ORIG

HISTORY

OF

BRIDGEPORT

SAGINAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN

FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE PRESENT TIME

Including an outline of the History of Michigan, Saginaw County and Frankenmuth, with Short Sketches of the First Settlers.

GATHERED BY T. J. POLLEN

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PREFACE

This history of Bridgeport, published around 1912 by T. J. Pollen, is the product of a Bridgeport man, and reflects the views of those times. Many of the events which he describes were undoubtedly recounted to him either by participants in the events or by those who had heard of these events from a participant. Some of the events are described with his own feelings in mind and are not such as are found in other writings.

Regardless of this, only such mistakes in spelling as are attributable to typographical errors have been corrected; others have been left as found in order to retain the general flavor of the content.

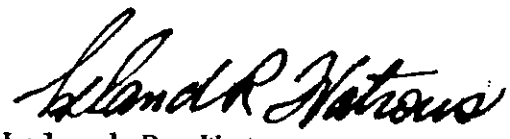
Those theories which the reader may notice in the following pages reflect the thoughts and feelings of early twentieth-century America; the ensuing sixty five years have done much to change both these thoughts and feelings.

Many of the names found in this book can still be found in the pages of a current telephone directory. Many of the names never were spelled in the current manner until after the turn of the present century and a number of names were distorted by illegibility and ignorance on the part of the original record-keeper

Still, even with the peculiarities which appear in this book, it can be recommended as helpful to persons interested

not only in early Bridgeport history, but also of this area in general. For those having only a passing interest in the community, it provides a delightful insight into the mores and manners of a relatively small area.

Good reading.



Leland R. Watrous
President,
Saginaw Genealogical Society
1978

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T. J. POLLEN

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INTRODUCTION

We are going fast today. We will go still faster tomorrow. Only a few years ago, a horse with a mark of 2:40 was considered a fast conveyance. Today, the race horse is a back number. Fast trains, electric cars, automobiles and airships bring people here to there, with tremendous speed, and inventive brains are constantly at work making things go still faster. "Whither are we drifting?" was asked of yore; whither are we rushing, could be asked today. This generation certainly wants to "get there." To where? Oh, to find the "bag of gold at the foot of the rainbow."

In this mad rush for an uncertain future we are apt to forget the past. The reverential memory we should cherish for our forefathers and their struggle as pioneers is fading in the distance of yesterday, but the time will come when we must call a halt, draw a long breath and look back over the past ages to see the why and wherefore we

we are here, and why we today enjoy thousands of blessings that were won for us by so many thousands of lives, sacrifices and privations by the generations that now rest in the Silent City, or with bent backs are heading that way. To such this retrospect of our Town will the following pages be dedicated.

CREATION

"And God said 'Let the waters under the heavens be gathered unto one place, and let the dry land appear,' and it was so."--Gen. 1, 9.

This is a true story and worthy of all consideration, and it is more than probable that America and Michigan, and the very earth on which we step, which feeds us and which at last will receive this mortal coil of ours, appeared at that time, legends and geological theories notwithstanding.

II

LEGEND

A ridiculous narrative, better known in England than in America, about the creation of America, is told as an ancient legend with apparent mischevious intent:

The Evil Spirit, who had been expelled from Heaven, looked upon the new-made world and found it fair and beautiful to behold. He waxed wroth, and swore to destroy this mighty handiwork of the Creator. Immediately he sought about the universe and got hold of a dead Moon which he hurled with tremendous force against the virgin world. It splashed into the great waters of the sea and spread out in shape and outline as a continent on the opposite side. The globe trembled under the impact and trembles yet to this day.

The world of Satan was in vain, however, and Jehova in his infinite love and almighty power, went over the new land with a great mundification and pronounced a benediction on it from on high: "Let the country be blessed with untold riches, opportunities and facilities, and let the people sojourning therein be happy, noble, industrious and progressive, an example to the nations of the Earth." But, deep down from the underworld the voice of Satan echoed: "And let the sons of Boreas be the everlasting enemies of the Harpies, and drive them with frantic force into cyclonic storms, devouring, desolating, merciless, making all things disappear in their grasp until they rest in the Seventh Circle of Inferno, where the Harpies make their nests in the warped branches of the trees which are the souls of suicides. Let the people of the land be greedy, selfish, proud and aggressive, a joke to the nations of the Earth."

We cannot prove the truth of this legend, for all the eyewitnesses are now dead, and they left no affidavits. But it is notable that the legendary benediction of the Creator and the fearful curse of Satan, as a pronounced mixture of great good and great evil in this country, has come remarkably near the truth.

III

GEOLOGICAL THEORIES

A French work entitled "Our Wonderful World," has this theory about the appearance of the dry land on the Western Hemisphere. It is claimed that Paradise is situated at the North Pole, that being the first place sufficiently cooled off for human beings to live

in. Palm leaves have been found in the coal strata of Spitzbergen, and many other evidences shows that the Arctic regions once were covered with tropical flora. The Angel Cherubin with his sword of flame is supposed to allude to Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights. But as the terrestrial globe cooled a great catastrophe occurred. The globe cracked from Behring Sea to the straits of Magellan and the Rockies and Andes heaved out of the waters and made the continents of North and South America. The waters which this new land displaced rolled in over the old world and caused the great flood at the time of Noah which is described in Holy Writ and also in Chaldean chronicles.

In the rebounding of the waters a stray human was carried over to the new land which he inhabited and this is the foundation for the Indian legend that their first progenitor came drifting from the east in a bark canoe.

More recent researches has developed more dependable theories as advanced by a later school of geologists, who tell us the American continent has undergone considerable changes in the course of ages. The lower peninsula of Michigan is a diluvial formation and it was not here at the time of Creation. It reposed then in the bosom of Lake Superior from whence it was scooped out and deposited here by the great glacier movement in the Ice Age.

What was here before Michigan came we do not know, but there seems to be an ocean of salt under us.

IV

WHO IS THE MAN IN THE MOON?

Before we leave this speculation about

creation and formation, we will recall the theory of a recent Chicago Professor who figured out that our moon once reposed in the Pacific Ocean but was pushed by centrifuge force out into space where it formed a sphere of itself and revolves in respectful distance to this day.

The analogy of these theories leads to the conclusion that the man in the moon is an American.

It also revives another theory that the moon hangs over us in a threatening position as a Damocles Sword, by a slender thread. Some night when the moon is good and full, that thread will break. She will become centripetal. Impelled by the earth's magnetism she will come back home and what then will happen, it takes another Chicago Professor to figure out.

V

MICHIGAN

The earliest obtainable history of Michigan dates back to about the year 1520. That is about 30 years after Columbus' discovery. At that time Michigan was populated with different Indian tribes of which the strong and numerous Chippewas and Ottawas held sway in the northern parts, while the Souks occupied the Saginaw Valley.

Three hundred and ninety winters ago the Chippewas left their camps at Mackinaw and steadily advanced southwards along the eastern shores, encountering the Souks at Sag-a-nong gave them battle which raged fiercely for two days, after which the Souks were driven from their stronghold, where Saginaw, West Side now is, and the remnants of their tribe scattered into the dense woods along the rivers from the south. A number of them

lived for 200 years undisturbed on the banks of Cass river at Cass Bridge and Bridgeport, where Pow-wows were held and sun dances performed.

The origin of the Chippawas, Souks and other indian tribes is, of course, shrouded in mystery. They were children of the present, so to speak, the "now" and "today" occupied their minds more than the past and the future, so they left no authentic history. Whence came these dusky inhabitants of our land? It is an unanswered question. Mysterious things have been discovered which seems to prove there was communication from the old world centuries before Columbus, centuries before Leif Ericson and even centuries before Christ.

Remains of fortifications like those of ancient European nations have been discovered An idol composed of gypsum, representing a man without arms, resembling one found in Southern Russia, was dug up near Nashville, Tennessee. A Roman coin was found in Missouri a Persian coin in Ohio; a piece of silver in Genesee County, N.Y., with the year of our Lord 600, engraved on it; wood, split with an axe, was found 30 feet underground at Fredonia, N.Y.; a silver cup, finely gilded, in an ancient mount at Marietta, Ohio, and in a tomb near Montevideo, South America, two ancient swords, a helmet and shield with Greek inscriptions upon them, showing that they were made in the time of Alexander the Great.

The mysterious mounds found in various parts of our contry have made strange revelations, such as weapons and utensils of copper; catacombs with mummies, ornaments of

silver and brass; stones with Hebrew inscriptions, mirrors of isinglass and glazed pottery are evidences of the existance of a race here, far more civilized than the tribes found by Europeans. Strange also that all of them have a faint tradition of a great deluge.

Some theorists tell us that they came originally from Phonecia, others say they are Egyptians, Hindoos or Chinese, while others insist that they are descendants of the "Ten Lost Tribes of Israel," who came hither from Asia over the Aleutian Islands. We will, with Parson Mather, dismiss the subject as being too deep for ordinary comprehension and close the matter with Bryant's soliloquy:

"Let the mighty mounds that overlook the rivers answer,
A race that long has passed away built them.
A disciplined and populous race,
Heaped with toil the earth, while yet the Greek
Was hewing the Pentilieus to forms
Of symmetry and rearing on its rock
The glittering Parthenon."

According to Hon. H. R. Pattengill's "Michigan's History," the first white man to set foot upon Michigan soil was Jean Nicolet, who was in the service of Governor Champlain. He entered the Territory at the spot now occupied by the City of Sault St. Marie, in the summer of 1634. The next Europeans were two missionaries, Raymbault and Jouques in 1641. In 1660 Pere Rene Menard founded a mission near Keweenaw Bay. He was afterwards lost or murdered near the present site of the Portage Lake Ship Canal. In 1666 Pere Cloude

Allouez established a mission and built a chapel at La Pointe. This was the first church west of Lake Huron. In 1668 Pere Marquette founded a mission at Sault St. Marie, which since that time has been inhabited by white people and is the oldest settlement in the state. There in 1671 M. Talon, Intendant of New France, called a great council of friendly Indians. There were Ottawas, Chippewas and twelve other tribes from the Northwest Territory represented. M. Talon raised the Cross and the Lillies of France, and with due ceremonies took possession of the country for King Louis XIV. Thus Michigan became a French colony.

In 1679 the schooner Griffin set sail for the first voyage made by vessel on the Great Lakes. The Griffin was commanded by La Salle, and the missionary Hennepin was a passenger. They reached the mouth of Detroit river on August 10th, and passed the Indian village of Teuchsagrondie, on the site now occupied by the City of Detroit. They passed through Lake St. Clair, St. Clair river and to Lake Huron, where they experienced a great storm. At length they reached the harbor of St. Ignace. Loaded with furs, the Griffin returned to Niagara, with orders to return with supplies as soon as possible. She never returned.

Father Marquette's grave is situated near St. Ignace.

La Salle did not return with the Griffin, but went westward and discovered the Mississippi river.

On the 24th of July, 1701, the first European settlement at Detroit was founded by Antoine de la Motte Cadillac. He brought

fifty soldiers, traders and artisans. They built a stockade and named it Fort Ponchartrain, remains of which were found by an excavation last year.

The so-called "French Period" lasted until 1760, when the territory was abandoned to the English and became a British Province. The English did not treat the Indians as well as the French had done, and in less than three years had succeeded in making themselves thoroughly hated by the Indians and the remaining French settlers. They treated the chiefs with contempt and the people as children and slaves, and so lost their respect. Traders cheated them and aroused their anger. The meanness and wickedness of the English was in great contrast to the French, who had come to them with the pacifying influence of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

When after the Treaty of Paris, the tribes were informed that France had ceded the country to Great Britain without asking their consent, they commenced to form confederacies and plotted conspiracies for the destruction of their English masters. The Ottawa Chief Pontiac became the leader of this conspiracy. He was about fifty years of age, resolute, courageous, and with magnetic attraction and marvelous skill and energy. He was the greatest of all Indians we know of, and held despotic power over many tribes. He called a great war council to assemble on a designated spot near Detroit, and there he made his famous war speech. The siege of the fort at Detroit and various successes of the Indians are well known facts of Michigan history. These were exciting times until Bradstreet came and relieved Detroit, broke the confederacy and made the chiefs sue for peace

and pardon. Only the haughty Pontiac refused to surrender and tried again and again to rally his forces, until broken in health and spirit, we went southward to St. Louis, where he was treacherously slain by one of his own tribe. This traitor was even worse than Judas Iscariot. He stole upon his chief in the forest and buried his hatchet in the noblest brains that ever were born in an Indian skull. The English rewarded the murderer with a barrel of rum.

SAGINAW COUNTY

On the banks of Saginaw river, east side, near the intersections of Washington and Court streets, City of Saginaw, has lately been placed a big stone with a bronze tablet with this inscription:

"This tablet marks the Site of an ancient Indian Village occupied by the Souks about 1600 and by the Ojibwas 1620. Sa-gin-a-we or Saug-e-nah, Place of the Souks, gave to this whole river valley the name, Saginaw

An old resident of Saginaw from whom we have this narrative, said the 100 years old Indian, Puttaquasamine, had told him his grandfather, also about a hundred winters of age, pointed out the main village of the Souks to be near the present residence of Frank Fitzhugh, opposite the Bradley mill.

