Daniel B. Wakefield were also early tavern-keepers here. The bond given by Irish, Jan. 5, 1835, is herewith appended:

"You, Thomas Irish, do acknowledge to owe unto the United States of America the sum of fifty dollars; and you, John Todd and Phineas Thompson, do acknowledge to owe unto the United States of America the sum of twenty-five dollars each, to be levied of your several goods and chattels, lands and tenements, upon condition that whereas the above-bounden Thomas Irish is admitted to and allowed by this township-board to keep a tavern for the space of one year next ensuing, and no longer, in the house now occupied by the him, the said Irish, in the town of Grand Blanc, and no other; now, therefore, if the said Thomas Irish, during the time aforesaid, shall keep and maintain good order and rule, and shall suffer no disorder nor unlawful games to be used in his house, or in any of the dependencies thereof, and shall not break any of the laws for the regulations of taverns, then this recognizance shall be void; otherwise, to remain in full force and effect. This you do severally acknowledge.

"THOMAS IRISH.

"JOHN TODD.

"PHINEAS THOMPSON.

"GRAND BLANC, Jan. 5, 1835."

Whigville, a small village of about 100 inhabitants, and known at various periods as *Dibbleville*, *Grand Blanc*, and *Gibsonville*, is situated about one and one-half miles north-west of Grand Blanc Centre. It contains the church edifice of the Baptist Society, a school-house, and a few small shops. Here was erected the first saw-mill in the county, by Rowland B. Perry, in 1828. At one period—during the lifetime of Mr. C. D. W. Gibson—considerable business was done here. Stores, taverns, and busy shops existed. But since the completion of the railroad its trade has been transferred to the centre.

SCHOOLS.

The first school-house—a small frame building—was erected by Edmund Perry, Sr., about 1830. It was situated upon his own land, near the banks of a small stream, called the Big Run; and Miss Sarah Dayton, sister of Jonathan Dayton, taught the first school in this house.

Mr. Edward Parsons, school inspector, presented the following account to the board of town auditors in April, 1842, which was allowed:

"The town of Grand Blanc in account with Edward Parsons, as school inspector:

1842.	Dn.
Jan. 26. To visiting schools in the Farrar and Perry districts, and inspecting a teacher.....	\$1.00
Feb. 2. To visiting schools in the Smith and Butler districts, and inspecting a teacher.....	1.00
Feb. 9. To visiting school in Gibson district.....	50
Feb. 15. To meeting the inspectors of another town for the purpose of removing Mr. Parker.....	50
March 9. To traveling for public money, and attending a meeting of the board to distribute the same.....	1.00"

From the school directors' reports for the year ending Oct. 1, 1845, are taken the following statistics:

Children between the ages of 4 and 18 years, residing in the township, 374; under 4 years of age, attending school, 9; over 18 years of age, attending school, 20; attending school during the year, 352. Months taught in each district by qualified teachers, 6. Amount received from township treasurer, \$239.77; raised by taxes in the districts, \$129.12. Number of whole districts, 7; number of frac-

tional districts, 3. Average amount per month paid teachers for winter term, \$12; average amount per month paid teachers for summer term, \$4.

Names of teachers employed during the year: District No. 1, Joseph King, Emina Wilson; No. 2, Ann L. Thompson; No. 2,* Lucy Bigelow; No. 3, Jonathan Fellows, Laura King; No. 4, Laura King, Susan Dickinson; No. 5, Thomas O. Townsend, Mary Webster; No. 6,* Maria Ferris, Jane Smith; No. 7, C. C. Pierson, Ellen Ferguson; No. 8, Catharine Gorton, Adaline Main; No. 8,* Eliza Perry.

School Directors.—District 1, Adam C. Kline; No. 2, J. K. Abbott; No. 2,* Edmund Rix; No. 3, James O'Donoghue; No. 4, C. C. Pierson; No. 5, Alvah Brainard; No. 6,* A. L. Ellsworth; No. 7, James Hall; No. 8, William Roberts; No. 8,* Samuel Winship.

SCHOOL STATISTICS—1878.

Whole districts, 6; fractional, 4. Children of school age residing in township, 420; attending school during the year, 381. Frame school-houses in township, 9; brick, 1. Seating capacity of all the school-houses, 555. Value of school property, \$6450. Male teachers employed during the year, 10; female, 12. Months taught by male teachers, 45; by female, 37. Paid male teachers, \$1227.10; paid female teachers, \$588.90; total, \$1816.

