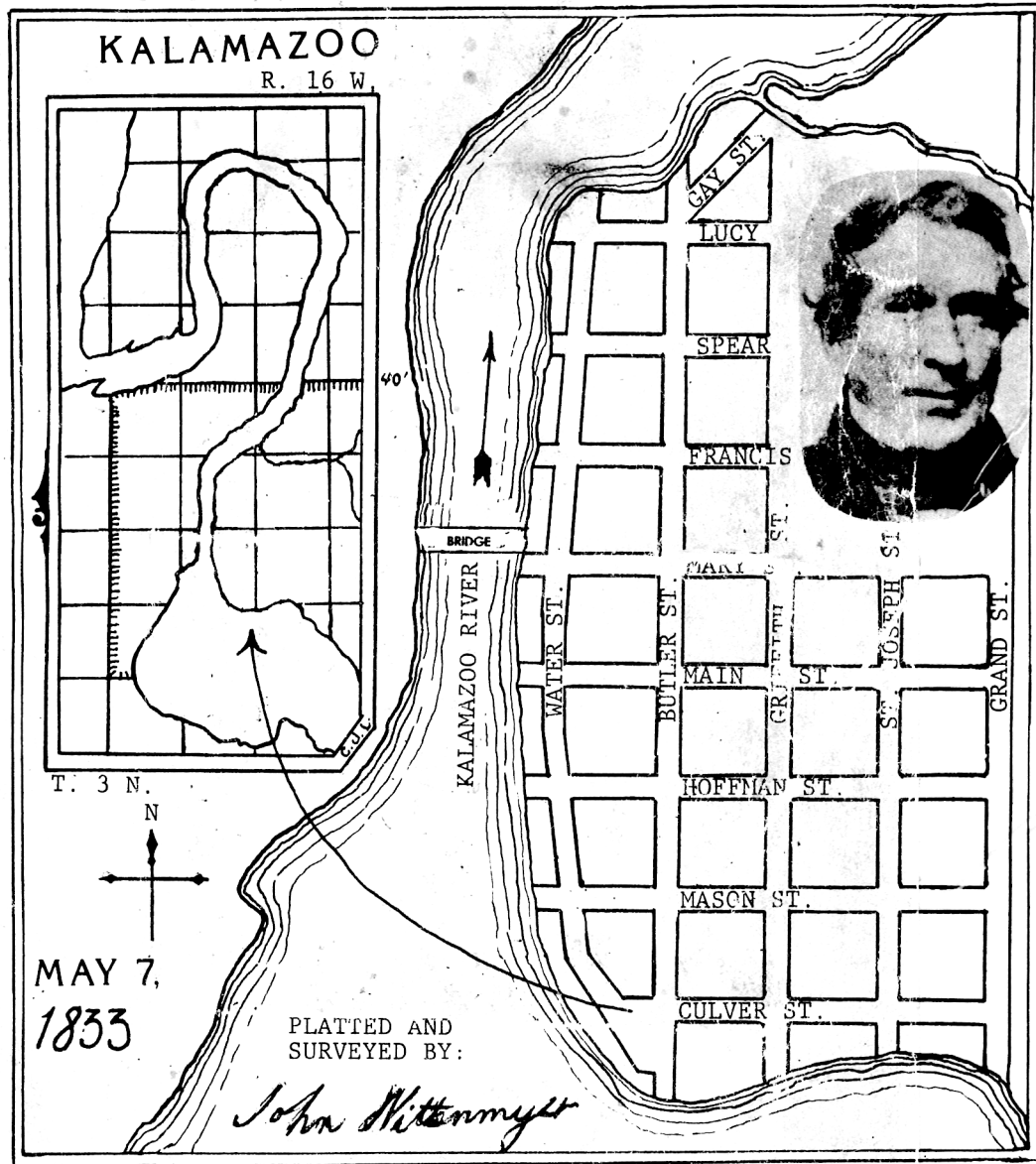


The Early History of Saugatuck and Singapore, Michigan 1830-1840

NEWARK TOWNSHIP, IT'S PEOPLE AND SAWMILLS



By Charles J. Lorenz

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Charles J. Lorenz

WITH A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO
MY FRIENDS SINDY & BUSTER KIEVIT

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QUERCUS RUBRA



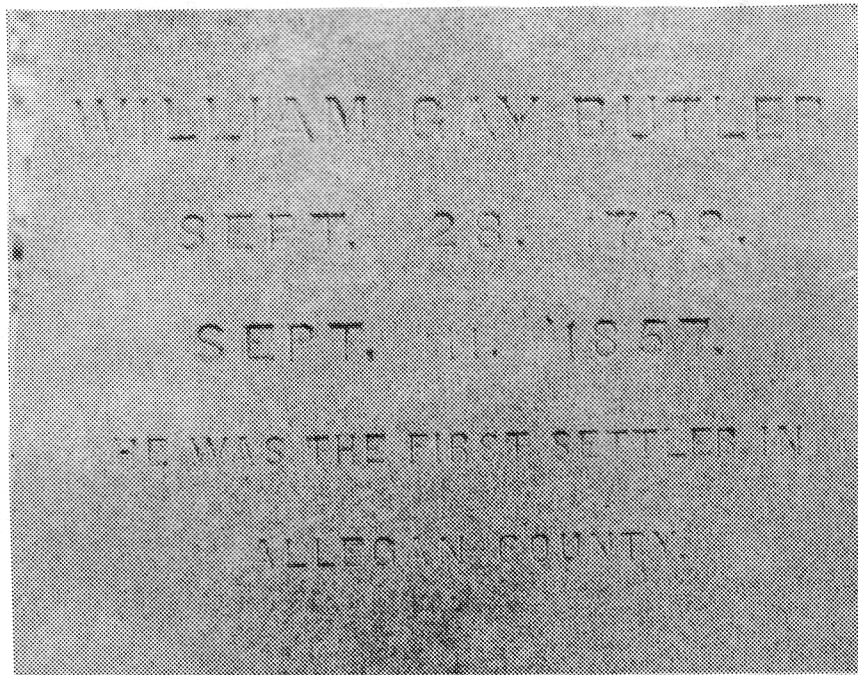
DEDICATED TO SAUGATUCK'S
OLDEST LIVING TREE

It was young when this country was in its infancy and is well over two hundred years old. This Red Oak is a survivor of all the lumbering and cordwood gathering operations on the Kalamazoo river and this area. It stands just south of the south west corner of St. Joseph and Main Streets in Saugatuck, Michigan. An essay by Robert O. Petty, accompanying photographs of Torkel Korling in the book Eastern Deciduous Forest; Wild Plants in Flower, has appropriate words for the transition of forest to farm:

"How do you make a cornfield out of a forest? How do you make a town? How do you clear away trees five feet through and towering one hundred and fifty feet? Forty acres, eighty, a section, a county--how do you 'cut the top off' all that flat land between the Cumberlands and the Mississippi? Our minds can only ache to comprehend."

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PREFACE

This is a chronology of the first ten years of habitation of white settlers among the Amerindians, near the mouth of the beautiful Kalamazoo River Valley. It was written to bring together many sources of research material available today, but not so fifty years ago. The volume is footnoted so that anyone with a more intense interest can go back to the original source of the material for more detailed examination. When the first comprehensive history of Allegan County was written in 1880, many of the old settlers had already died or moved on, leaving the early record sparse and bare. In the course of writing and editing, some corrections were made for clarity and punctuation. It is hoped that these do not substantially change the material.

If you read and look closely, the paths of history are all around and come alive, as you explore the open dunes of the surrounding area. It was a time, when a man's address was part of a section of land instead of a house number. It was a hard time, when cultures came together on America's western frontier at the end of the fur trading era in this territory. It moved west past Illinois and the Mississippi river.

The author wants to thank the following people, who gave their time and special knowledge to various sections of this book. They include Gordon Aller, Lake Shore Manor, Saugatuck township, Michigan; Leroy Barnett, Reference Archivist, Michigan Department of State, Michigan History Division; Eugene H. Burrell, Reference Department Head, Elkhart Public Library; U. M. Clarke, Comstock Township Library; Alice C. Dalligan, Chief, Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library; June Fox, Librarian, Saugatuck-Douglas Public Library; Ralph Haan, Herrick Public Library, Holland; Evelyn B. Hachey, Leominster, Massachusetts; James L. Hansen, The State Historical Society of Wisconsin; Mrs. Edward N. Kehl, Leelanau Township Library; Synthia Kievit, Fennville, Michigan; Richard Hathaway, Michigan Unit, Michigan State Library; Barbara Lampen, Netherlands Museum Archives, Holland; Mary Jean MacEwen, Local History Division, Rochester, N.Y. Public Library; Larry B. Massie, Acting Director, University Archives and Regional History Collection, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Waldo Library; Mary J. Pugh, Reference Archivist, Bentley Historical Library, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Gail M. Reynolds, Assistant Librarian, Boston Public Library; Mrs. Wilber Snyder, Paw Paw, Michigan; Mrs. Edmund D. Steele, St. Albans, Vermont Historical Society; Don Van Reken, Holland, Michigan; Barbara G. Troost, Maude Preston Palenske Memorial Library (St. Joseph, Michigan Public Library); Dietmar U. Wagner, Reference Librarian, Ann Arbor Public Library; Richard Welmers, Old Wing Mission House, Holland, Michigan; Darlene Winter, Herrick Public Library, Holland; Mr. and Mrs. Clarence B. Wolfe, Northport, Michigan.

CREDITS

Photographs by the author.

Dedication, Table of Contents, pages 34 and 68.

Line drawings by the author.

Page 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 22, 24, 30, 46, 49, and 50.

History of Allegan and Barry Counties, Michigan.

Page 15, 21 (top), 34, 37, 64, and 86.

Singapore: The Buried City by Kit Lane.

Page 39, 40, and 45.

Memoirs of the Judiciary and the Bar of New England for the
Nineteenth Century by Leonard A. Jones. Page 5.

The Hutchins Family of Allegan County, Michigan by
Evert O. Hutchins. Page 53.

State Bank Notes of Michigan by Harold Bowen.

Page 41.

Family photograph from Mr. and Mrs. Clarence B. Wolfe.

Page 69.

Lindenwood College Bulletin, Vol. 86, No. 3.

Page 71.

Daybook attributed to James E. Stephens, Maude Preston Palenske
Memorial Library, St. Joseph, Michigan. Page 12.

Atlas 1873 by D. J. Lake.

Page 58.

Early Memories of Saugatuck, Michigan 1830-1930.

Cover. William G. Butler (inset).

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FRONT COVER, designed by Charles J. Lorenz.

Downtown Saugatuck in 1833, the year that it was surveyed and platted. (Inset) The Kalamazoo river from Kalamazoo Lake to Lake Michigan.

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Singapore at its apex. From the Allegan County Atlas of 1873 by D. J. Lake.

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The Early History of Saugatuck and Singapore, Michigan 1830-1840

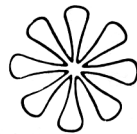
NEWARK TOWNSHIP, IT'S PEOPLE AND SAWMILLS

BY

CHARLES J. LORENZ

In commemoration of the arrival of the
first settler of Allegan County, Michigan
William Gay Butler in 1830

PART ONE



PUBLISHED BY

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WILLIAM GAY BUTLER

CHAPTER 1

May 30, 1980 marked the 150th anniversary, sesquicentennial, of the arrival of the first pioneer settler in what is now Allegan county.¹ He was here six years before Michigan became a state and five before Allegan was a county. Before coming to the area, William Gay Butler was a merchant in Williamsburg, Pa. While in Pennsylvania, he married his first of three wives, Mary Wells (1805-1835). She was a native of Hartford, Connecticut as was he. They were married in late 1826 or early 1827 at Dundaff, Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania. The announcement of their marriage appeared in the Hartford Courant on January 8, 1827. The couple's first child, Lucy J., was born in Huntingdon county, Pa. about a year later.² It is believed that Butler, his wife Mary, and his daughter Lucy came to the mouth of the Kalamazoo river aboard the schooner Madison. They were lightered to shore with household goods, provisions and a stock of trade goods.

William G. Butler was born on September 28, 1799 in Hartford, Connecticut, now called West Hartford. He was the third of seven children born to Jonathan and Elizabeth (nee Gay) Butler. Five of his brothers and sisters were, Eliza, George, Epaphras P., Maria B. and Nathan. He was the seventh generation removed from Richard Butler, one of the founders and proprietors of Hartford, Connecticut in 1639-40, in this order: Richard, Thomas, Joseph, Gideon, Zacheus, Jonathan and William G.³

For about a year, Butler and his family lived with the Indians at the mouth of the Kalamazoo river, where sections four, five, eight and nine cross in Town 3 North, Range 16 West. He traded with the Indians, before he had the future site of his town, which he named KALAMAZOO (now Saugatuck), surveyed and platted on May 7, 1833.

The territory that they came to was a wilderness frontier covered with a forest full of game. In 1829, it and the surrounding area was called Penn township, Cass county, a large area that today encompasses five counties. In 1831 a new boundary was established, which created Allegan township (the same size as

1. D. W. Ensign, Ed. History of Allegan and Barry Counties, Michigan (Philadelphia, 1880), p. 324; Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, Vol. 3, p. 301, Vol. 4, p. 171, Vol. 17, pp. 557-9, Vol. 38, p. 157; Henry F. Thomas, A 20th Century History of Allegan County, Michigan, (Chicago 1907), p. 32. See Appendix.

2. Obituary, Allegan Journal dated October 1, 1856, Allegan.

3. Lucius Barnes Barbour, Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut (Baltimore 1977), pp. 134-7 and 144-5.

the county is today), but part of Kalamazoo county. The Butlers followed the first trickle of surveyors who blazed the trees, neatly marking the towns and ranges prescribed by the Grayson Land Ordinance of May 20, 1785. Butler named his tiny hamlet after the river and had it surveyed by John Wittenmyer of St. Joseph, Michigan.⁴ He bought this land in 1831 and his pre-emption covered 86 acres.⁵

At St. Joseph, Wittenmyer was elected village trustee in May, 1834, marshall in 1835 and was in business as a merchant and grocer.⁶

In the beginning, when there were no grist mills on the Kalamazoo river, Butler went all the way to Elkhart, Indiana to get his flour. There was a mill built there by George Crawford and Lew Davis at the mouth of Christina creek.⁷ Carrying the heavy sack of flour back and being away from his family made Butler dread this job. In 1832, he built the sloop Groton.⁸ This must have made the task of hauling flour easier, using a water route. After a time, it was unnecessary to travel far for meal, as shipments of it began coming down the Kalamazoo from mills inland. Farms were cleared, crops were planted between the stumps, grain harvested and brought to mill and market.

Butler encountered a number of different traders around the mouth. Some were French, French-Indian and American. This outlet and all the rivers along the coast of Lake Michigan were the favorite gathering places of traders for hundreds of years. The names of some of these men were Beauchamp (Bouchon), Palmer & Mayo, Rix Robinson, Louis Campau and his clerk Lucius Barnes,* one eyed John, St. Pierre and Moreau & Godfroy. The trade in pelts and firewater was transient and none of these contemporaries of Butler stayed beyond their "contracted season" or they made settlement elsewhere.

The land that Butler came to would be divided again and again, but was first Penn township. It was organized only months before his arrival on November 4, 1829 and was part of Cass county which stretched from the southern state boundary to the Grand river on the north. Its eastern edge is the same as those of Cass, Van Buren and Ottawa counties of today. The first white settlers to come to the territory that Penn included were Dolphin and Nancy Morris who arrived on March 20, 1829, before it was organized.

4. F. Ellis, ed., History of Berrien & Van Buren Counties (Philadelphia 1880), p. 313. Wittenmyer came to St. Joseph in 1830 or 1831. When the Mexican War broke out, he went into the Army and rose to the rank of Colonel. He died soon after his return home.

5. History of Allegan and Barry Counties, Michigan, p. 31.

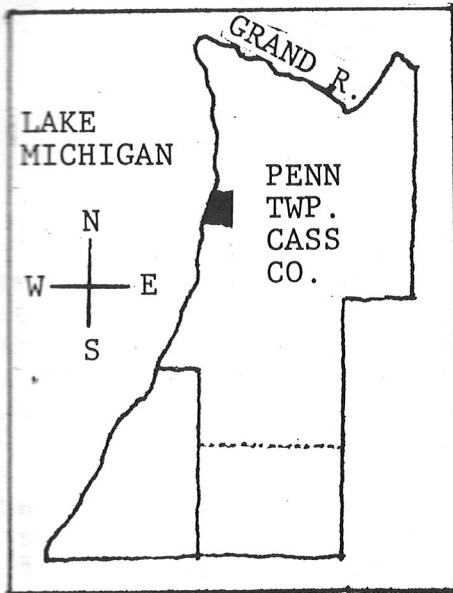
6. History of Berrien & Van Buren Counties, pp. 313, 317-7.

7. Emil V. Anderson, Taproots of Elkhart History (Elkhart 1949), p. 17.

8. May Francis Heath, Early Memories of Saugatuck, Michigan 1830-1930 (Grand Rapids 1930), p. 82. Elisha Weed, a ship carpenter was on the site that became Singapore in early 1832 and may have been Butler's boatbuilder.

* Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, Vol. 17, p. 55

Penn township included what is today's Van Buren county and all the country north of it to the Grand river.⁹ Martin Shields hosted the first township meeting on November 5, 1829, the day after the act was passed.

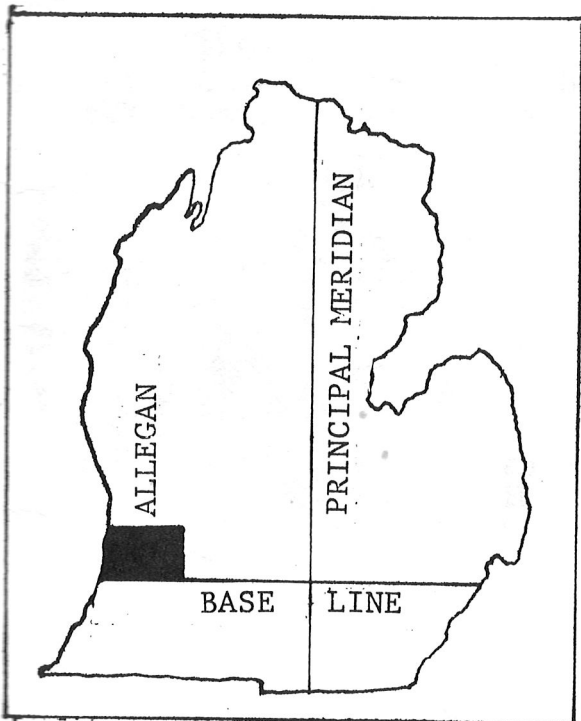


The small black block represents today's Saugatuck township. The dotted line was Penn township's southern boundary which is the modern Cass, Van Buren county line. Penn township stretched north to the Grand river.

On July 30, 1830, Kalamazoo county was organized.

The boundary of present day Allegan county was set by the territorial legislature on March 2, 1831.

Allegan township was formed and attached to Kalamazoo county in 1833.¹⁰ In its lifetime, there were only three meetings held under those auspices. The first was on April 6,



Allegan is the black block. It was first a township of Kalamazoo county. Then it became a county with its own government.

Principal Meridian runs N. and S. at 84 degrees, 22 minutes, 24 seconds. Base Line runs E. and W. at 42 degrees, 26 minutes, 30 seconds latitude.

9. Territorial Laws, (Lansing 1928), Vol. 2, p. 786.
10. Ibid., p. 997.

1833 in Otsego at the home of Dr. Samuel Foster on section 23.¹¹

RESULTS OF THIS ELECTION

Supervisor	Overseers of Roads
Charles Miles	Orlando Weed
Clerk	Ebenezer Sherwood
Cyrenius Thompson	Uriah Baker
Collector	Abijah Chichester
Martin W. Rowe	Commissioners of Highways
Assessors	Turner Aldrich
Calvin White	Norman Davis
Daniel A. Plummer	Royal Sherwood
Ebenezer Sherwood	School Inspectors
Overseers of the Poor	Samuel Foster
Giles Scott	Charles Miles
H. C. White	Cyrenius Thompson
Moderator	Constable
Hull Sherwood	Martin W. Rowe

In 1834, a three man commission was appointed to locate a county seat for Allegan. There were twenty-two voters at the second meeting on April 7, 1834. The last and final meeting of Allegan township took place at the Pine Creek school house on April 6, 1835. It was at this meeting that William G. Butler was elected constable for the township.¹² They petitioned the territorial legislature for their own county organization in 1835 and held the first Allegan county election on August 12th of the same year. The county organization petition was granted on September 1, 1835 and the first representative from Allegan county was Elisha Ely, elected on March 23, 1836.

Its limits were north of the base line and south of the line between townships four and five north; west of the line between ranges ten and eleven west of the meridian, and east of the shore of Lake Michigan. In 1836, Allegan county was divided into four townships with supervisors elected for each.

11. A 20th Century History of Allegan and Barry Counties, Michigan, pp. 6-7. See Territorial Laws April 23, 1833 for the legislative act to legalize this Saturday meeting.

12. Ibid.

MAPS, PLATS, LOTS AND PLOTS

CHAPTER 2

"In the summer of 1834, the Honorable Samuel Hubbard, one of the judges of the supreme court of Massachusetts, was visiting Detroit with his wife.¹ He remarked to me one day that if he could find the right man he would like to give him a few thousand dollars to invest in wild lands in Michigan, in Hubbard's name, profits to be divided. Mr. Sidney Ketchum, then living at Marshall, was in high repute for energy, good judgment, and integrity. I introduced him to Mr. Hubbard, and a bargain was made for Ketchum to invest five thousand dollars. After Judge Hubbard returned to his home in Boston some of his friends desired to join, and did join him in further investments in wild lands, but of these I have no knowledge. They were quite distinct from "the Boston Company" lands, in which I was a partner.



SAMUEL HUBBARD

1785-1847

and range. Of Mr. Ketchum the judge and his friends bought SE

During this summer of 1834, Mr. George Ketchum, then living at Marshall, Messrs. Stephen Vickery and Anthony Cooley of Kalamazoo, and Mr. Alexander L. Ely of Rochester, N. Y., projected the village of Allegan. Mr. Oshea Wilder, a civil engineer, had ascertained by examination, that there was about eight feet fall in the river at that place. Mr. Sidney Ketchum, in his searches for land, fell in with these parties, and it at once occurred to him that, to give value to the investments of Judge Hubbard and his friends, they, or some of them, ought to be interested in the village. So he entered into an agreement with George Ketchum and Vickery & Cooley, to buy for Hubbard their undivided interest, being two-thirds of the $E\frac{1}{2}$ $SE\frac{1}{4}$, section 29; SW fractional $\frac{1}{4}$, south fraction, SW fraction of $NW\frac{1}{4}$, section 28, T2N R13W; and N part of W fraction of $NW\frac{1}{4}$, NE fraction of $NW\frac{1}{4}$, SW fraction of $NE\frac{1}{4}$, and NW fraction of $SE\frac{1}{4}$ of section 33, in same town

1. Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, Vol. 4, p. 173. Part of a letter written by C. C. Trowbridge.

fraction of NW $\frac{1}{4}$; and they bought also the Brown fraction: NE fraction of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ section 33, both T2N R13W.

Mr. Elisha Ely of Rochester had entered into an agreement with George Ketchum and Vickery & Cooley, in November, 1833, to purchase one undivided half of their lands as above described, and to build a dam and erect a sawmill; and in May, 1834, the parties seem to have agreed that this interest should be conveyed to Alexander L. Ely, the son of Elisha. A deed was accordingly executed to Alexander, but it was never recorded, as the affair took another turn, to wit, the admission of Hubbard and his friends.

In 1834, Samuel Hubbard, Edmund Munroe, and Pliny Cutler of Boston, and Charles C. Trowbridge of Detroit entered into an agreement to buy of George Ketchum, Vickery & Cooley, and Hubbard was to hold the title. Hubbard subsequently lent some thousands of dollars to Ely, and Trowbridge was made a trustee to hold Ely's interest for Hubbard's benefit.

Very soon this little matter took on larger form. The four gentlemen mentioned organized themselves into "The Allegan Company", and they purchased twenty odd thousand acres of land, calling themselves in that transaction, for the purpose of keeping the accounts separate, as Ely had no interest in these lands, "The Boston Company."

The village plat was made, Mr. Sidney Ketchum worked hard, Mr. Alexander L. Ely and his father removed from Rochester to Allegan, the canal was dug, the dam built, and sawmill erected, school house and several tenement houses soon followed, settlers came, and the most sanguine visions were indulged."

C. C. Trowbridge (signed)

* * * * *

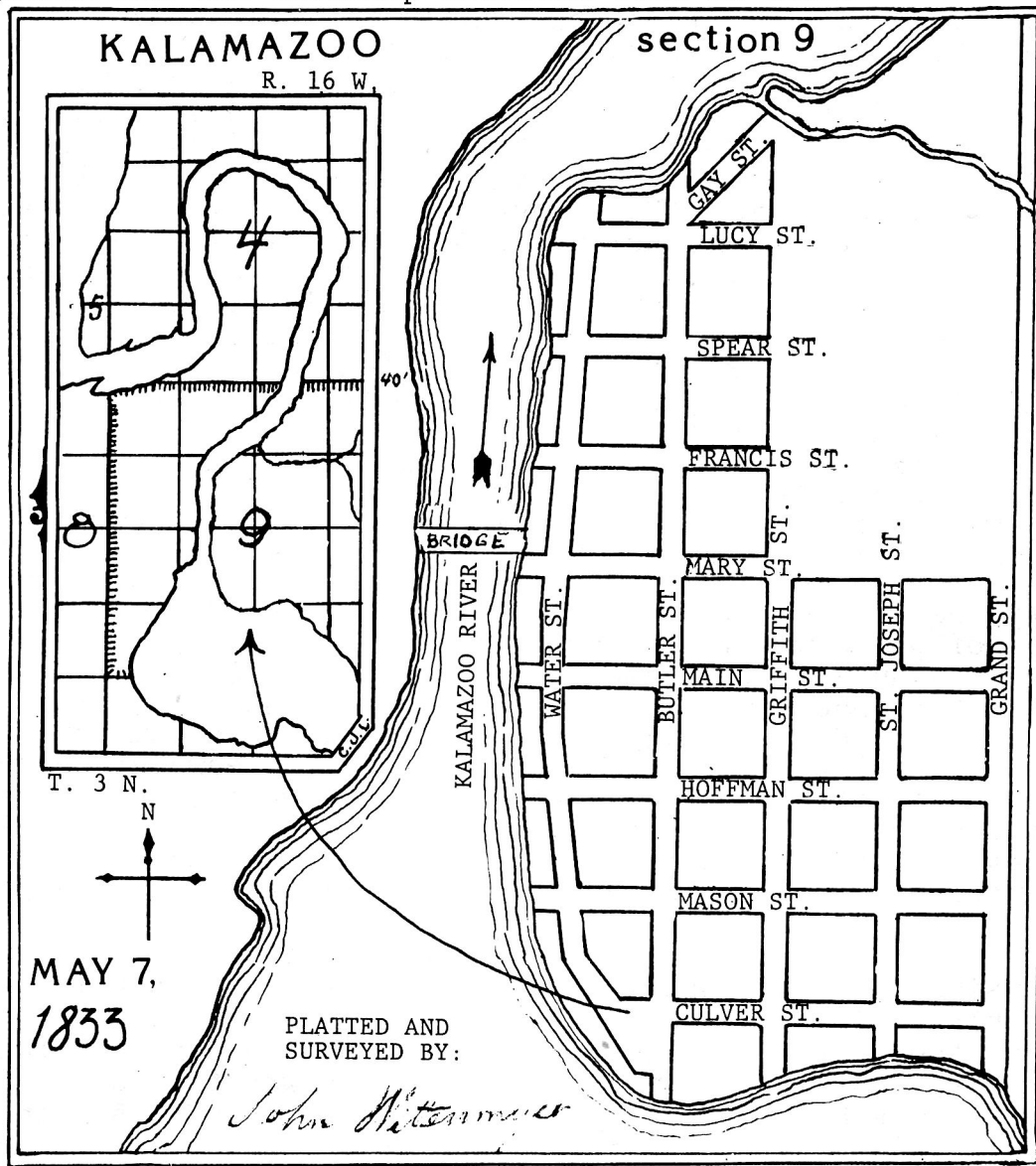
Butler's town was sacred ground to the Ottawa Indians, who had been burying their dead on this low, flat land for decades.* This cemetery is marked by a natural stone boulder at the southwest corner of Butler and Culver Streets in downtown Saugatuck. The Indians lived up and down the Kalamazoo and its tributaries, coming to hunt and trap in the fall and winter, and staying until sugaring time in the spring. There was another burial ground, in the county, upriver in Allegan at a place called Jenner's Rift (and now a part of the Allegan county fair grounds).