The Chippawas and Ottawas, who were strong nations of the Strait and Lake Superior regions, cast their eyes on the rich and desirable hunting grounds of this valley and decided in a pow-wow at Michillimakinak to make war on the Souks. They came down along the eastern shores of Michigan in great numbers, on foot and in canoes, and at Ka-pay-shaw-win, about 12 miles below Saginaw, met

the Souks and routed them after a fierce battle lasting two days. The number of slain is of course not given, but the ground is said to be yet strewn with Indian bones. Then the victors followed up their advantage and again routed the Souks, capturing their stronghold, the camp at Saginaw, West Side, on the slope between the river and the site of the present court house.

The Souks fled to the south and east, following the rivers but the relentless enemy still pursued and battles were fought on the Tittabawassee, on the Flint and on the Cass at Bridgeport, where the Souks had a fortification, and the battle extended as far up as Cook's Corners. At these places numerous arrowheads are yet found scattered over the ancient battlefields, where the forests reechoed with the shouts and war-whoops of the contending forces. There are also found graves with the bones of the braves laid at rest with the ritual and ceremonies of the tribes. As far as known, the Souks were utterly annihilated in this territory, in fact the victors were so relentless that if a stray Souk was spied, he was followed up and slain. The last Souk, as far as we could ascertain, was slain by a burly Chippewa, by name Ton-do-gong, long after Bridgeport was an organized township.

The murderer passed defiantly by the gathered spectators, who dared not interfere nor follow him when he disappeared in the woods north of the village. The body of this "The Last of the Souks," was buried by other Indians on the spot where it fell. That spot is near the beautiful lawn of Emil Jochen, on the Genesee road.

The Chippewas held possession of this region for 200(or according to Pattengill's Michigan History, from 1520, the time figured from Puttaquasamine's narrative of the coming of the Chippewas). They lived under the French and did not know it. They lived under the English and did not recognize it, and from 1796 they belonged to the United States, but it was all the same to them. They spread thin blankets on what they thought was their own ground; they selected their own chiefs and reigned supreme over rivers, fields and forests. There were plenty of fish in the streams, game in the woods and splendid corn grounds on river flats and openings in the forests.

On the elevated grounds in the vicinity of the Court House, was a large and strong village, which was considered the headquarters of the Chippewas nation. Thither came Father Brebouef in 1635, the first known white man to tread upon the soil of Saginaw County.

Father Pere Marquette came in 1668. Both of these men were French missionaries, and after spending a few days in the camp, journied northward to Michillimakinak, afterwards shortened by the English to Mackinaw.

THE FIRST CONVENTION IN SAGINAW

The first treaty between the United States and the Indians of Michigan was made by Gen. Wm. Hull, then governor of Michigan Territory, in 1807. This treaty ceded the southeastern part of the state and included Detroit, but not the Saginaw Valley. Soon after, the Indians became uneasy and plotted another raid on the settlers. They were investigated by English fur traders and began

to show signs of evil intentions concerning the frontier settlers. Tecumseh and his brother, the Prophet, were the leaders. Their plan, which resembled the scheme of Pontiac, was not ready for several years, but the rumors which reached the settlers and governor from time to time, caused anxiety and retarded the settlement of the territory. To help things along, the Americans got into the second war with England, and in 1811 the redskins started hostilities on the Wabash river, but General Harrison, then governor of Indiana, was prepared for them, and in the battle of Tippecanoe on the 7th of November, 1811, totally defeated them. Commodore Perry's victory in Put-in-Bay, Sept. 10, 1813, practically ended the war with Britain, and Michigan became again an American possession. On the 29th of September, 1813, Detroit was retaken and Colonel Lewis Cass placed in command. Ten days later he was made governor of the territory by appointment of the president. Col. Cass found a small population confined to a few settlements along the eastern border, while the great interior was an unbroken wilderness where the Indians roamed and reigned supreme. He sent surveyors to lay out the land in sections, but the first parties sent out came back and reported that the interior was all swamp, and utterly uninhabitable, except a few places which were occupied by Indians, who showed hostility to the knights of the chain and links. However, in 1816 progress was made so a few farms could be sold, but Gov. Cass soon saw that the first thing was to gain a peaceful understanding with the Indians, and so, in 1819, he sent messengers to the tribes to call an assembly at Saginaw,

for the purpose of obtaining from them the right to survey and settle the land, which he knew was rich in fields and in forest. He also knew that in the beginning of September the Indians had planned a great feast called the "Dog Dance," at their headquarters on the west side of the Saginaw river, and that a great number of the Indians would assemble there at that time. He sent word to Louis Campau, then a fur trader at the camp, to prepare a place to hold council with the Indians, and that he would meet them the first or second week in September. A schooner or sailing vessel was dispatched from Detroit with stores, ammunition, a few soldiers and two barrels of brandy. This schooner was to go up Lake Huron and across Saginaw Bay to the river, and follow this up to the Indian camp or village, if possible. The attempt was successful and this was the first sailing vessel to moor at the foot of Court Street, Saginaw, West Side.

Mr. Campau erected a council house 200 or 300 feet in length, on the second elevation from the river. The standing trees served as pillars, and from the lower limbs were spread leafy boughs, one on another, forming a roof slanting to both side. The ends and sides were open and in the center was made a platform of hewn logs with a few camp chairs for the governor and his staff. Logs were rolled in and placed around the structure to serve as seats for the two or three thousand Indians who were expected to be present. This was the first Auditorium of Saginaw. Its roof fell down, crushed by the snow of the following winter, and there is no trace of it now, but 90 years later

Saginaw built another and more solid structure.

THE DOG DANCE

On the 3rd of September, 1819, fifty warriors set out on ponies from the Chippewas' village of Sag-a-nong to find a centerpole for the temple to be erected for the Great Dog Feast. The medicine man rode ahead of the procession, dressed in an old British uniform and gaudy head dress. He carried the "tum-tum," a tin pan and used a big cane for a drumstick. The pole was found, and carried with whoops and great noise to a place where four trails met--supposed to be in the vicinity of Gratiot, Mackinaw and Michigan avenues where indeed the four trails meet even today, only now they are straightened by surveyor's lines. The temple was erected by overlaying boughs, skins and blankets, and a big fire kindled at one end. The dancers numbered 40 braves, who wore feathers in their scalplocks, but otherwise displayed a style of costume not yet adopted by the sinful children of civilization. They had nothing on but a coat of paint. The younger ones had decorated themselves gorgeously and with some artistic taste, but the older ones who did not care about the fair maiden's approving smiles, had painted themselves as hideously as possible.

With a number of tum-tums and other noise producing instruments, intermingled with the youngster's shouts and the older men's chants, the dance proceeded all night and the next afternoon and night. On the fifth night the orgies took on a more horrid aspect, the third degree was exemplified as it were. The trials in endurance of bodily torture would give diplomas to those young men that stood the

test. The tortures were too horrible to describe. Many of the aspirants failed to pass, as it were, but those who did were ordained with strange ceremonies conducted by the medicineman to be the braves and warriors of the tribe. They were honored by their elders and the maidens smiled upon them, and the wild dance was continued the sixth night.

On the seventh evening the Dog Feast was held, in which specially designated dogs were brought in, torn open and the liver plucked out. It was passed around the assembly and each warrior and brave took a bite of the warm and bloody organ. This ended the great powwow at Saginaw, the only one of which we have a graphic description.

Meanwhile, Gen. Lewis Cass, governor of Michigan Territory, had arrived with his staff of officers and put up for the night at Campau's cabin. On the morrow the council was to be held and the Indians took a well needed and refreshing sleep.

The Governor and his party came on horseback from Detroit, via Flint, which was the main fording place over the Flint river, which the French had named Grand Traverse.

On the 10th of September, the Indians gathered around the council house, the chiefs near the platform, the braves on the logs around them, while the squaws and papooses sat on the ground outside, as silent but by no means uninterested spectators of the proceedings. Governor Cass entered and took his place on the platform with his staff, all in gala uniform. Whitmore Knagg acted as interpreter. The governor acting on this occasion as an agent of the United States, made a speech in which he set forth the wishes of the Pres-

ident and the Indian's great father, James Monroe, that the territory embraced by certain boundaries should be ceded to the United States for peaceable settlement by white people, and that the Indians should be paid in annuities from the public treasury, and forever keep their peace. He produced a roughly drawn map showing that the territory to be ceded was north and east of a line drawn through what is now the second tier of the northern townships of Oakland county, through the northern townships of Livingston county, thence north to the head of Thunder Bay and east to Lake Huron. The Chief Ogemawkeketos, the orator of the assembled tribes arose and answered. His presence was noble, commanding and dignified, his words carried deep weight.

OGEMAWKEKETO'S SPEECH

"We have listened to the wishes of the Pale people. You do not know our wishes. Our people wonder what has brought you here. Why do you come so far from your homes? You have invited us to come and build the council fire. We have come to smoke the pipe of peace, but not to sell our lands. Our American father wants them. Our English father never asked for them. The French people came here to tell us of a father in Rome and a mother in Heaven, but they did not want our land. You trespass upon our hunting grounds, you flock to our shores. Our possessions grow smaller and smaller. The warm wave of the Pale man rolls in upon us and melt us like the summer sun the ice. Our women reproach us. Our children want their homes. Shall we sell from under them the land upon which they spread their blankets? You are strangers here. We have not called you here. We will smoke with you the pipe of peace. Then you go, and we are here."

Ah, was that the Monroe Doctrine from an Indian standpoint?

Who shall say it was not, who will dare to contradict me if I say that the impression of Ogemawkeketos' speech was carried to Washington by Governor Cass, and communicated to James Monroe, who applied the sentiment to foreign powers a few years later. It is not farfetched imagination when I say that the world-famous "Monroe Doctrine" was born at Saginaw, west side, September 10, 1819.

There were several more speeches made on both sides, but it would take too long to recite them here. The convention ended by the Indians for a stipulated annuity, ceding the lands described. They also reserved four sections on the west side of Saginaw river, four sections where Bay City now is, and four sections on the Great Bend on Cass River, now Bridgeport, also several tracts of 640 acres each in other localities of the ceded territory. Most of these tracts, among them that tract in Bridgeport, were finally ceded for settlement by a treaty on January 14, 1837, between Henry R. Schoolcraft and the Chippewa tribe. But the Saginaw and Bay City tracts were disposed of before. They were held by the parents of a maiden by the name of Men-av-cum-ego-qua, who inherited them entire. Miss Menavcumegoqua was the beauty of the tribe, the Pocahontas of the Saginaw Velley. She married an Englishman, Stephen Reilly, a fur trader. Three sons resulted from this union, John, Peter and James. Stephen Reilly gave John the land where Bay City is; Peter got the Saginaw, west side tract, and James the east

side lands, part of which are now part of Saginaw, east side. From that time the phrase, "Hand it over to Reilly," is supposed to have originated. In 1836 John Reilly sold his west side tract to McReynolds and F. H. Stevens of Detroit, and from that time on speculation in land commenced to grow. In 1840 the James Reilly reserve was purchased by Jesse Hoyt of N.Y., who plotted East Saginaw.

KISH-KAW-KO

The treaty of 1819 was signed by three chiefs, Mish-e-non-e-quit, Ogemakeketo and Kish-kaw-ko. The first name was the oldest of the trio, and held the title of Sachem. He signed the treaty with his mark, an eagle's wing; the second was the orator, the manager, the vice-president, as it were. He signed by affixing a rude drawing of a bear's paw to the important parchment. The third one, Kish-kawko, was the warrior chieftain, a wild, unruly, illtempered man, who signed with a bow and arrow. He had made much disturbance during the council and became very annoying to whites and Indians alike. The little detachment of soldiers brought on the schooner from Detroit to serve as police, had their hands full with that man. They had made the mistake of attempting to quiet him with brandy, but that made him worse. When the night watch made his rounds and sang out, "All's Well!" he would mock them from his wigwam, and then start the war hoop, and arouse the whole camp. The soldiers had to turn out and use force to quell the uproar, night after night. It is said that brandy had been stolen by the Indians or smuggled to them in exchange for secret favors to the white men, and the subtle serpent had glided cunningly into the

Indian Paradise. The whiteman's firewater, the Indian's doom, did its work here as in so many other places. Kishkawko was finally arrested, put into a straight-jacket, taken on board the schooner and taken to Detroit on the return trip. He was put in jail there, and soon after died of small-pox.

FORTS

In 1822 the first fort was erected. It was built of round logs, two stories in height, surrounded by a stockade. It stood on or near the spot where the Fordney Hotel now stands and it was allowed to decay. A second fort was built on Hamilton street opposite the site of Moll's drug store, but it was never used as a defence against the Indians. The Indians had met another foe, a relentless, merciless and all conquering foe, the smallpox. They were nearly all swept out of existence in 1827, and the few that remained mixed with the white people in a more friendly manner. In 1850 the fort on Hamilton street was used as a bonfire at a 4th of July celebration. A third fort was built on the West Side, but the records do not give any particulars about it.

The same year the first fort was built, four children were born in it, their fathers being soldiers of the garrison, but their mothers are supposed to have been Indian women, as there is no record of any white woman being brought to Saginaw until several years later.

Four soldiers died in the fort of disease this year, 1832 [1822].