Receipts for the year from moneys on hand, Sept. 3, 1877, two-mill tax, primary school-fund, district taxes for all purposes, and raised from all other sources, \$2614.10.

Expenditures.—Paid teachers, \$1816; paid for building and repairs, \$141.80; paid on bonded indebtedness, \$22.59; paid for all other purposes, \$242.80; amount on hand, Sept. 2, 1878, \$390.91; total, \$2614.10.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES.

Previous to the organization of any religious society in this township, the early settlers had been visited at irregular intervals by Elders Benedict and Gambell, Baptist preachers, and Rev. I. W. Ruggles, a Presbyterian minister from Pontiac. Meetings were held in the small log school-house in the Perry settlement, and frequently in the dwelling-houses of the inhabitants.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

This society was organized June 1, 1833, with 26 constituent members, as follows: Daniel Williams, Alfred Brainard, John Tupper, Newell Tupper, Alden Tupper, Harrison Tupper, Alexander K. Tupper, Jason D. Austin, Philo Miner, John P. Fritz, Robert T. Winchell, Philander Williams, Betsey Tupper, Hannah Tupper, Isabella Tupper, Aseneth Brainard, Sarah Brainard, — Miner, Susanna Fritz, Electa Williams, Sophronia Straw, Almira Phelps, Lovina Gilbert, Lovina Williams, Sarah Perry, and Eunice Austin.

At the first meeting it was voted "that Brother Alfred Brainard copy the articles of faith and government, and take our minutes for this day. That Brothers Williams, Winchell, and Brainard be a committee to request brethren from the Association to meet in council, and present us be-

fore said council for fellowship." Deacon Daniel Williams was chairman and Alfred Brainard clerk of this meeting.

At a covenant-meeting, held Oct. 5, 1833, it was voted "that \$21.25 be paid Elder Benedict for preaching, and that the clerk give Elder Benedict a writing expressing our satisfaction with his labors and faithfulness, and requesting his appointment as a missionary for another year, and request him to forward the same to the committee of the American Baptist Home Mission Society."

Eli Gilbert was received by baptism Aug. 4, 1833, and Mrs. Phelps by letter the same day. Other admissions during the year 1833 were Amasa Short, Thomas A. Fritz, Lester Williams, John Richards, and Rhoda Richards. In 1834, Mr. Cheney and wife, Julia Ann Remington, Hannah Van Tiffin, and Joseph and Sarah Gambell.

Those received during 1835 were Norris Thorp, E. N. Johnson, Esther Allen, Deborah A. Allen, Aseneth Remington, Dudley Brainard, Perry Lamb, Mary Lamb, and Phebe Thorp. In 1836, Barton B. Chapin, Caroline Chapin, David Lyon, Eunice Lyon, Edwin Lyon, Jonathan G. Firman, Marilla Firman, David Gregory, Abigail Gregory, Elihu Remington, Charles Goff, Parmela Goff, Julia Ann Watkins, Electa Stiles, Laura Tupper, and Amanda Watkins. In 1837, Margaret Williams, Anna Goff, Hopkins Allen, Mrs. M. Johnson, Nancy Snapp, Eliza King, Alvah Bishop, and Electa Bishop. In 1838, Elijah Jordan, Betsey Jordan, Laranthia Bigelow, David Allen, Sophia Allen, and Alsina Parker.

The pastors of the society since Elder Benedict have succeeded each other as follows: Elder Joseph Gambell, 1834, who remained two years. July 12, 1836, it was voted "that Dudley Brainard preach when we have no other preaching." Rev. Elijah Jordan came in January, 1838; J. A. Keyes, 1839. May 24, 1839, Dudley Brainard was given a letter "to preach the Gospel wherever God, in His providence, may cast his lot." Revs. R. D. Pierce, 1840; Samuel Jones, 1842; Daniel Delano, 1844; Joseph Gambell, 1845; Nelson Eastwood, 1849; T. H. Facer, 1851; C. Deland, 1853; Israel Fay, 1855; A. H. Cole, 1856; Israel C. Atherton, 1859; C. Johnson, 1864; Harley Miner, 1866; M. Mulcahy, 1869; P. Olney, 1871; S. T. Grow, 1871; R. J. Lobb, 1872; O. B. Smith and C. H. Richardson, as supplies; B. D. Miller, 1875; Samuel Needham, 1875; George Sharp, 1876; Edgar Randall, present pastor, April, 1879.