It was also common for them to bury men of stature in their tribe on the hillsides of the river to watch over the comings and goings, in spirit, of their descendants. Butler brought his family to this spot and cleared a place to build a one room log shanty. His letter to his father at Hartford on May 8, 1834 best describes the advances he made and the optimism he felt during those first years.² He and his wife had two children before any other white men came to live here, both long gone with no record of even their first names.

2. Early Memories of Saugatuck, Michigan 1830-1930, pp. 89-90.

* This cemetery was partially excavated in 1929 and reported on in 1937 by George I. Quimby.

This is an approximation of Butler's town plat, which he named Kalamazoo. It shows the size of the town in relation to section nine and the river. The original plat was stolen at the turn of the century. The name of the village and township was changed to Newark in 1836, but the post office was called Saugatuck. By 1861, the town officially changed it's name to Saugatuck and the township followed suit in 1863.



Butler's plat of Kalamazoo was recorded at Bronson, Kalamazoo county on July 17, 1834. He named the streets of his town for the three men he sold land to: Jasper MASON, Henry B. HOFFMAN and John GRIFFITH. For his family, he named one MARY after his wife, LUCY after his daughter and GAY (now Newnham St.) after his mother's maiden name. He called the eastern edge GRAND and another ST. JOSEPH in honor of the direction from whence they all came. The main street of Saugatuck is BUTLER, his family name. There is MAIN, a prime street of Butler's time. WATER reflects the north-south street running adjacent to the

river. There are others lost to memory or of a later date. The original plat has never resurfaced, after being taken from county files.

Quoting from William's letter to his father, Jonathan, he writes, "Your favor of April 14th was received last evening together with the Courant. I have received two or three papers before for which I thank you. Was pleased to hear of your good health and can inform you that we are remarkably healthy here; think it a very healthy place."

"I first sold $\frac{1}{4}$ of my pre-emption to Jasper Mason and $\frac{1}{4}$ to John Griffith for \$500 each before the sale of Public Lands in this vicinity. Knew I sold them for one half the value but they gave me all I asked of them..." Then he gives a glimpse of hoped for commerce. "Mr. Mason and Mr. Griffith were here a few days since and Mr. Hoffman will go to New York and on his return here will build and open a store opposite our houses. He had his cellar dug, timber out, and partly framed." Of Hoffman, he reported, "...did not think of selling any more (land), but at the Land Office, Mr. Hoffman bought a good deal of land in this vicinity and I sold him $\frac{1}{8}$ more for \$500 so you see I sold $\frac{5}{8}$ for \$1500."

Jasper Mason, a native of New York, came to Niles, Michigan about 1832.³ He was a supervisor of Niles township in 1835. On September 22, 1836, he married Calista Merriman, a daughter of Col. J. Merriman.⁴ He owned a clothing store in Niles on the corner of 2nd and Main; later a hardware, stocking cutlery, paints and oils. In 1846, he was president of the village of Niles where he died in 1848.

John Griffith came to St. Joseph in 1834 from Rochester, New York where he had been a forwarding and commission merchant located on Exchange Street.⁵ Griffith & Company built a warehouse at St. Joseph in that year and a steamboat called the Davy Crockett. The oddest sight in the water; she had a figurehead that was half horse and half alligator. To make the craft even more awe inspiring, the exhaust from the engine came out of the alligator's mouth spitting a steady stream of black smoke.

In 1832, Henry B. Hoffman was engaged in the mercantile business at Mackinac Island and then removed to Niles, Michigan.⁶ In 1831, his brother, George W. Hoffman brought a stock of goods from New York to St. Joseph. He remained there until July, 1832 when he moved to Niles and was joined in partnership by his brother, Henry. In 1837, he was general land agent with his office over Bacon Wheeler's store in Niles, corner of Main and Front Streets.⁷ In 1844, he was supervisor of Niles township and removed to Davenport, Iowa in 1853. George

3. Judge Orville W. Coolidge, A 20th Century History of Berrien County, Michigan (Chicago 1906), pp. 145, 163 and 169.

4. Niles Gazette and Advertiser dated November 1, 1836.

5. A 20th Century History of Berrien County, Michigan, p. 176.

6. Ibid., pp. 145 and 170.

7. Niles Intelligencer of April 4, 1838. October 16,
(continued on the next page)

moved to Detroit in 1857 where he later died. Henry and George were the sons of Major William Hoffman who made his home in Niles after 1839.

Little mention is made of Mason, Hoffman, and Griffith beyond this 1834 letter. They settled in Berrien county.

Continuing Butler's letter, he says, "I have put up one frame and one hewed log house, have timber out for a frame to connect the two, one is 40X20 with a cellar 20X22 walled with square timber, the other is 14X18, cellar 8X9 with plank wall." The lumber for the frame house came from Pine Creek and was the first ever rafted down the Kalamazoo river. This feat was performed by Oka Town and Abijah Chichester.⁸ They stayed overnight with Bouchon, the trader, near Allegan. They had to hire an Indian on the return trip, by land, to take them back. He goes on, "...I have also purchased and paid for 27,000 feet of good assorted pine lumber, and 45,000 feet of boards and 500,000 shingles and more coming which I will send by schooner to Chicago."

There is a journal attributed to James E. Stephens of St. Joseph, a merchant, with entries in the name of a number of our early settlers including Jasper Mason, H. H. Comstock, Stephen D. Nichols, John Griffith, John Griffith & Co., and the Davy Crockett.⁹ The following is some business recorded with William G. Butler:

May 14, 1834	10 lbs coffee	\$1.88
	5 lbs. tea	5.00
June 4, 1834	Bills receivable	110.00
	20 mococks sugar	3.33
June 10, 1834	1 Bill of goods	76.07
November 18, 1834	8 feet of taffata	7.52
	1 foot blue Calico	3.99
	4 Norfolk latches	.75
	5 lbs. young Hyson tea	4.38
	15 lbs. coffee	2.81
April 4, 1835	Bill of goods	91.23
	Bills receivable	185.11

* * * * *

In 1834 Rensselaer R. Crosby and Edward S. Johonnett opened a tannery on Lot #204 in Butler's village as Crosby & Company. The 1845 assessment roll is the last that the company appears on. The tannery was located between Griffith and St. Joseph along the river. Crosby was not married and roomed with his partner and his family. Johonnett's dwelling stood on the southwest corner of Butler and Mason Streets. Butler mentions Crosby in his May 8, 1834 letter, "Left home four days since

1838 issue; Secretary at a convention of Republican Whigs of Berrien county. June 12, 1839; 3rd V.P. of the Niles Total Abstinence Society and on September 9, 1840 was on the Board of Visitors, Niles Branch of the University of Michigan.

8. Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, Vol. 26, p. 331. Vol. 17, p. 557, Lucius A. Barnes helped build the house.

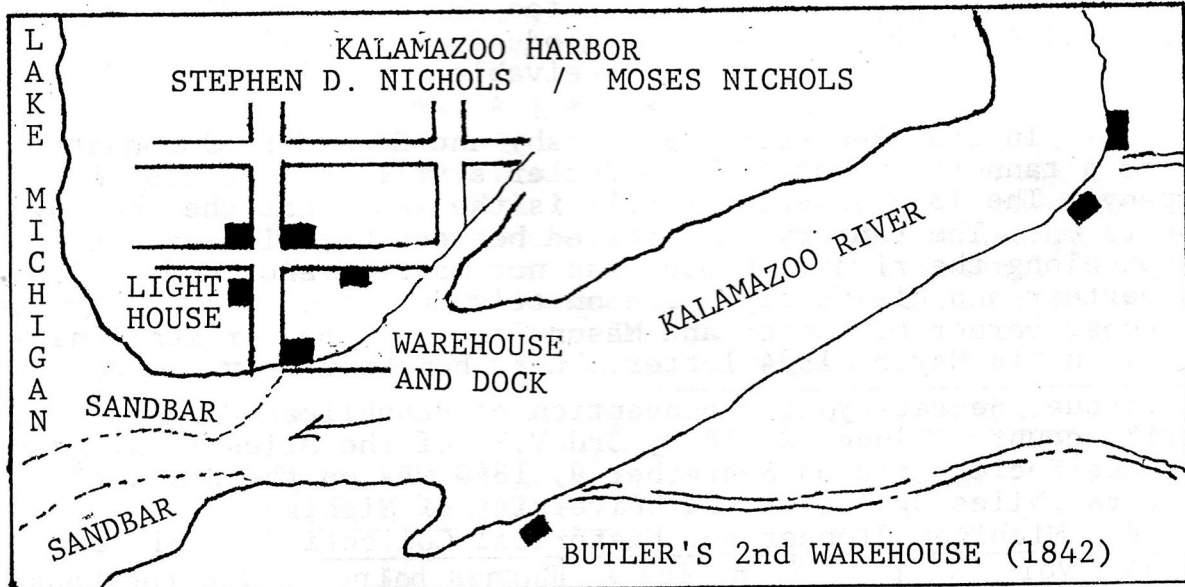
9. Daybook attributed to James E. Stephens at St. Joseph, Michigan, 1834-1836 in possession of the Maude Preston Palenske Memorial Library, St. Joseph, Michigan.

for Comstock, Kalamazoo county seat.* Brought up 1200 pounds of maple sugar and have purchased one pair of oxen, 2 cows, and 2 calves. Mr. Crosby is going down with me. I now have a good horse, 15 large hogs and 20 spring pigs. There is more land entered at the office in this part of the country than any others in the U.S." R. R. Crosby was appointed postmaster of the village on May 2, 1835, its first.¹⁰ A dispute arose over the name of the village and what the post office would be called. It will be dealt with a little later.

Butler tells of the first two warehouses built in the township this way, "Sold a gentleman from Wayne county, Ohio, two lots yesterday for \$100 each. He is to build me a warehouse at the lower end of my plat for which I am to pay him \$700 and Mr. Comstock has contracted for a warehouse to be built near the mouth of the river. It is to be 30X40 and two stories high; he to pay \$500 for same." River traffic was showing signs of life and both Butler and Horace Hawkins Comstock wanted to take advantage of it.

Comstock came from Cooperstown, Otsego county, New York, buying hundreds of acres of land in Kalamazoo county for speculation in 1831. He settled the future town of Comstock, hoping to make it the county seat.* He had been an Indian trader and military supplier in the Detroit and Chicago trade. He was Senator from Kalamazoo county in 1835, 1837 and 1838. In 1849, he was a member of the House of Representatives from Otsego.

In 1832, Comstock bought the site which became the village of Otsego, secured a post office and was its first postmaster. In July, 1834, he came to the mouth of the Kalamazoo river, with Stephen D. Nichols, on a scouting and land looking mission. He bought 79.77 acres on the north side of the mouth of the river, had it surveyed and platted as the village of Kalamazoo Harbor. Nichols had three lots here, building a home



* Although Comstock worked hard to have his village made county seat, Bronson (now Kalamazoo, Michigan) won out.

10. Walter Romig, Michigan Place Names (1973), p. 501.

and barn by the warehouse. In the meantime, at Comstock, a landing was built across from the town.¹¹ A warehouse was put up, which preceded the one at the mouth and was larger. He was authorized, by an act of the legislature on March 28, 1835, to construct a dam with locks 75X14 feet. In Otsego, he built a hotel and flouring mill, encouraging trade up and down the Kalamazoo river. It served the flow of commerce and was yesterday's super highway, cutting through the impenetrable forest. Logging operations began in Otsego, as early as the first men arrived in the fall of 1830, with as many as five mills. Much was done to clear snags that blocked river passage, beginning at a very early date. This kept the river open for traffic, rafts and logs for lumber. The warehouses provided storage and a place to transfer goods and farm products coming down river. Smaller boats moved the goods over the sand bar at the mouth and out to waiting sailing vessels and later, steamboats. The constantly forming sand bar prevented everything but shallow draft scows, Mackinac boats, rafts or canoes from going over it.

Stephen D. Nichols went East and, upon his return, came to live at the mouth of the river on September 29, 1834 and took up a quarter section of land on section 17, T3N R16W.¹² He ran a store for a couple of years, before becoming Kalamazoo Harbor's first lighthouse keeper. Later, a meeting was held and men from Pine Creek in Otsego joined with Comstock by subscribing money for the construction of the first dock which was built by Ira Chaffee.

S. D. Nichols was born on September 30, 1806 at Hampstead, New Hampshire, the first of six children born to Samuel and Alice (nee Kent) Nichols.¹³ In 1833, he married Mary A. van Meter at Michigan City, Indiana and in short order removed to St. Joseph, Michigan, where they lived for a year.

We can get a picture of the Indian trade at the mouth of the Kalamazoo river by Nichols' sales and purchases about a year later, when he visited St. Joseph from Kalamazoo Harbor.¹⁴

September 3, 1835	For freight on sugar	\$ 1.50
September 4, 1835	76 lbs. Indian sugar	7.60
September 7, 1835	38 lbs. Indian sugar	3.80
	31 lbs. Indian sugar	2.17
	1 Buck skin	1.75
September 9, 1835	4 Indian worked bags	4.00
	35 lbs. sugar	3.40
September 11, 1835	43 lbs. sugar	3.44
September 17, 1835	1 Buck skin	1.50
September 19, 1835	2 Fancy bricks of sugar	
September 25, 1835	1 Deer skin	1.00

11. Michigan Pioneer and History Collection, Vol. 5, p. 360.

12. Ibid., Annual Meeting 1887, p. 22.

13. Harriette Noyes, A Memorial History of Hampstead, N. H. and the Hampstead Congregational Church.

14. Stephens, St. Joseph Daybook 1834-1836.

The last entry in the St. Joseph Daybook 1834-1836 for S. D. Nichols is interesting for a number of reasons. He bought a stove and 44 feet of stove pipe. It indicates use in a long or tall building; or both. They may have lived in a room of the warehouse until he built his home. He may have had his store here for the two short years before he became lighthouse keeper. The total bill was \$34.71, including 50¢ for getting stove across river. Frank Nichols, their son, describing his life by the mouth of the river in Early Memories of Saugatuck, Michigan 1830-1930, p. 186 says, "My mother owned the first cow and cook stove in that part of the country."

PART OF PAGE 330 OF THE ACCOUNT BOOK ATTRIBUTED TO JAMES E. STEPHENS

December 3, 1835

John Enos Dr To Sundries

1/2 th Tobacco	24	13	
1 pr. Socks	2 1/2	31	
1 pr Ladies Shoes	12 1/2	150	
2 Gal. Molasses	6 1/2	150	
1 C.C. Chamber	4 1/2	30	
1 Spool Thread	1 1/2	13	
3 rd Co. L. Sugar	1 1/8	108	5 15

P. Allen No 44 th Stove Pipe	1 1/2	33 1/2	
2 Lin Square pans	2 1/2	50	
2 Short Lin for pipe	1 1/2	25	906

Stephen D. Nichols 1 Cook Stove 2000

Cash 1/2 for getting stove across River 50

34 71

It was about this time that he built the schooner New Hampshire, which he owned for many years.

TRANSITION OF THE LAND--SETTLEMENT

CHAPTER 3

Butler's closest white neighbors to the north were the proprietors of the Grand Haven Company.¹ They were Rix Robinson, who received a land patent for the mouth of the Grand river on December 2, 1833, Rev. William Montague Ferry, Robert Stuart and his brother-in-law, Capt. N. H. White. Rev. Ferry established a mission at Mackinac Island in 1822 and served as missionary there to August 6, 1834. He left Mackinac and arrived at Grand Haven, with a party of twenty-one on Sunday, November 2, 1834.

In 1833, Ferry made an exploration trip around Lake Michigan in a canoe with two Indian guides; starting from Mackinac. They traveled west to Green Bay and down the western shore of the lake, passing what is now Wisconsin and Illinois; making a number of stops along the way. These included Chicago, continuing around the lake, one at St. Joseph and the last at the mouth of the Kalamazoo river, meeting W. G. Butler and his family. The party then returned to Mackinac.²

Rix Robinson had a much longer history, in business on the Grand river, as a trader for the American Fur Company. Robinson acquired title to the posts of Madame Magdelaine Laframboise. She took over the posts of her husband, who was killed, and operated them to 1821, when she retired. There were 20 locations and by, 1827, Robinson was agent and sole manager. In 1834, John Jacob Astor, founder and president of the American Fur Company, retired and the company dissolved. Ramsey Crooks, Astor's partner since 1817, took over the Great Lakes Department, retaining the name American Fur Company. For all practical purposes, the trade had moved west. Crooks made his headquarters in the company's old precincts at Mackinac Island, conducting business from the store and warehouse. Robert Stuart was long a supporter of the Mackinac Island Mission, having been converted to Christianity by Rev. William M. Ferry, Sr. His partnership in the Grand Haven Company lasted a short time, when he retired to Detroit in 1835-6 and later became State Treasurer of Michigan.

The sub-post on the Kalamazoo river was located on the south side near a peach orchard of over 200 trees, in bearing, and planted in straight rows.* The huts used by the traders were almost immediately taken up and used by settler,

1. Leo C. Lillie, Historic Grand Haven & Ottawa County, (Grand Haven 1931), pp. 124, 131, and 132.

2. Ibid., p. 124.

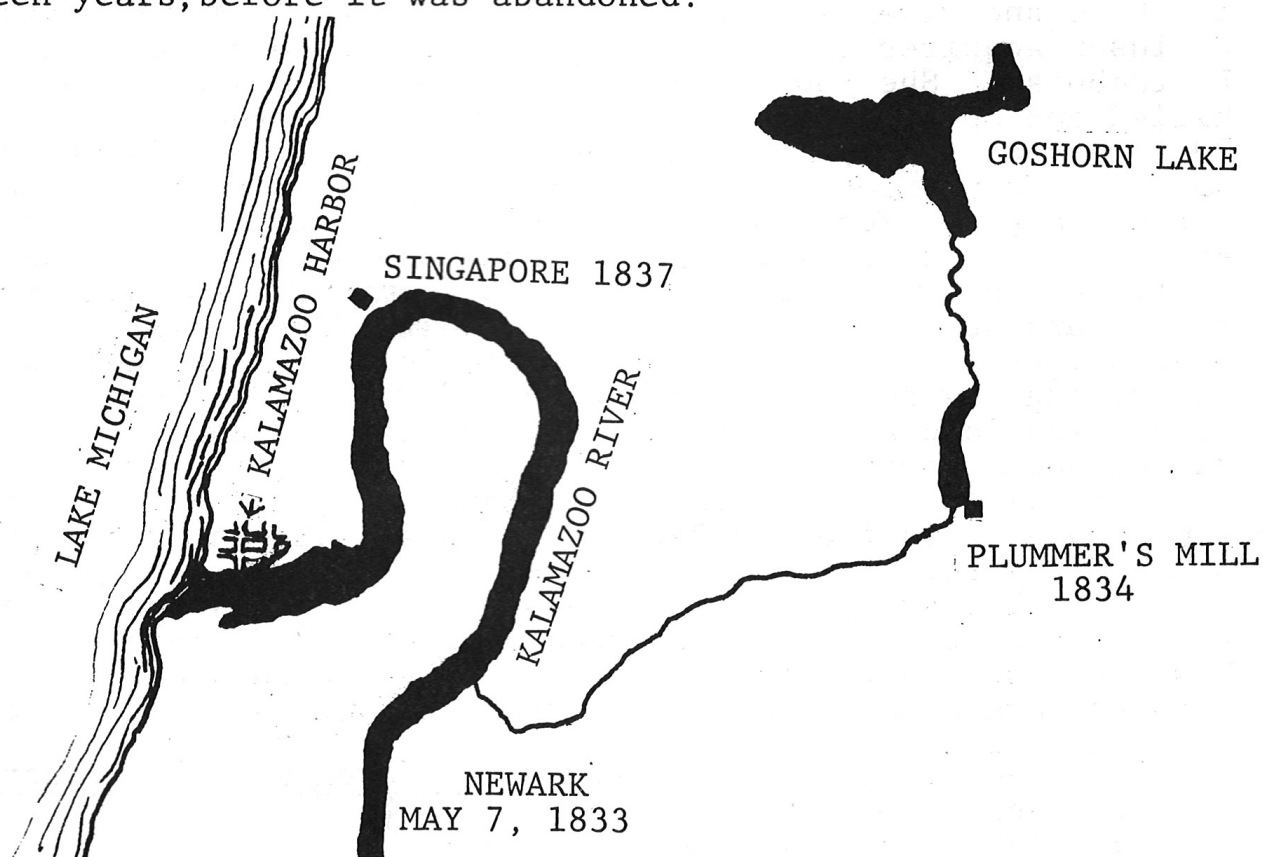
* There was a large Indian encampment here until whites came in larger numbers.

James McCormick, when he arrived. Rix Robinson closed this independant post and the one in Kalamazoo, run by Jean Baptiste Recollet, in 1837. The place took on the name Peach Orchard Point and it was also known to be near a palisaded Pottawatomie Indian fortification and camp of an earlier period, on section 24.

Next to settle in this area was Benjamin Plummer, his wife Elvira (nee Andrews), their son Frederick and Hannah Ames Plummer; Benjamin's mother. They arrived in the fall of 1834 and settled northeast of Butler's town. They came through Pine Creek, where Ben built a raft to carry their belongings and floated them down river to their new home in the woods.

These were the times about which all of the old settlers talked. Aid came in the helping hands of folks for miles around. Tiny dwellings held a dozen and a half people, in emergencies, 'til homes were built. A closeness developed, the descriptions of which have come down to us in time, but not necessarily felt later. Put in basic terms of survival, they all shared a common purpose; to tame the wilderness and make a home.

To the Plummers was born a son, Andrew, on January 1, 1835 in Saugatuck, at a place very close to the Indian cemetery and symbolic of the transition of the land. The Butler's daughter, who lived only a short time, was first; Andrew was second. The Plummers, with their sons, Frederick and Andrew, eventually settled northeast of town on section 3. Their home was built west of a creek that drained a little lake (now Goshorn) on section 34. Ben dammed the creek and built the first sawmill, with Ed Johonnett, which supplied the local needs of the people for ten years, before it was abandoned.





BENJAMIN PLUMMER
1802-1885



ELVIRA PLUMMER
1805-1892

The Plummer families were involved, at an early date, with leadership and organization in the county. From Connecticut, via Ohio, came Daniel A. Plummer. In 1830, Plummer married Jane Giddings and settled in Kalamazoo county, where they met. In 1832, when the militia was called out to stop the advance of Black Hawk, he was part of it.

A regiment of four companies each came in from Schoolcraft and Kalamazoo. Black (Sparrow) Hawk had crossed the Mississippi into Illinois. In May, sixteen whites were killed at the Indian Creek massacre and two girls captured and ransomed. On this side of Lake Michigan, settlers were apprehensive, due to several thousand Pottawatomies on the Niles reserve. They proved to be friendly and almost eager to fight Black Hawk. After fifteen weeks, Black Hawk was defeated, with the loss of lives estimated at seventy soldiers and settlers. Daniel Plummer was elected assessor at the first Allegan township meeting on April 6, 1833. When Allegan county was split into four townships, he was supervisor in 1836 for Newark, which was one of them.

In 1835, Butler went to Chicago and brought back 300 bushels of apples for his settlement. He frequently had to leave his family alone. It was Mrs. Benjamin Plummer who looked after the frail Mary Butler and her children. She was the first non-Indian woman Mary saw, after four years of living alone with no other white families nearby. She finally had someone to talk to and confide in. The wilderness struggle, compounded by sickness, took its toll. Butler's words were prophetic when he said, "My motto is onward and I have been fortunate here and if I have no unforeseen bad luck, I shall

have a comfortable living and a little stored ahead for my older years if we live to see them or for our children." The Butlers had a daughter born in the fall of 1834, dying early in 1835, the first death in the village. William's wife, Mary, died shortly after, the second death and a great loss to her husband and family. Mr. Butler's father, Jonathan, and sister, Eliza, made the tedious trip to pay him a visit. It was so harrowing that they almost turned back, after coming very close to their destination.

On September 6, 1834, the legislative council of Michigan territory passed an act that a census be taken in anticipation of statehood. There were 87,273 free white inhabitants counted. In Kalamazoo county, which then included Allegan township, there were 3,124 people in that district. Statehood would be delayed more than two years, because of the bitter fight with Ohio over Michigan's southern boundary fulminating in the Toledo War.

In October, 1834, Oshea Wilder, Cyrus Lovell and Isaac E. Crary laid out the village of Allegan. Wilder made the first survey for the Boston Company. It would have to be redone three years later by Flavius J. Littlejohn, due to the difficulty of the terrain. The proprietors of the new village planned to build a sawmill. In the fall of 1835, a temporary dam was constructed.³ After the mill was built, Leander S. Prouty was hired as foreman.

On March 2, 1836, William Page wrote A. Peters, "Mr. Hubbard of Boston has considerable interest there, and the brother of Harvey Ely of Rochester resides there; they plan to build a parsonage and meeting house and have sent for (Lucius) Lyons of Rochester, N. Y. and plan to give him a salary of \$700; some of the village lots are selling for \$1,000."⁴ Allegan was becoming a seat of county government and drew influential men from the east. The general feeling of the time was very positive, although inflation had begun to raise its ugly head. The people coming to the area, albeit remote, were encouraged by the potential of Michigan becoming a state. They began coming through in hoards; a mass migration was on!

3. Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, Vol. 21, p. 43. John H. Sweezy assisted in this work.

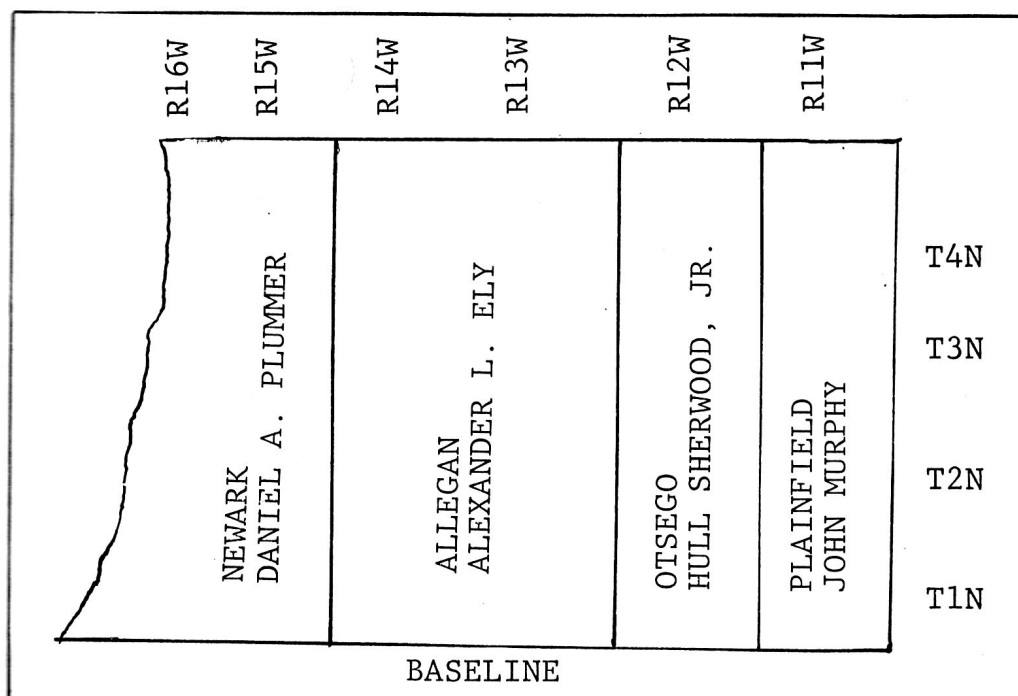
4. Necia Ann Musser, Home Missionaries on the Michigan Frontier; A Calendar of the Michigan letters of the American Home Missionary Society, 1825-1846, (Unpublished dissertation 1967), III, p. 300.

KALAMAZOO, THE FLATS, NEWARK OR SAUGATUCK?

CHAPTER 4

As mentioned before, R. R. Crosby was appointed to the position of postmaster in the village of Kalamazoo (Saugatuck). He took office on August 4, 1835. This is where the first indication comes that Butler's name for his village, Kalamazoo, was running into competition. R. R. Crosby did not call the post office Kalamazoo after the village instead he called it "Saugatuck".

Crosby apparently did not like the name Newark, perhaps for political reasons. It was not uncommon for a post office and the village it served to have two different names. The village of Superior on Black Lake had a post office called Tuscarora. The name Kalamazoo was attached to the river at an early date, being of Indian origin, before any settlement by white men.*



ALLEGAN COUNTY DIVIDED INTO TOWNSHIPS WITH FIRST SUPERVISORS

Allegan township of Kalamazoo county gained county status on September 1, 1835. The boundary of the old township remained the same for the new county. On March 23, 1836, the county was divided into four townships, to wit, Newark, Otsego,

* Originally pronounced Kik-ken-a-ma-zoo; boiling kettle.

Gun Plains and Allegan in their order of settlement.