BLACK DAY

"Dies Infaustus," as it is recorded in Latin, which means "Unlucky Day," occurred November 8, 1819. It was one of those atmo-

spheric displays which makes the most courageous men shiver and tremble with fear, and which are not easily forgotten. In the morning vivid green clouds commenced to roll over the Saginaw Valley and gradually thickened to an inky blackness. The forenoon became as dark as night and rain commenced to pour down making a grayish foam as it struck the ground. The water which came down resembled soap suds and left a deposit resembling soot all over the surface. At noon it cleared some but soon again thickened until the intensity of the pressing electricity exploded in a lightning flash that seemed to open the clouds, exposing a fiery furnace. This opening in the clouds lasted almost an hour, and seemed to give an opportunity to view Inferno itself in its most imaginary dredfulness. Thunder-claps rolled continuously and shook the territory all around and was even noted down in Indiana and over in Canada. As this occurred within a month after the Indians had signed the treaty with Governor Cass, selling their lands, they looked upon it as an angry outburst of the Great Spirit for their misdeed.

OTHER MEMORIAL DATES

According to Indian traditions, the greatest snow's fall was in the winters of 1755 and 1775. Pioneer traditions remember heavy snows in 1822, 1823 and 1831. In 1843 a great comet appeared, the length of its luminous tail covered the sky for a distance of 70 degrees. (In astronomy the surface of the visible sky is divided into 360 degrees).

The comet of 1861, which older people will remember, had a tail that reached 100 degrees on June 30th, and its brilliance was greater than any other heavenly tramp of which we have any record.

A great meteor passed over Michigan and lighted up Saginaw county on November 1st, 1857. It appeared to be as large as four morns and emitted sparks with loud reports as it passed quite slowly over the territory. It exploded with a terrific noise and for several minutes the air was illuminated by the fragments.

A great tornado swept over the Valley in December 1635 [1835], leaving a two-mile width strip of fallen forest and general desolation.

1822 to 1835

The happenings recorded in this period are not many, aside from the Black Hawk war. We shall enumerate a few. In 1822 Asa Whitney bought the first land from the government and in 1826 commenced farming. In 1824 the American Fur company established a regular trading post on the West Side, with McDonald as manager. This was one of John Jacob Astor's stores, where valuable furs were exchanged for cotton handkerchiefs and brass trinkets. The rum-flask also was a powerful medicine in the trade. Mr. Astor gave explicit orders to his men not to trade with the Indians as long as they were sober, and he cheated them so flagrantly that Governor Cass found he had to interfere. John Jacob was called to Detroit to explain, and he explained in a way now called bribery. He handed the governor a wad of $30,000, and the governor put it into his pocket and promised not to trouble John Jacob any more. This Astor was the grandfather of him who was drowned in the Titanic disaster, and whose son Clarence now has inherited his illgotten millions. The man who took the bribe is our

own famous Governor Lewis Cass, after whom we have named our Cass river and to whom they have erected a statue down in Detroit.

The agent at the trading post, Mr. Mc Donald, had his troubles, however, with the Indians and the rum. One of them came every day to the store drunk and noisy, and flourished the rum flask in a threatening manner. Mr. McDonald finally told him he would take the flask away from him and throw it into the stove. The next day the Indian came as usual and commenced to create disturbance. Mr. Mc Donald grappled with him and got the flask, which he threw into the stove-bang! Up went the stove, down came the roof and from under the debris McDonald crawled, with a solemn vow never to meddle with the Indian's flask, lest it be of the "Dupont" make.

Dr. C. Little established himself as the first physician at the fort in 1822, and Rev. Mr. Hudson was appointed as missionary to the Indians soon after.

From now on settlers commenced to arrive in great numbers, and the first town lot was sold in 1823. It is supposed to be near the site of the present Bank of Saginaw.

In 1831, Saginaw township was organized. It was a large township and embraced besides Saginaw county, all the territory now comprising Bay, Midland and others, in all 14 counties. Gardner Williams was the first supervisor of this big township. Judge Albert Miller taught the first school. Curtis Emerson was the first white man to settle on the East Side, made a clearing where the City Hall now stands. The first road regularly surveyed and laid out was from the Fort to Tittabawassee, by Eleazer Jewett in 1832. The first Fourth of July celebration was held

at Green Point in 1833.

Miss Mary Jewett was the first white child born in the Valley, on February 11, 1834. The first male child was William Williams, son of Gardner Williams, born March 12, 1834. Mrs. Adeline Pettibone of Bridgeport, daughter of Charles Lull, is said to have been the second white female child born in the Valley.

PROGRESS, PROSPERITY AND TROUBLES.

The year 1835 marks a turning pivot in Saginaw county history. In that year the county proper was organized under an act of the legislature in Detroit, but was as one yet with Midland county. Charles Lull, whose parents had settled southeast of the village the year before, raised the first wheat, which was hauled by oxen to Pontiac for milling, as that was the nearest gristmill. He also brought the first sheep into Saginaw county, while Oscar Jewett brought the first pigs. The Indians at first made great sport of stealing the pigs, but were soon taught to respect the owner's rights. Saginaw has had hogs every since, though the four-footed kind are not now allowed to be kept within the city limits, and a later ordinance does not allow them killed outside of the City limits.

The first church organization was Presbyterian, and was started in 1836. In that year the first newspaper was started by Charles Little, and was called *The Saginaw Journal*, copies of which are yet in existance.

There were no banks in Saginaw at this time, as the first bank was started by Wm. L. P. Little in 1855. (That Little family must have been a big one in Saginaw's early days.)

The "Wild Cat" banking going on in the country at this time, resulted in a great panic in 1837. Coupled with the financial

difficulties came an epidemic of smallpox in the same year, that laid low thousands of the Chippewa Indians, nor did it spare the whites. It was a very virulent and fatal disease, and with the meagre medicinal equipment of that time and unsanitary conditions, it is a wonder the territory was not depopulated. As it was, Bay City, then Lower Saginaw, was so depopulated that the only trader there at that time, Mador Tromble, had to shut his store as there was no one to trade with. This Mador Tromble or Trombly, owned at this time one mile of land where Bay City now is. He turned fisherman and speared nine barrels in one night, sent the fish to Cleveland to be sold, found the trade profitable and soon became wealthy. Daniel Trombley, now living in Bay City, is a son of Mador, and is married to Carrie, formerly Miss DeLand of South Saginaw. The Trombly family trace their descent from the throne of France through Mador's grandmother, Alfriesen, who was a daughter of a first cousin of Louis Philippe.

During the scourge of smallpox, there was a man by name of McCormick, who lived on the Flint river, who fearlessly helped the Indians and cared for them the best he could. While other whitemen shunned the stricken Indians, he nursed and soothed them and saved many from death. Afterwards, when Mr. Schoolcraft, who was government agent to make treaties with the Indians for the numerous tracts of 650 acres which they had reserved at the first treaty, the Indians wanted to show their great gratitude to McCormick by deeding him 320 acres of good land. Schoolcraft, however, would not consent and the Indians broke off negotiations and left the council abruptly. Then the agent promised to deed to Mr. Mc

Cormack the land, and the Indians signed off. But the treacherous Schoolcraft never issued the deed and McCormack got no land.

FIRST LAWSUIT.

The first lawsuit tried in the court of Saginaw county was called for October 23, 1837, and the parties were Joseph J. Malden, appellant, and Elisha Rise, appellar. It was an action for trespass and damages of $100 asked. The case was settled by each party party paying his own costs, which amounted to $4.00.

The first meeting of the county Board of Supervisors was held October 23, 1835, at the house of E. N. Davenport. The Davenport farm was located along Michigan avenue, south of Genesee, and subsequently called Penoyer farm. Three supervisors met from the three townships organized at that time and Albert Miller was county clerk.

There was, among other items allowed, $100 for a bridge in district No. 1(?). The tax roll of Saginaw Town amounted to $203.63. A. Miller received 40 cents for making out the tax roll, besides $2 for serving as county clerk and 50 cents for stationery. But paper was by no means cheap at that time. Wm. L. Mosley got $15 a year for acting as district attorney.

First experimental boring for salt was made by Douglas Houghton, in 1838, but salt was not manufactured before long afterwards.

About 1840 the travel from Detroit to Saginaw was facilitated by a railroad from Detroit to Pontiac. It is described by a traveler at that time, "as making the trip in one day." The engine was said to resemble a coffeemill and the two cars used to jump the strap rails every now and then. The passen-

gers would get out and lift them on again, and they rolled along smoothly for a while. From Pontiac to Flint, the so called Saginaw road was surveyed and cut out, passable for oxteams. From Flint to Saginaw the road was yet a winding Indian trail with a fording place over the Cass river at the clam baking grounds at Cook's grove.

SAGINAW, EAST SIDE

Jesse Hoyt might be called the father of East Saginaw. He was made acquainted with the opportunities of this section by Norman Little, with whom he had business relations. He came in 1849 with a million and a half in his pocket. He bought pine lands and farm lands and also 300 acres on the James Reily reservation. He cleared the land for a village site and erected a warehouse on the river bank, corner of Genesee and Water streets. He obtained a charter for a plankroad from the river southerly by way of Bridgeport to Flint, and finished the road in 1852. It was not a financial success at first, but it brought the people and the trade, and the town boomed. He plotted the town and sold lots very rapidly. He built the Irving House, on the southeast corner of Genesee and Washington, and later built a brick block on the same site. This is yet standing, and is the first and oldest brick block in the city. He built a gristmill upon the site of the Mayflower mills in 1851, built the Bancroft House and opened it in 1859, in which year he also got the town incorporated as a city. He built several vessels for the growing grain trade on the lakes, and when the building of the F. & PM Ry. was started by H. O. Potter, in 1858, he took great interest in that enterprise, and donated the land where the Potter street sta-

tion and machine shops now are, and became president of the road in 1875. He developed the road to Ludington and made connection with Milwaukee, where he erected a grain elevator and built a railroad through Wisconsin. He also was interested in several other railroads throughout the country. Mr. Hoyt never made Saginaw his home. His home was in New York, and he was president of the New York Grain Exchange, doing a world-wide business, but, of course he spent much time in Saginaw, looking after his many and varied interests.

Wm. L. Webber became Mr. Hoyt's legal adviser and agent in many of his undertakings, especially in connection with the extensive land grant obtained for the F. & P. M.'s Ludington line. Mr. Webber also became sole executor of Jesse Hoyt's will in which he donated to Saginaw Hoyt park, the Hoyt library and $50,000 for books.

FIRST THINGS.

The first white child born on the East Side, was Lyman Ensign, in 1850. First rail on F. & P. M. Ry., was laid in 1859. First mayor was W.L.P. Little, 1859. First bank opened by Little & Co. (Hoyt) in 1855. First secret society organized was the Odd Fellows, in 1840. First Masonic Lodge started in 1854. First sawmill, Emerson's. Biggest sawmill was the Chicago mill erected by F. Babcock in 1853. It worked up 1200 logs per day and 50,000 barrels of salt per year. It afterwards became the C. K. Eddy mill. First street car tracks were laid in 1864. First bridge across Saginaw river was built in 1864, it was a toll bridge. First free bridge was built in 1878.

29th INFANTRY

July 29, 1864, John F. Driggs organized the 29th Infantry, consisting of 856 officers and men. They left for Nashville, Tenn., under command of Col. Thomas Saylor. John A. Berger of Frankenmuth, was commissioned lieutenant. Daniel E. Guiley of Bridgeport was sergeant of Co. D., and later advanced to second lieutenant.

FIRST GERMANS

The first Germans who came to Saginaw, were three Westphalians, Henry Stelzrider, also called "Dutch Harry," Tuerke and Sitterling. They came in 1840. Afterwards, when more of their countrymen arrived, a Lutheran church was organized in "Dutch Harry's" house. In 1845, fifteen imigrants from Franconia, Bavaria, landed in Saginaw and proceeded along the trails south-east 14 miles, to a tract of land that Pastor Schmidt of Ann Arbor, had previously selected for them. They were guided by Pastor Kraemer, who accompanied them from the Fatherland. About the first thing the little colony did was to build a log house and dedicate it to the service of God. That house served as church, parsonage and school and they called the place Frankenmuth. In 1846 John Hubinger and others arrived, and Mr. Hubinger erected a gristmill and sawmill on the bank of the river Cass, and the new colony, though without passable roads, either by land or water, was soon able to help itself.

In 1847 came another colony from the Fatherland. They settled in the thick of the forest 12 miles east of Saginaw. They called the place Frankentrost, and having no roads leading to it, remained a secluded clearing in the forest for ten years.

In 1848 Rev. Mr. Sivers brought another

colony of Franconians to this Valley. They settled north of Saginaw and called their new home Frankenlust. It belonged to Saginaw county at first, but was later annexed to Bay county. Mr. John Leinberg was one of the leading men of the colony, and was successively treasurer, clerk and then supervisor for six terms, and also served as postmaster of the village for ten years. In 1850 Mr. Leinberger carried the mail between Saginaw and Bay City. He walked on foot. Once he met James Frazer, who said to him, "why do you walk, John, why don't you get a horse?" Mr. Leinberger replied that he had no money yet to buy a horse. "Go to my stable and take a horse," says Frazer. He did, and afterwards asked how much he was to pay, Mr. Frazer said, "Well John, if you ever get able, pay me $50, and if you don't,keep the horse anyway." This little incident serves to illustrate the neighborly feeling among the pioneers, a feeling that was not expressed in mere words, but in deeds.

In 1850, Amelia and Frankenhuelfe was founded by German imigrants. Most all of the Germans took to farming in which they are experts. They took little or no part at first in the industries of the Valley, lumber and salt. They are very conservative in religion, adhering to the good old Lutheran denomination, build beautiful churches and are found in their pews every Sunday. In politics they are staunch Democrats. Thirty-five years of their records show that they had not a pauper at the county farm and only once or twice a criminal in the county jail.