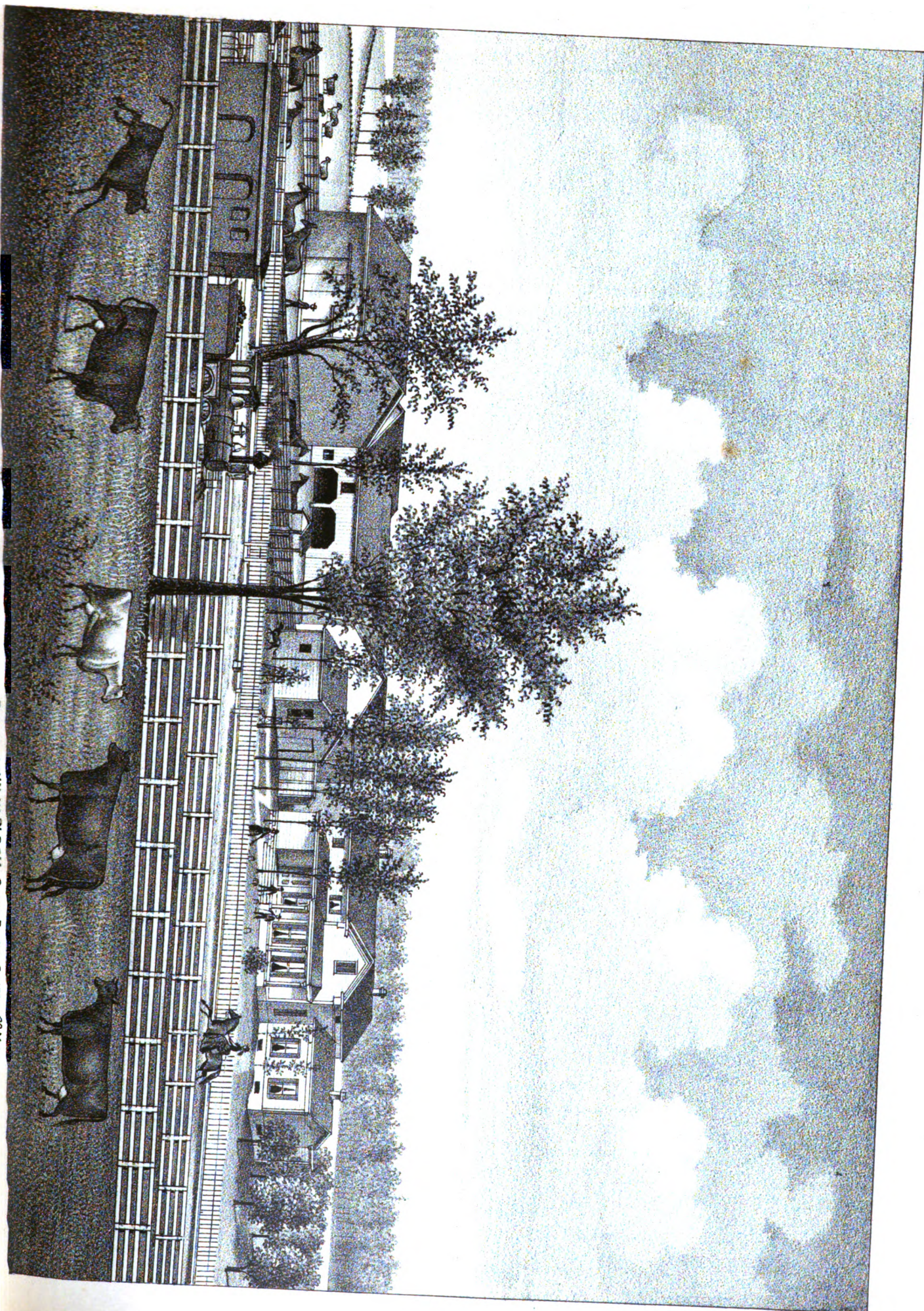
The present church edifice was commenced in 1849 and completed in 1851. It is situated in the small village of Whigville, and has sittings for about 200 people. It was dedicated May 21, 1851; sermon by Rev. T. H. Facer; text, Matthew 6, 10,—“Thy Kingdom Come;” dedicatory prayer by Rev. Joseph Gambell. In February, 1874, 25 members obtained letters of dismission to form the Mundy Baptist Church. Present membership, 78. Scholars in Sabbath-school, 66. Mrs. Hannah Tupper, superintendent.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