* * * * *

ALLEGAN COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

COMMISSIONED AUGUST 25, 1835

Justices of the peace

Elisha Ely

John Anderson

Clerk

Alexander L. Ely

Sheriff

John L. Shearer

County surveyor

Martin L. Shearer

Judge of Probate

Oka Town

Election Chairman:

Elisha Ely

Secretary:

John L. Shearer

OFFICIALS ELECTED APRIL, 1836

Treasurer

Milo Winslow

Register

Joseph Fisk

Today's Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo county, was settled in 1831 and called Bronson after Titus Bronson, the village's first settler. He had it platted the same year that he came and named it after himself.

Titus Bronson was noted for the advanced culture of growing potatoes, which he had learned in Tallmadge, Ohio. An easy mark for criticism, the excentric Bronson bore the brunt of religious and temperate zeal in his secular surroundings. Kalamazoo county histories are frequent to note episodes in Bronson's life, just short of calling him crazy. They tell of him gagging up a pickle, after just having eaten it, because he found out it had been cured in liquor and whittling the sill of the courthouse window, because he was nervous over the outcome of a suit he was involved in. They talk of him walking in fits, jumps and starts. He denounced drink and trickery, which brought him into disfavor. He left Bronson, Kalamazoo county, in 1835, saying that it was getting too crowded for him and that it was a nice place to live until "the speculator, drone, cheat, scamp and politician came in" and drove him away.¹

What comes through all of this is that there was a campaign underway to change the name of Bronson to Kalamazoo, even though Butler named his village that first.

On March 2, 1836, the name of Bronson's BRONSON was changed to Kalamazoo in complete deference to Butler's KALAMAZOO. So, all at once Kalamazoo, Allegan county, became Newark, but was not called that by its postmaster, preferring Saugatuck and Bronson, Kalamazoo county, became Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo county.

Newark township comprised Towns 1, 2, 3 and 4 North in Ranges 15 and 16 West. Eventually eight townships were formed within the boundaries of the original township, the last being separated from it in 1859. It's first supervisor, Daniel A. Plummer, was elected in April, 1836. The meeting took place in the home of Benjamin Plummer.² There has been no reason given for the name Newark, but the name generally stuck for the village

1. Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, Vol. 5, pp. 363-73. In a biographical sketch on Titus Bronson E. L. Brown said he saw Bronson keeping hotel in Stephenson, Illinois in 1837.

2. Territorial Laws of 1835-36, pp. 76-77.

and township. To add to the confusion, Newark's sobriquet was "the Flats". This may have been the work of people arguing over the names Kalamazoo, Saugatuck, and Newark. There was also a river "Flat" at Detroit. It was a common name of rivermen for these low spots along the rivers. Saugatuck's "Flat" is bordered by an abruptly rising sand ridge on the east and the river on the west and south. It sits like a buoyant raft close to the water's surface. The Indian cemetery rises at the south end of town and the land sinks closer to the river going north, gradually rising out of the river valley. Later annexation of Newark was to the north and the sand ridge on the east. This ridge and "the Flats" are both old shorelines.

Although the name Saugatuck is an Indian word meaning "the mouth of the river", Wayne Weed suggests that it was imported from Saugatuck, Connecticut; probably by R. R. Crosby.³ The assessment rolls, at least to 1851, carried the name of the village as Kalamazoo, listing it with 244 lots.⁴ I suspect the name remained on the books to 1861, when it was officially changed to Saugatuck on March 7th of that year. The township dropped Newark and took on the name Saugatuck in 1863. That did not end the controversy either. In 1868, when the town was incorporated, Belle Haven was suggested and submitted as a new name for the town. A last minute switch brought about a write-in ballot for retaining the name Saugatuck, which name has remained to this day.

On April 7, 1836, the New York & Michigan Company (land speculators) was formed.⁵ Investors in the company were Knowles Taylor (\$10,000), Sampson V. S. Wilder (\$5,000), George Gordon (\$5,000) and Daniel S. Jones (\$5,000). A contract was drawn up hiring Oshea Wilder to buy lands in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin for a term of no longer than five years. During this time, he was not to buy any lands for himself. This was the clause that, later, put him into the banking business at Singapore. He was to receive 1/3 of the net profits, after expenses were paid. He was to report to Knowles Taylor for authorization and all deeds were to be made out in Taylor's name.

Taylor was born at Middle Haddam, Connecticut on January 21, 1795. His parents, Col. Jeremiah Taylor and Lucy Brainerd Taylor, were members of the Protestant Episcopal Church and were greatly respected in the circle of their acquaintances. He came to New York early, establishing himself in business here,

3. Wayne Weed, A Story of Two Saugatucks, published as an article in the Commercial Record at Saugatuck, September 20, 1979.

4. A set of Allegan county records are on deposit with the Western Michigan University at Kalamazoo, Michigan; Waldo Library. I saw assessment records only up to 1851, but there were more which time did not permit. They are in custody of the Michigan Historical Commission.

5. Oshea Wilder, Knowles Taylor Papers, Letterbook 1836-1844. These are business letters by Wilder to Taylor concerning investments. The original is at the Detroit Public Library; Burton Historical Collection.

and in 1835 ranked among the leading merchants of the city.⁶ He was one of the founders and, almost from the first, had been the treasurer of the American Home Missionary Society. It is unlikely that he ever came to the village of Singapore or Allegan county.

The boom was on and the press of travelers great. It seemed as if all of New England, particularly New York, was migrating west to take advantage of cheap lands, with the hopes of making a new start.

On May 3, 1836, Wilder wrote Knowles Taylor, "Lands around Lake Michigan settling with unusual rapidity.⁷ Current price at Chicago for pine is \$17 per 1000 feet, mill run. The pinery lands are or soon will be all in the hands of three or four companies of which the Boston Company is the heaviest." A week later, on May 10th, Wilder wrote, "I have a lead on 10 lots (80 acres per lot, comprising 800 acres) owned by Charles E. Stewart of Bronson. Will yield you 100 or 200 percent in a short time if you sell or build a steam saw mill at the mouth (of the Kalamazoo river)." From this, it is noted that Wilder had a mill in mind and it was this mill that became the nucleus of Singapore. He indicated extensive land sales to a few individual companies and the records show they were Littlejohn and Company, Watson and Company, Milo Winslow and others beside the Boston Company.⁸ Section 4, T3N R16W, where the Singapore sawmill was eventually built, was divided among them this way:

WATSON & COMPANY	Part section,	
	oxbow or south fractional	117 acres
	E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ fractional	74
	S $\frac{1}{2}$ of E $\frac{1}{2}$ fractional NE $\frac{1}{4}$	40
LITTLEJOHN & COMPANY	N $\frac{1}{2}$ of E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$	59
	N $\frac{1}{2}$ of W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$	110
TOTAL		400 acres

The remaining acreage on section four was taken up by the oxbow meander of the Kalamazoo river, which looped through it. Wilder said, "All the valuable points are taken up and held at very high prices. They were selected by the surveyors and they and their friends."

Speculation in land was reaching a feverish pitch. Paper cities were sold at Detroit. Some lived a short time and died, some never got off the ground or paper their prospectus was printed on. The city of Breese was projected above present day Douglas; the city of Naples, below Saugatuck, never went beyond a single appearance on an early map of that time, by T. G. Bradford.

On July 2, 1836, the village of Superior was platted on the Black river by Edward H. Macy, superintendent.⁹ It was

6. George Lewis Prentiss, The Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York; Historical and Biographical Sketches of its First Fifty Years, (New York 1899), published by Anson D. F. Randolph and Company.

7. Knowles Taylor Papers, Letterbook 1836-1844.

8. Michigan Historical Commission holdings, Land Sales, 1836.

9. Leo C. Lillie, Historic Grand Haven & Ottawa County, p. 156

laid out on the north shore of Black lake and a post office established, called Tuscarora. A sawmill, blacksmith shop, four cottages and a shipyard were built. Jacob Grover was one of the carpenters and joiners on the job. Macy's partners were Cyron Burdick, Elisha Belcher and Caleb Sherman.

Another village was located at the mouth of the Black river on the south side and called Mackatawa (which means "black" in the Ottawa language and was probably named for a Chief.) The plat was recorded on June 2, 1836, but no building was ever erected.

In 1836, land sales reached a peak of 5,000,000 acres.

John Allen, one of the founders of Ann Arbor, Michigan, went into partnership with three capitalists to form the Richmond Company. They were Lucius Boltwood, Luke Sweetser and Henry B. Morgan. Boltwood and Sweetser were from Amherst, Mass. The Richmond Company bought a tract of 2,240 acres, mainly situated on the east half of section 7 and all of section 8, T3N R15W, now Manlius township. They intended on building a huge sawmill

and lay out a city to be called Richmond, after Allen's birthplace in Augusta county, Virginia. In October, 1836, Ralph R. Mann, Allen's superintendent, came to Richmond, with a crew of thirteen men, to begin the project, first digging the millrace. They lived in a couple of trader's shanties, until they were able to put up more adequate dwellings. These lands were inhabited by Ottawa Indians, who came from Mackinac Island in the fall and left in the spring. Mann, starting at the navigable headwaters of the Kalamazoo river at Marshall, made the trip in a scow, the laborious journey taking three weeks. They also carried a cargo of goods, as Mann intended building a store and boarding house.



JACOB GROVER



JOHN ALLEN
1796-1851

NEWARK

William G. Butler
R. R. Crosby
Edward S. Johonnett
Stephen A. Morrison
Daniel A. Plummer
James McLaughlin
Michael B. Spencer

John Griffith
Henry B. Hoffman
Jasper Mason

OTTAWA COUNTY

DOUGLAS

William Scovill
Jonathan Wade
Wm. F. Dutcher

SINGAPORE

Oshea Wilder
Elisha Weed
Levi Loomis
Robert McDonald
Josiah Martin
Nelson Wade
James G. Carter
Artemus Carter
PLUMMER'S MILL
Benjamin Plummer
Charles H. Bartlet
Andrew S. Wells
O. R. Johnson

1st settlement in
Allegan County by
William Gay Butler
on May 30, 1830,
at this location.

Kalamazoo Harbor

S. D. Cox

Hershal B. Seymour

KALAMAZOO HARBOR

Stephen D. Nichols
Moses Nichols

James C. Haile
John H. Billings
Cyrus Cowles
Jacob Baragar

RICHMOND

John Allen
Ralph R. Mann
Asa Bowker

Plummerville

OLD WING MISSION

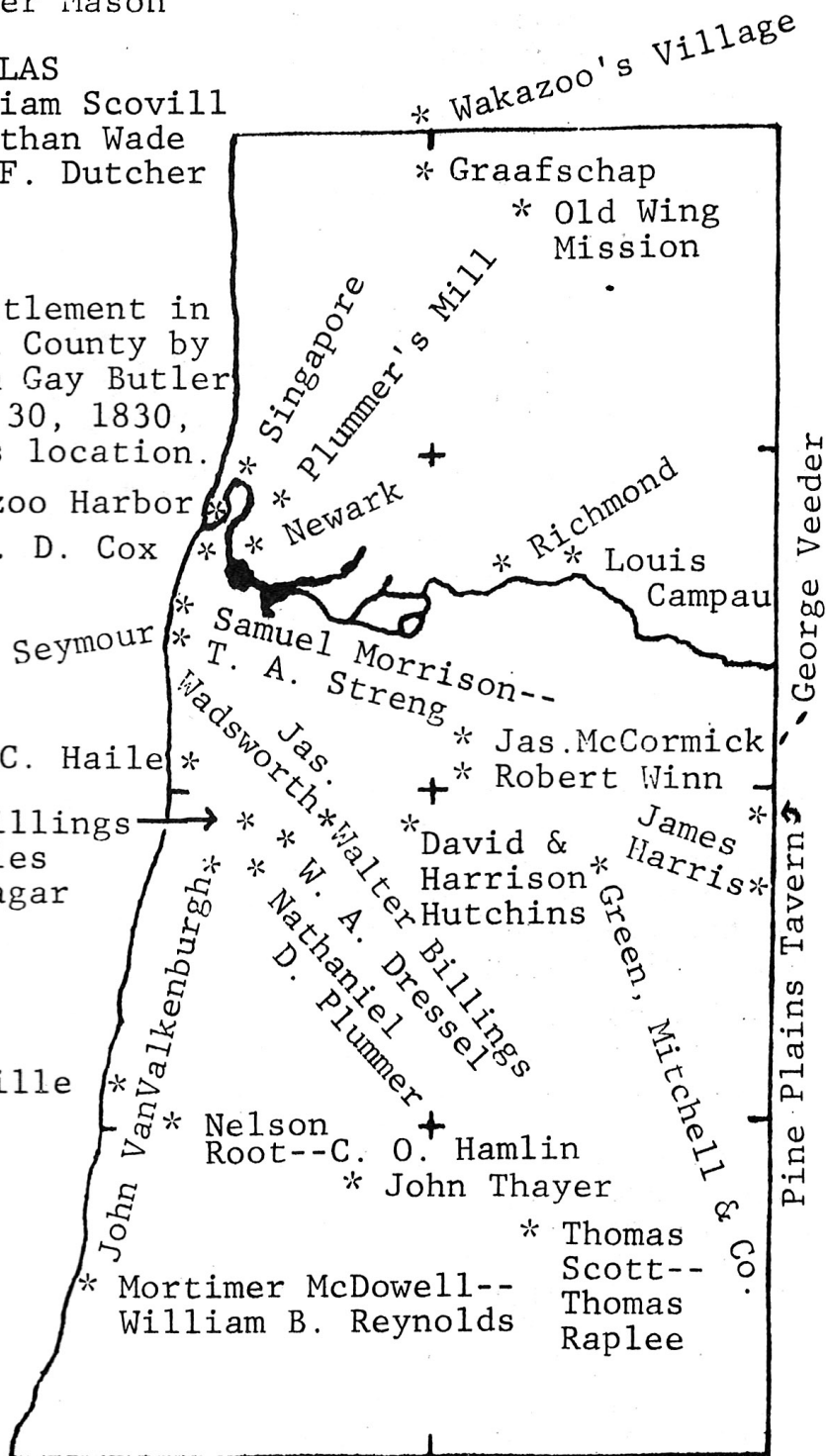
Rev. Geo. N. Smith
Francis Mills
Isaac Fairbanks

GREEN, MITCHELL & CO.

Jacob Bailey
Leonard Bailey

GRAAFSCHAP

Lambert Tinholt
Arend Neerken
James Rutgers



NEWARK TOWNSHIP INTERSECTED
BY THE KALAMAZOO RIVER

EARLY INHABITANTS
1830'S-1850'S

DOUBLE DASH INDICATES AN ADDITIONAL
SETTLER ON THE SAME SECTION

At Detroit, the walls of the Michigan Exchange, National Hotel, American Hotel and Uncle Bens were covered with plats, maps and diagrams of new cities. Col. Edward Brooks was an auctioneer at Detroit, selling towns, cities and lands. On July 28, 1836, he gave John Allen \$10,000 to invest in land for him.

Further up the coast of Lake Michigan, the Port Sheldon Company set its eyes on the Pigeon River, ten miles south of Grand Haven. They wanted Grand Haven, but that was already taken. Partners were capitalists from New York and Philadelphia and included Alexander Judson, and E. H. Deacon. George M. Baker was surveyor and Abram Pike, clerk. They came with around forty men, the bulk of which were agents and clerks.¹⁰ By 1838, there were over 300 people living here. Each of these companies was interested in the timber resources, the mill to cut it, being the prime source of generating income for those who lived by them. Pay came part in cash and part in company script, good at the local store.

An interesting story comes from the Allegan sawmill and occurred during the hard times that were coming on. When there was no money, but still a need for some means of commerce, small wooden bowls were turned out in numbers and were actually used to make very small change. This was not unlike the postage stamps that were encased and used for coins at a later time in our history.

In the meantime, other settlers were coming to the county seat at Allegan, establishing that village as a viable political and trade center. They included men like John R. Kellogg, Elisha Ely, George Ketchum, Lucius Lyons, Alexander L. Ely, John H. Sweezy, Milo Winslow, Joseph Fisk, Levi Loomis, Oka Town, Benjamin Eager, John L. Shearer, Jacob Grover, Martin Sheffer, Flavius J. Littlejohn and many others. By April, 1837, there were over 700 residents with a railroad and bank planned. A sawmill and grist mill had already been built.

Ralph R. Mann stands out in Manlius township history. John Allen met and hired him in Ann Arbor. Mann and his family came from Connecticut, but he was born in New York, in 1804. His wife, Juliette, was born in New York, in 1806. The first Manlius township meeting was held in Mann's home. He was elected justice of the peace and director of the poor at it. This began a long line of offices which he held. He was Richmond's postmaster from 1838 to 1843; supervisor of Manlius township in 1840-1, 1843, 1845-6; justice of the peace in 1840, 1847, 1850; clerk in 1849, 1850, 1852; treasurer in 1854 and coroner in 1839 and 1860. The Mann's had, at least, two children during these early days, including Susan L. who died on January 1, 1837. David R. Mann was born in 1838 and lived to maturity. He moved to and was married in Plainwell.

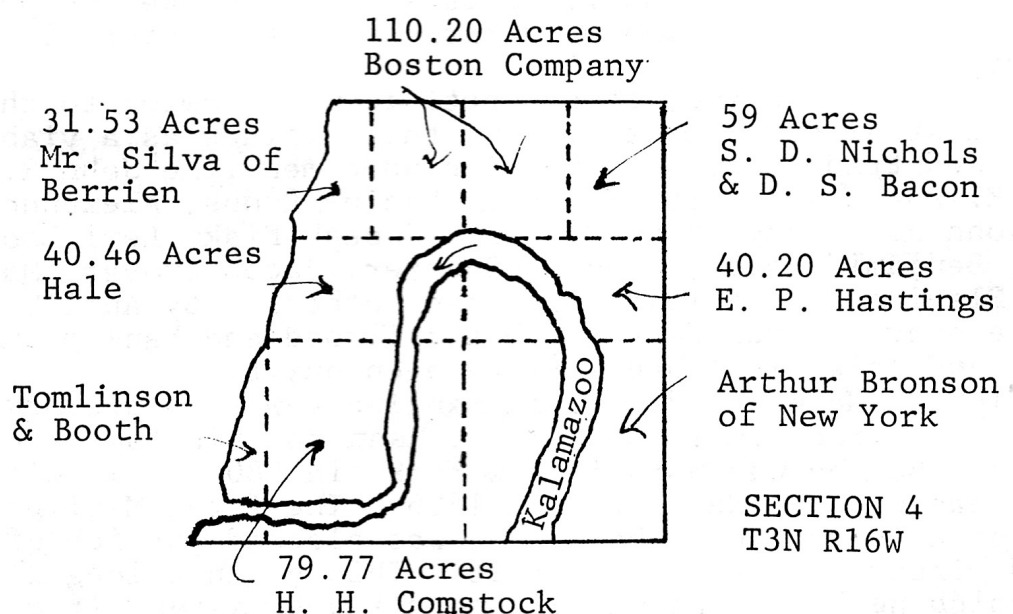
In 1844, Mann resigned his job as postmaster. He moved 1½ miles south, across the Kalamazoo river and built a sawmill on a creek, later named after him. This became the village of Manlius. In 1874, the mill was abandoned after the dam went out. Juliette Mann died in 1870 and her husband, in 1883.

10. Ibid., pp. 154-5.

SINGAPORE

CHAPTER 5

On July 5, 1836, Oshea Wilder told Knowles Taylor, "A bill has been reported for a lighthouse, but whether passed or not, I have not learned."¹ Wilder wanted his mill close to this site and went on to describe it, "Comstock's plat is an elevated sand hill but not so high as to be seriously objectionable; just above the plot is a parcel owned by the Boston Company which they value very highly, but I value it far less than Comstock's."² Again, he wrote on July 22, 1836, "Trying to get the mouth of the Kalamazoo river. I herewith enclose you a rough draft of the town at the mouth which I copied from Comstock's map; the plot covers 80 acres."



THIS IS THE SAME SECTION FOUR THAT WAS OWNED BY WATSON & CO. AND LITTLEJOHN & CO. THE YEAR BEFORE. WILDER WANTED THE 79.77 ACRES HELD BY H. H. COMSTOCK AT THE MOUTH OF THE KALAMAZOO RIVER.

1. Knowles Taylor Papers, Letterbook 1836-1844. The lighthouse was built as planned by Jacob Grover. Stephen D. Nichols was the first lighthouse keeper and held the job for seventeen years. In the time from 1838 to 1859, the mouth of the Kalamazoo river drifted twenty rods north. The water undercut its foundation until it fell over. Nichols moved from the mouth in the early 1850's and built a new home on section 3, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, T3N R16W.

2. Wilder had to settle on the Boston Company site because Comstock refused to sell his holdings at the mouth of the Kalamazoo river.

Concerning the steam sawmill proposed for the future town to be called Singapore, Wilder wrote Taylor on August 6, 1836, "I advise the erection of a sawmill with ample power for at least three saws averaging 12,000 feet every twenty-four hours. The engine will cost \$800 to \$1,000. Building and fixtures, \$2,000 (except the land). Engine by Avery of Syracuse, N.Y."

"The harbour has been surveyed by order of the government in reference to its improvement. The plot is on an elevated sand bank free from marshes--a warehouse has been erected by Comstock. It must necessarily become an important place. They are holding water lots at the mouth of the St. Joseph river at \$100 per front foot, they should be worth at least half that, at this place and I presume the property might be bought of Comstock for \$50,000, nothing less. He is daily beset for shares of it. Will want some cash and drafts for the remainder on time. He will not give the refusal of it not even for one day. I think the tract will sell in lots for \$300,000 or \$400,000. I shall try and 'keep him at bay' until I hear from you." The next day on July 23rd, he wrote, "I have just learned that a tract of about 500 acres, lying about a mile up the Kalamazoo from the mouth on the north side and a little above the bend has been sold for \$100,000, and one quarter of it has been resold for \$30,000." The mouth of the river was beyond Wilder's power to purchase and he had to settle for the northern shore of the oxbow bend, owned by the Boston Company mentioned immediately above.

He was authorized to buy an undivided half of the 110.20 acres in the northwest half of section four from Sidney Ketchum of Marshall, agent for the Boston Company. Charles R. Starring, writing, Singapore: Michigan's Imaginary Pompeii in 1953, said, "Evidence suggests that Wilder paid \$10,000 for his company's interest, \$3,000 of it in specie." In December 1836, Wilder sent a rough map of his proposed mill site, which was to be called Singapore.³ This constitutes the first use of the name on record.

Oshea Wilder was born on July 16, 1784 at Winchendon, Massachusetts; the part where he was born was set off the following year as the new town of Gardner, Mass.⁴ He was the son of Elijah and Azubah (nee Larkin) Wilder. Elijah, a farmer, was one of the first settlers of Gardner and lived on Wilder Brook.⁵ The Wilders moved to Maine around 1796. Oshea Wilder became a blacksmith, learning the trade from his father. In 1813, he was married. From 1821 to 1823, he lived in London, England, carrying on a successful business. He also learned surveying, at this point in his life, practicing it, more or

3. Early Memories of Saugatuck, Michigan 1830-1930, p. 30. S. Barnes held the patent for the lands that became Singapore.

4. Vital Records of Winchendon, (Worcester, Mass. 1909), p. 87.

5. Rev. William D. Herrick, History of the Town of Gardner, Worcester County, Mass., (Gardner 1878), p. 389.

less, every year thereafter. He later was a crockery merchant in New York, probably at Rochester.

On November 9, 1831, he embarked on a trip west to explore lands in the Territory of Michigan, with the intent of leaving New York. The record of his journey from New York to Michigan was kept in a journal, now in the possession of the University of Michigan, Bentley Historical Library at Ann Arbor.⁶ He comments on freight rates, weather, quality of the inns that he stayed at along the way and the condition and advancement of towns that he saw. The journey took over six weeks and the last entry made in the diary is on December 25, 1831. Wilder decided to settle in, what is now, Eckford township, Calhoun county, Michigan and entered eighty acres of land in his name in 1831. In 1832, he brought his wife, five sons and one daughter to Eckford from Rochester, N.Y. He built a sawmill and later added on a blacksmith shop and a wagon and chair factory. He owned and leased a "liquorless" tavern, avowing total abstinence. Eckford was considered his home and he was involved at Singapore only three years, between 1837 and 1840. In 1833, he wrote in the Detroit Journal and the Michigan Advocate, espousing the construction of a railroad from Detroit to St. Joseph, Michigan. In 1834, he was elected Homer township supervisor and also a delegate to the state convention. By this time in his life, he was a civil engineer. As mentioned before, he surveyed the village of Allegan in 1834, platted the towns of Otsego in 1836 and Singapore in February, 1838. He was Justice of the Peace for Newark township in the last year mentioned.

On October 4, 1836, the Allegan county board of supervisors met.⁷ At this meeting, they assessed the people for \$75 for bridges between Allegan and Newark. One was built at Newark, the first bridge it was to have; situated just north of the western edge of Mary Street. This spot is just north of the present ferry landing, on the site of Ship 'N Shore Motel. They built a drawbridge of logs, with ramps leading up to the draw on each side. It did stout service for twenty years. Dr. Chauncey B. Goodrich, who came in 1843, tells about it in Early Memories of Saugatuck, Michigan, "The only access to Saugatuck from where Fennville now stands was with wagons, down the town line (M-89) to the lake and down the lake shore by way

6. This book is 4X6 inches and 130 pages in length. The diary section is 43 pages with a running, day to day, commentary of Wilder's observations.

7. History of Allegan and Barry Counties, Michigan, p. 51. Henry Hudson Hutchins, One More Chapter About Singapore (Allegan: 1932) includes a letter from his mother which she wrote on August 26, 1905. That letter told about an 1849 journey from Singapore to Ganges. "We crossed the Kalamazoo at the old, rickety draw bridge above the present ferry.... ...that later dropped to the surface of the river with a wagon and oxen and two ladies, floated gracefully along until the driver (who chanced to be on the body of the bridge) could hastily summon aid to the rescue."

of Uncle Jimmy Haile's and over the sand hills. (This road led from Butler's warehouse on the south side of the river mouth and exited about a block north of Mt. Baldhead Park.) Then across the Kalamazoo river upon a bridge; unsafe most of the time. However, it was as good as could be built at that, with the poor facilities for bridge building." During the course of time, the bridge was repeatedly bumped, rammed and run into by vessels and the like, passing through the draw. The town finally abandoned it around 1857, when the ferry was established.⁸

During January, 1837, Wilder rented out his "country" sawmill and made arrangements to move to Singapore. Two months later, he urged Taylor to send his agent out as soon as possible. "I should be glad to have Mr. King come out as soon as it may be practicable.... When he does come have him fetch all the laboring men he can find willing to come with him, also a carpenter and house joiner and a ship builder or two that would build a vessel for carrying lumber." Laborers were earning \$20 a month, carpenters \$1.50 to \$3.00 a day with board. Wilder's short range plan for the start up at Singapore was to erect temporary shelter, possibly with material drawn from Plummer's mill. Then, when the mill they were building was in operation, they would have plenty of material to build permanent housing.

8. Henry Hudson Hutchins, Recollections of the Pioneers of Western Allegan County (a series of newspaper articles in 1919 and 1925; reprinted by the Commercial Record, as a book in 1978), p.13. "In 1857, the ferry was built and established. John Darius Billings wanted the job of running the ferry but was only nineteen years old, and not responsible on a contract, on account of being under age, so his father, John Henry Billings, bid in the job from the town at \$300.00 and turned it over to John Darius and he came to be the first ferryman on the job. He operated the ferry during the season of 1857."

The second bridge to cross the Kalamazoo river was begun in February, 1869. The contract to build it was given to Ed Densmore for \$5,500 and was completed on November 20, 1869. It joined Saugatuck and Douglas across Kalamazoo lake (just west of today's Blue Star Highway bridge). On the Saugatuck side there was a solid metal span that crossed to a levee. Between the levee and Douglas was a swing bridge that allowed boats up river. At the Douglas end, just after crossing the bridge, was a vinegar factory. The third bridge was built in 1937 and resurfaced in 1982.

HUNTING GROUND OF THE OTTAWAS

CHAPTER 6

There came to Allegan county, in the winter of 1836-7, a large band of Ottawa Indians from Thomas Indian Station at Grand Rapids. It was the first of three substantially large bands that located, under the protection of colonization, in this locale before 1840. Thomas Station closed in 1836 and the mission was moved to Prairieville, Plainfield (Gun Plains) township, Allegan county. After the move, the name of the mission was changed to Slater Station for the Rev. Leonard Slater, Baptist missionary to the Indians. The band of over 300 settled on the northern part of section 35 and adjoining sections 26 and 27, T1N R11W. They were under the leadership of Newequa Geezhig (Noonday), who received \$500 annually, by treaty stipulation. His name also comes to us as Naweqa-Geehik, Qua-ke-zik and No-no-qua-he-zick. In 1840, a church was built, which also served as a school.