SAWDUST.

In the decade from '60 to '70, numerous mills were erected on both sides of the Sag-

inaw river. Logs came down the rivers and by rail by the millions, mills were run night and day, making lumber, lath, shingles, staves, etc., with astonishing rapidity. Millions of barrels of salt were manufactured in connection with the sawmills. The products were shipped in barges by water and by rail all over the country. Saginaw became a veritable sawdust town, where the lumberjack furnished the ideal life. And a rough life it was in those days. Money was made and money was spent. Saloons and disreputable houses flourished all over and did business in booze and rowdyism twenty-four hours of the day, and every day in the week. Fights were common at night and men were killed in drunken brawls and the remains buried under buildings, in empty lots or thrown into the river. No one missed them. Women disappeared and no questions asked. The few police, one sheriff and one prosecuting attorney could do but very little. Sometimes they would do a very little. It is even said they were in league with the saloons and houses of ill-fame and got a share of the spoils.

In 1874 Wm. L. Webber was elected mayor, and he created the first board of police commissioners, and strict orders were given to rid the town of the lawless elements. It was no easy task, but during the year twelve convicts were sent to the state prison, 125 of both sexes to the house of correction and 30 to the county jail. Two-thirds of the disreputable houses were closed and the inmates forced to leave the town. But still when the jolly lumberjack came out of the woods in the spring by the thousands and set out to spend their winter's wages, they made things hum. But finally the lumber supply gave out, the mills burned down or were dismantled, the

lumberjack disappeared, the sawdust became covered up with paved streets and out of it all emerged the beautiful and substantial city of a consolidated Saginaw, with its hundreds of factories of the most varied kinds, manufacturing everything from a "toothpick to a piano." There are beautiful and spacious parks, commodious and stately public buildings, school houses which are the pride of the city, churches, which testify to the people's moral and religious sentiments, society temples for strong fraternities, all testifying to a growing and prosperous city rarely equaled, taking its age into consideration, by any in the United States of America.

BRIDGEPORT

These pages have been entitled *A History of Bridgeport*, but when we came to look up the early records of this township, we did not find any. It is a mysterious fact that the records of the first twenty years of this township have been destroyed. From 1848 to 1868 is a big blank and not a trace of minutes of municipal proceedings can be found. As no fire or other calamity has happened to them, they must have been willfully put out of existance by somebody who had access to them, and perhaps thought it would be best for posterity to "know nothing." We have, however, gathered what we could from the records in the Court House, from sketches in the Hoyt Library, and from the reminiscences of old settlers.

SOME FIRST THINGS.

Auri Campau was the first white man to settle on Bridgeport soil. He built the first log house in the township, but its location we could not ascertain. The second was built by Campbell in 1836. John Biddlecome purchased the first land. Eleazer Miller was the

first American pioneer. Ellis, Henny, Wilding, Garland, Campbell, Cook and Beach settled on homesteads shortly after. William Ellis and Mathilda Leasia were the first couple married in 1846. Henry Campau was the first white child born, and the first deaths were the father and mother of Auri Campau.

The village was first called "The Bend of the Cass," or "Cass Bend," owing to the angle of the river at this point, while the place now called "Cass Bridge," was the first and original Bridgeport, owing to the first bridge built there on the main trail from Flint. Mr. Lilly Cook, who had settled there, wanted that place to be the township seat and main village. A hotel was built and run for several years by a Mr. Kent, a postoffice established with Mr. Mathewson carrying the mail between Flint and Saginaw. But Mr. Lull, who had settled at the "Bend" and built a hotel, wanted the village and township seat located there. He called his hostelry the "Bridgeport Center House," and this being section 16 laid out as school land by an Act of Congress as early as 1787, when the Northwest Territory was created, it gradually became to be called "Bridgeport" while Mr. Cook's place was called "Cass Bridge."

The first school house (of logs) was built in the Cass Bridge District, on Noah Beach's land, and therefore is District No. 1, while Bridgeport is District No. 2.

The first school was held in a barn located near where Mr. Lull afterwards built a fine residence. The next school was held in a building located where the hotel barn now is, then a frame school house was erected in 1852 where Mrs. Chamberlain's residence now

is, and where school was held until 1868 when the present brick school house was finished.

By an act of the Supervisors of January 6, 1847, a bridge was ordered to be built at Bridgeport and a contract was made with Townsend North to build said bridge for $3,750, to be paid in state improvement lands. These lands were set aside by the first state constitution and defined and specified by Michigan's first State Governor, Stevens T. Mason, the 'Boy Governor of Michigan,' who was acting-governor at the age of 22 and elected governor when 25 years old. (The bridge was located back of the gristmill or near where the present iron bridge is) It was accepted January 5, 1848 and Mr. North was given title to sections, 17, 18, 19 and 20 and part of section 30, in town 12 north, range 8 east. All these lands were valued at $1.25 an acre.

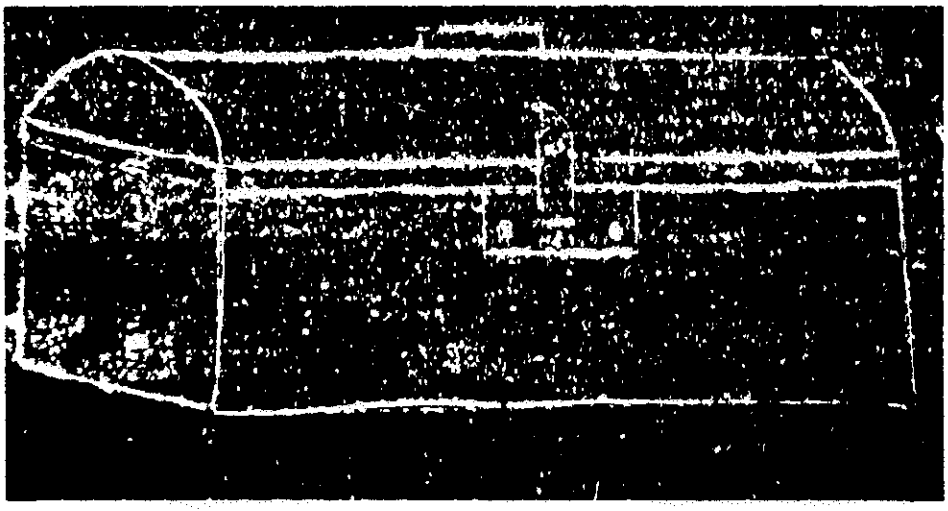
Two thousand dollars were appropriated by the Board of Supervisors October 15, 1847, to be expended on a turnpike from Cass Bridge to County Line, also part of the sum to be used on turnpike from said bridge to Saginaw. Thus Bridgeport got its first road.

BRIDGEPORT AS A TOWNSHIP

By an Act of Supervisors, Bridgeport was organized as a township in 1848. It being the sixth township in the county and included Frankenmuth. Two of these townships, North Hampton and Hampton, are now a part of Midland county.

The first election in the new township was held April 4, 1848. The polls were in a log house owned by Noah Beach senior. The ballot box used on that occasion was a small hand box or trunk that was an heirloom in the Andruss family for a long time. It bears

the mark G89 and is said to mean 1789, when the box by gift came into the possession of



the grandfather and the date, July 12, 1801 was inherited by Burton Andruss' father, and Burton received it September 24, 1840. There were forty voters in the township at that time. Two years before there were fifteen voters who were taken in a wagon by Leveret Hodgman to Saginaw City to vote as the Saginaw township election.

The first officers elected for the new township were: supervisor, Noah Beach; treasurer, Wm. Piffer; clerk, Burton Andruss; highway commissioner, J. A. Kent; justices of the peace, Wm. Ellis and Hatton Beach. The ballots were written and each man voted for whom he chose, no caucus or primary being necessary in those days.

From that time up to 1868 we have no records of elections or of town meetings.

MILLS

Thompson & Green built the first sawmill, in 1849 on section 16. In 1856, C. A. Lull erected a sawmill where the powerhouse now stands. Some of the finest lumber ever manufactured in Michigan was sawed in that

mill, the "Cork Pine from Cass River." He also bored a salt well, 600 feet deep, at a cost of $2000 and obtained a fine flow of the best brine ever struck in the Saginaw Valley, but for some reason he never made salt, though he erected a pump-house. The mill and all was put out of operation four years later. Leonard Blakeley, who drilled the well for Mr. Lull, said he went through a vein of coal and pronounced his opinion that the wealth under the ground was greater than the wealth on the survace.

Mr. Headley built a shingle mill on the site of the present blacksmithshop, Masonic hall, etc., which he sold to Mr. Lull, who converted it into a blacksmithshop. Mr. Headley built another mill on the site of the present gristmill, now out of commission. After a few years he sold it to Hiram Robinson, who in turn sold to Christian Messener. It burned and Mr. Messener erected the first gristmill on the site. It ground by stones, but later was sold to Robert Shreve, who installed rolls. A saw and shingle mill was run in connection for some time. This mill changed hands several times, the last one to manufacture flour was Mrs. Edget. But as farmers abandoned wheat raising and went into cabbage and beets, the mill became idle for many years. When Mrs. Edget went down to Florida to buy a few galons of land for an orange orchard, she sold it to Mr. Todish and it is now used as an icehouse and horse stable.

In 1862 D. A. Pettibone erected a shingle-mill where Byron Shreve's residence is now. A saltwell was drilled and brine obtained. He formed the Bridgeport Lumber & Salt company, and salt was made by boiling the brine in

kettles. This mill burned in 1866 and was never rebuilt. Mr. Morey also operated a shinglemill in Bridgeport for some years.

CHURCHES.

The first church society in Bridgeport was organized in 1844, by Rev. Mr. Bracket, a Wesleyan minister. Members were Daniel Ellis, Mrs. Ellis, Mr. Garland, Mrs. Garland, Mr. Alonzo Crosby, Mrs. Crosby, Eleazer Miller and Peter Leasia. Rev. Mr. Paine was appointed local pastor, and meetings held in the same rooms as the village school, or at the homes of the members. In 1847, Rev. Isaac Andrews became local preacher and Elder Jason Steele in 1850. In 1852, when the frame school house was built, the church organization was connected with the Methodist Episcopal church of America, and Rev. Curtis Mosher was pastor. Then Rev. Mr. Brown in 1860 was succeeded by Rev. H. O. Parker, and then Elder Goreon until Rev. Mr. Crane came in 1865.

From that time troubles in Bridgeport's church life commenced. Somehow Satan saw his chance to get in his dividing work and retard Christian progress in this place. He, Satan, succeeded here as he has in hundreds of other places, where small villages have been overchurched by spite and lost the respect of the Gentiles. The village could, and can now, support one church, but there have been two, who have struggled sorely for existance and several times have been on the verge of giving up the struggle. In fact, the Methodist church did once give up and the Congregational church has several times gone out of business, but each time some zealous souls inspired new life, and fanned the dying embers into flame. Those zealous souls undoubtedly did so by a holy desire to serve God and help his Kingdom to

come, but, looking from a neutral standpoint, it seemed as if one side thought they could not enter the Pearly Gates without displaying the badge of Methodism, while the other side feared they could not get by St. Peter at the portals without credentials from the Congregational church. Thus the struggle is kept up, and some illfeeling engendered and nourished, and so it will continue until we learn that church denominations are not known in Heaven, and that no questions concerning them will be asked.

In 1865, when Mr. Crane came to preach, there was a man living in Bridgeport by the name of Foster, later well known as the maker of Hinkley's Bone Liniment, who was also a zealous worker in the church organization. He was a trustee and also superintendent of the Sunday school. It was in June, at Children's Day exercises, that Superintendent Foster asked Rev. Mr. Crane when he arrived, to give a talk to the children instead of the regular sermon. Mr. Crane answered that he would do as he pleased about it, went up into the pulpit and preached the most pedagogical sermon he had in his repetoire. The illfeeling which probably had existed between the two men for some time, grew so pronounced that Supt. Foster resigned. Some say he was summarily expelled for reasons we have not ascertained. It broke up the church for the time being, but Foster donated a lot upon which afterwards was erected the present Congregational church. In the meanwhile, a Rev. Zinney, who was working for Charles Lull at the time, organized a Methodist Protestant church society which many of the old Methodists joined. Rev. Bradshaw was supplied as local minister.

Though Mr. Foster did not donate the lot or help build the church especially for the Congregational denomination, it so happened that a minister of that denomination came on the scene and organized a society which was headed by Foster, Garland, Leonard Blakely and others. A substantial loan was obtained from the Congregational Church Extension fund and the church building finished. Meanwhile, D. A. Pettibone donated two lots for a "Union Church," belonging to no particular denomination, but leaning towards Methodism. A church was built by a number of men paying in different sums of money, for which they received stock in the edifice. It was supplied with Methodist ministers for a number of years. The fraternal society of Maccabees finally obtained control of it by buying up a majority of the stock and used it for a hall for their meetings. That the church people objected and it was taken into court, and that feeling ran high, is still remembered by many. The Maccabees were defeated in the courts, and soon after the church burned. A new edifice was built in 1892, which has been used as a Methodist Episcopal church ever since. There is also a Lutheran church on the King road, supplied with a pastor from Saginaw, South Side, a Protestant church called the "Olive Branch" near Cass Bridge.

