



View from Baldhead 1874

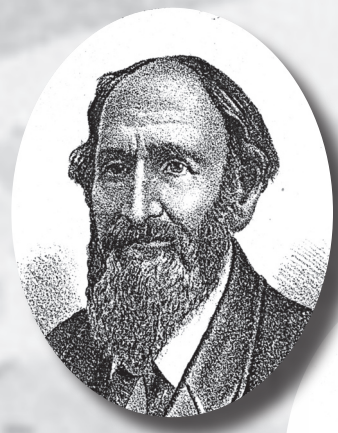
Remembering When ...

Our History

CIVIL WAR RALLY

In April of 1861, when word reached Michigan about the attack on at Fort Sumter, by the army of the newly-formed Confederate States of American, citizens around the state called meetings to support the Union, and to rally those who would be soldiers in the Union cause. The citizens of Saugatuck and vicinity met at Morrison's Hall on Monday evening, April 29.

Levi Loomis, a Ganges farmer, was chairman, and James G. Butler, who was the son of Saugatuck founder, William J. Butler, was elected secretary. George Harris, whose family owned a drug store in Saugatuck; F. B. Wallin, who ran a tannery on Goshorn Creek, Elisha Mix, a farmer from Manlius Township (later to be a Civil War general) and Nelson Wade of Douglas made up the Committee on Resolutions. Wallin and F. B. Stockbridge, a local mill owner (later be a United States Senator), provided the oratory -- accompanied by a "few national songs" from the local glee club. *By Kit Lane*



James Butler

Levi Loomis



For the Allegan Journal. Union Meeting at Newark.

A National mass meeting of the citizens of Saugatuck and vicinity was held at the Morrison Hall on Monday evening, April 29.

Levi Loomis, of Ganges, was called to the chair and J. G. Butler elected Secretary.

Messrs. Geo. Harris, F. B. Wallin, E. Mix and Nelson Wade were chosen as a Committee on Resolutions, who reported the following which were unanimously adopted.

WHEREAS, A portion of our country is in open rebellion against the Government and with arms are opposing the constituted authorities and bidding defiance to the Laws: therefore

Resolved, That we cannot admit the right of Secession, for it involves our own destruction, or in other words secession is rebellion, and as such should be put down by all the powers of the Federal Government.

Resolved, That like our forefathers we pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor to sustain inviolate the Union and Constitution purchased by their blood.

Patriotic speeches were made by F. B. Wallin and F. B. Stockbridge of Saugatuck. Hon. G. Moyers of Allegan, followed by the presentation of an Enrollment list, and the names of twenty of the audience were immediately subscribed. After a few national songs from the glee Club, the meeting adjourned, giving 3 cheers for the volunteers, 3 for Gen. Scott, and 3 for the Union. LEVI LOOMIS, Pres't
JAMES G. BUTLER, Sec'y

April 29, 1861 - Allegan Journal report of meeting at the Morrison Hall

F. B. Wallin



Elisha Mix



Nelson Wade



F. B. Stockbridge



Morrison Hall - corner of Butler and Culver

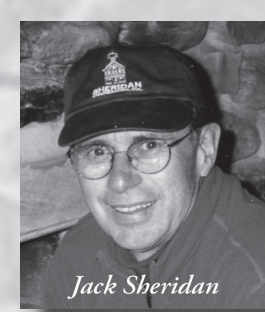
The Remembering When feature is the creation of Jack Sheridan and Jim Schmiechen of the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society. This weeks feature was written on a Civil War topic that is part of this year's museum exhibit "Lincoln's Ready-Made Soldiers: Saugatuck Area Men in the Civil War." The exhibit will open Sunday, May 29 and run through October. The SDHS museum is located on the west side of the Kalamazoo River at the foot of Mt. Baldhead, and is open daily, noon to 4 p.m. until Labor Day, and then on fall weekends. There is no admission charge.

In addition, special presentations featuring various historical topics will be presented at the museum on

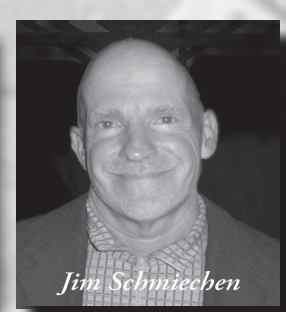
Tuesdays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to noon, beginning June 21.

We welcome your comments on Remembering When. Call 269 857-7901, email us at sdhistory@accn.org or write to Box 617 Douglas, MI 49406. SDHS historical images can be seen on the SDHS web site at www.sdhistory.com and all historical photos are available for purchase in print sizes up to 12x17.

Our historical image database is growing through your contributions. We scan your old photos—you keep the originals—and we then provide you with a CD of your digitized images.



Jack Sheridan



Jim Schmiechen