Rev. Leonard Slater was born on November 16, 1802, at Worcester, Massachusetts. In 1826, he was appointed missionary to the American Indians, at the Baptist Triennial Convention, and was to join the Rev. Isaac McCoy. In May of 1826, he married Mary F. Ide. By September of the same year, they set out from New England for Carey Mission, located at Niles, Michigan; arriving on the 27th. The following year, in the fall, he was transferred to Thomas Station, where he taught and preached nine years. All of their children were born here.

Chief Noonday was one of Slater's first converts to the Christian faith. Chiefs under Noonday were Kennebec, Pottakobnote and Mukataw-wa-goose (Black Fox). Noonday is said to have accompanied the British attack on Buffalo, N.Y., ordering it burned in the War of 1812, which he oft times denied. All the Indians in this locality had sided with the British. Newequa Geezhig died, age ninety-eight, at Slater Station and is buried in the field, now an orchard, in an unmarked grave, at the end of the road running east from Cressy's Corners.¹ He was succeeded, as Chief, by Mashka. Others of Noonday's tribe are buried with him in the fields on either side of the road. Rev. Slater fluently spoke the language of the Ottawas, teaching them in their own

1. Joan B. Whitney, History of Plainwell, Michigan, (Dallas Texas 1978), p. 6. See also The Indians of Barry County and the Work of Leonard Slater, the Missionary by Charles A. Weissert in Michigan History, Vol. 16 (1932), pp. 321-33.

tongue. Later, his daughter, Sarah Emily Slater, taught school at the mission. By 1852, the mission was closed and the remaining families moved to the vicinity of Mt. Pleasant, Isabella county, Michigan. With this, Slater finished his work with the Indians and moved to Kalamazoo, where he devoted himself to helping Black people in the area. He died there on April 27, 1866.

Backtracking a little, Thomas Indian Station was begun in 1826, a part of Carey Mission, founded by the Rev. Isaac McCoy. He was here for the first time, in 1821, to see Governor Cass about treaty provisions for the mission. The mission reserve comprised 160 acres on the left bank of the Grand river at Grand Rapids. McCoy left in 1826 and Leonard Slater was transferred here, as mentioned, in the fall of 1827. McCoy paid his last visit in 1829. Slater had a two story house on the west bank of the river. There was a blacksmith shop for making farm implements for the Indians, who were taught agriculture. A sawmill was erected, by the government, for this mission, on a small creek about a mile and a quarter due north of the reserve. A school was built and a house for religious services. About 150 Indian families lived here and perhaps two or three times that number close by. Slater was postmaster here from December, 1832 to September 21, 1835. During its existence, \$14,000 was spent to instruct the Indians. Fifteen acres were fenced and a half acre plowed and planted. A gristmill was built to provide ground meal for making bread. Blacksmiths were H. Rush, Secord, and J. F. Chubb. Teachers were R. D. Potts, Mr. Meeker, Miss Thompson, Miss Day and Miss Bond. Many Indians came to Grand Rapids annually to receive payments due them by treaty. Rix Robinson of Grand Haven married his second wife, Sobequay, at this mission. She was the sister of Na-ban-na-ge-zhick (Half Day; Part of the Day) and grand-daughter of Na-nom-na-daw-ba, head Chief of a band at the mouth of the Grand River. The mission moved to Prairieville, Allegan county, in 1836, with the influx of whites and the increasing importance of Grand Rapids.

* * * * *

On January 26, 1837, Michigan entered the Union as the 26th state. Concessions were made to settle the southern boundary dispute with Ohio, which gave Michigan the Upper Peninsula as a kind of consolation prize for losing Toledo. This caused the famous jog in Michigan's southern boundary line. They would also get a share of \$400,000, if the territory became a state before a certain deadline.

CLINTON-KALAMAZOO CANAL

CHAPTER 7

In March, plans for the Clinton-Kalamazoo Canal were announced. The new waterway would connect the Clinton river on the east side of the state with the Kalamazoo river on the west side. It was

to join the Kalamazoo river just outside of Allegan, then continue on to the mouth.¹ Great expectations were held for the towns on this side of the canal, which included Allegan, Richmond, Newark, Singapore and Kalamazoo Harbor.

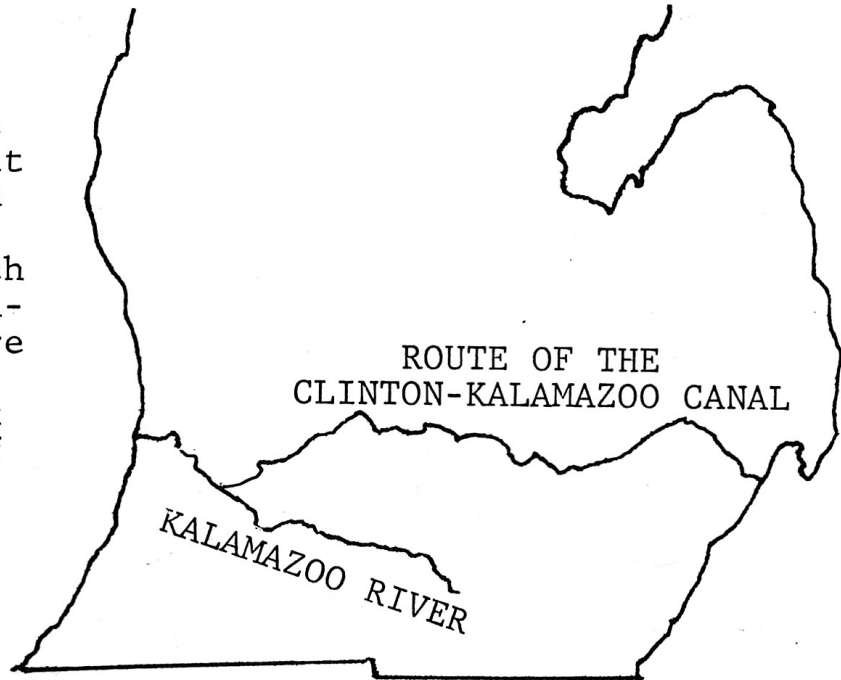
It was this canal that encouraged the sale of lots in the "paper cities" of Naples and Breese. On July 20, 1838, ground breaking ceremonies were held at the east end in

Macomb county and be-

fore the plan folded, eighteen miles were completed. It was to bring goods and settlers across state, costing less then other modes of transportation.

Singapore, in Wilder's eye, was to be a gem of a port city, rivaling Chicago, which had just incorporated on March 4, 1837. Its closest rival was Port Sheldon, where a railroad was in the works and good roads laid out. The Port Sheldon Company spent \$40,000 on their Ottawa House, Charles T. Badger, proprietor. His bar, the prospectus said, "will be furnished with wines and liquors of superior and choice brands, all selected in New York and Philadelphia."

To build the mill at Singapore, the New York and Michigan Company was reorganized. Instead of the original four investors, ten were added, which brought the total to fourteen. A 200 share corporation was formed with a book value of \$100,000. Wilder was paid fifteen shares in the new company. On February 20, 1837, he sent a revised cost of improvements at Singapore and



1. History of Allegan and Barry Counties, Michigan, pp. 76-7.

the mill, which was to be built on three acres, Block 27, section 4, T3N R16W. The rest of the land would be developed by the Boston Company, in the sale of city lots. In this capacity, they would be known as the Singapore City Company.

The mill was expensive and cost the following:

Engine for six saws.....\$ 5,400

Building.....10,000

Office house and drying kiln.....2,500

Cutting 10,000 pine logs and floating them down the river.....7,500

Steam power for planing machines.....5,400

6 Planing machines at \$450 each.....2,700

(Each will plane 500 boards per day)

Building and fixtures; planing mill.....3,600

Patent rights.....1,000

In spring, the New York and Michigan Lumber Company mill went up. The 50X125 mill was the second in the township; the first powered by a steam engine. The steam was generated in seven boilers. The engine ran six saws of which three were used. The mill was built by and under the direction of Elisha Weed who had come to the site of Singapore in 1832, before it was called that. He built most of the early buildings at Singapore; the mill, the bank, the boarding house, the store and some dwellings. On March 22, 1837, Wilder wrote Taylor, "(Sidney) Ketchum has a lot in Singapore. He is to build a warehouse and have a steam boat ready for operation between Allegan and Singapore next summer." He said that, while the New York and Michigan Company would do almost all the work in building Singapore, the Boston Company would get half the profits, unless the company bought them out. They promised to build the boarding house and the store as the major part of their share in developing Singapore.

"In December, 1837, the Allegan Company contracted with Captain George S. Porter to build and run a steamboat from Allegan to Singapore.² I suppose the boat was launched in May or June, 1838, as I find a letter from Captain Porter, dated in May, describing the proper colors to be presented by the gentlemen who was to be honored by the transfer of his name to her. The subsequent history and ignominious fate of this noble vessel is to be found in the Allegan chronicles in charge of Colonel Joe Fisk. All I recollect about it is, that my lands in Detroit were levied on to pay a note which I had endorsed to the builder--the only time in my life when a judgment for debt was rendered against me. You may laugh now, at the idea of the millions of bushels of wheat from the west being carried across the lake in large vessels and up the Kalamazoo in a steamer of the capacity of the "C. C. Trowbridge" as the little boat was called, thus

2. According to the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, Vol 22, pp. 37-8, Alby Rossman built the boiler and engine in 1838 at Allegan. The excerpt above is from a longer letter, also from the works, Vol. 4, pp. 174-5, from C. C. Trowbridge. The steamboat is referenced in the History of Allegan and Barry Counties, Michigan, p. 326.

requiring three or four transshipments." The flat bottomed steamboat was, however, a failure, and after a few trips demonstrated it to be, the "Trowbridge" was transferred to other scenes. Steamboating on the Kalamazoo river really became more practical with the "Adelaide," built in 1847 at Allegan. It met with better results and, from that time forward until 1869, steamboats plied with more or less regularity between Saugatuck and Allegan each season.

* * * * *

Charles Hinkle was one of the laborers on the job at Singapore.³ He wrote back home to William J. Hinkle at Eckford, Calhoun county, asking for a frame with mosquito netting because the bugs were "thick enough to stir with a stick."

He went on to say, "I enjoy the best of health. I hope you do the same. Am better pleased with this place than I thought I would. About two miles from the mouth of the river, where we boarded first, is a village that is called Newark. There is an Indian burial ground there with about 200 graves in it.⁴ There is a great many Indians about here of the Ottawa tribe. Singapore, our place, is coming on slowly but will become a great place, no doubt. There is not but four hands on the job. It lies about half a mile by water from the lake and is matchlessly beautiful. We board with one Mr. (Ben) Plummer. He lives about two miles from where we work. We are building a large house at present. When finished, we will board on the grounds. At present, our board and lodging is very good. I don't know whether Wilder pays three or four dollars each week. I don't know if they intend selling lots as yet. If they are reasonable, I think we must have about two of them. There has been two or three vessels in here since we have been here." And amazed at the number of Indians, he observed, "There is not a day but we see bark canoe loads of Indians going out the river."

Levi Loomis was hired as millwright for Singapore's mill. He was born in Hamilton, Madison county, New York, on September 6, 1810; the son of Josiah and Rebecca (nee Sheen) Loomis. They had five children; four sons and a daughter. Their daughter, Emily, was William G. Butler's third wife, married in 1846. Levi became a carpenter and joiner and came to Michigan in 1835. He landed at Detroit on June 23, 1835. In Allegan, he built a 35X50 foot mill on Swan Creek for the Boston Company, laying the foundation and doing all the framing. With the help of a millwright, he had this sawmill running in three weeks. He stayed on this job to May 10, 1837, returned east to New York and married Sally Ann Skinner on May 25, 1837. They came back to Michigan in a wagon and made the trip to Singapore, from Allegan, on a raft. They lived in the first house built at Singapore.

3. Mrs. Teresa Young Collection, Western Michigan University, Waldo Library at Kalamazoo, Michigan.

4. George Irving Quimby, Indian Culture and European Trade Goods: The Archaeology of the Historic Period in the Western Great Lakes Region (University of Wisconsin Press 1966) North-central Publishing Company, St. Paul, Minn., pp. 148-9.

The first marriage at Singapore took place on July 30, 1837, when John Calhoun Worster, a lumber dealer from out east, married Ruth Johonnett, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Johonnett, Newark's tanner. They were married by Enock L. Baker. After the wedding, the bride returned east with her new husband.

James McLaughlin came to Allegan, Michigan in 1836. He erected the first flouring mill for Alexander L. Ely. In 1837, McLaughlin, his wife, Abigail C., and son, James J., came to the village of Newark. He opened the first shipyard there, attracted by the availability of large ships' timbers in the area necessary for shipbuilding. He was born on March 22, 1789 or 1791 at Penobscot, Maine, the son of William and Catherine (nee Sweetzer) McLaughlin. His first wife, Abigail, (nee McDonald), who he married in New York, was a cousin of Mrs. George N. Smith, who will be spoken of later. Their second son, Robert W., was born in Newark shortly after their arrival. Tragedy struck this family in an 1841 river accident. James played an important part in the closing chapter of Old Wing Mission before removal to Northport, Michigan. His trade as ship's carpenter and his activities heralded the beginning of an industry that reached its peak, in Saugatuck, with over 70 ships built in the 1880's. A list of the ships he built is taken from Early Memories of Saugatuck, Michigan 1830-1930, pp. 80-84. They include:

1834	Content	sloop	1848	Pamelia	schooner
1838	Gallow	schooner	1849	Paisley	schooner
1839	Forest	schooner	1852	Cornet	steamer
1839	Crook	schooner	1853	Laurie	schooner
1841	Willie	schooner	1857	King Fisher	schooner
1843	Gallenipper	schooner	1859	Franklin	schooner
1845	Pelican	schooner	1860	Empire	scow
1845	Hero	sloop	1860	Jessie Boine	scow
1847	Octavia	schooner			

The 1844 Newark assessment roll lists him as owning lot #137 in Newark. That same year, he bought and opened a large hotel in Kalamazoo and also built several boats for D. S. Walbridge. He later resumed operations in his shipyard at Saugatuck. He left the area in 1849, as farmer to the Indians of Old Wing Mission. He died on April 16, 1863.

* * * * *

The third sawmill in Newark township was located on the lakeshore and owned by James C. Haile, "Uncle Jimmy" to the old timers. It stood back from a sixty foot high bank, next to a little creek on section 29, T3N R16W, fronting Lake Michigan. This was a water powered mill and had a twenty-four foot overshot wheel that ran a sash saw. Joshua Weed, cousin of Singapore's Elisha Weed, built the mill for Haile around 1837, when he first came. It ran to 1860, when it was rebuilt.⁵ James C. Haile's wife, Martha, also ran the mill.

5. The mill was rebuilt by Dan Reamer. The waterwheel was rebuilt by Joshua Weed, the mill's original builder.



LAKE SHORE MANOR

Newark township in 1847, Haile was its first supervisor. Their farmhouse; with the white square pillars, stands on the lakeshore today, as a monument to this hardy couple; built in 1840.

Next to come to the village of Newark was Stephen Augustus Morrison, arriving in May, 1836. Morrison spent six years in Boston, learning the tanner's trade. Although his intent was not to stay, circumstances led him to spend the rest of his life here, an avid supporter of the town as long as he lived. The Indians were fond of him and called him Es-sa-ka, which means swift walker. Every New Years, it was their custom to go from house to house and camp to camp, receiving small trinkets in celebration, as tokens of friendship from Morrison and the rest.⁶

Morrison intended on opening a tannery, due to the abundance of hemlock bark for tanning available in the area. When crushed, it releases tannic acid used in tanning animal hides. He bought out the tannery of Crosby and Company, located on lot #199 in Newark. R. R. Crosby left and Edward S. Johonnett joined forces with Benjamin Plummer, north of town at Plummer's mill. The currier and shoemaker's shop was 18X20 and served as Morrison's home, business and post office. Later, Stephen A.'s brother, Samuel, and father, Stephen, came to Newark.

Stephen A. Morrison was born on May 18, 1815, at Barre, Vermont, the son of Stephen and Euridice (nee Earle) Morrison. Samuel was born on September 28, 1817 of the same parents.

Samuel came in 1840 and both brothers vied for the hand of Mary Elizabeth Peckham, school teacher of Newark township. He was hired as mail carrier in 1840, while William G. Butler was postmaster. He owned an undivided half of E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ section 17, T3N R16W which included 80 acres and was valued at

Uncle Jimmy Haile was born in Niagara county, New York, on April 10, 1800. He was a colonel in the War of 1812. In 1837, he came to Newark township, with his wife and three children born in New York, Lucy Martha, Julia R. and James R. They had two more children here, Amelia S., born in October, 1840 and died November 7, 1840 and Edward M., born and died on February 8, 1842. By 1844, he had purchased over 1200 acres of land. When Ganges was taken from



STEPHEN A. MORRISON
1815-1905

6. Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, Vol. 17, p. 557-9, says S. A. Morrison & W. G. Butler were justices of the peace in 1836.

\$100 in 1844. This is part of the Douglas lakeshore now. Stephen A. won Mary's hand and they were married on May 7, 1843, by Rev. C. P. West, Universalist preacher from Otsego. Samuel married Lucia M. Harrington on April 27, 1845.⁷

Their father, Stephen (1788-1885), was born in Danvers, Mass. When he and Euridice decided to marry, they filed their banns, a custom of the time, on March 7, 1812 and the certificate was granted on March 23, 1812.

Euridice, his wife, was born on May 4, 1786, at Paxton, Mass. They moved to Barre, Vermont, where Stephen was a successful farmer for forty-three years. The 1844 Newark assessment roll lists him as agent for Edward S. Johonnett and indicates that he owned lots #175 and #176 in the village of Newark. His wife died on October 27, 1867, at Chicago and both are buried at Riverside Cemetery, Saugatuck, with their son.

Much timber was wasted in the early days, before lumbering was carried on. It was most important to get a food crop in and a garden planted, to feed a hungry family. This spot was carefully selected and the trees upon it were girdled (slashed). A ring about three inches wide was chopped down to the wood and the bark completely removed from around the tree. This stopped the flow of water and the tree died. The urgency with which this was accomplished sometimes left the trees standing until winter, when they could be cut down. Crops were planted between the standing, leafless trees, where the sun could mature potatoes, corn, beans and squash. After the crops were in, the big trees were cut down in windrows and burned in winter.

The trees closest to the river were the ones the lumber company's wanted. They were cut a half mile inland from the river, all along its course. The logs were brought to the river in winter and placed on a rollway, ready for the spring thaws to carry them to the mill at Singapore and later, Saugatuck. Only pine was used for lumber, because no saw was developed back then to cut the hardwoods. The hardwoods were used later, when the need for cordwood grew.

The first cutting of pine was noted for its fine quality. The lumbermen called it cork-pine and it floated high on the water. The lumber company was very conscious about the number of trees of cutting quality on an acre and selected their lands accordingly. If the trees were too few or the land too far from the river, it was passed over.

Trees, where the corners of sections crossed, were left standing. They were marked with the section numbers (blazes) and used by the pioneers to locate their lands.

This book is dedicated to an old tree that stands in Saugatuck. It is the sole survivor of all the lumbering operations in these parts. It is a Red Oak that, now, must be over 250 years old and was living at the time the Declaration of Independence was signed. Its immense trunk supports a top that has shaded the hill it sits on long before the first settlers set foot in Allegan county.

7. Pliny Earle, The Earle Family (Worcester, Mass., Press of C. Hamilton, 1888), p. 162.

GREEN, MITCHELL & COMPANY

CHAPTER 8

The fourth sawmill built in Newark township was owned by T. R. Green, John W. Mitchell and associates of New York; the company being known as Green, Mitchell & Company. It was the second steam sawmill and was built later in 1837 on section 10, T2N R15W. They cleared a large tract of land, under the supervision of Jacob B. Bailey. In September, 1837, a wagon road was cut from the mill to the corners of the future townships of Ganges, Manlius and Clyde (but all Newark township at the time) by James McCormick, Harrison Hutchins and Cyrus Cowles. The men from this mill helped build Harrison Hutchin's 16X20 cabin, in the fall of 1838.¹ James Harris, Singapore's blacksmith, helped set up this mill and was called upon to make repairs on a number of different occasions. Jacob's brother, Leonard, also worked at this mill.

Jacob Bailey was born on September 7, 1807, in Marlborough, New York.² His wife, Mary, was born on June 9, 1809 in New York City. Bailey came to this territory on November 20, 1836 and his wife arrived on June 3, 1837, Allegan county.

He was one of the directors of the Bank of Allegan, which was established on December 30, 1837 and chartered on January 8, 1838. Alexander L. Ely was president and Hovey K. Clarke, cashier. The bank was in a small upper room over a store on Brady Street. They printed \$50,000 in notes, after opening their doors.

Leonard Bailey also worked for Green, Mitchell & Co. as a carpenter. Both brothers are considered the first pioneers of what became Clyde township, although not organized until 1859 long after the mill was dismantled in the winter of 1838-9 and moved elsewhere. Leonard married Mrs. Mary Benton on March 12, 1858, at the Exchange Hotel in Allegan, by A. J. Bingham.

James McCormick came to Newark township in 1837, buying 160 acres. The Canadian born settler paid \$1.25 an acre, located on section 31, T3N R15W. His wife was Maria A. (nee Billings) McCormick, born on March 25, 1816 at Albany, New York; died April 24, 1880 at age 64. James worked at building his family's cabin to the fall of 1837. The logs used were green and the cabin became damp at the onset of winter; everyone came down with

1. Trials of a Pioneer; The Days of 1836 in This Section by V. R. Wadsworth.

2. He received \$91 for 7 wolf bounties on October 9, 1839; \$35 from the county and \$56 from the state, not an untidy sum for those times. History of Allegan and Barry Counties, Michigan, p. 42.

colds.

Walter Billings, Maria's brother, came to Michigan with the McCormick's in 1837.

The cabin was so unfit for habitation, they all returned to Allegan to spend the rest of the winter with Leander Prouty. The McCormicks returned the following year, taking up permanent residence. The cabin was chinked and made secure to the elements.

Walter Billings was born on April 18, 1818, in Monroe county, New York. He married Sarah Wilson of East Allegan in 1838 and the couple returned to Rochester, New York. They came back after a five year absence and bought the James Wadsworth place on section 2, T2N R16W.



JAMES McCORMICK
1806-1891



MARIA A. McCORMICK
1816-1880

James McCormick was born on February 7, 1806, the son of Nathaniel and Elinor (nee Campbell McCormick.³ His father was a native of Belfast, Ireland and his mother was Scotch. The curly, red haired McCormick lived in Niagara county, N. Y. to manhood. In 1833, he disposed of his eastern home. He married Maria in August, 1830. A carpenter by trade, he helped build the locks on the Welland Canal. The McCormicks had thirteen children. James died on July 26, 1891, at age 85. He spent his life as a farmer and also raised fine fruit in his orchards.

The prosperity of the period from 1830 to 1837 was soon coming to an end. As the territory passed to statehood, a panic would slowly grip the country and shake it. It didn't start to ease until 1840 and wasn't completely over until 1843. For some men, the collapse meant ruin; for others, a hard bite in the pocket book. Not all who came were seeking fortune, some just came

3. History of Allegan and Barry Counties, Michigan, p. 268.

to settle and raise a family, lured by cheap land and credit.

An insight into the value of pine timber is gleaned from two sources.⁴ The first is written on May 3, 1836, by Oshea Wilder, who says his figures come from the actual operations of the Boston Company mill at Allegan. The second is written on July 24, 1838, about two years later and a year after the depression started, by T. R. Green of Green, Mitchell & Co.

Wilder states that current price at Chicago is \$17.00 per 1000 feet of lumber, mill run. A water route was necessary to get the saw logs to mill cheaply. If the land that the timber was on was too far from water, it had no value, except for local use.

Wilder considered ten to twenty trees of sawing quality per acre above average, fifteen was poor and 100 excellent. Each tree yielded an average of 2,000 feet of lumber. Fifty trees would yield 100,000 feet of lumber per acre.

Transportation costs to river	\$2.00 per 1000, good 5.00 per 1000, bad
Cost of Sawing	1.00 per 1000 to 1.25
Contingencies	.45 per 1000
Cost of lumber delivered to the place of shipping	5.00 per 1000, high
Freight across the lake	5.00 per 1000

He said that one double mill cuts about 15,000 feet of lumber every 24 hours. He estimated their net profit would be about \$6.00 per 1000 feet of lumber, when sold at Chicago.

T. R. Green, in his 1838 letter, says that the price is \$19.50 per 1000 feet, at Chicago. "I suppose there are about 14,000 feet of good timber (per acre) on the lot." He estimated a high cost for their operation at \$14.75 per 1000 feet and low at \$11.50. The sawmill cutting 20,000 feet of lumber per day would yield:

Per 1000 feet	Profit	Per day averaging 20,000 feet
High cost \$14.75	\$4.75	\$ 95.00
Low cost 11.50	8.00	160.00

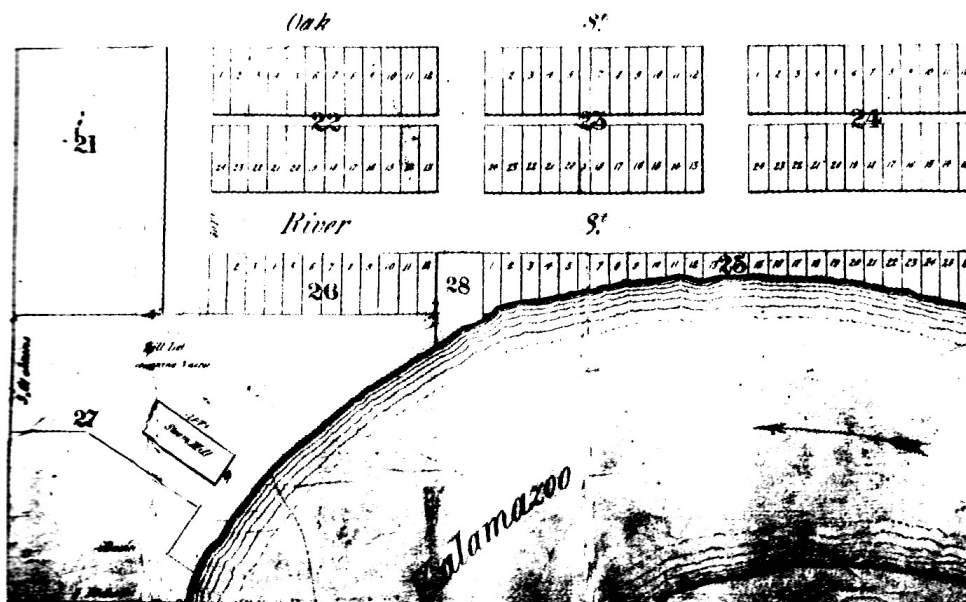
A mill cutting 20,000 feet per day and at \$8.00 profit per 1000:

250 working days for 2½ to 3 years	Yield \$40,000 per year
200 working days for 3 to 3½ years	Yield \$32,000 per year

Wilder's estimate of profit were figured at cutting 15,000 feet every 24 hours at \$6.00 per 1000 feet or \$180.00 per c
2,000 acres would yield \$360,000
640 acres would yield 115,200

The net amount would probably double.

4. (1) Knowles Taylor Papers, Letterbook 1836-1844. (2) Letter to John W. Mitchell, Esq. at 63½ Cedar Street, New York, New York. This letter is in the Theron Wierenga Collection at Waldo Library, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan.



NEW YORK & MICHIGAN LUMBER CO. MILL AT SINGAPORE

On December 1, 1837, the New York and Michigan Lumber Company sold its undivided half interest in Singapore to the Boston Company, who owned the other undivided half. They retained a three acre segment on which the mill stood, Block 27, Singapore.

The Boston Company developed its interests in the sale of Singapore lots by building the boarding house and store, Block 23, nucleus of the community. The boarding house is of interest, in that it represents the last vestige of the first years of Singapore and still exists, although completely buried by sand and would probably disintegrate upon exposure to the air. The roof was burned at the turn of the century, being the only exposed part of this three story building at the time. All other buildings were torn down or taken away, after the decline of Singapore in 1875. The moving sand hills, due west of the town, slowly enveloped the boarding house. The first floor was shut off and boarded up, then the second and finally abandoned altogether, an invisible surviving relic of the once thriving hamlet.

The store was run by Levi Loomis, when not actively engaged in his duties at the mill as millwright. Stephen D. Nichols closed his store at Kalamazoo Harbor, when Singapore's store opened, after which he was hired as lighthouse keeper in 1838 and also continued running his warehouse business.

January 8, 1838 showed bright in Oshea Wilder's dreams for Singapore. On that date, his Bank of Singapore was chartered. It derived its authority from a General Banking Law, which had been passed on March 15, 1837. It empowered any twelve land owners to form a bank by applying to the county treasurer and clerk. Capital stock to the amount of not less than \$50,000 was to be subscribed and thirty percent was required to be in specie, before the bank could operate; some began with larger sums.