On the 13th day of July, 1833, a number of professed Christians met at the house of Deacon Josiah Owen, in Grand Blanc, for the purpose of uniting together in the fellowship and communion of a church. Rev. Isaac W.

* Fractional districts.

RESIDENCE OF THE LATE MICHAEL FURGESSON, PRESENT RES. OF JOHN W. BLOOM, GRAND BLANC, GENESSEE CO. MICH.



Ruggles, a missionary of the American Home Missionary Society, was present, and served as moderator. After a season of prayer, those present gave a relation of their experience. Letters from the churches from whence they came were then read, and those present, viz., Josiah Owen, Susan Owen, Cyrus Baldwin, Charles Butler, John Butler, Sarah P. Butler, Emmaus Owen, Cynthia Maria Owen, Almira Smith, Cornelia Smith, and Sarah Ann Butler, then entered into covenant to walk together as a church in all the ordinances of the gospel. They resolved to take Congregationalism as the rule of church government. At this meeting Josiah Owen and Cyrus Baldwin were chosen deacons, and articles of faith adopted.

Samuel Rice represented the society at the meeting of the Detroit Presbytery, Feb. 10, 1835.

The first meetings were held in the log house and barn of Deacon Josiah Owen, then in the Butler school-house, and still later in the Smith school-house, where they were continued until their present church edifice was completed. Until 1836 the society had no regular pastor, the pulpit being supplied occasionally by Revs. John Beach, Isaac W. Ruggles, John Dudley, and Hiram Miller. George Hornell, their first regular pastor, began preaching one-half the time in 1836. He was followed by Philander Bates, in 1838; Ebenezer McDowell, 1841; Ira Dunning, 1841; Joseph W. Smith, 1842; George King, 1844; Chauncey Osborn, 1846; George Winters, 1853; Alonzo Sanderson, 1862; Samuel Breed, 1867; John V. Hickmott, 1869; William Woodmansee, 1874; Lewis P. Frost, 1876; and Alfred T. Waterman, the present pastor, in 1878.

Other early members who joined the society were, in 1834, Samuel Rice, Abigail Rice, Susan Baldwin, Julia A. Webster, Samuel C. Baldwin, Edwin Baldwin, Sarah M. Baldwin, Moses P. Butler, Eliza Butler, Moses A. Buell; in 1835, Maria Brigham, Abigail Owen, Andrew Slack, Sarah Slack; in 1836, Henry Le Roy, Lucy Le Roy, Edward Parsons, Ann Butler; in 1838, Sophia Dayton; in 1839, Silas Smith, John Burrington, James Rice, Eliza A. Boss, Elizabeth Burrington, Grace Burrington, Sophia Coy, Sophia Rice, Jane Elsefer, Emeline Davison, Rebecca Brown, Helen Brown, Silas D. Halsey, David W. Lawrence, Ann Lawrence, Gurdon G. Cook, Wealthy Cook, Margaret A. Cook, Gavin McCoy, Mary McCoy, Susan McCoy, and Harriet McCoy.

The first board of trustees was elected in 1836, and was composed of Samuel Rice, John Butler, and Jeremiah R. Smith.

The church edifice was dedicated Sept. 12, 1855, and cost \$2600. It has sittings for 300 people, and is situated in the village of Grand Blanc.

Present membership, 64. Scholars attending Sabbath-school, 86. G. Russell Parker, superintendent.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

This organization, probably the first class in Methodism instituted in the territory now known as Genesee County, like a large majority of those of this denomination, has no written history or records of the past that are available. It is stated that the first class was formed in the school-house at Gibsonville, by Rev. Oscar North, in the year

1835, the first members being William Blades, Charlotte Blades, Thomas Cartwright, Catherine Cartwright, Daniel Nobles, and Susan Nobles.

