

TAMAR WALKER PHILLIPS MOORE

1842–1921

During the twenty years she lived in Saugatuck, Tamar Walker Phillips Moore was a leader in the town's social and political life and was especially active in women's suffrage and the temperance movement.

Tamar Walker Phillips was born in 1842 in Cass County, Michigan, the daughter of Boyd W. Phillips and Harriet Ann Barton of Manlius, New York. Her family moved to Allegan when Tamar was about ten and she attended school at the prestigious Pine Grove Seminary. According to local legend, Tamar placed a matrimonial ad to attract a wealthy husband. In 1864 she married Horace Duncan Moore, 20 years her senior, a Saugatuck lumber baron who was one of the wealthiest men in Allegan County. Her husband's wealth and position enabled Tamar Moore to wield influence in her community.

In 1857, H.D. Moore built what was then the largest and grandest house in Saugatuck where the family resided until 1884. The Moores called their residence Park House because of its pastoral setting on the road to Holland, an area known informally as "Mooreville." Tamar was a leader in the town's social and civic organizations and the Moores hosted many visitors and social gatherings at Park House.

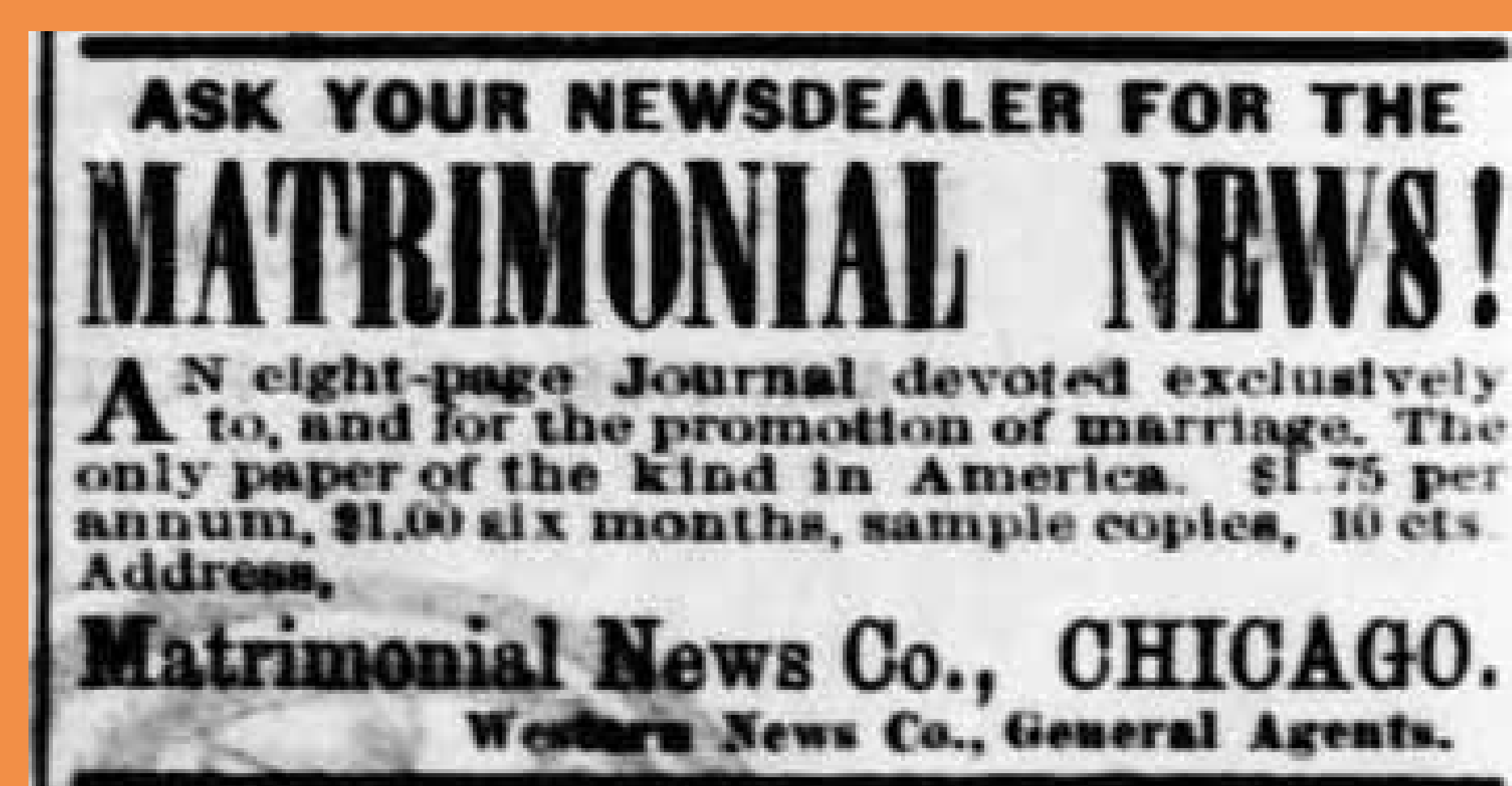
At the time of the Great Chicago Fire of October 1871, other towns in the region, including Holland, Michigan also burned. To protect their valuables from the threat of fire, the Moore library, family paintings, silverware, linen, and mill books were all buried deep in the sand. The need to rebuild after the fires created a boom in the lumber business and increased Moore's profits until the forest was depleted and the lumber industry moved north in the mid 1870s.