In the same month that the law was passed, Oshea Wilder wrote to Knowles Taylor and recommended that they charter a bank. "They have also passed (in addition to the canal bill), a General Bank Law by which a number of individuals can unite for Banking,

well guarded and secure. As soon as I receive the Act will send it. We must in time have one with a branch in New York City. What think you of it?" Later, he wrote, "I enclose you herewith an act just passed forming a general system of Banking in this State.... I do not know how far you may approve of its principles and provisions, or what it might not be made an auxiliary to our operations here and at the same time beneficial to yourself and friends in New York. I send it with my own remarks for your consideration. Suppose a Bank was set in motion at Singapore with a capital of \$100,000, we could manage here for 1/3 of the Stock, if yourself and friends would take 2/3 you would of course control the Bank.... Supposing it in operation, the bills being in good credit would be at a discount of 1½ per cent in New York. They would find an extensive circulation. Supposing from \$20,000 to \$50,000 of the bills were made payable at some office in New York, when issued here, if judiciously done, it would take an average of about four months before they would reach New York for redemption when funds should be in readiness.... It would also be desirable to issue bills of five, six, seven and eight dollars which would aid their circulation as they make convenient change; Michigan Bank bills circulate extensively in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois in the purchase of cattle. I have said enough for you to condemn the project altogether or to reflect on it and mature a plan of operation if deemed advisable."

As four of the nine bank directors, Wilder proposed his son Daniel, Willis King, who was Knowles Taylor's agent, Robert Hill and himself. When the bank opened, Daniel Wilder was president and Rob Hill was cashier. Benjamin Eager and Stephen D. Nichols were two other directors. Nichols invested in two eighty acre "wild" lots in support of the bank. He was the one to say, afterwards, that, "the money was good enough at home, but you couldn't travel on it any farther than you could, on a piece of sandstone." None of the notes, printed for the bank by Rawdon, Wright & Hatch of New York, actually portray any scenes from Singapore. Other Bank



Singapore subscribers were Joseph Fisk, David B. Stout, Noah Briggs, Lyman Loomis, David W. Jewett, Osman D. Goodrich, John G. Jewett, John L. Shearer and David Hutchins. Application made October 5, 183

On March 28, 1836, the Territorial Legislature made provisions for a bank inspector. They hired Marshall J. Bacon, for \$300 a year, and he was followed by Edwin N. Bridges. Due to the increase in bank charters, more men were needed to cover the state to make inspections. On December 30, 1837, the number of bank commissioners was increased to three. These men were Thomas Fitzgerald, Kintzing Pritchette, Alpheus Felch and Digby V. Bell; Fitzgerald resigned and was replaced by one of the latter three.⁵

The Bank of Michigan, the state's oldest, did well in the boom. It even had a branch in Bronson, which was opened in 1834.

There was a pronounced connection between the Bank of Singapore and the Bank of Allegan, during this legendary "wildcat" period. The same gold, counted one day in Allegan, turned up in Singapore, as the assests of that bank, a day or two later.

During the wildcat period in banking, forty-nine institutions were organized and forty actually opened.⁶ Many used fraudulent means, although not all promoters were dishonest. The extent of the chaos may be deduced from a "Counterfeit Detector and Bank Note List" of 1839, which became essential to every merchant.⁷ It listed fifty-four banks which had failed, twenty fictitious banks which had notes in circulation, forty-three banks whose notes were valueless, 254 banks whose notes had been counterfeited or altered, and 1,395 types of altered or counterfeited notes, in denominations ranging from \$1 to \$500, then in circulation.



FROM STATE BANK NOTES OF MICHIGAN

The Bank of Singapore issued the following denominations of bills: \$1.00, \$2.00, \$3.00 and \$5.00. The four bills were printed on a single page and cut into four individual notes.

5. Harold L. Bowen, State Bank Notes of Michigan (Havelt Advertising Services by Harold Bowen 1956). An act to abolish the office of Bank Commissioners was approved on March 25, 1840, p. 174.

6. Ibid. This informative book names all the banks of the period. A mint sheet of the four Bank of Singapore notes was on display in Holland a few years ago and owned by William G. Shields of Kalamazoo.

7. Chicago History, Coins, Coinage, and Currency (Chicago, Illinois: Chicago Historical Society) published quarterly, Winter 1964-65, Volume VII, Number 6, pp. 166-176.

The Bank of Singapore opened in the boarding house. In a short time, a new bank building was constructed and owned by Wilder & Sons. The brick for the vault came to the wilderness all the way from Massachusetts, at great expense. It is difficult to determine if Wilder was successful in convincing Knowles Taylor to invest in the bank. Whatever the case, he seems to have interested James Gordon Carter of the Bank of Lancaster, Lancaster, Mass. Carter was its president and distantly related to Wilder. They were supposed to keep the \$15,000 reserve on hand, which was periodically checked by the three man bank commission.

James G. Carter was born on September 7, 1795, at Leominster, Mass. He was the son of James and Betsey Carter; their oldest of eleven children.⁸ Another of their children was Artemus born on August 17, 1813 (10th child) and who figured in Singapore history, at a later date. Their father was a sturdy Massachusetts farmer.⁹

Endowed with an urgency for education, James G. Carter worked his way through Groton Academy and Harvard College, graduating in 1820. He was an early proponent of many educational reforms, designed to improve the quality of education in Mass. As an educator, he was in America's avant-garde for compulsory education for children. In 1834, he was elected state representative from his district. He was state senator from 1837 to 1838. The first public normal school in the country was established at Lexington in 1837, under his encouragement. Carter was passed over, in preference to Horace Mann, for a post with the newly formed state board of education, which he had aggressively worked for. On May 1, 1827, Carter married Ann Marsh Packard; the ceremony performed by Rev. Nathaniel Thayer. From April 18, 1830, to July 13, 1832, he was deacon of First Church, Lancaster. He was also author of a book called Colburns Arithmetic. He died in Chicago on July 22, 1849, aged 53 years, of "congestion of the brain".

* * * * *

In January, 1838, a meeting of Ottawa and Ojibway Indian was held at Allegan, for the purpose of talking over a plan for their colonization. Rev. George Nelson Smith and other white men, who were interested in the welfare of the Indians, attended. As a result of this meeting, the "Western Society of Michigan to Benefit the Indians" was organized a short time later. Rev. G. N. Smith was appointed general agent in June. He at once went to work to perfect the colonization scheme, laboring night and day. He visited many Indian bands, promoting the Society and talking to the chiefs, in order to solicit members. During the months which followed, he traveled much, raising funds and the means to support the Society. By December, about thirty Indians, with their families, joined the movement and a partial organization was effected. He preached his first sermon to the Indians, on December 23, 1838.

8. Robert C. Laserte, James G. Carter: He Was Ahead of Us 100 Years Ago, (The Clearing House, April, 1949) Vol. 23, No. 8, pp. 496-7.

9. Another branch of this family settled in Hawaii and were known as the Carter's and Wilder's of Waikiki.

REV. GEORGE NELSON SMITH

CHAPTER 9

George Nelson Smith was born on October 25, 1807, at Swanton, Franklin county, Vermont. He was the son of John and Esther (nee Austin) Smith and the eldest of a large family. His parents were married the year before and were farmers of English and Welsh background; the Austins were all English. When the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 occurred, both families provided men to defend the country.¹ The parents were Calvinists and the son inherited a deep religious feeling, when only six years old. He attended the district school in winter and worked on his father's farm in the summer, for most of his boyhood. He joined the Congregational church at Swanton on July 6, 1828 and yearned for the ministry. He said, "From the time of my conversion (May, 1828) I had an impression that I ought to qualify for the ministry. This increased until December 1, 1828, when I was induced to leave my trade (as millwright for the Carpenters) and commence study. During the winter, I attended a district school. In March, 1829, I visited an uncle in Canada, a Physician, where I studied chemistry about four weeks, then returned home. After my return, having received encouragement from the Reverend E. H. Dorman, I commenced the study of Latin at St. Albans Academy, May 5, 1829, continuing throughout the season." Here, he met Arvilla Almira Powers (1808-1895) and offered his hand on November 1, 1829. It was a move that he hoped would not interfere with his ordination. He spent the winter in Canada, teaching school, and returned April, 1830. On July 4, 1830, they were married at the Congregational church at St. Albans, Vermont, by the Rev. Worthington Smith.

Arvilla Almira Powers was born on November 27, 1808, the daughter of Dr. John Edgar and Mary (nee Brown) Powers.

June 13, 1831, Mr. Smith joined a temperance society at Alburgh, Vermont, the beginning of his long battle against the effects of alcohol and a life long advocacy of temperance.

On June 20, 1832, a son, George Nelson, Jr., was born at St. Albans, their first of ten children. Afterwards, they decided to move west. Smith's plans for the ministry were delayed by a dispute with his minister. He feared the great ambition of his life might not be attained at all. Arvilla

1. Etta Smith Wilson, Life and Work of the Late Rev. George N. Smith, A Pioneer Missionary. Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections (1905), Vol. XXX, p. 191.

wrote, "Mr. Smith was obliged to abandon his object he had so long labored, for the instrumentality of the minister that presided over his church.² Thus our hopes of future usefulness as a preacher of the blessed gospel were blasted by the conduct of one man. We now resolved to go to the West.

"Ohio had been designated as the end of their journey, but in May, 1833, a colony of Congregationalists had formed a start for Michigan and Mr. Smith determined to come with them. Smith and his family, including Mrs. Smith's sister, Jane Powers, left St. Albans, May 8, 1833 for the Territory of Michigan. They crossed Lake Champlain by steamer, upon which Mr. Smith took deck passage, while Mrs. Smith, Miss Powers and the baby occupied the cabin."

The first three years in Michigan were trying ones, with many moves and many changing situations; in which he still pursued his heart's ambition.³ In September, 1834, he missed his first exam for the ministry. In July, 1835, he went to be tested, only to learn that it was required to know both Latin and Greek. In August, 1835, he received a request to preach in Plainwell and Otsego, something which he was experienced in and had done on numerous occasions. Finally, on February 5, 1836, Smith was granted a license to preach, by the Presbytery of St. Joseph, in Bronson, and held his first regular service on February 14, 1836, in Comstock. In July, 1836, he was formally appointed to missionary work in Plainfield and Otsego. By January 13, 1837, he was stationed at Plainwell and was to receive \$200 and voluntary contributions. On February 1, 1837, he attended and took an important part in the meeting of the first Michigan Total Abstinence Society. The Marshall Presbytery refused to ordain Smith on February 4, 1837, because of the Greek language requirements; he had studied the Latin.

On March 2, 1837, George N. Smith assisted in the organization of the first Congregational Association in Michigan, at Richland. Smith framed the constitution and bond of union with eighteen other men. He was clerk of the organization from 1839 to 1841. Though dissolved in June, 1842, it acted as the vehicle for Smith's ordination, which took place on April 7, 1837, a most happy day in his life.* He was the first Congregationalist minister ordained in the new state of Michigan.

"About that time a company of Ottawa and Ojibway Indians, under the direction of Chief Shin-e-kos-che (Shin-in-e-kos-sia) and Chief Joseph Waukazoo came down from Middleville, Emmet county, Michigan in search of a missionary.⁴ They had

2. J. Fraser Cocks, III, George N. Smith: Reformer on the Frontier. Michigan History, spring, 1968.

3. George N. Smith Papers 1835-1879, Library of Congress, mss. #14,081. Also on three rolls of microfilm. Bentley Historical Library, U. of M., has original diaries 1842-1845, 1849, 1857 and the diary of Arvilla A. Smith 1834-1845. Mrs. C. B. Wolfe, whose husband is a descendant of Rev. Smith and many Ottawa Chiefs has transcribed the diaries from the early 1850's on.

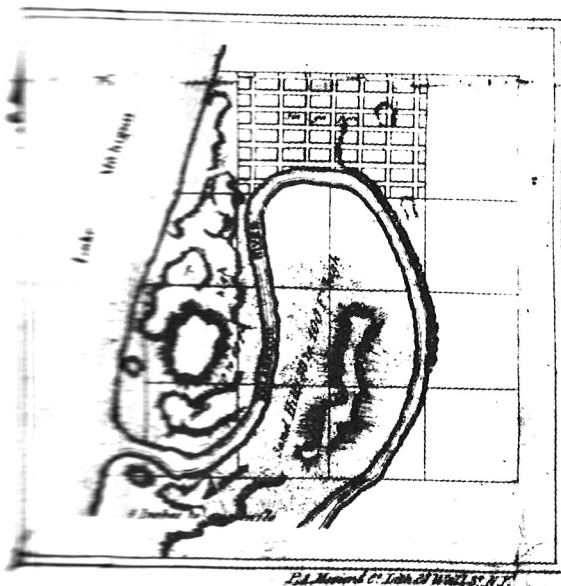
4. Life and Work of the Late Rev. George N. Smith, p. 199.

* Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, Vol. 12, p. 3

been under the direct tutelage of the Jesuits, but were not satisfied and were desirous of embracing Protestantism. They had learned of Rev. George N. Smith's ministerial labors from Indians passing up and down the state on their regular migration. A meeting was planned at Allegan and Smith attended. At this meeting Chief Waukazoo made an impassioned speech, vividly portraying the desire of his people for the teachings of the Protestant faith. This speech was translated into English by James R. Prickett, a government interpreter who was half Indian and half white. G. N. Smith was completely won by the fine rhetoric of the Red Man and the evident sincerity of the entire company. His heart was won. He cast his lot with them and to the day of his death he remained their true, unfaltering, unchanging friend."

The thirty or so Indian families to join the movement were:

Mik-saw-ba (Maksabe, Macksaubie)	Mi-in-gun
"Old" Joseph Wakazoo	Maish-quatch
Mose-nau (Mosana, Mosanau)	Sa-wan-a-kwut
Joseph and Peter Wakazoo	Ning-we-gah
Shaw-shaw-gwa (Shashawqua)	Sha-wan-e-se
Say-ke-che-wa-be-nah (Sagitchiwabena)	Na-wa-gah-tah
Poneat (Ponite)	Nah-me-gah-sa
Pe-pe-gwa	Sha-wa-squah
Pe-ton-e-gb-gee-zhik	Sah-be-qum
Win-do-go-wish (Wendagowish)	Se-sa-ge-mah
Kah-gah-make	Mus-ko-gwum
E-to-e-ge-zhik	Pom-e-ge-zhik
Shin-e-ne-ga-gah	Chin-gwan



In February, 1838, Oshea Wilder completed the plat and survey for the Singapore City Company. The map was adopted by the trustees of the Singapore City Company on April 16, 1838 and signed by Samuel Hubbard, and Pliny Cutler; witnessed by Edmund L. Munroe and Franklin Brown. They were retained to sell city lots in Singapore. The plat was filed in the state of New York; city and county of New York.⁵ It was recorded at Allegan on February 5, 1839.

On March 6, 1838, the first division of Newark township was set in motion, with the removal of Manlius township, T3N R15W. The plan was to eventually

organize eight townships out of Newark's original boundaries; twenty-four in the whole county from the beginning four. Each

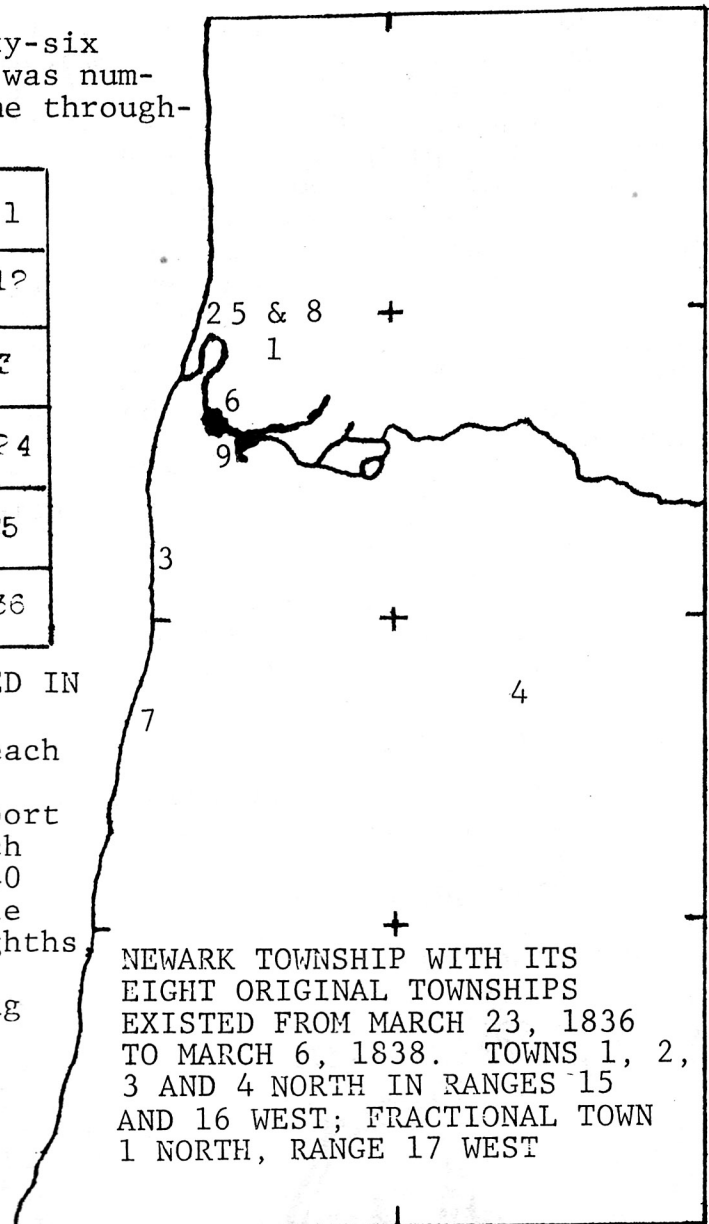
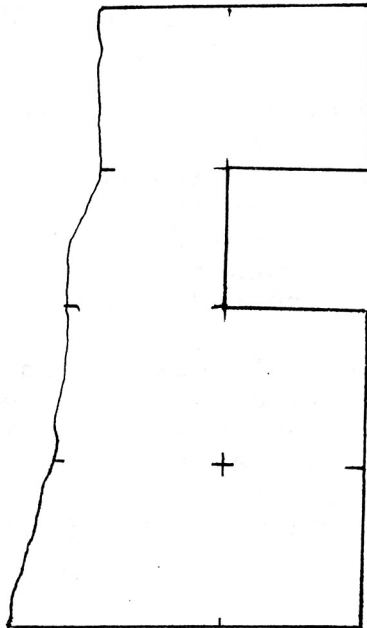
5. Kit Lane, Singapore: The Buried City (Saugatuck, Mich.: The Commercial Record, 1975), p. 6.

township was to have thirty-six sections and each section was numbered consistently the same throughout the state.

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

EACH SECTION WAS NUMBERED IN THIS SEQUENCE

The sixteenth section of each township was reserved for school use or sale in support of the school system. Each section was composed of 640 acres and readily divisible into halves, quarters, eighths, etc. A quarter section equalled a "lot" comprising 160 acres.



NEWARK TOWNSHIP WITH ITS EIGHT ORIGINAL TOWNSHIPS EXISTED FROM MARCH 23, 1836 TO MARCH 6, 1838. TOWNS 1, 2, 3 AND 4 NORTH IN RANGES 15 AND 16 WEST; FRACTIONAL TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 17 WEST

EARLY NEWARK TOWNSHIP SAWMILLS AND THEIR LOCATION

1. Benjamin Plummer & Ed Johonnett
2. N. Y. & Mich. Lumber Co. Mill 1837
3. James Haile Mill 1837
4. Green, Mitchell & Co. Mill 1837
5. James Gordon Carter Mill 1844
6. M. B. Spencer Mill 1846
7. B. Plummer & O. Weed 1846
8. A. Carter & F. B. Stockbridge 1848
9. Jonathan Wade & John Mead

(LEFT) NEWARK TOWNSHIP WITH THE EXCLUSION OF MANLIUS TOWNSHIP WAS IN EXISTENCE FROM MARCH 6, 1838 TO MARCH 15, 1841

When each new township organized itself, it was required to elect the following officials:

Supervisor	School Inspectors
Clerk	Justices of the Peace
Treasurer	Directors of the Poor
Commissioners of Highways	Overseers of Highways
Constable & Collector	Poundmaster

Manlius township was organized, on April 3, 1839, as the tenth settlement in Allegan county. It was peopled with the men who came to build John Allen's sawmill at Richmond. As was the case in many early township meetings, there were more jobs than officials to fill them, so a number of men doubled up to cover all the positions. John R. Kellogg of the legislature presented the petition for organization, desiring to honor his native place of birth, Manlius, New York. The results of the first Manlius township election were:

Supervisor	Poll List ⁶
John Allen	November 4, 1839
Treasurer	Darius Palmer
Paul Shepard	Jesse W. Palmer
Commissioners of Highways	Ralph R. Mann
Orrin Ball	Isaac Vredenberg
Samuel Town	John Allen
John Allen	Samuel Town
Truman D. Austin	Charles Bulin
Constable and Collector	Orrin Ball
Orrin Ball	

School Inspectors

Samuel Town

Paul Shepard

Isaac Vredenberg

Justices of the Peace

Ralph R. Mann

Samuel Town

James Poage

Jesse W. Palmer

Directors of the Poor

Ralph R. Mann

Isaac Vredenberg

Overseers of Highways

John Allen

James McCormick

Poundmaster

Truman D. Austin

Census of 1840⁷

Samuel Town

4 in family

Jesse W. Palmer

6 in family

Ralph R. Mann

6 in family

Josiah Martin

6 in family

Orrin Ball

6 in family

James McCormick

7 in family

1841-43, Rev. George Nelson Smith was clerk of Manlius from
in 1849, treasurer in 1842 and justice of the peace in Fillmore

6. Abstracted, typed and indexed (1962) by Ruth Robins Munteith.

7. Ibid.

Not all men lost their fortunes in the depression that was coming on. Some, who invested heavily, lost everything, while others, only a fraction of their wealth. When it was all said and done with, six years would pass before the country was out of it; the longest period of hard times it faced up to that point in time. The speculators' bubble had burst, causing many banks to close due to faulty practices. Capital was not paid in; notes were issued in excess; securities were not always furnished, and when furnished were often of little or no value.

In 1838, the village of Allegan was incorporated and the "Great Western" was built for carrying freight between that city and Newark. It took ten men to pole this flatboat and Zadoc Huggins was her captain. Her cargo was mostly flour, stowed in barrels for shipment. It was approximately fifty miles, by river, to Newark. The round trip took three or four days.

Sometimes rafts or arks were used on the river to carry shipments of goods down. They could be hastily assembled, inland, loaded and brought to the mouth, where they were simply discarded after use.

Oshea Wilder lived at the Singapore boarding house, as did Levi Loomis and the other mill hands, Block 23, lot #24.⁸

For teaching the children, the Singapore School house was built on section four, on the east bank of the Kalamazoo river, to serve Newark, Plummer's mill, Singapore and Kalamazoo Harbor.⁹ There were 42 pupils in the Newark district and Mary Elizabeth Peckham taught school, until she married Stephen A. Morrison.* Benjamin Plummer hired her to teach three months out of the year. She was provided room, board and a small salary. He hired her in 1836 at Allegan, where she was visiting her sister, Harriet Peckham.

Harriet N. Peckham was born in Franklin county, Vermont, in 1819. She married Alanson S. Weeks in 1837, at Allegan, becoming permanent residents of the place.

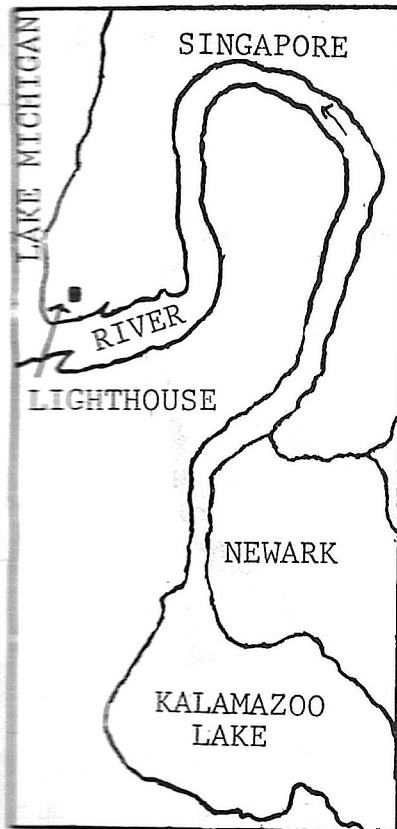
8. History of Allegan and Barry Counties, Michigan, p. 215.

9. Ibid., p. 333.

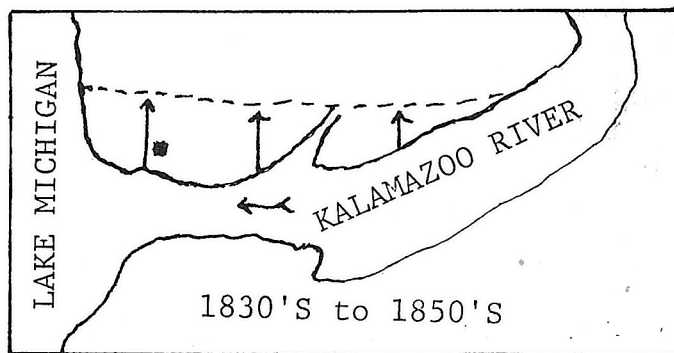
* Morrison was appointed postmaster on January 18, 1842 and served two terms as Saugatuck's 3rd postmaster following William G. Butler who was appointed on April 4, 1838.

LIGHTHOUSES AND HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS

CHAPTER 10



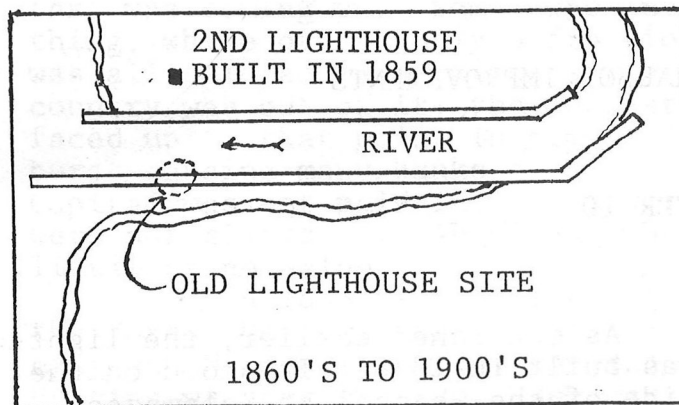
1ST LIGHTHOUSE
1838 TO 1859



THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER MIGRATED
NORTH TWENTY RODS.

1. Early Memories of Saugatuck, Michigan 1830-1930, p. 186. Frank Nichols, son of Stephen D. and Mary, was born here ca. 1852. He said, "The old stone lighthouse stood for many years, part of it after the new one was built in 1859. The Underwood boys, my brother and myself used to catch black and grey squirrels on the sand hills and put them in the old house and we would have thirty or forty there at a time."

Lakeshore Commercial, Saugatuck, Michigan, obit. March 28, 1879. Anton Schorno helped build the lighthouse at Kalamazoo Harbor. He was Swiss born and came to Michigan in 1837 and worked for the New York & Mich. Co. at Singapore. Schorno was paid in land that the company owned, in what is now, Fillmore township. The lumber for his home came from the Wells and Johnson sawmill at Newark.

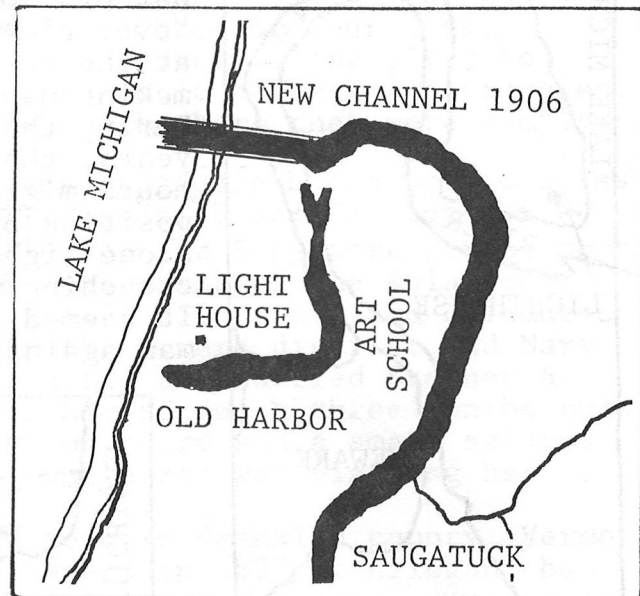


2ND LIGHTHOUSE 1859-1956

In 1870, \$30,000 was allocated for harbor improvements. Each side of the channel was lined with a double set of pilings, filled with rock. Saugatuck was declared a port of entry. The light was placed at the end of the south pier, in 1875.