The school-house in Gibsonville was used for a place of worship until 1854, when a church edifice situated in the village of Grand Blanc was completed at a cost of about \$2000. A parsonage was erected at the same time, which cost about \$1000. The trustees in 1854 were Adam C. Kline, Jay Adams, Arthur Ellsworth, Edwin Ellsworth, and Abial L. Shaw. George Smith, presiding elder. G. N. Belknap, pastor in charge.

The pastors of the society since 1851 are the same as those of the Burton Methodist Episcopal Church, both being in the same charge, viz., Revs. Mr. Blades, Bradley, Lee, Belknap, Cawthorne, Crane, Allen, Frazer, Sutton, Crippen, Seelye, Crippen, Joslin, Shore, Mosher, Whitmore, Brown, Westlake, Hicks, Hamilton, and Gage, present pastor. Present membership, 40. Joseph Taylor, superintendent of Sabbath-school.

We desire to return our thanks to Hon. Alexander W. Davis, Joseph McFarlen, Caleb S. Thompson, Newell Tupper, John P. Fritz, Adam C. Kline, Edward Parsons, J. C. Wolverton, Addison Armstrong, E. A. Sawyer, Arthur C. McCall, Mrs. C. D. W. Gibson, Mrs. Phineas Thompson, Mrs. E. N. Johnson, and others, for much valuable information.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

SIMEON M. PERRY.

The oldest living male settler in Genesee County is Simeon M. Perry. He was born in Schenectady, N. Y., Sept. 22, 1804. His father, Edmund Perry, was the second settler in the county, and located the second farm in the county. Edmund Perry purchased of the government in 1824 two lots of land, and in March, 1825, settled thereon with his family. This was in what was then called Grumlaw, now Grand Blanc.

Simeon M., his sister, and a cousin (Thompson) came West with Edmund Perry in March, 1825. The father and sister returned to New York, while Simeon and his cousin remained on the farm, and kept bachelor's hall until the return of the family in the fall. He remained with his father eight years, helping him clear up the new farm. On the 3d day of December, 1830, he bought of the government the west half of the northwest quarter of section 14, in Grand Blanc, and in 1839 the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 11, in the same town. In 1834 he built a small frame house on his "eighty," and moved into it. He had prior to this occupied a log house near where Seymour Perry's house now stands. In that log house Miss Isabel Perry, the first white child born in the county, first saw the light of day.

Simeon Perry is a man possessed of a strong constitution, and has been a great worker. He has helped to clear two hundred acres of land,—part of it being the farm where he now resides, the balance the farms owned by his father.

He has seen, as a pioneer settler, many hardships, and has been subjected to exposures which have caused him many hours of pain. In the first year of his residence in the county his father's stock ran at large, and, in searching for them through the marshes and swamps, he was often wet to the skin for hours at a time. Often the cattle would wander miles away, causing him all-day tramps to find

been entirely helpless and dependent upon the care of his daughter Isabel, who is devoting herself with filial care to his every want. Mr. Perry was formerly a Democrat, casting his first vote for Andrew Jackson. On the organization of the Republican party he joined it, and has since been a member of the same, although he has never solicited or held office. He has been a member of the Baptist



SIMEON M. PERRY.

them. He relates an instance, when he had been looking for them all day, with nothing to eat, and had got some ten miles away from home, suddenly he came upon an Indian seated at a fire partaking of a muskrat-stew. The Indian invited Mr. Perry to eat, which he gladly did, and he now declares food never tasted better than did that stew. In 1865 he was prostrated by disease, which was brought on by his hardships and exposures, and for five years he has



MRS. SIMEON M. PERRY.

Church for thirty-five years. On the 19th day of March, 1828, he married Miss Sarah Cartwright, daughter of Thomas and Isabel Cartwright, who was born March 17, 1806, and died Sept. 17, 1875. The result of this union was six children,—Isabel C., born May 13, 1829; Emily A., born July 26, 1831; Joseph and Mary, born March 7, 1833; Mary E., born Aug. 31, 1837; and Esther, born Nov. 22, 1840.

GURDON G. COOK.

The ancestors of Mr. Cook were among the early English settlers of New England. Deacon Gurdon W. Cook was a native of Connecticut, and in 1805 removed with his family to Western New York, and settled at Lima, Livingston Co. He reared a family of four sons and four daughters, of whom Gurdon G. was the second son. He was born at the old home in Connecticut on the 7th day of June, 1802.