Mr. and Mrs. Moore were instrumental in the construction of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Saugatuck, where Tamar placed memorial windows for her mother, grandmother and daughter Maude who had died as a young child. The church was a center for temperance activities, a cause that the Moores energetically supported.

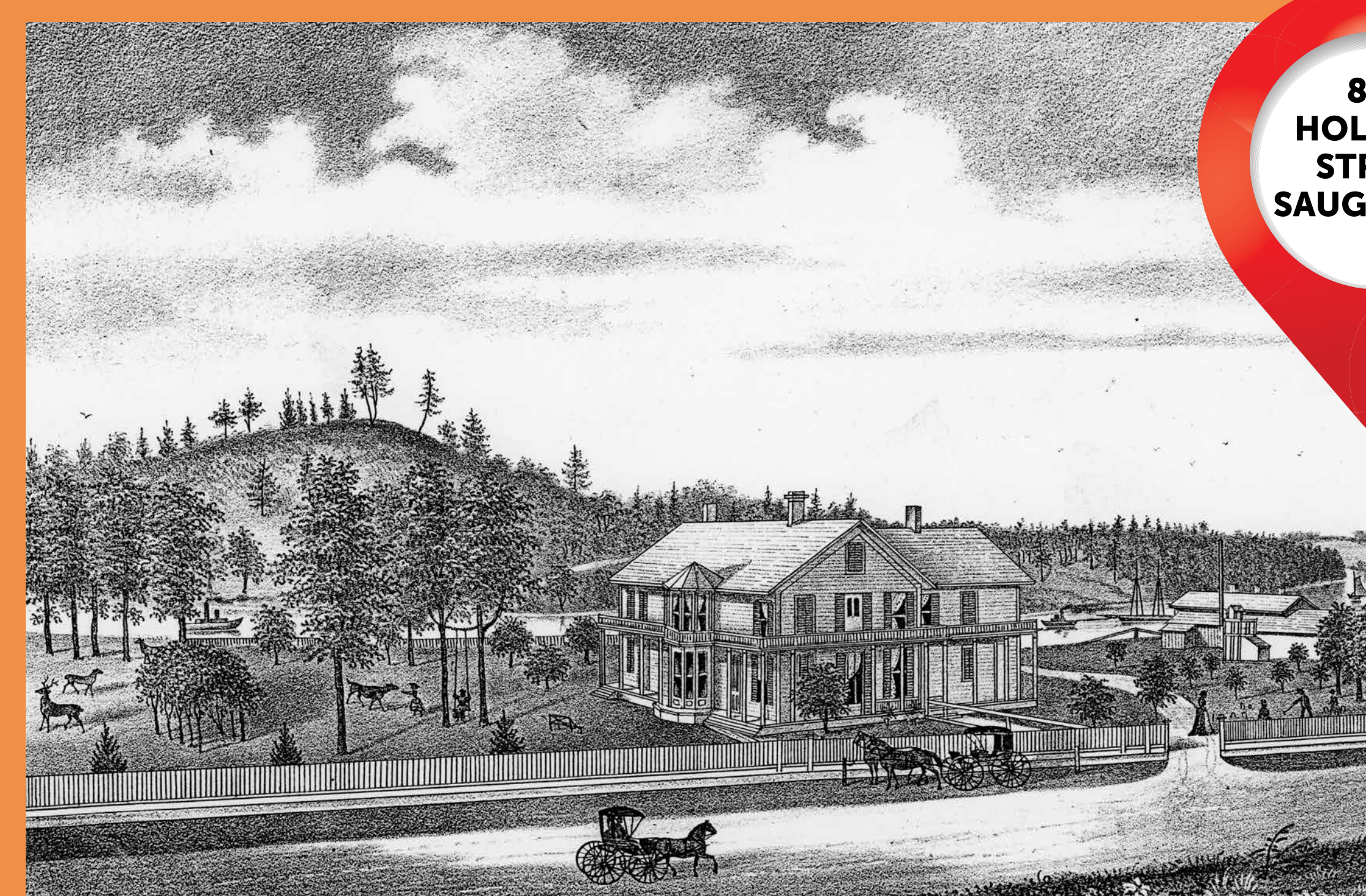
Tamar Moore moved with her husband and three daughters to Allegan in 1884, where the family continued to prosper. The Moores celebrated their golden anniversary in 1914 with a grand party that was reported in the Allegan Gazette. Her family's monument is prominently situated in the Oakwood Cemetery in Allegan. Tamar's gravestone is decorated with a Daughters of the American Revolution plaque. At the time of her death in 1921, Moore was still remembered in Saugatuck as "the queenly and gracious woman who in the early days was a leader in nearly every betterment movement here."