NEW CHANNEL COMPLETED MAY, 1906

The new channel was dug, at a cost of \$250,000. The piers were 1,200 feet in length and about 300 feet apart. At a later date, they were lengthened and wooden pilings were replaced with cement. This historic last mile of the river is sealed in the Oxbow Lagoon, at the "Old Harbor". The new channel and mouth cuts it off at the top of the oxbow bend. The decaying old piers are the last visible remnant of this once busy port. They stretch from the Oxbow Art School on the east and go through the dunes to Lake Michigan on the west. The second lighthouse, built in 1859, was destroyed by a tornado in 1956. It was replaced with a private summer residence. Some of the old lighthouse beams were salvaged and used on the porch of the new house. The property has been in the hands of the Deem family, since the 1930's. This is, truly, one of the most beautiful spots in Saugatuck, resembling a Norwegian fjord, when veiled in mist.



* * * * *

On April 3, 1838, the General Banking Law was suspended for one year and it applied to all partially organized associations. The Bank of Singapore had printed \$55,000 in notes or 5,000 sheets. Each had four different notes and denominations, totaling \$11.00. Records indicate that \$15,952 was in circulation. The Bank of Allegan printed \$50,000 and had \$38,587 circulating. The circulation figures were not necessarily a true statement of condition, as we shall see. Most of the capital stock of the Bank of Allegan was in mortgages. A scurrilous incident, which temporarily gave these banks a high standing, was the visit of inspection made by the state bank commissioner, early in 1838.² Just before the day

2. History of Allegan and Barry Counties, Michigan, pp. 165-6.

appointed for that event, Alexander Ely of the Bank of Allegan, knowing that two of his neighbors had a considerable sum in gold coin, designed for the entry of lands, effected a temporary loan of the gold and placed it among the bank's assets. It was counted, by the commissioners, with great complacency, the succeeding night, and the same gold preceded him to the Bank of Singapore, where the official counted it, as part of the assets of that bank.

V. R. Wadsworth, in Trials of a Pioneer, carries the same story to its conclusion. "There flourished for a time, one of those institutions: wildcat bank, of which there were quite a number strung along down the river, run upon the specie basis, which was of a rather migratory nature. Once upon a time when said specie basis, a little ahead of the bank inspector, was coming down river in an Indian canoe just above Saugatuck, the canoe got wrong side up and James Harris, the village blacksmith, was called upon to make a sort of drag hook to fish up said specie basis while the indulgent inspector was grandly entertained at some not far distant hotel (Richmond)."3

Alexander L. Ely was the son of Elisha and Hannah (nee Dickenson) Ely. In 1836, he was the first supervisor of Allegan township. As before mentioned, James McLaughlin built Ely's grist mill at Allegan, and Simeon Pike managed it. Alexander married Mary Weare, in 1838; she came from Derbyline on the Canadian, Vermont border. She was born in 1818 and died in 1907.

Elisha and his son Alexander were investors in the Allegan Company, but not the Boston Company. Alexander took over management of his father's lands, in spring of 1834. Some time after 1842, he bought the Allegan & Barry Record; owning it to 1846.

Judge George Greene was trying to get Alexander Ely to build a mill, at the future site of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Mrs. Ely went out in 1842; Alexander went in 1844 for a visit. In 1846, he moved to Iowa; the couple left two children who died in infancy. It took until 1847 to get the mill running. Two more children of theirs died in Cedar Rapids. Alexander also died there, in July, 1848. His brother, John Fellows Ely, came out, in 1848, to help manage the flour mill.

In 1844, the Boston Company disposed of its property and the acreage of the Allegan Company was sold at auction, in 1849.

Mary (nee Weare) Ely remarried, choosing her husband's brother, John F. Ely. He preceded her in death, on March 14, 1902. The Ely family was formerly of Rochester, New York.

* * * * *

A second large band of Indians came to the border of Barry and Allegan counties, in 1838. They had located on a peninsula (later called Hastings Point), that jutted into Gun Lake. Their chief was a Potawatomie, by the name of Sagamaw, who had 150 of his people with him, including Rev. Henry Jackson, an educated minister, but a full-blooded Indian. Their old home was Kalamazoo

3. In 1930, May Francis Heath said that Mrs. Grace Simpkins had recently owned this famous implement that rescued the gold.

county. They were offered protection, under the Episcopal bishop of Michigan. He proposed that they settle on a tract of land and go into farming. Sagamaw was a close friend of Noonday and both had fought, together, in many battles against the whites, but had switched their allegiance from the British to the Americans, after the war. Being free of foot, they could not see being restrained, in their movements, by farming and animal husbandry, which was against the grain of Indian action. Their missionary was Rev. James Selkirk, who had been stationed at Niles as the first Episcopal minister. He took them under his guidance in 1837, when they were camped at the outlet of Thornapple lake in Barry county. In 1839, Sagamaw held a lengthy discussion about relocating his band and finally agreed on Wayland, Allegan county. He moved to T3N R11W with his band, three wives and son, living all around a little lake on sections 29 and 32. The lake, would, later, be named Selkirk Lake, in honor of the missionary. Incidents of encounter, with Sagamaw telling war stories about Tecumseh and demonstrating the war and scalping dances, are found in Six Months Among Indians by Darius B. Cook.⁴ Cook went into the woods to regain his health and spent most of the half year hunting wolves. The Episcopal Mission to the Ottawas was called the Griswold Colony.

Meanwhile, back in New York, a final accounting was made of the New York and Michigan Company, the firm headed by Knowles Taylor, to distribute profits. The bills were tallied on June 9, 1838 and all reasonable expenses were paid Oshea Wilder, their agent. This released him from further responsibilities with that company and allowed him to devote attention to the Bank of Singapore, run by his son, Daniel, who was president.

John Allen, in a letter to William Woodbridge, on July 16, 1838, said, "In Money Matters, to use a common saying, 'I am used up'.⁵ In New York, he had formed the American Stock Exchange to dispose of his western lands. "His company soon failed, however, and he was forced to stand by as a helpless spectator while his little financial empire crumbled around him. Like thousands of other speculators, John Allen fell victim to one of the great depressions in American history."

As co-founder of Ann Arbor, Michigan, Washtenaw county, Allen rose to prosperity, from having considerably less than nothing, and lost it again, along with the fortunes of several of his friends. Allen also founded the town of Lawrence, Michigan,

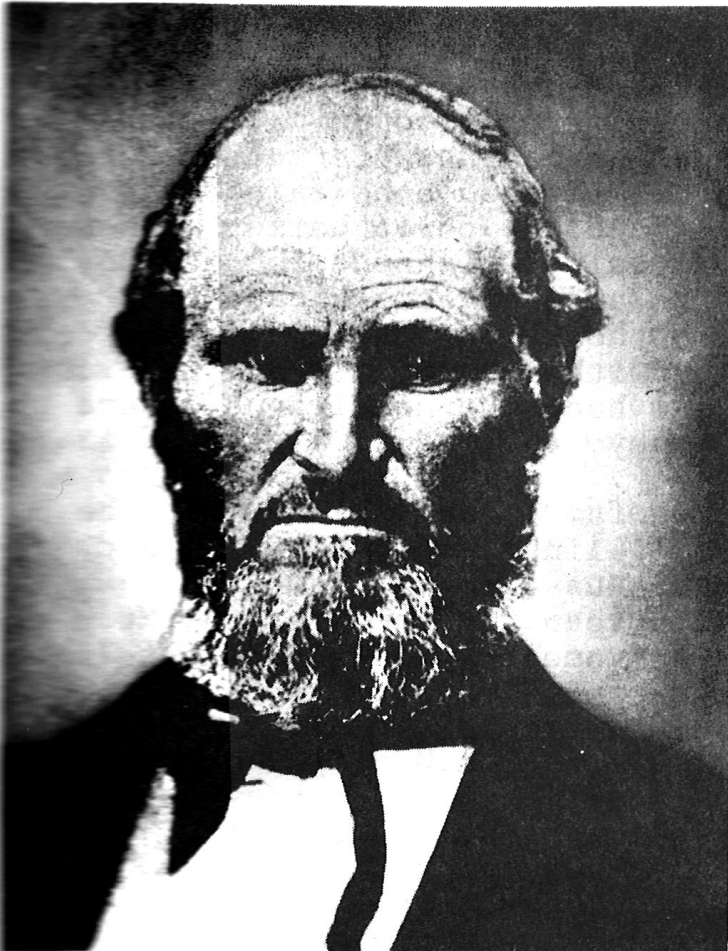
4. Printed and published by the author, (Niles Mirror Office, Niles, Michigan 1889: reprinted by Hardscrabble Books, Berrien Springs, Michigan, 1974). The long title of this book is Six Months Among Indians, Wolves and Other Wild Animals in the Forests of Allegan County, Michigan in the Winter of 1839 and 1840. Speaking of wolves, there is a record of the bounties paid for them in the 1880 History of Allegan and Barry Counties, Michigan, pp. 42-4. It shows over 160 wolves killed over a period of 25 years from 1838 to 1862. The last wolf was seen in these parts in the 70's when they went the way of the beaver, passenger pigeon and bear.

5. Russell E. Bidlack, John Allen and the Founding of Ann Arbor (University of Michigan, 1962), p. 26.

Van Buren county. He and Jonathan F. Stratton, his associate in the Richmond Company venture, even considered establishing a religious colony of the Swedenborgian faith, on the West Coast, but the lack of money prevented it.

After failure in the panic, he returned to Ann Arbor. The restless Allen went out to California, on January 7, 1850, hoping to get rich in the gold rush and pay off some of his old debts. This was never to happen. By late 1850, his health had begun to fail. He died on March 11, 1851, age fifty-six, in San Francisco.

Jonathan F. Stratton was the first postmaster of Richmond, in 1837, and was succeeded by Ralph R. Mann. Stratton was a surveyor for John Allen. He and his wife had the first white child born in Manlius township, in 1838, a son named after his father. The family moved to New Rochester, Otsego township, Allegan county. New Rochester was located at the mouth of Pine Creek, section 21, T1N R12W. Its proprietor was Hulbert "Hull" Sherwood and Giles Scott, Allegan county's second permanent settler, had a tavern. It went the way of places like Port Sheldon, Superior, Kalamazoo Harbor and Richmond; long forgotten memories.



HARRISON HUTCHINS
1815-1893

A number of families came during the depression, all settling in a short time of each other, within the boundaries of the future site of Ganges township, but then, still Newark township. Harrison Hutchins was the 7th child of David and "Sarah" Sally (nee Burnell) Hutchins. He was born on September 3, 1815, probably at Rutland county, Vermont. His ten brothers and sisters were Sophia, Adaline, Alvin, Louisa, Samuel, David, Cynthia, John, Alvira and Sarah Frances. Sophia, Alvin, Cynthia and Sarah Frances Hutchins, later, came to live and died here.

In 1837, David and Harrison, the son, took title to the tract of land on section one, T2N R16W, where both built cabins. Men from the Bailey mill (Green, Mitchell & Co.) helped Harrison raise his cabin.

David Hutchins (1785-1848) came to Allegan county, in 1836, with his son Harrison. He

operated the David B. Stout sawmill on section 29, T2N R14W.⁶ The

6. Evert O. Hutchins, The Hutchins Family of Allegan, County, Michigan (Skokie, Illinois: Imprints, Inc., 1961), p.38.

dam went out on Stout. David Hutchins rented the mill, repaired the dam and ran it for two years, before coming to Newark township to settle. His wife Sally (1781-1866), who he married in 1804, came in 1845.

Harrison visited Rochester, N. Y., in 1837, and brought back his sister, Sophia (Mrs. Briggs Stillson) and her children, Alvin, Kate, and Samuel. Mrs. Stillson was abandoned by her husband.

Harrison had trouble finding water and a location for his well. He dug a twenty-five foot well, that caved in on him. Not discouraged and none the worse for wear, he moved his house (and well) back from the road, to near the lake that now bears the family name. Here, a good spring provided clear, fresh water. His five sons and three daughter were all born here. The winter was spent cutting an opening in the trees, to plant crops in spring.

Henry H. Hutchins, son of Harrison and Laura Caroline (nee Hudson) Hutchins, in Recollections of the Pioneers of Western Allegan County, pp. 22-3, notes his father's beginnings, "In the fall of 1838, he built the body of his house, which was about 16X20 feet, sawed siding into shingles for the roof, put on the gable ends with rough green lumber, and the floors of the same. The first floor was laid on mud sills, and the attic floor placed on poles laid across the top of the log body. Not a window nor door, and the cracks between the logs were all open. The fire was built on the ground where the floor boards were left out for the purpose, and the smoke passed off through a hole in the roof left for it. He brought his sister and her three children there and did the best he could until he could finish the house. He made a rough door, with wooden latch and hinges, chinked the cracks, and used paper in the window holes until he could get windows, and made a large fireplace with mud and stick chimney. This is only one instance. They all had like conditions in one way or another. Few of them had money, and it was a case of 'Get there, Johnny'.

There were five in his own family and by the time the house was finished he took in John Billings, with his wife and children, his father David Hutchins, Russell Hall and Cyrus Cowles, making it a household of fourteen for the winter. Mr. McCormick had his wife and family and one or two others. If I remember correctly, Walter Billings was there also, so he had twelve or thirteen in the house for the winter. Help one another was the way of the pioneer."

DEPRESSION

CHAPTER 11

T. R. Green wrote to John W. Mitchell, on July 24, 1838, about improving the engine of their mill.¹ "In a word we must lose money unless we can get the engine to do more work. If it can be rendered thoroughly effective we may yet do very well. I am going down to the mouth of the (Kalamazoo) river with Bailey on Monday (July 30, 1838) morning to bring up an engine to the mill and see what can be done. There seems to be a deficiency in the quantity of steam generated and I fear we shall have to add some more boilers. Then we must have longer arms to the engine. And I wish you would see P. P. Bailey and if the new arms and shaft which he has promised to send have not been shipped, get him to see them forwarded without a days delay. Had they been here a fortnight since all that time and more than \$400 would have been saved; the present interruption having arisen from the breaking and consequent want of a shaft. The new arms I am convinced will be indispensable. We must render the engine efficient or we shall never get back our money. Bailey has been very faithful, except in running us into debt to the large amount of \$1,428!!! for which he had no authority and no reason but necessity. But he has been indefatigable. There has been no end to the difficulties encountered. Everybody gives him a good character and commends his energy. He manages this debt very conveniently being a director in the Bank of Allegan and enabled to get discounts for as much of this money as he can put into circulation. His books are full and regular except that his ledger is not written up later than October last tho the journal is complete and the entries in it deem to have been made punctually. Against all, this debt we have to effect about \$1,500.00 worth of lumber at Chicago. Of this I shall endeavor to obtain \$500 when I visit C. and if possible \$700, so as to make the drafts upon us now outstanding in New York but I fear that I may not be able to get any of the proceeds and that we will have to provide for the drafts ourselves. As to the installments of \$1,000 to Bailey & Ostrander, they must consent to wait for it. Get them to allow a whole year if possible--if not--then nine months at the least. It is out of the question for us to think of paying it now. Nor do I think we ought to let so much more money go out of our hands until it shall be more certain whether we get back what we have already spent.

1. Theron Wierenga Collection, Waldo Library, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

"It has been dreadfully hot here and the mosquitoes annoy beyond all endurance. I counted more than twenty poisoned bites on each of my hands and more than thirty on his. Everybody in town has had the ague and fever and the laborers exposed to the sun, especially the new comers have, most of them, been taken down since we came."

James Harris, who was the machinist for the Singapore mill, made many of the repairs called for by T. R. Green. Harris had helped establish the mill and eventually moved to the area, where it was located, in the future township of Clyde; organized in 1859.

It is apparent that the mill continued to have trouble. The cost of transporting the cut lumber for shipment became prohibitive, the mill being too far away from the river. Although they cleared many acres, the mill ceased operation, after the winter of 1838-39, and moved away.

On August 22, 1838, Oshea Wilder performed the wedding, as a justice of the peace, of Sylvester Andrews to Mary Guyant, at Singapore.² The following year, in 1839, this newly married pair witnessed the wedding of another couple married at Singapore.

One other pioneer to arrive before the end of 1838, to where Ganges now stands, came in October. He was W. A. Dressel, who came from Germany. Dressel came to America in 1834. He settled on a parcel of land, on section three, T2N R16W, just north of Pier Cove.

* * * * *

John Henry Billings was born on December 22, 1811, in Monroe county, New York. He was the son of John and Mary (nee Townsend) Billings. John H. Billings's wife was Mary Baragar and they were married, on December 30, 1830. Mary's parents would come out in 1842. Her sister Rebecca married John's brother, Charles Townsend Billings. John and Mary came from Brockport, New York in 1836, purchasing 320 acres in Trowbridge, section four, T1N R13W. The tract of land, that he bought, had been previously owned by Alexander L. Ely. Ely had a log house built to accomodate his men, during a logging operation. Having a ready built cabin gave Billings a distinct advantage compared to folks around him, who had to clear and build. Michigan was not like Illinois prairie, with its rich, fertile soil. Here, one had to cut something (trees) down or pick something (rocks) up, before land could be farmed, although the treeless "openings" turned out to be fertile. This gave Billings both home and clearing to plant crops, saving him much work. After living with Harrison Hutchins for the winter, he bought land from Cyrus A. Cowles, on section three, T2N R16W and moved his wife and four children in.

Russell Hall moved to Manlius township, after living

2. Marriages in Allegan County 1837-1873, (47). Contributed by Mrs. C. A. Monteith, who transcribed them. The marriages were performed in Allegan county between 1837 and 1873, but not recorded in the official record until 1939. Esther Warner Hettinger found them while going through records and recorded them in Liber I and III.

with Hutchins.³ On January 23, 1841, he married Sophia, Mrs. Briggs Stillson, (nee Hutchins). They were married by John H. Billings, then justice of the peace. Their wedding was witnessed by Sophia's father and brother, David and Harrison Hutchins.

Cyrus A. Cowles was born on July 28, 1812 and died on March 29, 1889. The 1844 assessment roll shows him owning 100.06 acres, east part NE $\frac{1}{4}$, section three, T2N R16W. After making a partial clearing, he went back east to marry and brought back his new wife, Isabella J. (1812-1867), to their home in Newark township.

William G. Butler, needing a mother for his children and companion for himself, married a second time ca. 1838-39. His new wife was Eliza McKennan, who was born in 1813.

Mr. Butler's warehouse business suffered, until he abandoned it altogether. It was impractical to use, being too far from the mouth of the Kalamazoo river. From it, the river (see Chapter 10 illustrations) went north, then west, looping south on itself and then went west, flowing out into Lake Michigan. This description is the famous Oxbow Bend. Stephen D. Nichols' warehouse, at Kalamazoo Harbor, was of greater convenience. Although Saugatuck is only a scant mile from Lake Michigan, as the crow flies, it is almost three miles by water.

On November 5, 1838, Oshea Wilder was elected county commissioner. The office of supervisor must have been changed, between 1836 and 1838. On February 10, 1840, it would be abolished and the townships would have supervisors again, instead of county commissioners. This was done by an act of the legislature.*

The four months, that Wilder thought he had between issuing bank notes and redeeming them, was cut short. The whole economy took a turn for the worse and everyone, who was owed money, demanded payment on notes that were outstanding. Unfortunately, due to the credit scheme, the money simply wasn't there.

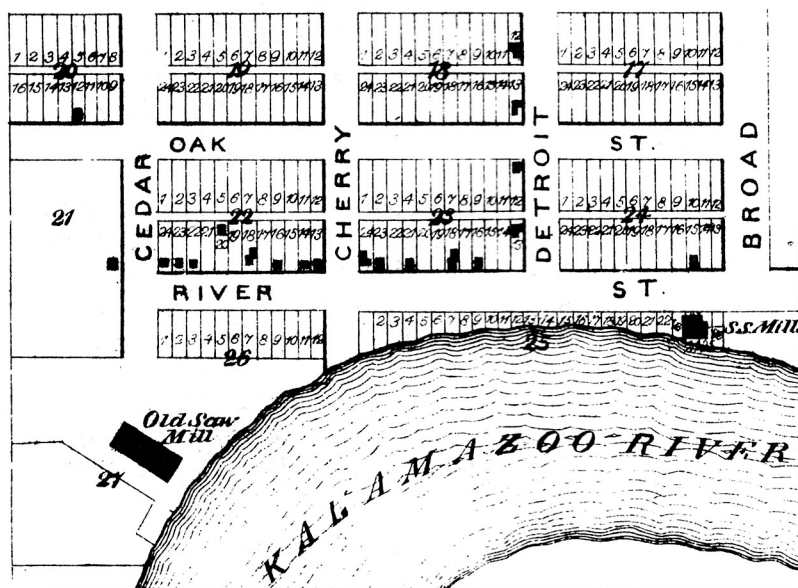
Levi Loomis had taken Singapore Bank notes, for a shipment of boots he sold at the Boston Company store in Singapore, something he had been very reluctant to do, knowing the money situation. Robert Hill, the bank's cashier, avoided Loomis until Loomis went to Hill's room, with a gun, and demanded the money rightly due him, upon threat of death! Hill paid, exchanging the good notes for the bad ones that Loomis thrust upon him. Hill was in disgrace, left with about \$600, which was all that was left of the bank's actual reserve. Hill had been rooming at Loomis' house, an arrangement that soon changed. During the ensuing winter of 1838-9, the remaining banknotes were collected and, by order of the suspension of the General

3. The Hutchins Family of Allegan County, Michigan. A son, Daniel was born to this couple in 1841 in the future Ganges township while Hall was building his cabin in Manlius. Russell died later that year, the first death in that area of Newark township.

* Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections has a letter from Lucius Lyons to Oshea Wilder concerning growing opposition to harbor improvements in Volume 27 (1896), Letters of Lucius Lyons.

Banking law, were ordered destroyed and the bank closed. Levi Loomis and Almarin Moulton, who may have acted in an official capacity, were invited into Wilder's home to witness them being burned in the stove. A small table, 3½X4 inches, with stacks three to six inches deep of one, two, three and five dollar notes, sat next to it, as the three men stirred and burned the wealth and mislaid dreams of Oshea Wilder's lost empire.⁴ The bank closed early in 1839.

William G. Butler wrote his father, in January, 1839, concerning a debt.⁵ "Wildcat is out of the way, but has nearly ruined our state--Respecting the money I owe you, I have only to say I have not any claim to ask you to extend the time and I do not think it probable I could raise the money in this part of the country without selling my property at a greater sacrifice than I am willing to do to others and if you procede to sue, I do not think the property would bring more than the amount of your debt, although even at this pressing times it is intrinsically worth several times the amount... I have money due me, and property but it is almost impossible to raise money. I have met with many hopes and am almost discouraged, but will not despair; will trust to providence that I shall have a little left after all, will endeavor to be satisfied and content with what ever it is... I am very sensible of the great trouble I have been to you as well as many others of my fellowmen, but it does not grieve me, of all others, as it does of you... Should be happy to see you again above all other relatives, but do not expect to. If I should be compelled to leave this part of the country, I should go south."



SINGAPORE, 1873 ALLEGAN COUNTY ATLAS

The Boston Company recorded the Singapore City Co. plat, at Allegan, on February 5, 1839. Although a total of 27 blocks were laid out on the west half of the plat, only seven blocks (#21 to #27) were, with a couple of exceptions, used for habitation or industry during its lifetime, all along the river front. Most of the houses, up to ca. 1875, were lined up on the north side of River Street, in blocks 22, 23 and 24.

4. Nina Dougherty, Incidents in the Early Days of Allegan County, Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, Vol. 38, p. 161.

5. Kit Lane, Saugatuck: A Brief History. Commercial Record (1973), p. 6.

The 1873 Allegan County Atlas plat (preceding page) of Singapore shows it at the height of its growth. There were approximately twenty-five buildings, mostly houses. The last big mill was built in 1869, by O. R. Johnson & Company. It had a capacity of 65 to 75 thousand feet a day. It was dismantled and removed to St. Ignace, on September 25, 1875. This action rang the death knell for Singapore and its lumber industry.

James W. Wadsworth arrived on February 18, 1839 and settled on section two, T2N R16W, after having spent the winter with James McCormick and his family, in Manlius township.

James W. Wadsworth was born in Connecticut, in 1801, and his wife, in Massachusetts, in 1800.⁶ He came in 1836 to Richland on Gull Prairie, from New York, with his family. He and his wife had eight children, all born in New York. Van Rensselaer, their oldest son, tells about his family's arrival, in Trials of a Pioneer, under the sub-caption of "The Hardships and Happiness of the Sturdy Pioneers in Their Struggles for a Home--Related by a Boy of Those Days". "The next thing was to build a house. This was the first house raised by the settlers only. Father cut and hauled the logs and with our help raised it two or three logs high. He took two small, straight logs and by notching the ends into the logs already raised, one across each way, we had two windlasses to roll up our logs. We tied a rope on one side at each corner, passed the ropes under the log back to our windlass and thus rolled it up. We were now ready for our helpful neighbors. There was just a man for each corner who with brother Elisha and myself comprised our raisers. We were four days raising. Soon after we raised a house for John Billings (who had spent the winter with Harrison Hutchins). We made the shingles for the house, evenings. Having learned to split and pack shingles in the east, I was able to rive the shingle while father shaved them by the light of the fire, kept up by the shavings thrown on by some of the many urchins in the house. We got lumber to finish the house at the Bailey mill, which was the last winter it was run.

"When our house was near enough completed to be habitable, father hauled our goods from Newark which came on the last boat in the fall and we moved in the 18th of February, 1839, with neither door nor windows moved about half chinked and mudded. The winter had been cold but was now breaking up. Although we were not fully clad and had none but straw hats to wear we did not seem to mind the winter very much for the wind went howling over the tops of the trees and paid little attention to us. Our goods consisted of wearing apparel, bedding and other necessities for our large family, 150 pounds of salt pork, a small supply of dried apples, one large brass kettle and an iron pot, some smaller cooking kettles, augers, saws, chisels and other tools, log chains, harrow teeth, irons for a weavers loom, mother's little or linen wheel, rims, axles, and patent heads for two spinning wheels and one quill wheel, a small bag of flax seed and other seeds, a set of weavers reeds and harnesses, a flax hetchel and

6. Trials of a Pioneer. Fennville Herald on March 4, 1893 and March 11, 1893 (2 parts).

many other necessary articles such as cow bells, weavers shuttles, etc., etc.

"We finished our house with one door and two windows, with a small cupboard between the door and windows. We had a large fire place with clay back and hearth and a temporary chimney made of half inch hemlock boards which answered very well for a time, but when they became dry and covered with soot, they made us much trouble by taking fire."

* * * * *

April 13, 1839, Rev. George N. Smith and a party of Indians went on a prospecting trip, from the Kalamazoo river north to what is now Petosky. They determined to locate on the Black river, but inland on the northern edge of Allegan county, the last large group of Indians to take up residency here. Rev. Smith's family joined him and the Indians, in August. He, with the help of a couple of men, erected a rude shelter.

On April 26, 1839, Nicholas Brouard married Mary Ewart; both of Singapore. Nicholas was twenty-five and Mary was twenty-four. They were married at the house of Oshea Wilder, by Almarin Moulton, justice of the peace.⁷ The ceremony was witnessed by Sylvester Andrews and his wife Mary (nee Guyant) Andrews, who themselves had been married the year before, at Singapore.

Nicholas Thom Brouard was born around 1814 and was originally from the island of Guernsey. He lived for a short time at Spalding, Barry county. He was a captain on the Great Lakes. Mary was born ca. 1815, at County Downs, Ireland. He purchased sixty-nine acres, on section 18, T1N R10W, Prairieville township, from Caleb and Elizabeth Sliter, for \$106.00.⁸ On June 14, 1843, he was appointed the first postmaster of Doster, on the Allegan and Barry county border.

In May, 1839, two rotary engines were put into production, at Singapore, to increase output. They drove six upright and four circular saws, although only three upright saws were in operation. Between May 22, 1839 and June 26, 1839, the New York & Michigan Lumber Co. mill cut 307,861 board feet. This averaged out to about 14,000 feet per working day.

* * * * *

It is of interest to note the invention of the circular saw in 1814. Two markers, on an old mill lane near the tiny town of Duanesburgh, N. Y., commemorate the historic deed.⁹ They read, "Old Shop site where Benjamin Cummings, founder of Cummings Hallow, forged the first circular saw in America in 1814 for his Schnectady mill." His mill was destroyed, by fire, in 1831 and he moved to Michigan, settling in the northeast corner of section 28, near Richland, Kalamazoo county.

"Cummings pounded out his crude instrument on a forge for use in his lumber mill. He regarded his saw as a useful tool and not a startling invention that would ease the labors of man

7. Marriages in Allegan County, Michigan 1837-1873 (47).

8. Joan B. Whitney, History of Plainwell, Michigan. Printed by the Taylor Publishing Company, Dallas, Texas, 1978, p. 20.

9. Kalamazoo Gazette, December 9, 1951.

in future years, so failed to patent it. Cummings died in 1848 at the age of 76, still unaware of the great contribution he had made to industry."

Over four million feet of lumber was cut and rafted to Lake Michigan from Allegan, via the Kalamazoo river, from 1834, when the first mill was built in the village, to the end of 1839.