MANUFACTURING

We do not expect Bridgeport to ever become a manufacturing center, though it has had its chances. The casual observer of today would doubt if anything ever was manufactured here worth mentioning. Still there is something. In old Detroit and in and around Saginaw are buildings covered with hand-made shingles, made 65 or 70 years ago and which

have done service in all kinds of weather through these many years. The first settlers found shingles to be about the only merchantable article they could make, and large quantities were made and brought to Saginaw on rafts, where Harvey Williams bought them and took them on his schooner the *Nelson Smith*, to Detroit. After 1850 shingles were made by machinery. Many of the business blocks on Genesee avenue and other streets in Saginaw are built of brick made in Bridgeport. The first man to manufacture brick was Mr. Chapman, who started a yard just beyond Foster's residence, now Le Bar's, on the Hodgman farm. Five yards were running at one time and a 100,000 bricks were made daily, with only the old-fashioned outfits of that day. Clay, sand and wood, the essentials of brickmaking, were abundant, but when wood became scarce the business was abandoned.

Several times manufacturing concerns came and looked over the chances in Bridgeport for the establishment of large plants, but such as concerns demand and usually receive, free sites, there was none to be had in Bridgeport, people here had lands for sale, but none to give away, and so the factories went elsewhere. C. D. Pattee erected a chair shop for some time, supplying mostly local trade. Will Howe ran a carpet weaving establishment for many years, but has now gone to another position. Mr. Foster manufactured Hinkley's Bone Liniment here for many years. Mrs. Edget built a fine cheese factory and it was operated two seasons, making a splendid brand of full cream cheddar cheese.

The village was growing steadily up to 1869, when it had 500 inhabitants. A decade later it had only 275 and kept going down.

When the power house and car barns were located here, it boosted the population somewhat, but not materially.

THE BRIDGEPORT NEWS.

A newspaper was commenced in 1895. Before that time the gossips of the town had supplied the "haps and mishaps" correctly or otherwise, as fancy dictated. E. W. Gallagher located in the village as a druggist, and printed at first a little paper as an advertisement and gave it out free for a year. On the solicitation of his patrons, he, with his brother-in-law, S. R. Wilde, enlarged it to a regular newspaper, charging a regular subscription rate. For ten years the paper continued publication in Bridgeport, Mr. Wilde severing his connection during the second year, under the management of Mr. Gallagher, when in July 1906 he moved to Frankenmuth, and now publishes the paper there under the name of *The Frankenmuth News*. E. W. Gallagher is a son of Wm. Gallagher, who came from Newport, now Marine City, St. Clair county, to Saginaw in 1849 or 1850, built a mill and store near the foot of Hoyt street, which he later sold to Warner & Eastman, and then with his two brothers, David and John, built the mill afterwards known as the Charles Lee mill. It was at the homecorner of Hoyt and Water streets that E. W. was born. In 1859 Wm. Gallagher bought the farm south of the city, from the late A. K. Penney, and with his brothers, built a mill and saltworks, which afterwards was known as the Ann Arbor mill. He platted the farm as the Village of Salina, now the southern portion of the City of Saginaw.

BEACON HILL

An Indian legend of a battle fought where this village now stands:

Did Okonora fight and fall?
On Beacon Hill, and is that all?
Nor said of them what time and all?
Who made their mausoleum there?

'Twas midnight and the watch was set,
The guard a watchful vigil kept,
The fire had died, the night was chill,
The moon had set and all was still.

Four stands around, their shadows deep
Thrown o'er the hill; all seem'd asleep;
The watch stood by, the night was dark,
The beacon embers only a spark.

T'is midnight there, all dark and still,
With beacon fires 'round the hill;
The watch his warhoop fiercely cries-
Three arrows pierce him and he dies!

In light around, without a screen,
The Huron Braves were plainly seen,
And from out rude forms there quick arose
And two thousand braves rushed on their foes.

The Hurons shout, the Tawas scream,
The spears and knifes and axes gleam;
All night the conflict rages and reeks
With hundreds dead, and wounded's schreaks.

The Tawas flank to boats they run,
The Hurons in the stream they plunge;
The spearmen strike, and in the waves
Two thousand Hurons found their graves.

The remnant on the southern bank
Pursued the foe in broken ranks,
Who fled with many scars and fears,
And never came back for many years.

The oldest braves still will say,
Two thousands Hurons fell that day
The Tawas lost their old Chief Gray,
The Eagle of the Northern Bay.

"Great fight, great chief, time long and slow;
Chief say four hundred moons ago.
Now sun go down, we go. Schreach Owl
Give hand, boozhou." -- Burton Andruss.

ANTIQUITY OF THE HILL.

The landmark of Bridgeport called Andruss Hill, and by Andruss called Beacon Hill, and by history called Indian Fortification, is no more. It is leveled and carted away by a soulless corporation, who needed the sand. But we can remember the hill as it was a few years ago, then defaced and in ruins, as it were. Originally the hill must have been considerably higher, and had a more definate shape, as that of a crescent, facing the river. There is ample evidence that it was made by human hands, toiling and carrying the sand from adjoining lands. Our learned anthropologists have by their Ethnic Affinities, as they call it, traced human achievements in America back to a very remote period. The "Golden Age," which is supposed to have existed before sin came into the world, did not confine itself to China and the Zendavesta, where the first Aryan King reigned, but have their parallel in America. Thus Mexican traditions tell of the Golden Age of Tezeuco, and Peruvian history commences with two "Children of the Sun," who established a civilized community on the borders of Lake Titicaca.

The Greek describes this age in elegant style:

Immortal Gods that tread
The courts of Heaven,
First made a golden race
Of mortal men;
They lived like Gods with
Happy, careless souls.
From toil and pain exempt
Nor on them crept
Wretched old Age, and their limbs
No changes knew-
Laden with blessings did they
Fall asleep.

Such is the voices that reach us from that dim and twilight land, where the mythical and historical meet and blend together. Perhaps to memorialize that Golden Age, was it that people's minds drifted to building monuments. We find them from the hanging gardens and the tower of Babylon, from the Pyramids of Egypt, from Parthenon and Acropolis, and from the mounds in America.

It is surely the same mind permeating the people, the same inherent desire to perpetuate memory that erected the Cheops Pyramid, that built the mounds in America, and that today erect mausoleums in the graveyards.

Thus from these, and many other Ethnic Affinities, we may safely draw the conclusion that Beacon Hill in Bridgeport, was built by a people inhabiting these parts thousands of years before the present race of Indians.

Races of people come and go, they grow and achieve masterly recognition, then they degenerate into obscurity. The Egyptians of today could not build a pyramid, the Asyrians today could not build a Niniveh, the Greek of today could not build a Parthenon, nor could the Romans now build a

Colosseum.

Thus the Indians which were here at the discovery by Europeans, are degenerates of a race of people that were as far advanced in civilization as the Egyptians in the time of Moses.

The moist and changable climate of America would, however, naturally destroy any great achievement in the builder's art, which by the dry and even climate of Mediterranean lands are so happily preserved in the old historical countries.

All the mounds discovered in America are built on a certain principle. They are invariably located on a river bank and on a bend of a river so as to have a free view up or down the stream. But the Indians of today could not build a mound--nor could the Indians of 500 years ago.

But the hill in Bridgeport had exactly the location and features of a mound built in the time just succeeding the Golden Age. They are supposed to serve two purposes; a memorial of the Age past and gone and a fortification against enemys. For immediately after the Golden Age man became man's most dangerous foe--sin had came into the world, families had spread; Hordes developed, Tribes formed, and in their movements, came together in deadly combat with weapons of iron. The ones who had the best irons became victors. Thus it was--and so it is today. We have not advanced very much in the great commandment--LOVE.

In the spring of 1852, Silas Woodward, while plowing for Mr. Andruss, uncovered an urn on the inner side of Beacon Hill. It was the largest and finest ever found in this Peninsula and is supposed to belong to an an-

cient race, who made them to immortalize their celebrated dead.

We quote from the Bridgeport News, of December 25th, 1896: "Mr. Andrus describes the urn found as being of a large size, almost perfect in form and preservation, composed of pulverized grit and oily clay. At first it was very soft but being exposed to the sun and air, it became very hard. The dimensions were: Top, 12 inches in diameter;neck, 10 inches; body, 14 inches; bottom, 12 inches; height, 24 inches."

Fragments of another urn, evidently of the same size and shaper were found scattered around and a long streak of black dust covered with sand were evidently the only remains of the person interred with this relic at its head.

The rich compost in the bottom of the urn points to the provisions provided him for the long journey from this earth, upward and onward to the beautiful islands in the sky, where Manitou reigns.

The Detroit, Flint & Saginaw electric railway bought the hill and carted away the sand for use in ballasting their track. Numerous Indian skeletons were dug out and the bones went with the rest and are distributed along its tracks. A more flagrant sacrilege is hard to imagine. And the people stood by and saw it! O, tempora! O, mores! Just imagine what the people of Egypt would do if a corporation started to haul away Cheops Pyramid for use in building a railroad?

Does the enraged spirit of Loojahola throw men and women in the way of the cars to be killed? Was it an angry supernatural justice that bankrupted the first company?

Lex talionis!

THE ELECTRIC RAILWAY

Mr. George Silsby, of Detroit, a promoter, was the first to have a line surveyed from Saginaw to Frankenmuth and thence to Flint. It is said the idea was conceived in a saloon in Saginaw after a game of cards. Mr. Silsby, however, meant business, but his resources were inadequate and Eastern capital shy. W. J. Bartow, who was the Genesee Plank Road company, staved off the project by buying from each person whose land abutted on the plank road, a right of way to build a street railroad to be run by compressed air, paying each $1.00 for the same. Silsby then tried to go on the old road to South Saginaw, and some grading was done, but the project soon collapsed. Then came John Russell, Tarsney and Nester, who bought from Mr. Bartow the right of way to build a line along side of the plank road.

How much the Plank Road company received for the land belonging to the property owners abutting that road is not known, as the deal was very private. Grading was started and rails were laid, but owing to an interior friction in the company, work stopped for a time, but was resumed and a car run between Saginaw and Bridgeport. Soon after John Russell disposed of his interests to Mr. Sullivan, and the line was completed to Frankenmuth. The F.M. railroad, however, would not allow the electric track to cross their line at Bridgeport; not even a car to be used on the other side. A mogul engine was placed over the crossing. Then the citizens assembled in force, took the street car and lifted it bodily off the track and rolled it over on the public road crossing, which the mogul engine could not obstruct, and placed it on the track on

the other side. Thus the first car ran to Frankenmuth.

The State Railroad Commissioner, Mr. Atwood, was called to give the electric road right of way over the P.M., but that commissioner ordered a viaduct. The electric people built the viaduct but it broke their backbone. It struggled along under a receiver for some years, then the court sold it to Grosbeck, Applebaum and company, who paid $50,000 for a $200,000 property. The new company built the road to Flint and inaugurated a fast schedule to that place, and even to Detroit. Local patronage was ignored and inconveniences made for those who had given their lands in hope of accommodations from a street car line.

Let's see; what was it Vanderbilt or Jay Gould said about the people, in an outburst of frenzied avarice?

MISCELLANEOUS

In 1881 the first murder of a whiteman was committed in the township on the Blodget farm. A horsethief and general outlaw, Wm. B. Clark, alias Walter E. Clark, but whose real name was Chisholm, shot and killed Deputy Sheriff Dineen, who tried to arrest him. Clark was captured, tried and convicted of horse stealing and sentenced to fifteen years in State prison. As he was an old man it was considered a life sentence, and if he had outlived his term he would then have to stand trial on the murder charge.

In 1884 remnants of a mastodon were found on section 11, by ditch diggers. Among the bones were several well preserved teeth, weighing over four pounds apiece, portions of vertebrae, etc. The bones were secured by a curiosity show in Saginaw, and their where-

abouts are now unknown.

FRATERNAL SOCIETIES.

The Masonic Lodge of Bridgeport is one separated from Salina Lodge in 1870 and has a different jurisdiction.

There are four Maccabee Lodges; the Knights of the Tents and the Ladies of the Tents Maccabees, who use the English language in their ritualistic work, and also Knights and Ladies Tents who use the German language. The Patricians, the Ancient Order of Woodmen and the Modern Woodmen have had lodges here. The Gleaners and the Grangers have several times tried to organize. The secret societies that have life insurance for their members find it more and more difficult to keep alive because they are built on the mistaken assumption that members can receive more money than they contribute. This logic finds no support in arithmetic, nor in common sense. It has therefore been necessary to increase the amounts of assessments from time to time to meet the ever increasing claims and also to support a costly set of officials at the so-called headquarters.

A number of people are connected with fraternities who have their lodges in the City. Many belong also to the so-called old line insurance companies such as Equitable, etc., but they also received a set back when Mr. Hide spent $100,000 on one supper for his friends, and Perkins gave $100,000 of the members' money to a political campaign.

LIFE AMONG THE PIONEERS.

Most of the early settlers of these parts came from New England, New York and Ohio. Some of them came from the birthplace of the "Town Meeting,"--Massachusetts, and they took an active interest in the wise and honest

government of their adopted State. Intelligent and public spirited, but prudent as well, they were good and safe citizens.

The style of living was necessarily plain. For clothing, cheap coarse cloth answered the purpose and the wives and daughters made it up for use. Wear and comfort were the only quality looked for and nobody would criticise the style or fit. Silk for women and broadcloth for men were rare extravagances.

