
HAZEN HILL

Hazen Hill was born on February 13, 1836, in Huron County, Ohio. His parents were Asa and Philena Hill. Hazen was the oldest of seven children. In 1838, the Hill family traveled by boat to Wisconsin. While crossing Lake Michigan, their boat was wrecked, and they lost all of their belongings. The next year, they tried again. In 1849, they traveled west in a covered wagon. They passed through Chicago and headed toward Dartford. As they got close to Dartford, the family stopped to rest. There they met David Mapes, the founder of Ripon. He convinced them to settle in Ripon instead of Green Lake. The family traded their horses for 80 acres of prairie land and a team of oxen.

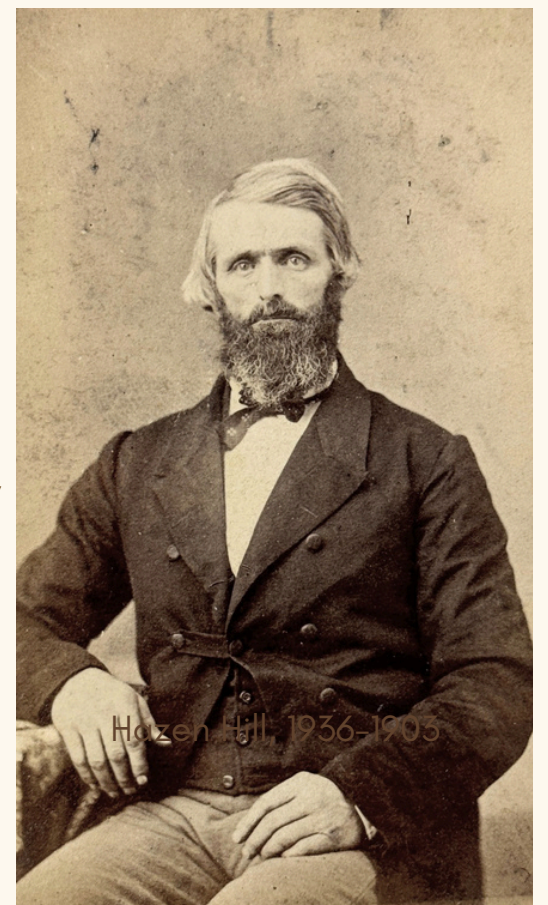
At first, the Hills lived on land in town that David Mapes gave them. They built the second house in Ripon and the first house made with a wooden frame. Asa Hill arrived in Ripon with very little money. Through hard work and good business habits, he became a successful farmer. He grew wheat and corn.

Hazen went to local schools as a boy. When he was 21, he wanted to continue his education, but he did not have enough money. He worked for David Mapes as a clerk for two years and saved his earnings. In the spring of 1858, he used that money to attend Brockway College. Hazen kept a journal while attending the College and wrote about his experiences. He studied bookkeeping, grammar, arithmetic, reading, and composition. In his journal, he expresses gratitude for the opportunity to get an education,

"it is with grate pleasure that I am permitted to go to School and I am going to try and learn something if nothing hapens to prevent me from doing it." – Hazen

Hazen also wrote about how difficult it was to get around Ripon because of the often muddy and irregular surfaced roads. However, during this time, there was progress made to remedy the problem:

"I have ben to school to today there has been a good deal of work dun in building sid walks in Ripon for the last week it is getting so that a person can get around without getting his neck broke." – Hazen



In 1860, Hazen married Caroline Windecker. In 1861, Hazen became partner with businessman David Greenway, owning a restaurant and saloon. Within six months, he owned half the interest, and it was not long before he became sole proprietor, continuing alone until 1876, when he sold to his brother. From 1866 to 1876, he served as Deputy Sheriff of Fond du Lac County, and for two years subsequent, the position of Sheriff. Hazen was also Ripon's first fire chief when the hook and ladder company was established in 1874.

Shortly after his time as Sheriff, Hazen purchased the Spring Grove House and grounds, a 60-acre summer resort that bordered Green Lake on the southern shore.

Because of ill health, around the age of 60, Hazen turned the business over to his son, Frank. Then, a few years later, in 1901, Hazen and Caroline moved to Ripon, on Scott St., shortly before his death in 1903.