In his shipyard, in Newark, James McLaughlin built the lumber schooner, "Natural Crook". Schooners would carry lumber, long after the wide use of steam ships on the Great Lakes. It was cheaper to ship lumber under sail, than steam.

Towards the end of 1839, a gubernatorial election would be held to elect Michigan's second head of state. The race was between William Woodbridge and Farnsworth. A poll list was prepared by Samuel J. McComas, clerk of the Board of Inspectors, for Newark township.¹⁰ Forty men were registered to vote on the November 5, 1839 list.* The results of the election were; 26 Woodbridge and 14 Farnsworth.

William Woodbridge won as a Whig and served about a year of a two year term and was then elected to the U. S. Senate. He was born in Norwich Connecticut, on August 20, 1780 and died on October 20, 1861, at Detroit.

The 1839 poll list consisted of the following people:

Sylvester Andrews	Leonard Jones	Thomas M. Smith
J. P. Austin	John R. Kelley	David B. Stout
Robt. Barr	Levi Loomis	John H. Sweezy ¹¹
Charles Benson	James Looney	Timothy Tibbetts
John Henry Billings	James McCormick	James Van Bjorn
Andrew Brooks	James McLaughlin	James Watson
Jonas Brown	John E. Millar	Amos W. White
William G. Butler	Stephen A. Morrison	Gil Blas Wilcox ¹²
Ira Dean	Almarin Moulton	Edward B. Wilder
James Elsworth	Daniel Pike	J. W. Wilder
Jacob Grover	Benjamin Plummer	Oshea Wilder
John R. Ham	Leander S. Prouty	A. Williams
Joshua Hill	Martin Sheffer	John Woodell
Harrison Hutchins		

Not all were residents, but had registered, claiming that their vote was not counted anywhere else, a common procedure for voting away from home. Aside from those individuals already mentioned, the balance, if anything is known of them, will be covered in the next chapter.

10. The 1840 Newark census, on which this list appears, was transcribed by Ruth Robins Monteith in 1962, p. 39. The census and the poll list were the earliest lists of individuals of Newark township found for this work.

11. Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, Vol. 21, p. 43.

* Stephen D. Nichols is noticably absent from this list. He and his wife had a daughter, Eliza J., their first born child about this time.

12. Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, Vol. 27, p. 290. Wilcox commanded the "Droop" built in 1840-41 at Kalamazoo by Amos P. Bush and his brother, Horace.

LAND OFFICES

CHAPTER 12

During the territorial and state periods in Michigan's history, the sale of lands and payments for that land were made at the Land Office. Lands were registered for sale and deeds were issued to landowner. The offices were staffed by two federally appointed officials; a register who kept ownership records and a receiver who handled the money.

Lands offices were first opened in Detroit, Michigan, Kaskaskia, Illinois and Vincennes, Indiana, in 1804.

The trek to the land office is mentioned frequently in histories, with the speaker ending in the given, distant location of the land office, "We bought our land in 1835 for \$1.25 an acre and registered it at Bronson (Kalamazoo)."

Other land offices opened in Shawneetown in 1812, Edwardsville in 1816 and Monroe, Michigan in 1823. Another one was opened in Michigan, on White Pigeon Prairie, in 1831 and moved to Bronson in 1834. There were two opened in Illinois in 1835, one at Chicago and the other at Galena. Two more followed in Michigan in 1836, at Ionia and Flint.

The average price of public lands was \$2.00 per acre in 1800 and \$1.25 in 1820. At the \$1.25 price, \$200.00 secured a quarter section (160 acres) and many a homestead began in this manner.

At one time, there were minimum amounts of land that could be purchased. In 1800, it was 320 acres, in 1804, it was 160 acres and to make it even easier to buy, it was reduced to 80 acres in 1820. Public lands could be bought on partial credit, the arrangement being a quarter of the price down and another quarter each by the first, second and third years. Both positions at the land office were eagerly sought after patronage jobs.

* * * * *

Some of the remaining men on the 1839 Poll List, from the preceding chapter, included J. P. Austin, who came to Michigan in 1836, in company with Harriet N. Peckham, his sister-in-law.¹ Harriet's sister, Mary E., would marry Stephen A. Morrison in 1843.²

1. History of Allegan and Barry Counties, Michigan, p. 171.

2. Early Marriages in Allegan County file, Herrick Library, Holland, Michigan. The wedding was recorded on May 7, 1843 in Liber 1, page 22. The ceremony was performed by Charles P. West, at Newark with William G. Butler and Stephen D. Nichols, witnesses. Pliny Earle in The Earle Family says they were married in 1842. May Francis Heath, in Early Memories of Saugatuck, has it as 1840, pp. 42, 86 and 179.

Robert M. Barr was born in New York, on February 12, 1812. In 1826, he moved to Ypsilanti with his parents. In 1834, in company with Alvin Wansey, came to Grand Rapids on foot and remained the rest of his life.³ He was an accomplished fiddler, noted for providing music for early 4th of July celebrations. His wife, Mary, was the third daughter of Joel Guild of Grand Rapids.⁴ He died at Grand Rapids, on November 7, 1910.

Charles Benson was born in Massachusetts, in 1810. His wife, Margaret A., was born in New York, in 1815. Both appear on the 1840 Otsego census, five in the family.

Jacob Grover followed his profession as millwright and traveled extensively, after his experiences at Singapore and Kalamazoo Harbor. He built a mill for William Porter of Trowbridge, in 1844. At the end of two years, he sold out to Porter and bought forty acres of land on section 8, T1N R13W, Trowbridge township. The following spring, he purchased forty acres more on the same section, buying this land of the Boston Company at four dollars per acre. But, not willing, yet, to give up his trade, he worked in Allegan, Plummerville and in Kalamazoo county.⁵

John R. Ham was an agent for the Boston Company.

In the spring of 1839, Levi Loomis left Singapore and moved to the village of Newark, then to Kalamazoo; left there for a farm of eighty acres on section eleven, T2N R16W (Ganges), which he had purchased in 1839.

Daniel Pike also appears on the 1840 Newark township census, with his wife, four sons and two daughters. In July, 1840, he received bounties on four wolves.

Leander S. Prouty was the first settler on the site of the village of Allegan, on June 6, 1834. He worked for the Boston Company as foreman of the works at Allegan. He held the job for fifteen months. He earned \$12.50 per month and his wife received \$5.00 a month, as cook.* Prouty is credited as being the first settler of Trowbridge township in 1835, where he owned 200 acres in T1N R13W.

Martin Sheffer was an old sailing friend of Leander Prouty's and he came to Allegan in 1836. He married Charity Larkins in Allegan, at the dwelling of Leander Prouty, on October 17, 1839. Charity was seventeen and he was thirty-two. The ceremony was performed by Wells Field, justice of the peace. Thomas Goodrich and Lewis A. Crane, of Cooper, were witnesses.⁶ In 1840, the sailing vessel, Napoleon, was built in the village of Newark; Captain Sheffer commanded her and she was the first to sail out of that port. Capt. Sheffer was quite familiar with the Atlantic, as with inland waters, having

3. Grand Rapids Herald, November 8, 1910.

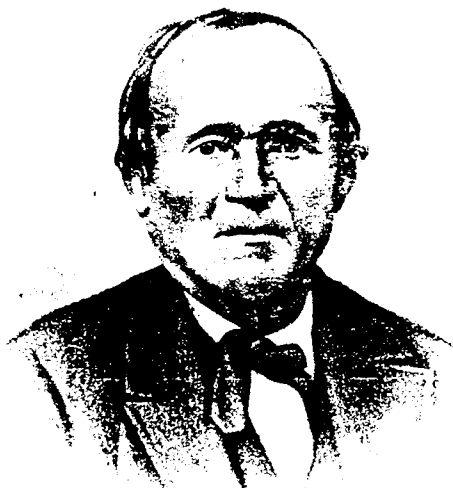
4. Albert Baxter, History of the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan (Munsell & Co., Pub., N.Y. & G.R.), p. 85.

5. History of Allegan and Barry Counties, Michigan, p. 334.

6. Marriages in Allegan County 1837-1873 (47).

* Almira J. (nee Crandall) Prouty.

formerly been one of the officers of an English line-of-battle-ship.⁷ He purchased 160 acres of land on section 18, T1N R13W, Trowbridge township. Charity was sister of Mrs. Leander S. Prouty



MARTIN SHEFFER



CHARITY (nee LARKINS)
SHEFFER
1820-1890

David B. Stout came to Allegan in 1836. He owned the sawmill on section 29, T2N R14W, built in 1837, Pine Plains township. It was located on Swan Creek and later leased to David Hutchins. Stout was elected as a representative to the legislature, from Allegan county, in 1839.

John H. Sweezy was born in New Jersey in 1808 and died in Monterey township, Allegan county, on July 3, 1891. He was married twice; first to Elizabeth Wilcox, who died in 1863, then to Mrs. Maria Kingston, and was the father of sixteen children. He came to Allegan in February, 1836, employed by A. L. Ely, to assist in building the first dam there. He worked here to 1847 and went to Cedar Rapids, Iowa with Mr. Ely, returning to Allegan in 1858. Sweezy took up residency on section 22, T3N R13W and, with Gil Blas Wilcox, was one of the first settlers of the future Monterey township, in 1836.

James Watson was an Indian trader, born on September 2, 1814, at Detroit. He removed to Grand Rapids in 1834 and was a lumberman and merchant in Bay City in 1850.

In September, 1839, Rev. George Nelson Smith moved from Allegan to section three, T4N R15W, at that time, the north east corner of Newark township.

This area was attached to Manlius township in 1841 and organized as Fillmore township in 1849; Isaac Fairbanks was its first supervisor.

7. History of Allegan and Barry Counties, Michigan, p. 337.

OLD WING MISSION

CHAPTER 13

It can be said that, at this point in time, Rev. George Nelson Smith would devote all of his energies, for the remainder of his life, to the elevation of the Indians, who were calling for his help and God's word.

The trip to Black Lake is reported in Rev. Smith's Memoranda, "Sunday, September 1, 1839 attended a meeting at Singapore. Mr. (Robert) Stuart (of Grand Haven) preached. He is a Scotch Methodist of moderate talents. Five o'clock P.M. I preached at the house of Mr. (W. G.) Butler; quite unwell.¹ Monday, our goods reached the mouth about noon. Just at night, our men came from Black river with a boat after us. They had driven our cow there Friday and Saturday. Oh, the wind blew so that we could not get out (and returned to Newark). Tuesday, about twelve, Captain (Edward H.) Macy arrived from Black river with his wife and hired man in a large sail boat after my family and part of our goods. This was a volunteer movement on the part of the Captain and a greater favor he could not well have done me. He also gives me the rent of a good house for three months. At night we loaded. Wednesday, by break of day, we started with fair land breeze and arrived safe in Superior on Black lake. With about 3/4 of our goods on both boats we had a delightful time. The Lord be praised that we are saved from the dangers of the lake in this journey. Sister Jane (Powers) accompanied us.² The families here, received us with great kindness and attention."

The Indians were Ottawas, who summered at Mackinaw and lived between the Black and Kalamazoo rivers in the winter. chief Shin-e-kos-che and A-ga-ma-non-in-wa were from Middlevillage. Joseph Wakazoo had his village on the Black river, about six miles due west of Smith's Old Wing (Ning-we-gah) Mission.³ The site where Wakazoo's village once stood is, today, the Heinz Company plant in Ottawa county, a part of the city of Holland, Michigan. Wakazoo's Indian name was Oge-maire-mire.

1. Rev. Smith also preached at Newark on May 9, 1841 and August 20, 1843, usually at William G. Butler's home.

2. Early Marriages in Allegan County. Daniel D. McMartin married Jane Powers on March 26, 1840 at Plainfield. The ceremony was performed by Rev. George N. Smith and witnessed by Ashel Gates and Thomas Montieth. Jane Powers was a private school teacher in Newark before this time.

3. Aleida J. Pieters, A Dutch Settlement in Michigan shows an 1849 map with the Holland settlement and the Indian village just west of it, between pages 74 and 75.

Many of the Indians were Catholic and had been instructed by the Jesuits at Mackinac and later, the missionaries. The Indians had a 24X30 church of cut lumber in their village and a little cemetery surrounded by a white picket fence with a white cross.

It was customary for the Indians to retrieve the bones of loved ones who had died. This was done, sometimes many years later, after the flesh had wasted away. These remains were wrapped in sacred bundles and became, in a sense, portable reliquaries. Not unlike our own funeral customs, a solemn sight to white men were processions of bundle laden canoes, making their way out the mouth of the river for their slow journey north.

At the time the mission came to the Black river area, the reigning chief was "old" Joseph Wakazoo, who died about 2 years later. "Young" Joseph Wakazoo became chief. Also here was his brother Pendunwan (Peter Wakazoo) with his wife and five children and their sister Kin-ne-quay (Charlotte Miingun) and her sons Payson and Louis.* The Wakazoo's had extensive holdings in the vicinity of Lake Winnipeg, Canada.

They personified their tribal name, Ottawa, which comes from AD-A-WA and means to trade. The Ottawa's were noted traders in furs, skins, corn, mats, sunflower oil, tobacco, roots and herbs of medicinal value. The Wakazoo's considered themselves far above the average Indian. They dealt largely with Astor's Fur Company, at Mackinac Island, being the intermediary between the fur gatherers and the fur buyers.

For generations, no Wakazoo had ever been allowed to marry into the families of the ordinary chiefs; that marriage was permitted them only when a chief or princess of extraordinary character or attainment was found.

Chief Shin-e-kos-che had been converted and was a member of Rev. Peter Dougherty's church, at the Presbyterian Chippewa mission. It was located at Grand Traverse Bay, in 1839, and was called Old Mission. Of him, Rev. Smith said, "He is our most efficient, steady businessman; always a friend and promoter of temperance." He died on April 16, 1845.

* * * * *

Arvilla Almira (nee Powers) Smith, the missionary's wife, describes the trip from Allegan, "In September of 1839, Mr. Smith decided suddenly to move on, to the Black river.⁴ At two o'clock one afternoon, he came in and said he had launched the boat. A log canoe and wished to load up for Black river. The suddenness was overwhelming, but we started, friends lining the shore entreating us to remain. The river was treacherous with snags, and several times we just escaped upsetting. We had covered twelve miles by nine o'clock and our night was spent with Mr. West, a kind Christian family. Mr. Smith complained of feeling badly the next morning, but

4. Arvilla A. Smith, A Pioneer Woman. Grand Traverse Herald, February 11, 1892.

* Payson, son of chief Mi-in-gun and Kin-ne-quay married Mary Jane Smith, daughter of Rev. & Mrs. Smith on July 31, 1851.

insisting on starting. A few miles of paddling brought on a chill and he was unable to work. My little boy (George, Jr.) and I paddled fifteen miles, Mr. Smith lying ill in the boat. The journey finally ended, our new home was on Black river, three miles from its mouth, at what was known as Superior. This was only temporary, however, while Mr. Smith was up the lake clearing a spot to locate his people. My days of suffering began with this. I remained at Superior two months, but this was only a respite before my plunge into the woods as an Indians missionary's wife."

The Ottawa Indians under Rev. Smith's care were about 30 family's strong, but did not live on a reservation. 1,360 acres of land were purchased for them by Rev. Smith and registered at the land office in Ionia. Mrs. Smith describes the event in her diary on April 13, 1839, "Twenty one Indians returned with him and sixteen hundred dollars with them for the purpose of buying land in this region. They are all very intelligent, respectable; I might say gentlemen. They have every appearance in dress, manners, etc. of being so. The chief is a fine looking fellow."

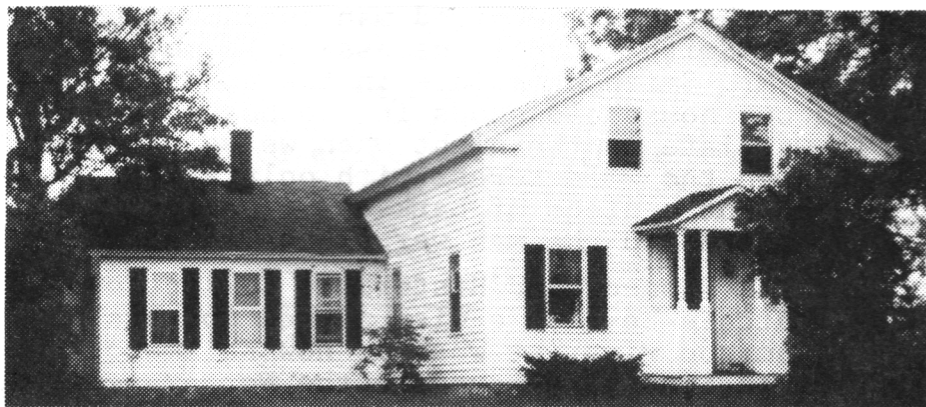
All of the land encompassing Newark township had been ceded to the United States, in 1821, in a treaty made at Chicago, in August. It was negotiated by Lewis Cass and Solomon Sibley, with chiefs from lands that became Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. Henry R. Schoolcraft was secretary. It was signed by fifty-five Potawatomi chiefs, eight Ottawa chiefs and two Chippewa (Ojibway) chiefs. Five reservations were set aside; one in St. Joseph county, one in Branch county, one in Maugachqua on the Pebble river and two in Kalamazoo county.⁵ The treaty was concluded on August 29, 1821. The Indians were to receive an annuity every year for twenty years, in addition to \$1,000 a year to support a blacksmith and a teacher.

Mrs. A. A. Smith, speaking of Superior, where she was staying, describes it as a lovely spot, "It had previously been laid out for a city by a N. Y. company, but it proved a failure. There were four pretty cottages erected for Superintendent Edward H. Macy and his family. We occupied a remaining cottage while Mr. Smith and two hired men were clearing a spot in the dense forest six miles up the river and three miles from land. This was to be our home with the Indian colony. We were at Superior two months when the hired man succumbed to the fever and ague and Mr. Smith found it necessary to move us out before the man left. Mr. Smith came late in the afternoon to move us, and he loaded our household goods in two boats, an old scow and a skiff. It was late in the night when we were landed for a three mile walk through the wild forest with only a foot path and no lantern. I had put a piece of bark in my pocket and this I lighted. Mr. Smith and the man were loaded down with the beds

5. Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, Vol. 10 on Sagamaw. Match-e-be-nash-e-wish signed for his band residing on the Kalamazoo river at what is now Kalamazoo, Michigan. The Potawatomi Indians were moved to the Nottawaseppe Reservation at St. Joseph in 1828.

and bedding and I was obliged to carry my little ones, while George, my eldest trudged behind with the bravery of a man. My strength gave way several times and the crying of the children brought the men to my assistance. We reached home; I said, home, but what a home--a pile of logs.⁶ Mr. Smith had intended finishing the house before moving us but his help failed and he was unable to get shingles or boards, as he had no team. He had erected a log room 16X18 and made a double roof of shakes, that is split up logs and to this, he put a lean-to 16X12. This had a shake roof and a piece of floor split out of bass wood trees just large enough to lay the beds on. The doors were cut out, but none to put in, no windows and the ground was our fire place, It was damp and the night cold, but we were only too happy to seek rest, even under these circumstances. A cold November rain set in. The following day, the roof being too flat, we were soon drenched for the water came in, in streams. Our only alternative was to take our beds in the lean-to and make the ground, our lodging place. The rain continued for days. Three weeks passed before Mr. Smith could get the remainder of the floor down. The river had overflowed its banks and everything that could float had gone down with the current: wash tubs, pails, soap, groceries and our bedsteads were up the river where they were soaked and nearly ruined. A sackful of (thoroughly saturated) flour was really "made dough" and merely needed cooking. We had to eat it or starve. What the flood left us, Mr. Smith had to pack on his back for three miles, our tables we went without for two months. Our loving Lord sent us a helping hand, Edward Cowles, an educated Indian from Ashtabula, Ohio, having

6. The Smiths lived in this cabin for nine years. Isaac Fairbanks was hired to build a new home in 1844 and was first occupied on June 5, 1846. James Dawson, a carpenter from Allegan worked two weeks to put the finishing touches on the house. It is still standing and is marked with a Michigan Historical Marker at 5298 E. 147th, Holland, Michigan. Their last six children were born here and only one of those survived to maturity. The others were buried, one by one, in the garden. On May 23, 1867, Rev. Smith removed the remains to Pilgrim Home Cemetery, Holland, Michigan; Block F. Plot #6. An addition to the house was added on the east side at a later date.



OLD WING MISSION HOUSE

seen an account of our colony, came the last of December, hoping to be of service. He remained several weeks and proved of great assistance. He returned and through his aid we were sent a box of clothing and a small sum of money. These were greatly appreciated by a suffering family."

(From left to right)

ARVILLA ALMIRA (nee POWERS)
SMITH 1808-1895

ARVILLA WOLFE
(eldest granddaughter)

REV. GEORGE NELSON SMITH
1807-1881

ESTHER ANN ELIZA SMITH
1846-1885

THE PICTURE WAS TAKEN ON
JANUARY 25, 1868



Edward Cowles and Rev. Smith went to Allegan, in December, 1839, to get flour for the mission. They took a water route from the Black river, down the shore of Lake Michigan to the Kalamazoo river, then up the Kalamazoo.7 Returning with provisions, they were delayed by ice packs in the river, so that the trip consumed three, instead of two weeks.

Mrs. Smith and her three children were reduced to a mere handful of potatoes for food and starvation stared them in the face.8 George, then only six years old, searched the

7. Etta Smith Wilson, Life and Work of the Late Rev. George N. Smith, A Pioneer Missionary, Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, Vol. 30 (1905), p. 201.

8. CHILDREN OF REV. AND MRS. GEORGE NELSON SMITH **

** George Nelson, Jr.	d. March 18, 1844
b. June 20, 1832, St. Albans, Vt.	** Infant Daughter
d. January 11, 1897, Northport, Mi.	b. May 1, 1843, Manlius twp.
** Infant Son	d. 9 hours later
b. August 31, 1834, Plainwell, Mi.	** Infant Son
d. 11 hours later	b. April 14, 1845
** Mary Jane	d. 1½ hours later
b. November 14, 1835, Gull Prairie	** Esther Anne Eliza
d. October 4, 1905, Northport, Mi.	b. August 31, 1846
** Arvilla Aurelia	d. March 8, 1885, Brooklyn, New York
b. March 30, 1838, Gull Prairie	** Infant Son
d. August 14, 1918, Northport, Mi.	b. April 11, 1849, Fillmore twp.
NEXT FIVE BORN AT OLD WING MISSION	d. 12 hours later
** Esther Eliza	
b. August 10, 1840, Newark twp.	

river bank for a boat, in which he might cross and possibly find food among some farmers. He found an old boat with a hole in the bottom and no paddles, but he patched up the bottom and was busily engaged making a paddle, when his father and Mr. Cowles returned.

Old Wing Mission was named for an aging Chief of the colony; the Indians held a council and elected to call it that, on January 16, 1840.

When spring and summer came, Rev. Smith used to go on foot to Allegan and return with a sack of flour or cornmeal strapped to his back, topped off with a big chunk of pork. The trip was a hard one and when he reached his cabin, the sweat would be dripping from his face.

In time, a large schoolhouse was built near the mission.⁹ The work of uplifting the native American was carried on at this place for ten years. Three months of the year were devoted to school and the remaining time was spent in clearing land, building and farming. George Nelson Smith was preacher, teacher, judge and adviser-general combined; he doctored the sick and settled all disputes which arose among the members of the colony. His word among these simple people was law and there was no thought of deviating from the course, which he laid down for them.

* * * * *

Ten years have passed since the arrival of William G. Butler, in this, The Early History of Saugatuck & Singapore, Mi. The last three years, from 1837 to 1840, showed only a worsening of the economy, not only in this area, but the whole country. As C. C. Trowbridge said about its coming, "It was a gentle breeze (1834) that blew a gale (1835) that whipped up a storm (1836) that caused a tornado in 1837." Life went on in the strictist economy and improved only little by 1841, in the dead calm that lasted to 1845. Although Michigan had passed from a territory to a state, the local Indians remained and were mostly peaceful. Under the influence of liquor, they usually only harmed themselves. Temperance seems to have been made an Indian "problem" back then, but it has come full circle to modern society to everyone in all walks of life. It has been said that they did not know the effects of alcohol until commerce with white men started. Perhaps it's the Indian "spirits" getting back at the white man for a few injustices.

* * * * *

Levi Loomis and his wife, Sally, moved into their cabin, on section 11, T2N R16W, on January 9, 1840. They had a son named Marion and he was the first child born in the future township of Ganges. Marion had three brothers and three sisters, born after him. Loomis owned eighty acres and, eventually added, eighty acres more to it; the couple spent the rest of their lives here.

9. Construction started on April 16, 1841 and school commenced on January 6, 1842. The Indians were proud of the school and made a point to retain the deed for it in their name.

THERE WERE A NUMBER OF CHILDREN BORN IN 1840.
THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THESE CHILDREN** WITH THEIR PARENTS:

- William G. and Eliza (nee McKennan) Butler
- ** James Gay Butler born on January 23, 1840 and died on August 22, 1916 at St. Louis, Missouri.
- Josiah and Amy Alice Martin
- ** Caroline Martin at Richmond, Michigan in 1840
- Levi and Sally (nee Skinner) Loomis
- ** Marion Loomis born on March 10, 1840 in Newark township (later Ganges), Michigan
- James and Maria Ann (nee Billings) McCormick
- ** William H. McCormick born on March 27, 1840 in Newark township (later Manlius), Michigan
- Stephen D. and Mary A. (nee Van Meter) Nichols
- ** Mary A. Nichols born in 1840 at Kalamazoo Harbor
- James McLaughlin and Abigail (nee McDonald) McLaughlin
- ** Charles A. McLaughlin born at Newark on July 6, 1840 and died in 1852
- Rev. George N. and Arvilla A. (nee Powers) Smith
- ** Esther Eliza Smith born on August 10, 1840 at Old Wing Mission, Manlius township (later Fillmore)
- James C. and Martha Haile
- ** Amelia S. Haile born October, 1840 and died November 7, 1840, 29 days old

James Gay Butler was born on January 23, 1840, the son of William and Eliza (nee McKennan) Butler. In boyhood, he went to school in Allegan county and high school at Suffield, Connecticut. When his father died in 1857, Michael Brown Spencer took James under his wing and helped him get into school at Ann Arbor. He entered the University of Michigan as a sophomore, in 1858. The 1860 Newark census lists him as a surveyor. He missed his senior year in college, by enlisting in the Army, during the Civil War in 1861. He received his B. S. degree from the U. of M., many years later in 1904. After the war, and beginning in 1866, he was engaged in the manufacture of tobacco in St. Louis. He married Margaret "Maggie" Leggat on October 15, 1868, at Grand Haven. James was, afterwards, the director of the American Tobacco Co., until he retired from business. He died August 22, 1916 and his wife in 1918; the couple had no children.



JAMES GAY BUTLER
1840-1916

Picture of James Gay Butler is from the Lindenwood College bulletin Vol. 86, No. 3, September 1916, upon his death.

At some point in time, after Newark township was organized, the job of township supervisor was changed to county commissioner and on February 10, 1840, it was changed back to supervisor.

Two other vessels, beside the *Napoleon*, were built in 1840 at Newark. They were the "*W. H. Webb*", built by Morrison and the schooner "*Colonel Bersell*", built for Timothy Coates.

Jane Ann Powers was the sister-in-law of Rev. George N. Smith. She was born on February 17, 1816 at St. Albans, Vermont, the daughter of Dr. John Edgar and Mary "Pollie" (nee Brown) Powers. Jane was noted in Newark's history as a private school teacher, who taught before the Singapore school was built. She, later, opened a school in Allegan.¹⁰

She left St. Albans, Vermont for Michigan Territory, with George N. Smith and his family, on May 8, 1833, crossing Lake Champlain by steamer, took the Northern and Western Canal to Buffalo, crossed Lake Erie to Detroit by steamer, upon which Mr. Smith took deck passage, while Mrs. Smith, Miss Powers and the baby (George N. Smith, Jr.) occupied the cabin.¹¹

Jane and Arvilla were the grandchildren of David and Mary (nee Davis) Powers and cousins to Mrs. James (Abigail) McLaughlin and Robert McDonald.

"By 1840, the financial panic, which had ended the prosperity of the 1830's, still gripped the economy of Michigan.¹² During the winter of 1840, the state legislature initiated a measure, which ordered the commissioners of internal improvements to halt the granting of further construction contracts. By an act of the legislature, the deadline for the payment of the 1839 taxes was extended. Although this action tended to decrease the financial pressure, the economic prospects continued to darken, for the legislature's measures were inadequate to solve the state's problems. The most serious set-back to the faltering Michigan economy occurred on April 1, 1840. The Morris Canal and Banking Company, which controlled major portions of the internal improvement construction in Michigan, defaulted on its payments to the state. In addition to this dilemma, the Bank of the United States of Pennsylvania, which had obtained more than three quarters of the State's internal improvement bonds, declared bankruptcy. Therefore, as a result of the economic dislocation brought on by this depression, the people became disillusioned with financial institutions such as the Bank of Michigan. The prices of raw materials and farm commodities remained at a sub-standard level. The United States mint coined practically all of the money in circulation in the State. In the East, the decline in the supply and demand of goods and services remained largely rural, it was the dirt farmers who suffered most."