The houses were log cabins, caulked with woodsticks and clay, with one door, one window and two rooms. But they were mansions of hospitality and many an old settler sitting in a cushioned rocking chair in afteryears, with carpeted floors and polished furniture, has longed back to the primitive hard working days of pioneer times.

The food was plain and substantial. In some instances we would call it famine. One pioneer has told me that he sustained himself and family on fish and turnips for a whole winter. Rutabagas were raised the first year and afterwards potatoes and corn. The corn was pounded in scooped out logs and the meal used for Johnny cake. Milk and potatoes were also a standard menu with occasionally some venison or wild turkey. If one had a barrel of flour it was divided with those who did not have any.

We have advanced tremendously in the last 50 or 60 years in our so-called civilization with high living and high progress, but we have also lost much.

But we cannot go back, we must hurry forward, forward to the unknown future. We are all sailing over the high seas of life under sealed orders.

Let us not forget the past in our mad

rush for future shores, and when our time is done, and the seal broken, and the secret orders opened, may they be found to contain, "Nearer My God to Thee."

THE PIONEERS

Out from their old East homes
They moved into the new;
It wasn't ridin' on cushions,
In those days to get thru,
But it seemed their bounden duty
The Michigan woods to try.
And so they stepped over the doorway
And bid their old homes good bye.

Trees were all around them,
Whispering cheerful words;
Loud was the squirrel's chatter,
Sweet was the songs of birds.
Here a new home they builded,
Courage began to mount,
And soon things looked brighter,
For work appeared to count.

Oft for the want of neighbors
They felt a little blue and sad,
When wolves and bears and wildcats
Were the nearest ones they had,
But looking ahead to the clearing,
They worked with all their might
Until they fairly were out of the woods
And things were going right.

Never a handsomer house was seen
Than that new home of their own,
Kitchen and parlor and bedroom
They had them all in one;
The wooden stools and a table,
And shelves for a pantry nook,
And ticking away in a corner
Was a New England wooden clock.

Then came the first born baby,
A regular little joy
Though Daddy was fretting a little,
Because it was not a boy:
But she was a little sweetheart
With all her pouts and smiles,
And settlers come to see that show,
From half a dozen miles.

Yes, a deal has happened
To make that log house dear.
Christenin's, funerals, weddings,
Joys and sorrows were here;
Not a log in that building
But it has memories got,
Not a nail in that old floor
But touches a tender spot.

Out of the old house moved
Up in a stately new,
All the hardships and worry
They think they now are thru:
But I tell you a thing, my neighbor,
And you will agree when I say
There was precious things in that old house
You never could take away.

Fare you well, old log house,
Pioneer, now farewell,
The new folks soon forget you
As riches and comforts swell,
But never you'll get a better home,
--Tho' level and plumb it stands--
Until you commence a keeping house
In the house not made by hands.

ELEAZER MILLER

The first American pioneer who settled in Bridgeport, built a house and planted an

orchard on the section line road which then run towards the river. When that road was abandoned by the laying out of the Genesee plank road, Mr. Miller moved his log house to that road, where it for many years stood leaning 20 degrees out of plumb. Mr. Miller first raised rutabagas, in which he attained such success that he became known as "Rutabaga Miller." His heirs sold the place to August Bachmore, a German, who left the fatherland Schwaben to escape the severe Prussian military service. He skipped to New Zealand, where he engaged in sheepherding and made money. He then came to Michigan and bought the Miller farm here. He also spent some years in Dakota, acquiring a big tract of prairie land, but returned to Bridgeport and lived the rest of his life on the farm. He held several town offices, belonged to the Masonic fraternity, was a Republican and well liked by the Democrats; a Catholic in faith, but broadminded and tolerant, a respected citizen. Two daughters still live in this county, Mrs. George O'Leary on the old homestead and Mrs. Paul Krause of Saginaw.

LEVERETT HODGMAN

came to Saginaw in 1836 with his father, Lot C. Hodgman. They first settled on the banks of Tittabawassee river, but removed to Bridgeport in 1840 and settled on the present Hodgeman farm. Leverett, who was then 17 years old, helped his father clear this land for one of the first farms in town. When Lot C. Hodgman died, Leverett succeeded to the farm, which he made one of the most beautiful and fertile farms in the county. He made a specialty of potatoes from the start and when provender was scarce and difficult to obtain, potatoes and milk was the staple bill of fare.

Mr. Hodgman held several town offices, was a Republican in politics and an eminent patron of Masonry. His son, Fred. C., still lives on the homestead.

DANIEL ELLIS

was born in the Old Granite State, Nov. 22, 1812, and was a son of Elihu and Abigal (Blackmore) Ellis, both natives of Vermont. Mr. Ellis came to Michigan in 1836 and located, first for a short time in Tuscola county, but the same year came to Saginaw and worked for Harvey Williams in the mill. Afterwards he settled upon a farm in section 21 of Bridgeport and later on section 16, where he resided the rest of his life. He experienced the usual hardships of pioneer life and helped materially in subduing the wilderness. East Saginaw was at that time a mere swamp, inhabited by Indians, and Saginaw, west side, was but a small village, and he helped to clear much of the land upon which it now stands. He served as treasurer for three terms after the organization of the township, and as Bridgeport and Frankenmuth were then one township, he also collected taxes in Frankenmuth. In 1846 he married Mathilda Leasia. Five of the children are living: George, living on the old homestead; Charles, a Presbyterian minister; Hiram, farmer in Albee township; Eugene, farmer in Bridgeport township and Julia, wife of John C. Herpel. Mr. Ellis' first wife succumbed in an epidemic of smallpox, and in 1862 he married Frances, widow of Sylvester Dodge of this county. She was born in Switzerland, April 1, 1838. The farm which Mr. Ellis first owned on section 21 he sold to Mr. Brucker, whose son Ferdinand was reared in this town until he as a lawyer moved to Saginaw, where he was probate judge

11 years and elected to congress in 1897.

Mr. Ellis and wife belonged to the Protestant Methodist church and took great interest in the church work of this place. Politically he was a staunch Prohibitionist.

HON. NOAH BEACH

emigrated from Lewiston, Niagara county, N.Y., in 1838, and in 1842 settled on the Beach farm on the Genesee road. He took three 80 acre tracts, most of which is still owned by descendants. Mr. Beach came as a mature man with superior intelligence and a good education. He was therefore the next year, 1843, elected as representative to the state legislature from the Saginaw district. In 1850 he was elected to the state senate from the sixth senatorial district. As representative he served in Detroit, but as senator at Lansing, the seat of government having been moved in 1847. Mr. Beach was a Democrat, and that political denomination held power in the state from 1841 to 1854. In the latter year the state got under the control of the newly organized Republican party but the descendants of Mr. Beach are true to the political faith of their fathers. Mr. Beach was the first supervisor of Bridgeport when the town was organized in 1848, and appears as a member of the board of supervisors at the meeting held July 5, 1848.

One of the votes cast by Noah Beach while in the legislature, and of which he felt exceedingly proud, was for the abolition of capital punishment in Michigan.

The old Beach homestead is now owned by a grandson, Emmet L. Beach, ex-circuit judge, and now practicing law as one of Saginaw's most able attornies. Charles Beach, another grandson, lives on a farm near by the old

estate. Noah E. Beach, son of Hatton M. Beach, is operating manager of the Bridgeport Elevator Co.

Hatton M. Beach served as supervisor in 1851, 1852 and 1853. H. S. Beach was supervisor in 1850 and 1854.

CHARLES LULL

came to Saginaw county in 1835, and located on section 16 in 1837. He built the Center House in 1842 and besides the hostelry run a small store and post office. He built a sawmill on the site where the power house now stands, and there was sawed at this mill some of the finest lumber that Michigan ever produced. A salt well was drilled and a pumphouse erected preparatory to making salt, which at that time was worth $2.00 to $3.00 per barrel, but for some reason the saw mill was dismantled and the salt well abandoned. Mr. Leonard Blakely, who drilled the salt well for Mr. Lull, discovered coal in the strata above the brine. With the drills in use at that time the thickness of the vein could not be accurately determined, but Mr. Blakely declared that the wealth under the ground would prove greater than the wealth on the surface. This latter then consisted of pine logs exclusively. Mr. Garriguise, then the state geological expert, pronounced the Bridgeport brine the purest and best in the state. Mr. Lull was born in Vermont in 1809. His father, Joab Lull, was a lieutenant in the 1812 war, and his grandfather a captain in the revolutionary war. Mr. Lull was a Republican and was a leading citizen of the town in its early days. He donated the land for the Oak Hill cemetery. As mentioned before, Adeline, afterwards Mrs. D. A. Pettibone was the second white female child born in Saginaw county.

LILLY COOK

came to this county in 1839 from Wayne county, N.Y. He was a carpenter by trade, and was for some time tax agent for the American Fur Company. His father was a soldier in the war of 1812. He first bought 300 acres of land where the Webber farm, and Hess street factories now are, but soon sold these 300 acres for a pony, a saddle and three brass clocks. He came with his family to Bridgeport in 1841, and settled on section 26, which was then, as in fact all of this town, an unbroken wilderness. Indians were plenty and had a favorite camping ground on Mr. Cook's land. He helped to build the first schoolhouse in the town, on the adjoining land of Noah Beach, and also afterwards built the largest barn at that time in this part of the country. Mr. Cook died June 13, 1883. His oldest son, William L. Cook, who resided on the Cass Bridge farm from 1857 until his death, was postmaster in that place, appointed under President Buchanan's administration until the free delivery system abolished the office. The hinges on the barn doors on that place, were taken from the first fort in Saginaw, W.S., and are still in evidence. The beautiful tract of forest called Cook's Grove, still belongs to the Cook family, and is a favorite resort for outing parties. William Cook's son, Charles, resides on the homestead, while another son, Silas, resides on a farm just across the river adjoining the old trail from Flint. Silas Cook served two years as highway commissioner.

WESLEY WELDON

settled in Bridgeport in 1838. He drowned in the Cass River in 1880.

BURTON ANDRUSS

who built the first frame house in the village,

was born July 2, 1820, in Genesee county. He was married in Holly to Olive Pratt, July 10, 1845. He came immediately to Bridgeport over the Flint trail, and stopped at Kent's hotel, Cass Bridge. Then he stopped with Noah Beach while he located land on section 27. He worked for Hodgman the first summer, and principal bill of fare that first winter, was fish and turnips, the river at that day abounding with sturgeon. In 1850 he sttled in the village, where he took active part in the political and business life of the town. Practised as a lawyer for 14 years; town clerk for four years; justice of the peace eight years and also served as drain commissioner and school commissioner. He and his good wife were ardent students of phsycology, and the spirit world. They were members of the Congregational church, and Mr. Andruss was a Republican in politics.

Mr. Andruss' father served four years in the war of 1812. His grandfather, Eleazer Andruss, was a soldier in the Continental army. The family trace their ancestry to John and Mary Andruss, who emigrated from England in 1640.

Mrs. Cora Shawl, of Spaulding, a daughter of Burton and Olive Andruss, has some utensils which were brought over from England by John Andruss. She also has the trunk used for a ballotbox at the first town meeting in this township. A great aunt of the family by name, Deborah Sampson, served three years in the revolutionary army as "Robert Shertliff." She afterwards married Captain Benjamin Gannett and General Washington was present at her wedding. Washington gave her a purse of gold as a wedding present, also a pension and a grant of land for her services in the war. She was

a grandaughter of Wm. Bradford of Massachusetts, and a descendant of Miles Standish and John Alden. Jonathan Sampson, her brother, was the greatgrandfather of Mrs. Shawl, and served in the revolutionary war.

Mr. Andruss has described a great Indian camp meeting which took place in the Ellis Grove, by the river, in 1850. Over 800 Indians were present, with some of the most noted chiefs and some great speakers. The campmeeting was broken up by James Frazer, who was acting sheriff at the time, as it was feared that such a large concorse of Indians might be menacing to the settlers, but there was no provocation. The Indians took to their canoes and went down the river, where they sang hymns all night:

"Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown him Chief of all."

DENNIS BOW

was born in Maine in 1828, his parents being natives of that state. Both his father and uncle were soldiers in the war of 1812. His father, Edmund B. Bow, came to Saginaw with his family in 1836 and tried to locate in Bridgeport, but found the mosquitoes too numerous and unbearable. This locality had then only six families of white people, although a large population of Indians. He located in Saginaw, W. S., in a blockhouse built in war times, where he built shingles from logs cut along the Cass river. Dennis Bow settled upon his farm in Bridgeport in 1850. He has served as constable, justice of the peace and as supervisor three terms, also as highway commissioner. In politics he had democratic proclivities, and religiously, he was a leading member of the Congregational church. A sister of Mr. Bow,

Mary, was the wife of Hatton M. Beach. His three sons, of whom John the youngest, still owns the homestead, have at present moved out of the township, but we still have a few descendants of those mosquitoes which drove Edmund Bow out at his first arrival.