He was reared on the farm, and at the age of seventeen went to learn the trade of a tanner; he followed that occupation at Avon and Bethany for several years, during which time he became acquainted with Miss Wealthy Pierson, daughter of Joseph and Sarah Pierson, old settlers of Avon. They were united in marriage, Feb. 15, 1827. After his marriage he continued the same business until 1834, when he took charge of and managed the farm of his father-in-law. In the spring of 1836 he made a trip to Michigan in quest of a home: he selected and purchased of the government two hundred and forty acres of land in the present township of Grand Blanc, Genesee Co., about ten miles south of the city of Flint. He then returned to New York,

settled up his business, and in the fall of the same year removed with his family to their new home in the wilds of Michigan. The family moved into their new log house in the following February. Then followed the usual routine of chopping, logging, clearing off the timber, and all the other hard work, hardships and privations incident to pioneer life, together with anxieties and fears of wolves and Indians on the part of the mother, for the first year or two. But in a few years the Indians and wild animals disappeared, and were replaced by settlers and neighbors; and, under the sturdy stroke of the pioneer axe, the forest had given place to fields of waving grain. The adventurous family, who a few years before had braved all the discomforts and dangers of settlers in the wilderness, had fully realized all that their hopes and anticipations had pictured to them of a comfortable home with peace and plenty smiling around them.

Mr. Cook was a man of genuine piety, and an honored member of the Congregational Church for upwards of forty years. For the last fourteen years of his life he was blind, the result of an accident in early life and subsequent inflammation; but under this terrible affliction he always

maintained a cheerful and hopeful spirit, and continued to manage his farm and business with all his accustomed precision and sagacity. In 1853 he made an addition of eighty acres to his farm, so that at his death, which occurred Oct. 6, 1860, it consisted of three hundred and twenty acres. He left to his bereaved widow and children a comfortable fortune and an unblemished character.

Mrs. Wealthy Cook, his widow, comes of a long line of honored ancestors. The Pierson family is also of English origin, and embraces some of the earliest settlers of New England.

Ephraim, the grandfather of Mrs. Cook, lived and died in Connecticut. He left a family of ten children,—six sons and four daughters. Joseph, the fifth son, was born at the old Connecticut home, and while a young man went to Albany, N. Y., where he was married to Sarah Watrous. He first settled on a farm in Albany County, but in a few years he removed to Livingston County, bought a farm, and settled at Avon. He reared a family of three sons and six daughters, of whom Mrs. Cook was the sixth child. She was born at Avon, Dec. 26, 1801; was reared on a farm, and in the pure atmosphere of farm life, along with its duties, habits, and toils, she acquired a strong and vigorous constitution, and a knowledge and experience which in after-years were of great value to her husband and children. She resides at the old home in Grand Blanc, tranquil and happy, enjoying a ripe old age in the society of her children and time-honored friends. She and her deceased husband are the parents of four children, named Joseph P., Sarah M., Henry H., and Ellen A., all of whom are living. Joseph is married to Julia H. Slaght and has six children; he resides on a part of the old home-farm, and is a man of much consideration and influence in his locality. Sarah is unmarried, and resides with her mother at the old home. Henry is married to Sarah D. Parker, and has four children; he also owns and resides on a part of the old home-farm. Ellen is the wife of Andrew J. Cronk, and resides on their farm in the town of Burton; they have two children. On another page may be found a view of the home of this old pioneer couple.

MICHAEL FERGUSON

was a native of Oneida Co., N. Y., and born on the 31st day of March, 1815. He was left an orphan at ten years of age, and found a home with his uncle, Charles Ferguson, with whom he resided until he was twenty-one. He obtained a good education, and also learned the trade of wagon-making, which business he followed at Fort Plain, N. Y., until 1834, when he came to the Territory of Michigan, and purchased eighty acres of government land in Shiawassee County. He remained with his uncle in Grand Blanc two years, when he returned to New York, and became engaged on the Erie Canal, first as an ordinary "hand," afterwards as captain of a boat, and finally as contractor. He continued in that business some ten years, when he engaged in the commission business, which he followed for ten or twelve years.