10. History of Allegan and Barry Counties, Michigan, p. 327.

11. Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, Vol. 30, pp. 195-6.

12. Charles Henry Postma, Isaac Fairbanks: An American in a Dutch Community, (Indiana: 1969), p. 14.

PINE PLAINS

CHAPTER 14

Marmaduke Wood came to section one, T2N R15W. The area he settled on became Clyde township, when it was organized.¹ He farmed this land for four years, scraping out a meager living. Greatly disappointed, he moved to Illinois.

Marmaduke Wood was born in New Jersey, in 1788. The 1840 Newark township census shows nine members in his family. His wife was Mary, born in Pennsylvania in 1808. On October 24, 1842, he witnessed the wedding of Jonathan Hodge to Elizabeth Wood (probably his daughter), with Maude Wood.¹ Jonathan was twenty one and Elizabeth, sixteen. They were married by James W. Wadsworth, justice of the peace.

Marmaduke returned to Michigan, prior to 1850. The Manlius township census for that year shows the couple with three children: Mary M., Katherine J., and Joshua. In 1851, he was constable and director of the poor for Pine Plains (now Valley) township.

* * * * *

Three taverns opened in 1840; one at Kalamazoo Harbor by Moses Nichols, one at Richmond by Timothy Coates and the last at Pine Plains by James Harris.

Moses Nichols was born on July 24, 1813, at Hampstead, N. H., the son of Samuel and Alice (nee Kent) Nichols. He was the brother of Stephen D. Nichols and advertised himself as a vendor of ardent spirits, in 1840. He owned lots #8 and #9 at Kalamazoo Harbor, one of which was the tavern, and was a riverman's enclave. Stephen A. Morrison, countering Nichols' advertisement, opened his home to the public and made a point to specify that no liquor would be served in his home.

On July 12, 1841, Moses Nichols received a bounty on two wolves, which he had caught and killed. He was married, on May 21, 1846, to Mary Ann Earl, at Gun Plains, by Charles P. West. The ceremony was witnessed by Henry Earl and Annis Earl. His property, listed on the 1848 assessment roll, shows him owning the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 17, and the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 32, T3N R16W. The 1850 census lists him as a grocer.

Timothy S. Coates had a blacksmith shop in Manlius township. He also opened a tavern close to his shop, having come from the vicinity of Otsego. Coates was born in 1780, in Connecticut and his wife, Lavina, was born in New York, ca. 1791.

1. Early Marriages in Allegan County. Herrick Library, Holland, Michigan.

After Richmond collapsed, he removed to the village of Manlius, which started in 1844, by Ralph R. Mann. He was postmaster of the village, after Mann and the first supervisor of Pine Plains, in 1850 and Hopkins, in 1852. He later came to live in the village of Newark. His children consisted of six sons and one daughter. He was lighthouse keeper, for a long term after Stephen D. Nichols, at Kalamazoo Harbor (which, by then had seen a better day).

The last, and probably the most famous, of these three early inns was the Pine Plains Tavern, a noted landmark for a great number of years, located on section one, T2N R15W of Newark township. It was about half way between Allegan and Singapore. After the failure of Green, Mitchell & Co., James Harris built and ran the tavern for nine years. The road was surveyed, at a later date, and found to run through the middle of the barn. Undisturbed by the fact, a hole was cut in the back end of it and the big double doors taken off the front and the road passed right through the barn. The stage coaches stopped here and it did a good business, until the railroad came. Harris traded it to Linsford B. Coates for land in Otsego.

The 1840 census of Allegan county indicated a total of 1,783 persons living within its boundary. The population of Michigan, at the same time, was 212,267.

By 1840, the mill at Singapore witnessed an accident, that remained in the memory of those who worked there. Harvey Leonard got himself caught in a belt, that he was repairing. It drew him upward and crushed him to pieces and scattered fragments. Even after the mill closed (ca. 1841), the engines and boilers removed, the horrid marks remained as long as the vacant building stood. He left a widow and two children.

* * * * *

In November of 1840, the Indians on the Nottawaseppe reservation in Berrien county were required to move west of the Mississippi. The Indians were given two years to leave, after they signed the treaty.² These two years stretched out into seven and the United States government became hostile to the location of any Indian tribes east of the Mississippi. Indians could buy property and become citizens of the United States. This spelled the end of the bulk of the Potawatomis in that area. They had come from Green Bay, in 1711, with Father Chardon, who established a mission for them and was the first pastor of the region. The mission was, for all practical purposes, abandoned in 1759 and it would be 1830 before another was established, due directly to a request for it by Chief Leopold Pokagon. The Indians sold this last reservation for \$10,000.

Three thousand Indians were gathered at the New York Central station, at St. Joseph, Michigan, for the trip west by

2. This treaty was signed on September 26, 1833 and became known as the Treaty of Chicago in which they ceded all their lands in Illinois in exchange for five million acres of what was to become Iowa Territory. For the Potawatomi removal see R. David Edmunds, The Potawatomis, pp. 267-275.

rail. In bitter cold, young and old alike took the Chicago trail. Many died on the journey from their beloved homeland to the west and it was recorded in history as the "Trail of Tears". It was reported that many of the Indians filtered back or just hid out in the woods to avoid removal. Some eventually settled in Silver Creek township, Cass county.

The old Montreal and Quebec fur connection was broken. The flag of France had flown over their homeland for sixty years and was replaced by the Union Jack of the British. The flag of Spain, too, once flew over their lands, when a Spanish force marched to the St. Joseph river in 1781, from St. Louis. They captured Fort St. Joseph, remained a few days under the flag of Spain, and destroyed the fort and its stores. Remnants of the tribe, to this day, still live in Kansas, after an ill-fated sojourn in Iowa.

* * * * *

Singapore, after the Boston Company's and Wilder's influence, fell into decay. Wilder returned to Eckford township, Calhoun county, his first home when he came to Michigan. He remained there until the time of his death in January, 1846.³ He had a large tract of land in Eckford, which he improved somewhat, but with indifferent success.

* * * * *

In the early days, when the French were here, the Potawatomis held the Kalamazoo river as part of their territory. In a battle fought at Ada, the Ottawas won it from them. They occupied most of the northern lower peninsula, as far as the Grand river on the western edge of their land; then the Kalamazoo. The Ottawas and Potawatomis were considered allies, during the War of 1812.

The Ottawas, however, were forced to fight to keep the property from the Sioux, who continually poached upon it. Finally, the Sioux warriors were invited to a feast. Many moccasins were prepared in a kettle, instead of venison. This precipitated the final battle and the Sioux were driven from the territory.

The larger part of the area that is Saugatuck, and the township it is in, was granted to chief Wauba-ga-kake for "the hunting ground of the Ottawas", when the government treaty became effective in 1832.⁴ At that time, the Indians relinquished a large portion of the state, withholding, however, that land which could be "encircled on horseback for four days in four directions"; a considerable area. The riders began on a point south of the Kalamazoo river, and ended again near the river where they began, traveling east, north, west and south. At the time of the coming of the first white settler (William G. Butler) to the county, this tract was alive with game.

Upon the old chief's death, he bequeathed his holdings among his descendants and the one that interests us here is chief Nayan Mi-in-gun (also Maingan), which translates into wolf in the Ottawa language.⁵ He was the grandson of Wauba-ga-kake. He was

3. Michigan Pioneer & Historical Collections, Annual Meeting of 1877, pp. 225-27.

4. Grand Haven Tribune, Do Not Know Who Owns Land, 3/23/1917.

5. Acts of the Legislature of the State of Michigan, 1848,

married to Kin-ne-qua (Charlotte Wakazoo) and they had two sons, Payson and Louis; Louis died early in the summer of 1845. Mi-in-gun died from an accidental dose of poison.⁶ Kin-ne-qua was the sister of Joseph and Peter Wakazoo (Waukazoo).

Since the disbandment of the tribes, no one but the direct descending line from chief Wauba-ga-kake can lay claim to any of the hunting ground.⁷

Of the Indians in this area, another that stands out is Maksabe, an Ottawa war chief.⁸ Maksabe's Anglicized name has come to us in a dozen different ways; some almost humorous when spelled in a Scotch fashion. The following is a list and its sources with the spelling variants:

MACKSAWBEE	(History of Allegan & Barry Counties, Mich., p. 40)
McSAUBIE	(Ibid., p. 42)
McSAUBA	(1860 Newark township census)
MACSAUBE & MACSAUBEE	(Early Memories of Saugatuck, Mich., pp. 17 & 112)
MAKSAUBY & MACKSANBY	(A. C. Van Raalte by Dr. Albert Hyma, p. 159)
MIK-SAW-BA	(Mich. Pioneer & Hist. Collections, Vol. 30, p. 199)
MAKSABA	(1847 Manlius township assessment roll)
MAKSABE	(1848 George N. Smith Memoranda & Recollection of the Pioneers by Henry H. Hutchins, p. 4)
MI-KI-SABEY	(1860 Letter by Louis Maksabe)

* * * * *

Maksabe saved the life of Alexander L. Ely in November or December, 1834. Ely was on his way to Pine Creek, when his boat capsized. His companion drowned; Ely managed shore, frozen, and made for his destination as best as he could. He heard a dog bark and walked in that direction, when he saw a light. He called out and Maksabe came across the river and rescued him.⁹

Maksabe was born on the site, which became the village of Allegan, before that place ever was. "He and his associate Chiefs had fought on the British side in the War of 1812, but after peace was proclaimed, these Ottawa Indians took possession of this delightful portion of Michigan and remained in occupation of the lands hereabouts until their removal to the northwestern part of the peninsula."¹⁰

The 1847 Manlius assessment roll shows him owning lot #30 at Old Wing Mission, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, section three, T4N R15W, a tract of forty acres.

6. Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, Vol. 30, p. 208.

7. Census of Grand Rapids Indians taken on January 1, 1854 in advance of making the Treaty of 1855. Lists Wau-ba-ga-kake's wife with eight children, Thorn Apple Forks Band No. 1.

8. Holland Resorts are Rich in Indian Lore, Holland Sentinel dated 1924. Maksabe died on February 1, 1849 according to a diary entry of Rev. George N. Smiths the day following.

9. Recollections of the Pioneers of Western Allegan County, p. 5.

10. Netherlands Museum Archives.

He claimed to be the chief of the tribe, but was not recognized as such by the government, the latter conducting all its negotiations with his rival, Joseph Wakazoo, who became chief.¹¹ He died on October 18, 1845.

He was a great favorite among the early settlers and often befriended them in various ways, furnishing them with maple sugar, fish and trophies of the chase. Maksabe is said to have been one of the principal characters in James Fenimore Cooper's, "Oak Openings."¹² Cooper is purported to have visited Singapore ca. 1846-7 and Maksabe lived in this vicinity to his death.¹³

Donald C. Henderson, in the Allegan Journal on July 17, 1880, said, "When white people came to Allegan county most of the territory was occupied by a band of Ottawa Indians, under the chieftainship of Maksabe, who was well known to the pioneers of Allegan county, and who came from Mackinaw every autumn to hunt, and returned to the north in the spring. In the War of 1812, these Indians fought in the British Army, and wore medals for the battles they participated in, given by the Canadian authorities. During the early days of flat-boating these Indians displayed a British flag at one of their powwows on Bald Head. When the fact became known, the captains of two of those boats (Alexander Henderson and Henry Allett), with their men, made a raid on the festive Indians and carried off the ensign of England and took it back to Allegan as a trophy."

Joseph Wakazoo appointed his brother, Pen-dun-wan (Peter Wakazoo), chief on May 13, 1845. Pendunwan was born around 1808. His 1st wife died in 1844, leaving five children, shortly before he became chief. He was married for the second time about a year later, circa 1845, to Petowekshik's widow. Petowekshik was one of the colony's "best men" and it was a loss when he died on April 23, 1841. They were married by a priest. Pendunwan was informed, by a friend, that the woman was expecting a child. He never consummated the marriage with her and she delivered about six months later. He married again on May 14, 1848 at Old Wing Mission, the ceremony being performed by Rev. George N. Smith. His new wife was Mesquaba Okitchigume. Her former husband was Otapetakshik, who died on August 26, 1844. She had five children by him, but none alive at the time. Pendunwan was forty and Mesquaba was twenty seven. Mrs. Francis Mills and Mrs. Alonzo Fairbanks were witnesses to the Chief's marriage. At least two other children, William and Charlotte, were born to the couple. A son, Joseph, from his first marriage, studied at Dr. Samuel Bissell's School of the Ottawas, in Twinsburg, Ohio, for three years.

11. Holland City News, December 26, 1891.

12. Notes on Saugatuck, Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, (1880), p. 307.

13. Early Memories of Saugatuck, p. 171. Cooper is refuted to have been here by Lawrence Dawson in Michigan History, James Fenimore Cooper and Michigan: His Novels, Visits, and Attitude, Vol. 59, No. 4, pp. 275-292. See also Kate Russell Oakley's James Fenimore Cooper and Oak Openings in Michigan History, Vol. 16, 1932.

THE CLOSE OF 1840

CHAPTER 15

There are two letters, written by Rev. George N. Smith at Old Wing Mission during 1840, showing his divergent interests.¹ They were written to Rev. William M. Ferry of Grand Haven.

"Dear Brethren,

Our people are much alarmed by reports of the small pox being among the Indians of your place and vicinity and we fear that some of them who are infected with the disease may come among us. If they should, you are aware of the ruin it would be likely to bring upon our little settlement. The disease, you know, is extremely destructive, especially among the Indians. They fear it as they do death. This, you doubtless well know. The object of this little note is, humbly, to request you, as our friends, to exert your influence to prevent any from coming this way, who would be likely to sow the seed of this deadly disease among our little band. The Chief who will bear this line to you in company with several of his men is urgent in this request. Please then, as you regard our prosperity, enter into our sympathies and feelings and give us what assistance you can in this matter and you shall receive, if nothing more, our most sincere and hearty thanks.

Yours respectfully, in haste,
George N. Smith, Old Wing Mission
March 23, 1840.

P.S. We are usually well through our settlement, Mrs. Smith is not very well; health quite delicate, myself and our children tolerably well. Our undertaking has been blessed and prospered in most respects thus far, especially is the preaching of the truth listened to with great earnestness. My love to your families and thanks for the favors I received when there. Mrs. Smith sends her respects to you. We experience many privations and trials which sometimes almost discourage us, but we believe the work is the Lord's and it will prosper. Please write us by the bearers.

Yours, Geo. N. Smith"

The second letter reads, "Old Wing, November 5, 1840
Rev. and Dear Sir,

I send you, by this bearer, Mr. Prickett, two ears of the China Tree Corn; it is the second production from the N. Y. seed as got by Mr. Emerson. It produced largely here this season; it was splendid.

But a moment to write, give our best respects and affections to Mrs. Ferry and Miss White.

Yours, etc. in great haste, Geo N. Smith"

1. Netherlands Museum Archives, Holland City Hall, Holland, Mi.

When the sugar and fish season was over, the Indians prepared to return to Mackinaw, or to the valley of the St. Joseph, as many bands and tribes used the Kalamazoo river. Some of the furs they took with them, but a large portion of them were sold to the traders, either during the winter or at the time of leaving.

The History of Allegan and Barry Counties, Michigan, p. 40, says that Maksabe's brothers were Muckatau, Shawshawqua (also Shashaqua, Shashaquay), and Nimshaqua.² About 1840, Joseph Wakazoo became chief.

The Indians usually assembled at a distined rendezvous, at the mouth of Grand river or the Kalamazoo, to indulge in a grand jubilee.³ They roasted a white dog. This ceremony appears to have been very widely diffused among the Indians; for it was practiced among the tribes of both Algonquin and Iroquois races. It appears to have been intended as a kind of sacrifice, the sins of the tribe being deposited on its unlucky head and then burned up. Jonathan Peabody witnessed this ceremony some time after he came to Allegan county, in 1836. He said the Indians were all gathered at the top of Mount Bald Head. "The farewell rites being thus celebrated, the assembled thousands speedily embarked, and hundreds of canoes were soon sweeping rapidly to the north."

* * * * *

There are two lists that represent the population and businesses of Newark township in 1840. The first is the 1840 Newark township census.⁴ It reflects the separation of Manlius township from Newark. The total population, at the time, was 122 people; of which sixty-nine were males and fifty-three were females. There were twenty heads of families, including one woman, Mrs. Wood. These are the families:

John H. Billings	10	7m3f	Moses Nichols	1	1m
William G. Butler	7	4m3f	Stephen D. Nichols	5	2m3f
James C. Haile	5	2m3f	Daniel Pike	8	5m3f
James Harris	2	1mlf	Benjamin Plummer	8	3m5f
Harrison Hutchins	8	6m2f	George N. Smith	5	2m3f
Harvey Leonard	3	1m2f	Andrew Thomas	6	4m2f
Levi Loomis	3	2mlf	James Wadsworth	10	5m5f
James McLaughlin	5	4mlf	Edward B. Wilder	4	2m2f
Stephen Morrison	4	3mlf	Marmaduke Wood	9	5m4f
Almarin Moulton	15	10m5f	Mrs. Wood	3	3f

The second list is the 1840 assessment roll for Newark township. It brings this history (Part I) to a close. The assessors were James C. Haile, Edward B. Wilder and Benjamin Plummer. The total value of land and property was \$174,709 on 73,616 acres and consists of these individuals and concerns:⁵

2. Shashaqua owned lot #27, Old Wing Mission, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, section three, eight acres. He had two wives and eight children. He drowned in the Kalamazoo river on April 20, 1848, at the mouth.

3. History of Allegan and Barry Counties, Mich., pp. 40 and 330.

4. 1840 Allegan County Census (1962), pp. 29-30, abstracted by Ruth Robins Monteith. Herrick Library, Holland, Mich.

5. History of Allegan and Barry Counties, Mich., p. 326.

Jacob B. Bailey	William F. Haile
Jacob Baragar	James Haines
William G. Butler	Harrison Hutchins
Crosby & Company	Leonard Jones
James C. Haile	Levi Loomis
Robert A. McDonald	Stephen D. Nichols
James McLaughlin	Benjamin Plummer
Samuel Morrison	James W. Wadsworth
Stephen Morrison	A. Webb
(Vendor of no ardent spirits)	Wilder & Company
Moses Nichols	(J. R. Ham, agent)
(Vendor of ardent spirits)	Marmaduke Wood

The age distribution of the 1840 Newark township census is interesting, with a large number of infants and youths.

27 persons under	5	27 to age	30
20 to age	10	19 to age	40
14 to age	15	8 to age	50
4 to age	20	3 to age	60

The early census' are listed by adult male heads of households and do not give the names of wives or children.

A great many people came and went, seeking their fortunes in more populated centers of business. The lumber industry did not come into full focus until the 1870's, when those mills cut, in one day, the weekly average output of the old mills. It was said that lumbering wore out a generation of men. One of the greatest factors that caused the need for lumber was the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 and the other fires on that day in Wisconsin and Michigan, burning large tracts of homes in that city and vast acres of timber in the other two states. The center of the lumbering industry was once Buffalo, N. Y., with Chicago becoming prominent in those affairs in the 1850's. By the 1880's, much of what had been forest was gone. The land was stripped and not much was done to replace and replant trees, as they do now. This over harvest has led to calling the lumbermen of this period "robber barons", because their wealth came from a natural resource auxiliary to owning the land. The model for it came from an earlier time, when pelts were harvested and John Jacob Astor's men were characterized as "fur thieves". Newark's first industry was tanning; it didn't get a sawmill until 1846. Even the tanners felt the crunch, when no more hemlock bark was cheaply available and they actually had to import it from other areas and finally moved out altogether or shut down.

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APPENDIX

ALLEGAN COUNTY PIONEER SOCIETY, AUGUST 18, 1897

Gen. Benjamin D. Pritchard responded with appropriate words to the hearty welcome extended, and then briefly reviewed the early history of Allegan County. He said the first white settler to arrive in the territory now comprising the county was William G. Butler, who reached the mouth of the Kalamazoo river May 30, 1830.

It was several years before other settlers arrived, and Mr. Butler established and conducted a trading post. The next settler to arrive was Giles Scott, who started a home in the forests of what is now Otsego Township in the fall of 1830. In 1832 a few sturdy men began places for homes in the county now comprised of Gun Plains Township, and after that year new arrivals became more frequent, a large number coming in 1836, which year was noted for the moving westward of many people from New York State.

Speaking of the nationality of the early pioneers, Mr. Pritchard said those who settled Salem and Dorr were Germans from the fatherland; those in Martin were Scotch, those in Watson were Americans, except the northern part where they were sons of Erin; while those of Laketown, Overisel and Fillmore, who arrived in 1847, were Hollanders.

He believed sixty percent of the early settlers came from New York and thirty percent from Ohio, having been led to that conclusion when recruiting men for the Civil War. Out of the first hundred called for, the numbers who originally came from the states named corresponded to the percentages given.

ALLEGAN COUNTY'S 24 TOWNSHIPS DIVIDED INTO
SECTIONS, TOWNS, AND RANGES

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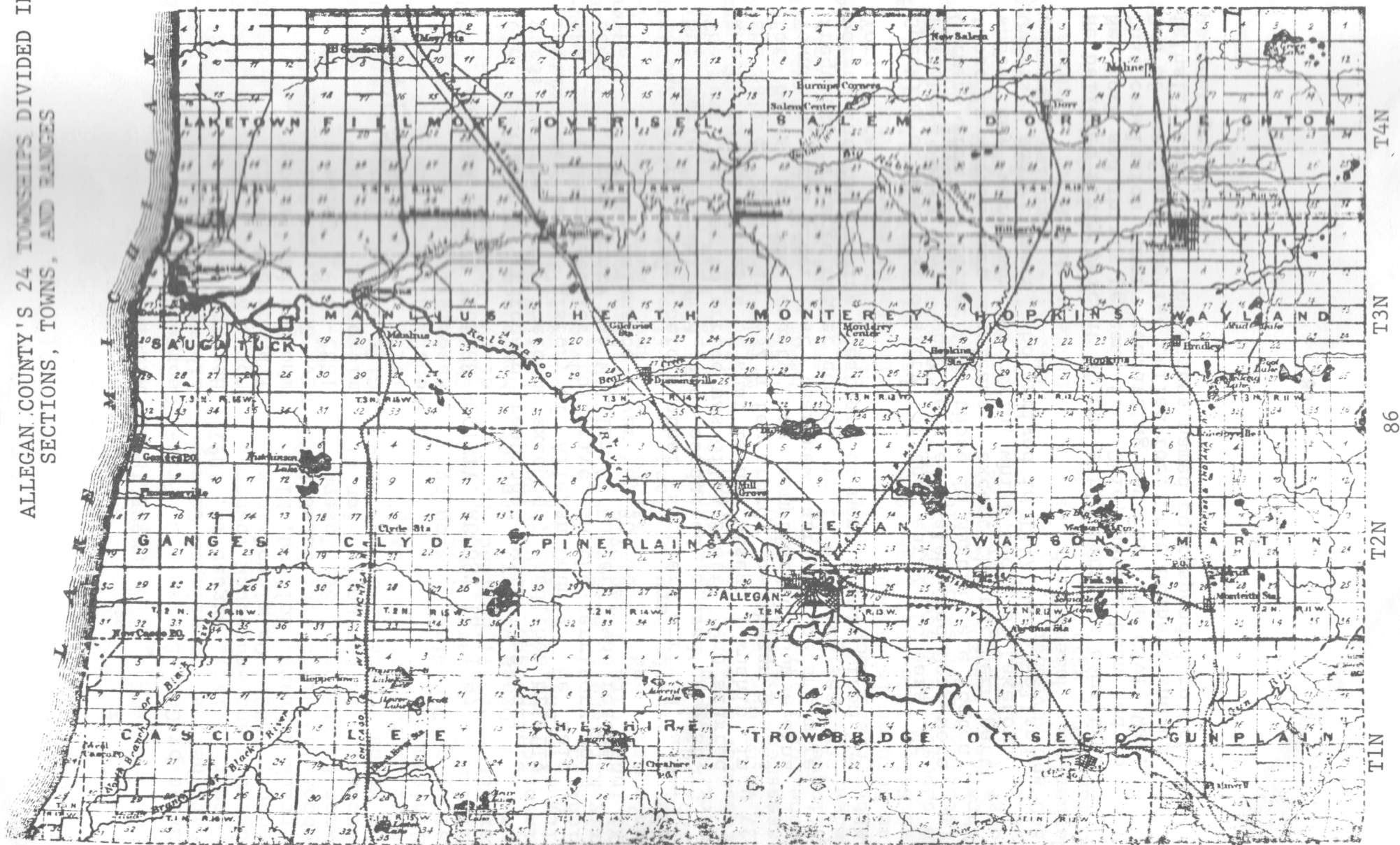
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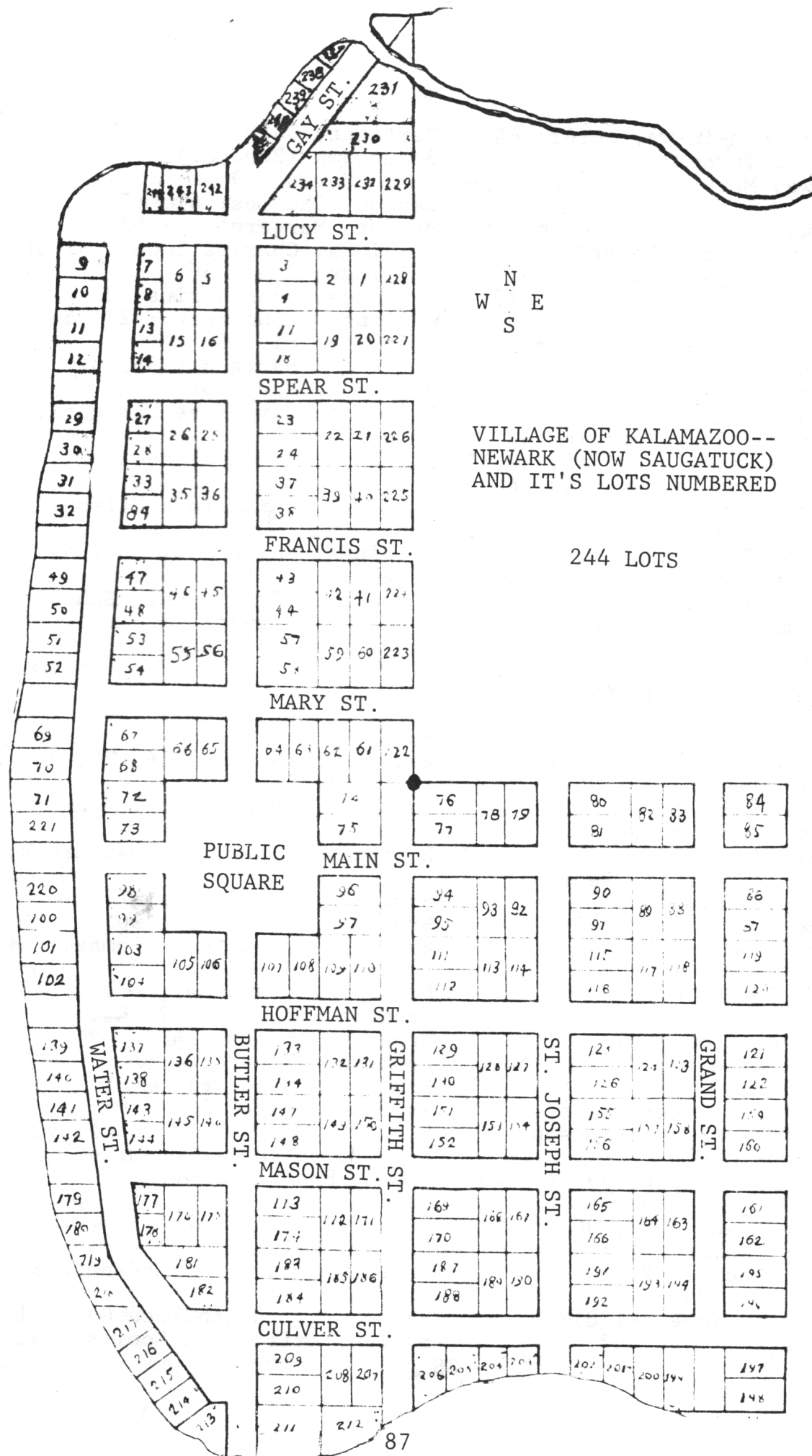
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N
W S E

VILLAGE OF KALAMAZOO--
NEWARK (NOW SAUGATUCK)
AND IT'S LOTS NUMBERED

244 LOTS

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