CHARLES D. PATTEE

was born in Merrimac county, New Hampshire, and was of French descent. His great grandfather came to America with Lafayette and served as captain in the revolutionary war. He died at the age of 93 years. His grandfather, Dummer Pattee was killed at Plattsburg in the war of 1812. His mother was a McGregor, a descendant of the McGregors who were driven out of Scotland in the 17th century. He was married to Lydia Atherton, September 1, 1850, in N.Y. state, and took a trip through Saginaw county in 1852. In 1855 he settled in Bridgeport. Mr. Pattee was one of the first to respond to the call of President Lincoln, and enlisted in Co. M., 3d Michigan cavalry. At the expiration of his term he reenlisted and served until the close of the war. He returned to Bridgeport and engaged in farming across the river in 1865. He sold his 80 acres and engaged in the grocery business in the village; failing, he acquired some land again, but in the forest fires of 1871 he was burned out and lost everything and his family had a narrow escape from death in the flames. Not daunted he tried farming and shingle manufacturing again, but failed in the panic of 1873. Settled in the village then and ran a meat market for some time, and was also postmaster for six years. Mr. Pattee was a republican and prohibitionist and held several township offices, a notary public and pension

attorney. He was a member of the Methodist Protestent church. Mr. Pattee was a good citizen and much missed when he died from the effects of being accidently struck by a street car in Saginaw, W. S., where he was engaged with his son Charles R., in the mercantile business.

RICHARD LYLE

was born in Devonshire, England. He grew to manhood and married in Holsworthy, in the same shire, and emigrated to Canada in 1850. If Mr. Lyle had been one inch taller his history might not have been written in Bridgeport. He desired to enlist in the Light Brigade cavalry for the Crimean war, but was found to be one inch too short for the standard height of those picked men. Thus he escaped the terrible fate which Tennison describes in the "Light Brigade:"

Cannons to the right of them,
Cannons to the left of them,
Cannons in front of them
Volleyed and thundered.
Stormed as with shot and shell,
Boldly they rode and well,
Into the jaws of death,
Into the mouth of Hell
Rode the Six Hundred"

From Canada, Mr. Lyle moved with his family to Port Huron and later to Saginaw. In 1859 he settled on a new piece of land near the line of the P.M. railroad; southeast of the village. He and his family shared the hardships of pioneer life to the fullest extent, but with undaunted determination and hard work he overcame the difficulties. He engaged in the butcher business, moved to the village and started a general store. He built the first brick block in

Bridgeport, where he continued in the grocery business until his death.

Two sons are still living in the township and his grandson, Dr. R. C. Lyle, is the present physician in this place.

The Lyles belong to an old Scottish family, the members of which trace their lineage to the Lord Lyles of Ducal Castle in Renfrewshire, who were of the old Covenanter stock, descending from Sir William Wallace, so celebrated in Scottish history.

The Covenanters were a set of men that banded together for religious freedom, and signed their names to the covenant written with their own blood.

HIRAM W. ROBINSON

one of the early businessmen of Bridgeport, was born January 8th, 1839 in Ithica County, N.Y. His grandfather was a soldier in the war of 1812 and one of his uncles was a soldier under Washington during the Revolutionary war.

Mr. Robinson's father died in Flint in 1871 and at that time Hiram was located in Bridgeport, having removed from Saginaw, where he carried on a lumbering business and acted as inspector of lumber. He was elected as Representative to the State Legislature in 1889 on the democratic ticket and there worked for the improvement of the educational laws of the State. He was a member of the Congregational church.

In 1865 he was married to Caroline Smith. Miss Smith's mother was a sister of Leverett Hodgeman. A son, Henry T., is cashier in the German American bank of Saginaw.

WILLIAM MATHEWSON

was born in 1827 in Toronto, Canada, where his father, Wm. and mother, Margaret (Sproul) Mathewson, then resided. His parents were

both natives of the north of Ireland but of Scotch descent. The family emigrated to Canada in 1824 and settled near Toronto, where his father taught school for a number of years. In 1836 they came to Michigan and settled first in Lenawee County, then in Flint where his father died.

Mr. Mathewson was, at the age of 16, engaged in carrying the mail between Saginaw and Flint, walking or riding on a pony through the winding forest trail. The pony, which Mr. Mathewson had hired, was mortgaged once and the mortgage foreclosed. The sheriff came to seize the animal, but Mr. Mathewson placed a U.S. mail bag on the pony's back and dared the sheriff to touch him. The sheriff backed out and the mail got the right of way.

Wm. Mathewson's brother Joseph was the first Supervisor of Birch Run township and served for four years. He was the father of Addie, wife of Charles Beach.

Mr. Mathewson bought land near Dennis Bow's farm and made a good farm out of it, which is now owned and occupied by his son Kirt B., who is a very efficient school teacher.

W.H.P. BENJAMIN

was born at Syracuse, New York, September 2nd, 1839. His parents were natives of Massachusetts. He attended the medical department of the University of Vermont, from which he graduated in 1861.

He enlisted as hospital steward in the army in '61 and was promoted to Assistant Surgeon of the U.S. Army, serving to '63.

Mr. Benjamin came to Bridgeport in 1866 and married Miss Emma Main in 1876. In 1874 he was elected as Representative to the State Legislature and in 1878, State Senator one term.

He practiced medicine and was postmaster under Cleveland's administration. He was a staunch Democrat and a leader of the democratic element of the town and county. He organized the Maccabee Tent here and was a Mason of high degree.

His widow and his son Arthur Wellington Benjamin, now reside in Saginaw.

LEONARD BLAKELY

was born in Canada, January 10th, 1823. His grandfather was Ensign under General Washington and the General's headquarters was for some time at his house.

Mr. Blakely followed the trade of deep well drilling in Pennsylvania and Ohio at the time oil was discovered in those states. In 1862 he came to Bridgeport, and was united in marriage to Martha Stone on May 5th, 1847. He was a republican and served as Justice of the Peace for 14 years. He was a member of the Congregational church and one of its organizers in this town.

One of his sons, Oscar, was a vocalist of remarkable ability and organized the "Blakely Quartette Company." He died in 1878.

ANDREW PHILLIPS

was a native of Michigan, born in Oakland County in 1828. His father was a native of Germany. In 1849 he married Emily Blackmar, came to Saginaw in 1851 and settled on his farm, corner Genesee Plank and King road in 1861. He acted as Justice of the Peace for four years; his political affiliations were democratic and he attended the Congregational church while his wife belonged to the Episcopal church, of Saginaw.

Mr. Phillips made a fine farm of his 80 acres. He died a few years ago, and his wid-

ow still resides on the homestead.

SILAS WOODARD

was a native of New York, where he was born November 11, 1812. His parents, Ben and Polly Woodard and his grandfather, came from England and settled in Onondaga county, New York. Mr. Woodard came to Bridgeport in 1839 and purchased land on Section 24, but went to Oakland County, where he remained until 1845, when he came back to this town and settled on his land, being the first settler east of the plankroad.

He built a log cabin, 18x24, in which he resided 14 years without seeing the smoke from a chimney of any neighbor. He was a cooper by trade and worked at that more or less from 1833 to 1879. He was a republican and served as Justice of the Peace. Married Elizabeth LaRue, who was born in Livingstone county, New York, on July 22nd, 1818.

In the early days they obtained their flour at the treadmills near Flint and carried it home on their back, through the woods, on a trail marked out by blazed trees.

THOMAS SAYLOR

was for some time a resident of this township, living on his farm which is now the Morley farm, where he built a fine brick residence. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1831 and at the age of 16, learned the trade of sawmaker.

In 1858 he came to Saginaw county and enlisted in the Army in 1861. In 1864 he was commissioned as colonel of the 29th Michigan Infantry, which was organized in Saginaw, serving until the close of the war. For eight years he was Postmaster in Saginaw, after which he returned to his farm in Bridgeport. He died in Pontiac in 1911.

DARWIN A. PETTIBONE

was born in New York and came to Michigan as a young man taking a course in the Upsilanti Normal to learn the profession of surveyor. He was engaged as such by the government and surveyed large tracts of the northern part of this Peninsula. Locating in Bridgeport, he married Miss Adaline Lull.

Mr. Pettibone was a Republican and a leading citizen in that part and in the development of the town. He dealt considerable in real estate and also City lots, besides clearing and improving several farms and built a brick block, corner of Genesee and Weadock streets, Saginaw.

He served as Supervisor several terms. Although a member of no church, he had the religious welfare of the community at heart and was especially interested in the Sunday School. Fraternally, he belonged to the Masonic lodge of Bridgeport.

WILLIAM P. MINER

was born in Vermont, June 14th, 1834 and came with his father to Saginaw county in 1853. His father was a member of Old Springfield militia company and after coming to Michigan kept the toll gate in Bridgeport for a number of years. He died in 1863. Mr. Miner went first to Wisconsin, where he engaged in lumbering; he returned to Bridgeport in 1860 and September of that year married Miss Cheslina Hayes. Mr. Miner cleared a fine farm; served as highway commissioner, was a devoted member of the Congregational church; a republican politically and a Mason fraternally; a fine type of American citizen. Maynard Miner, his son, resides on the homestead. Mesdames Smith Marvin of Birch Run, and Frank Reed of Detroit, are daughters.

CHAUNCEY W. WISNER

was born in Genesee county, October, 1834. As a young man he worked for a farmer in that county, who starved him so that he had to drink milk in the stable while milking the cows to sustain life. Years afterwards the same farmer paid him $390 for acting as council in a law suit. Young Wisner studied law in Flint and after being admitted to the bar moved to Saginaw in 1861. In 1877 he bought a farm of 160 acres on the Genesee Plank road, which he improved and beautified in a magnificent manner and on which he resided until his death, meanwhile carrying on his law business in Saginaw. He was well read in literature, had an active imagination, bright fancy, keen wit and fluent speech, but the dull routine of court was less attractive to him than the surging, applauding crowd gathered on street corners to hear political truths, as he explained them from the top of a dry goods box. He will be remembered as a kind hearted and most agreeable man, who was ready and willing to give valuable advice and council. In being called a "Bridgeport farmer" he took great pride; in 1880 he was elected supervisor of the town. While a supervisor, a neighbor carried to him a basket containing a little girl baby, which he, the neighbor, had found on his doorstep one morning. Mr. Wisner promptly adopted the child and brought her up until she became a grown up woman. In 1887 Mr. Wisner was elected state senator on the democratic ticket, and was re-elected in 1889 and 1891. He resigned before the extra session of 1892, and was elected representative in 1893. In the legislature he worked hard for the consolidation of the two Saginaws, in fact it was his mea-

sure and he got it through, as indeed he did with every one he introduced. In 1857 he married Miss Orra E. Lake in Flint. His son, George M. Wisner, is at present justice of the peace in Bridgeport and for convenience of his clients maintains an office in Saginaw. Mr. Wisner Jr. has presided over many cases as justice and disposes of them in a just and upright manner. He resides on the Wisner homestead.

JOHN C. HUMPHREY

came to Saginaw in 1862, settling in Salina, where followed the sawmill, stave and lath business until 1880, when he settled upon a new farm in Bridgeport. He served two terms as treasurer of the township, was a member of Salina Lodge No. 155, F. & A. M., and has served as secretary and as treasurer of that lodge. His son Edward C. Humphrey served as treasurer of the township for two terms and was serving as supervisor when he was elected county clerk, which office he held for two terms to the satisfaction of all concerned. The family is of Scotch origin and migrated from New Hampshire to Lee County, Iowa, in 1855, where Edward C., was born. The great grandfather of Edward C., was James Humphrey, a soldier in the revolutionary army with a good record.

Mr. Humphrey was married February 14, 1856 to Miss Mary Park, a daughter of Alex and Elizabeth (Nesmith) Park, natives of New Hampshire.

PETER LEASIA

came from Clinton county, where he was born in 1825, and came to Saginaw in 1842. He followed lumbering in the early days, and cut out the old Portsmouth road in 1848. He served as justice of the peace 11 years, and was

fraternally connected with the Masons.

SAMUEL BARGER

came to Bridgeport as a young boy with his grandfather, Nathaniel Foster, in 1837. Mr. Foster is said to be the first settler across the river, where he made shingles by hand. Mr. Barger, who is the oldest of the pioneers now living, remembers well the hardships and privations of the first settlers. He remembers the sailing vessel, *Nelson Smith*, which brought passengers from Detroit, among them the Hubinger family of Frankenmuth.

HENRY HOWE

was born in Ware county, N.Y., in 1838, and came to Bridgeport in 1854. He was the first man to respond to Lincoln's call to arms and enlisted in 1861; was wounded twice while in army of the Potomac. His father, William Howe, served in the war of 1812 and 1814. Mr. Howe returned to Bridgeport in 1865 and married Miss Frances Tibbits. He was a painter by trade and followed that occupation until incapacitated by his old wounds received in the war. He is now living with his daughter Mrs. Yorton, in this village. Charles, his oldest son, has been employed in the Saginaw postoffice for 30 years.

ISHAM C. SIMONS

was born in Oneida county, N.Y., March 18, 1838, son of Conrad and Sarah Simons; his father died when Isham was yet a youth, and he was reared in Camden, N.Y. Aug 15, 1861, he enlisted in Co. E., 32nd regiment, New York Volunteers, under Captain Forbes, and participated in the battles of the Potomac; was discharged June 9, 1862 and came to Bridgeport in 1869 and operated a sawmill for two years. With Dr. Benjamin he formed a partnership in the merchantile business,

and married Miss Marian Lull, April 1871; also operated a brickyard and made a million brick in 1880. Mr. Simons has held several township offices and is the present postmaster of Bridgeport.