Tamar Walker Phillips researched by fellow
Team HerStorian, Toni Perrine

Toni Perrine



Matrimonial ads, precursor to personal ads and Tinder, were common in the mid 1800s.



Park House (888 Holland St.) built in 1857 is one of the oldest homes in Saugatuck.

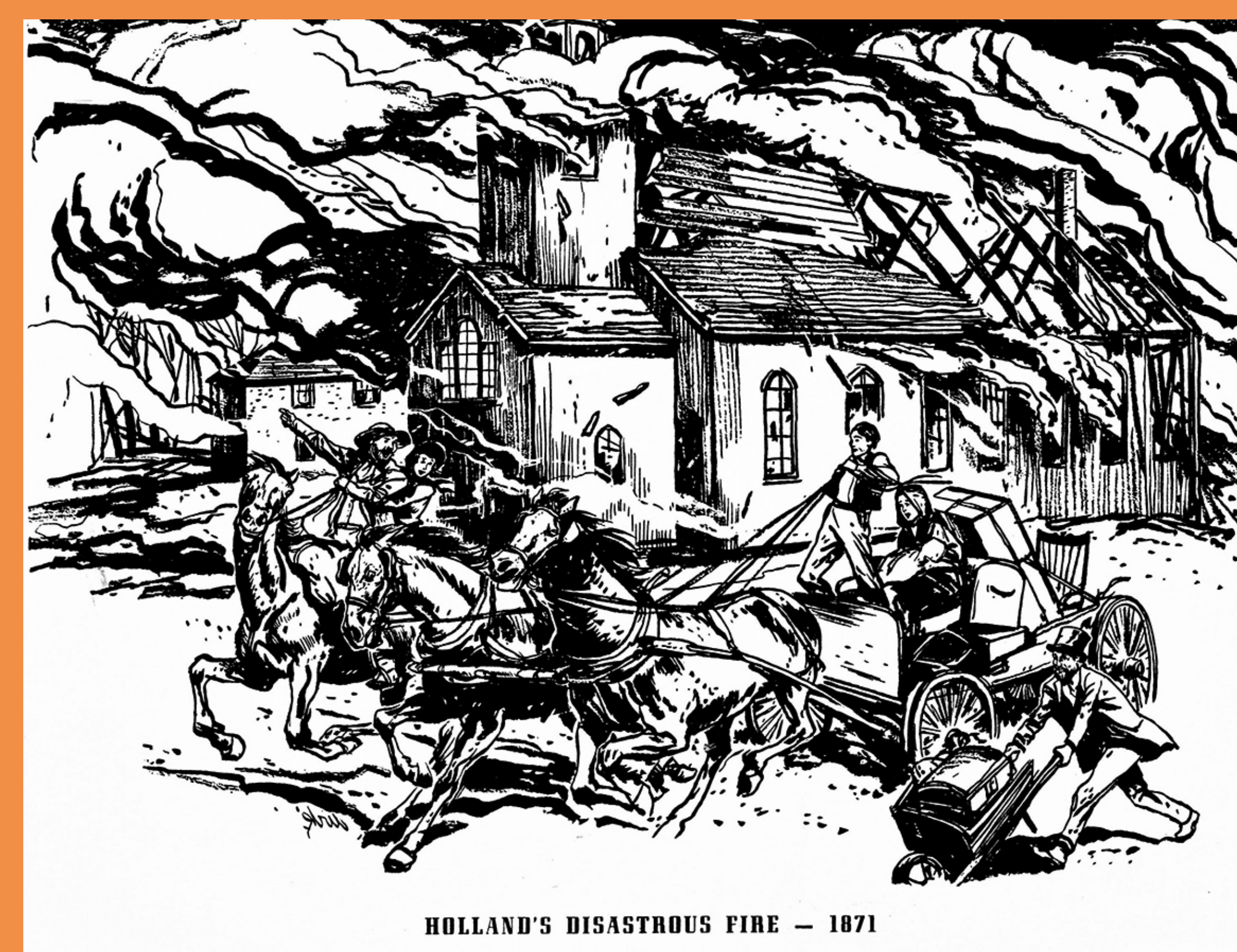
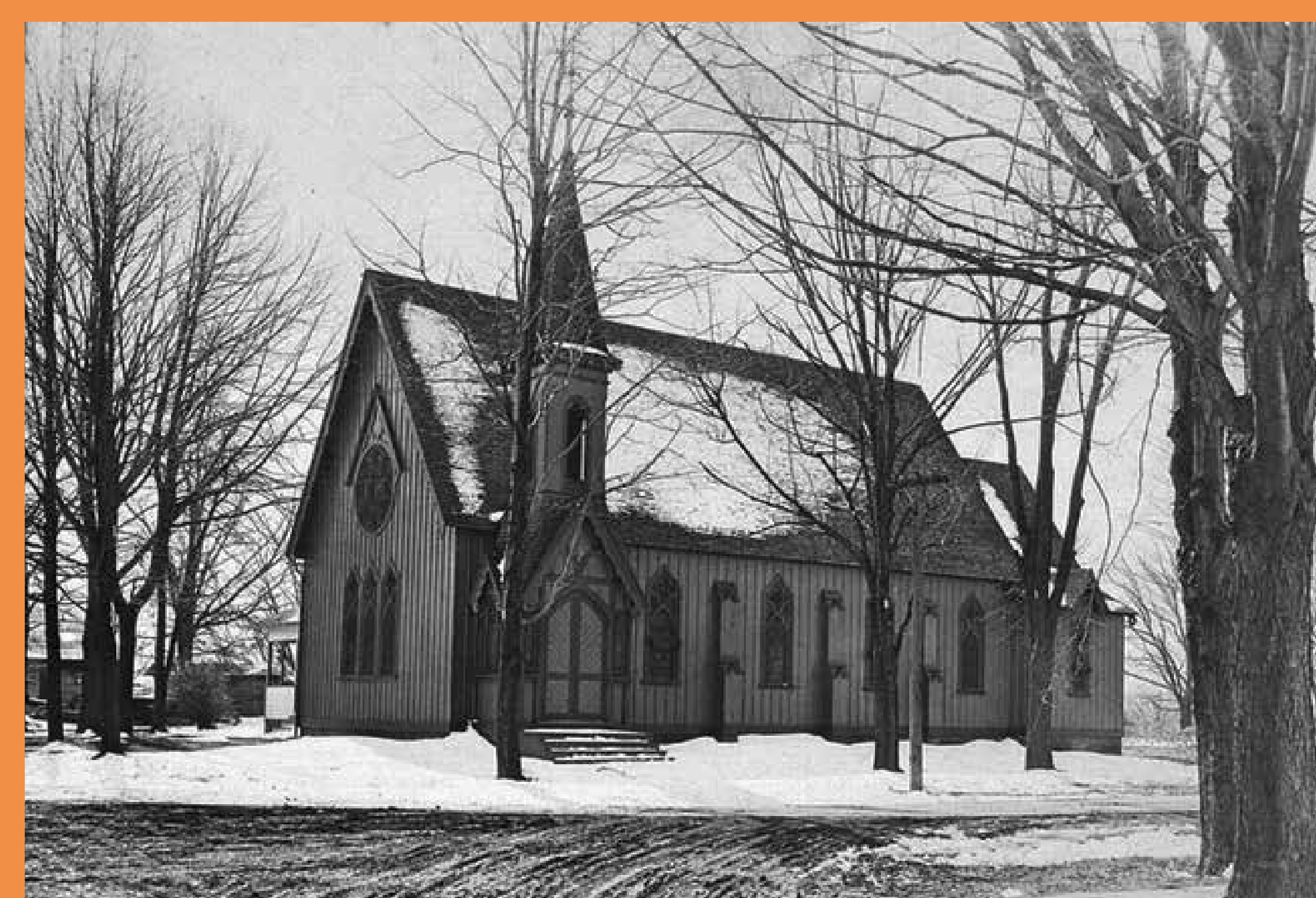


Illustration of the great fire in Holland, Michigan in 1871. Drought conditions and strong winds threatened other lakeshore communities and throughout the state.



All Saints Episcopal Church was built in 1871–1872 with significant financial support from Tamar Moore and her husband. It is on the National Registry of Historic Places.