In 1860, on the first day of January, he was united in marriage to Miss Margaret S. Hager, of Fort Plain, N. Y.

In 1865 he removed to Michigan and settled on a farm of one hundred acres in the township of Grand Blanc, where he remained until his death, which occurred on the 18th day of November, 1874. He was the father of five children, named as follows: Everett, George R., Annie E., Edward E., and Joseph M., all of whom are living except the first named.

Mr. Ferguson was a man of great influence and consideration among his fellow-townsmen, who manifested their confidence by repeatedly electing him to positions of responsibility. He served his town for three years as supervisor, a position he held at the time of his death. In politics he was a Democrat of the old school. He was a man of pure life and morals. He was an honored member of the Masonic fraternity, and whether as apprentice, master, or companion, was always known and regarded by the craft as that highest type of a Mason, *an honest man*.

His widow still resides on the home-farm, and is at this time (1879) the wife of John Bloom, to whom she was married on the 12th day of October, 1876. On another page may be seen a fine view of the home of the family.

CALEB S. THOMPSON,

of whom this brief sketch is written, was born in Northbury, Worcester Co., Mass., April 23, 1805. His father, who was a tanner and currier by trade, moved into Oneida Co., N. Y., when Caleb was five years old, and followed his trade and also farming. In 1816 he moved to Avon, N. Y. Here Caleb grew to manhood, and although he went only to a common school, he acquired more than an average education. He was a great student, and having free access to the library of Dr. Little, he made good use of it and stored his mind with much useful knowledge.

On the 30th day of May, 1829, he, in company with Jonathan Dayton and Caleb Embury, started for Grand Blanc (then called Grumlaw), in Genesee Co., Mich., going by canal-boat from Rochester to Buffalo, and thence to Detroit by the steamer "William Penn." From Detroit to Grumlaw they went by team. There they found the Riggs, Stevens, Spencer, and Perry families. At that date Genesee County contained but forty-seven inhabitants. Soon after his arrival he bought of the government the east half of the northwest quarter of section 23, in Grand Blanc, and subsequently the west half of the northwest quarter of the same section. On this tract he settled and commenced its improvement. The next fall he returned to New York, and taught school through the winter, having previously taught,—an employment which had given him his start in life. In February, 1830, he again came West, this time with his own conveyance,—an ox-team,—going through Canada. The following summer he cleared and sowed sixteen acres, and the next season harvested one hundred and sixty bushels of wheat; from that time he considered starvation out of the question. During the next six years he so added to his farm that he owned four hundred acres of land, two hundred and ten acres of which he had plowed and three hundred acres fenced. He had six hundred bushels of wheat, and owed no man. From

this time on he continued to improve his farm, each year adding to his wealth and to his reputation as a successful business man. In 1856 the subject of a plank-road from Holly to Grand Blanc was being agitated, and finally became a fixed fact through the enterprise and energy of Mr. Thompson, who took the contract of building the road; he did build it, although he lost many thousands of dollars by so doing. But what was his loss was the people's gain, as the road was the means of finally securing to Grand Blanc



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a railroad, which has been of incalculable value to not only its people, but to those of Holly and the surrounding country. Mr. Thompson's loss in this enterprise resulted principally from his inability to manage the affairs of the road personally, by reason of his being stricken down with the rheumatism, which finally resulted in his becoming a helpless invalid. For more than twenty years he has not been able to get out of his chair or turn over in bed without assistance. This great affliction deprived the county of the

active services of one of its most enterprising and public-spirited citizens, and Mr. Thompson of the pleasure to be derived from an active and successful career. Still he bears his sad lot with patience, watched over and cared for by an affectionate and faithful wife and a loving daughter.

On the 4th day of February, 1832, he married Miss Clarinda Perry. Their union was blessed with the following children: Susan, born Dec. 4, 1834, and Rush, born April 4, 1836. Mrs. Thompson died June 4, 1840. For



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his second wife Mr. Thompson married, May 9, 1848, Miss Ermina C. Wilson, who was born March 5, 1824. There has been born to them one daughter, Clara C., born April 9, 1849.

In politics Mr. Thompson was first a Whig and later a Republican; he has always taken great interest in political matters, and was an active worker before his sickness. He has held most of the township offices: was clerk for twenty years, and for a considerable period held the office of deputy sheriff.