HENRY M. YOUMANS

was born in Otsego county, N.Y., May 15, 1832; was a son of William and Margaret (Horning) Youmans, natives of New York, where his father was a prosperous farmer. The grandfather, J. I. Youmans, was a Hollander and came to the United States in an early day, settling on a farm near Albany. Mr. Youmans was the ninth of thirteen children and spent his boyhood on his father's farm, and attended common school. Was in the employ of the Erie R. R. Co., for four years, after which he removed to Saginaw in 1863, engaging in lumbering and salt business in partnership with J. F. Bunday, but sold out in 1878 and moved to St. Clair county, where he engaged in lumbering and farming. Later he sold out and came back to Saginaw, and soon after purchased of Dr. Curtis the 200 acre farm adjoining this village, and started a dairy business and manufacture of brick. Residing in Saginaw for some years, and was an alderman from the Eighth Ward for four terms; president of the school board two terms; elected justice of the Peace but declined to qualify. From 1886-87, he served efficiently as Mayor of Saginaw, elected on the democratic ticket.

In 1890 Mr. Youmans was elected as Representative in Congress, serving two years, and in 1897-98, he was a Senator in the Michigan Legislature. While in the Legislature, Mr. Youmans started the Sugar Beet Industry by introducing and carrying through the tem-

porary law awarding a bonus for Michigan beet sugar. He is therefore rightly entitled to the honor of being the father of this great industry in our state.

He was united in marriage to Miss Mary, daughter of Edwin Brown of Andover, New York. His son, Elmer M. Youmans operates the farming and dairy business in connection with his father. Mr. Youmans has been offered town offices but declined. He was, however, induced to serve on the school board for a number of years, in which capacity he did much to elevate the standard of the school.

Let us note right here that Bridgeport always has been a strong Republican town, and that party always in the majority, yet not a single republican of the town ever was elected to an office in the national or state legislatures. Six Bridgeport men have been so honored, but they were all democrats.

ABRAM WHITBECK

an excellent farmer and stockman in our town, was born in Rensseller county, N.Y., March 21, 1835. His parents, Peter and Dorothy (Van Buren) Whitbeck, were natives of New York, and of Holland descent. In 1866, he came to Saginaw county and settled upon the farm where he since has resided. He was married February 26, 1866, to Miss Emily Simons, who was a daughter of Isaac and Jane Simons, who at one time made their home in Frankenmuth. Mr. Whitbeck was a democrat, but broadminded, and in local matters would join hands with any party to bring about public improvements in his neighborhood. His son George is carrying on the work on the 120 acre farm.

JACOB H. BECKER

is one of our pioneers. He was born in the

state of New York, May 23, 1822. He came with his family to Michigan in 1853, and settled on his present farm in this township, then covered with primitive forests. His 120 acres is now one of the best farms in the town. Two of his sons, Garadus and John, enlisted in Co. B., 23rd Mich., during the civil war and gave their lives to their country in that conflict. Lois Staple was the maiden name of the lady, who on April 23, 1840, became his wife, and who shared truly with her husband the struggles of pioneer life. Mr. Becker is an old and sturdy Jacksonian Democrat, and is a typical representative of the Michigan pioneers.

JOHN LEIDLEIN

was born in Bavaria, Germany, June 3, 1829. His parents with the entire family, emigrated to America in 1847, being 35 days upon the Atlantic ocean. He came to Saginaw Co., in 1848, residing first in Blumfield township, where the family was among the first settlers. He cleared a farm and followed the trade of a shoemaker until 1854, when he moved to Saginaw and engaged in the hotel business. He went to the war in 1861 with Co. H., 2nd Mich., and fought in the battles of Bull Run, Fair Oaks, Malvern Hill and Chantilly. In rank he was a captain. In 1862 he settled on his farm in this township. One of his sons, Frederick Leidlein, is our present supervisor.

DEXTER DWIGHT KEELER

was born in Union, Broome county, New York, January 19, 183[?].Mr. Keeler belongs to a large family which trace their ancestry back 300 years to a Ralph Keeler born in England in 1613. He was a carpenter by trade and came to America in 1639, settling in Hartford, Conn. Two years later he removed to Norwalk, Conn.,

where he married his second wife, Sarah, widow of Henry Whipley. His will yet on record was made Aug. 20, 1672, and probated Nov. 5, 1677. Ralph Keeler's son, Samuel, married Sarah St. John, and his son Samuel, married Sarah Greenwood. He became the father of 14 children, the oldest being Mathew, whose son Thomas married Annie Squares, Oct. 18, 1768. Thomas' son, George Keeler, was born Feb 1, 1791 and married Elizabeth Smith in 1810. They had five children, and after the death of Elizabeth, George married Lucinda Wheeler, Oct. 19, 1823, and they had five more children. The eldest son from Geo. Keeler's first marriage, was Lewis S., born Dec. 4, 1822, and on March 22, 1835 he married Sarah Warner, who was born March 20, 1810. Their eldest son is Dexter Dwight Keeler who came to Saginaw June 1, 1855. Mr. Keeler enlisted in the army at Saginaw, Aug. 6, 1862, and served during the Civil war, being mustered out June 28, 1865, at Salzburg, Penn., paid off and discharged July 8, 1865, with a fine military record. He came back to Saginaw to his wife and family who had patiently worried through the years of the absence of the husband and father. Mr. Keeler is a mason by trade, and his first work in Saginaw was on the High school, now Central school, on German street, which was built in 1866 and was the first brick school house in Saginaw. Afterwards he worked as conductor on the F. & P. M. railroad; later he built the round house and machine shops in the Potter street yards and had charge of the building of the new Potter street depot, which was considered a magnificent building at that time. In 1856 Mr. Keeler married Miss Susan Reading, who was born in Monday township, Genesee county, in

1841 and came to Saginaw in 1851. Mrs. Keeler's family record is a very extensive one and goes back almost 500 years, or to 1433 in old England. Some of the ancestors were officers under the old kings and queens of England and their history is contained in a book in the National Library at Washington, D.C. The first one of the family who came to this country, was John Reading, who is found in Glochester county, New Jersey, in 1684. The year after his arrival he was elected a member of the Assembly and attended its sessions at Burlington. In 1868 he was elected clerk of the county, the highest office within the gift of the people at that time. In 1713 he was commissioned captain of the militia company of Amwell, Hunterdon county, and in 1715 was promoted to a lieutenancy of the regiment commanded by John Hamilton, Esq. He died in 1717, and his son John, then 32 years of age, was nominated by Governor Hunter, to a seat in the Provincial council. On Feb. 10, 1727, he was commissioned "Colonel of ye Military Regiment of foot for ye County of Hunterdon," and on the same day was appointed Judge of Court of Common Pleas, and on August 14, same year, Surrogate for Hunterdon and Sommerset counties. The year after he was appointed, by the Crown, one of the judges "to try pirates." In 1740 he was appointed an officer to enlist men for the King's service in the war against Spain. He was also agent for the family of William Penn, and managed their landed interests in New Jersey. In 1747 he became president of the council and succeeded Colonel Hamilton as Governor and commander-in-chief, being the first native-born Jerseyman to govern the province. Gov. Reading married Mary, daugh-

ter of George Reyerson, Esq., of Bergen county, N.Y., on Nov. 30, 1720 and their son, John Reading, was born March 30, 1722. He was the eldest of George Reading's fourteen children, and on Nov. 21, 1746, he married Isabella, daughter of Wm. Montgomery, Esq. The youngest of their five children was Wm. Reading, born Jan. 15, 1786, who married Sarah Lanning Jan. 25, 1807. His second son, Daniel Lanning Reading was born Aug. 10, 1807, and emigrated from New Jersey to New York and thence to Ohio. In 1839 he came to Michigan and obtained a soldier's land grant in the town of Monday, Genesee county, where he married, and there Susan Keeler was born the year after. They lived three miles from any white neighbor, only Indians were plentyful. Their home was a log house in the forest with only the ground for a floor. Mr. and Mrs. Keeler came to Bridgeport in 1898 and reside in a pleasant home on Washington street, called Mt. Maple. Mr. Keeler is a Democrat and a 10th degree Mason, and Past Master of Saginaw Lodge No. 77. Mrs. Keeler is a Methodist and a member of the Eastern Star.

JOHN ARMOND

was born in Vermont in 1831. He came as a five year-old boy with his parents to Saginaw, west side, in 1836, and as a ten year old boy he worked in Bridgeport and helped to clear land. Among others, he worked for E. Miller and L. Hodgman. He enlisted in the 29th Infantry under Col. Saylor and served until the close of the war. Mr. Armond has resided near Edmore until lately (1912), when his son bought a farm near this village, where he now resides.

HIRAM GREEN

was born in Crawford county, Pa., in 1835 and

came to Bridgeport in 1850. He resided in the village until 1860, when he moved across the river and cleared a farm. He was married Feb. 22, 1866 to Mary J. House, a school teacher from Oakland county. Mr. Green retired from farming and returned to the village a few years ago, and his son Ira E. Green resides on the farm.

HERBERT MEYERS

was born in Orville, Oswego county, N.Y., in 1846. He enlisted in the Civil war in 1864 and served with the army of the Potomac until the close of the war; came to Bridgeport in 1837 [?] and has resided in the village ever since. He married Mrs. Nellie Kendricks in 1880. Mr. Meyers is a Republican and has been elected constable on that ticket for upward of twenty-five years.

JOHN GRAHAM

was born in Erie county, N.Y., in 1847. His parents came to Michigan in 1855, settling in Livingston county; came to Birch Run in 1864 and to Bridgeport in 1872. John and his brother James Graham bought eighty acres of wild land on section 4, on the King road, which they cleared into a fine and fertile farm. James subsequently sold his part to W. J. Bartow, while John still resides on the homestead, a respected citizen, a good neighbor and a jovial man socially. He can get along with anybody, perhaps excepting electric line promoters and oil and gas sharks. Mr. Graham was married to Miss Mary Messner in June, 1887. His wife is the daughter of one of Bridgeport's early businessmen, John Messner, who built and run for many years the first and only gristmill in Bridgeport.

ADAM BAUM

was a resident of Bridgeport for nearly thirty

years after he retired from business in Saginaw. He was born in Rhinephaltz, Bavaria, and was engaged in a woolen mill at that place; subsequently he learned the butcher trade and as an apprentice traveled one year in Alsac Loraine, Baden and the Netherlands. He escaped the severe military service in the Fatherland by emegrating to America, taking his best girl, who subsequently became his wife, with him, taking passage on a sailing vessel and arriving in Detroit in 1863. There they were married, and lived in one room together with his brother Martain, and the two families cooked on one stove. Martain first moved to Saginaw and wrote Adam to come hither and grow up with the city. Adam at that time had started a butcher shop. He sold out and drove with a team to Saginaw, with his wife, Willian, the baby, and his household goods. They arrived in Saginaw at night and came near driving into Saginaw river where the Genesee bridge is now, and where the plank road ended. Asking a woman passerby where East Saginaw was, she informed him that he was in the heart of the town, and she directed them to his brother's house on Warren street, the light from the kitchen window being visible from where they were. He immediately engaged in the butcher business and was for years the only butcher in town. Adam Baum's son, Wm. Y., has been a resident of Bridgeport for nearly thirty years. He is a Republican and served as town clerk for thirteen terms and one term as treasurer. He married Frances, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Keeler.

EPILOGUE

And now as we have followed the history of Bridgeport thus far and remembered those who broke the wilderness in the sweat of their

brow and also some of those who still are with us, and who have had a share in the development of the township, we cannot close these biographies without regret that we have not been able to mention all. There are many whose history should have been chronicled in these pages, but we were unable to obtain the particulars.

In closing we have been requested to say a few words of the author.

He is a native of Norway, born in Skien, October 1st, 1850. Got a primitive education in a little red school-house where his uncle was teacher for 52 years. Started in high-school but did not finish the course and took to farming as generations of his folks had done before. Was married March 21, 1871 to Miss Agnes Anderson and the wedding was celebrated on the same date when the cupboard in the house was 100 years old, and it has never been bare. Emigrated to America in 1880, headed for Minnesota, but stopped on his way in Bridgeport and never got any further. Perhaps it was just as well as he has gained many friends and as many enemies as he ever could hope to get in Minnesota.

To change from an European to an American is not an easy process. The transformation takes the best of a person's lifetime and in some cases the job is but half done. In the case of the author it has been something like the Minister's Musicbox--haven't you heard the story of the Minister's Music-box?--Well--

A minister working on a small salary found he had to sell something to get money so as to live, so he parted with a music-box which was bought by an Innkeeper. It could play but one tune and that was "Rock

of Ages," but the Innkeeper wished some livelier music to suit his guests so he sent it to a tinker's shop who put some pegs in the cylinder intended to play "Everybody's Doing It." It then played a terrible mixture of church hymns and Ragtime. He sold it to a Statesman who had some more pegs put in to play the "Star Spangled Banner," but the result was a worse mixture than before and he came near throwing it on the junk pile. Fortunately it fell into the hands of a music loving friend who carefully examined the plugs, took out some, moved some and put in some new. Then it played quite acceptable.

It is the same old cylinder, but with new American pegs, which has been wound up to play the History of Bridgeport to the tune "My Country "Tis of Thee."

Our Fathers God, to Thee,
Author of Liberty,
To Thee we sing.
May Bridgeport e're be bright
With Freedom's holy light,
Protected by Thy might,
Great God our King!

THE END.

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HISTORY OF BRIDGEPORT, MICHIGAN

by

T. J. Pollen

1912

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1978

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