

vegetables, and never moves away from his hut, until hunger forces him to. He has a few dollars in specie, enough he thinks to last him the remainder of his life. The old man has no companions, not even a dog or bird, no books, no way to pass the time but to sit and brood, and think and sleep. His hair is down on his shoulders and his beard long and matted, while his clothing is in rags and his feet wrapped in cloths.

"Who can imagine such a life?"

### HOMEcoming OF DISTRICT NO. 5—MERIDIAN.

#### MULLETT SCHOOL HOUSE.

A very large and enjoyable homecoming took place at the Mullett school house Saturday, July 18, 1917. It was an ideal summer day and the exercises were held in the grove surrounding the school building and a picnic dinner added to its many attractions. Although it is a very busy season for the farmers they all turned out and had a good time, feasting, visiting and listening to the exercises. Even the automobilists passing looked with envious eyes at the well spread table and the happy faces of the crowd. The Reform School Band was present and after dinner during the exercises played many patriotic airs that were well received.

The principal speakers were Attorney Rhodes, of Lansing, and Supt. Searls, of Mason. The most unique part of the whole thing was the presence of the lady who taught the first school in the district, Mrs. Charles J. Mullett, of Lansing, Mich., a lady 84 years of age. She taught that school 64 years ago under the maiden name of Jerusha Doyle. Several of the other old teachers were Mrs. E. J. Mead, of Williamston; Mrs. E. Elliott, of Haslett, Michigan, and Mrs. John Grettenburg, of Okemos. The oldest scholar present was Bernard Brennan, of Lansing, Mich., a man 70 years old, who attended his first school at the age of seven years 63 years ago. Of the boys and girls that attended this school 50 years ago the following were present: George Howarth and E. L. Howard, Mrs. Charles Mead, Henry McManderman, Williamston, J. E. Povey, Mrs. E. Blair, East Lansing, Mrs. A. Whitman, Lansing, Charles Foster, Haslett, Frank Watson and Dr. F. N. Turner, Lansing. Hon. Samuel Kilbourne was present, as well as Miss Martha Mullett, of Lansing, whose grandfather gave the school district the land on which the school building is located.

DR. F. N. TURNER.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### ONONDAGA TOWNSHIP.

#### MICHIGAN STATE GAZETTEER.

Onondaga in 1803; history by Mrs. Ira Eldred; Onondaga 85 years ago; East Onondaga; Winfield and West Onondaga; early history of township; School district No. 6.

Onondaga—a township and post village, in the county of Ingham. The village is situated on the Grand river, and the stage route from Jackson to Lansing 80 miles from Detroit. It contains one Methodist, one Baptist and one Wesleyan Methodist church, three general stores, three saw mills, one flour mill and several mechanical shops. It has two daily mails. Postmaster, John Sherman.

#### TOWNSHIP OFFICERS.

Supervisor—Garret VanRiper.  
Clerk—William Earl,  
Treasurer—John W. Gordon.

#### PROFESSIONS AND TRADES.

Ashley Henry—carriage maker.  
Barnett, Samuel—blacksmith.  
Batty, George E.—mason.  
Buckland, William B.—justice of the peace.  
Champ, Nathaniel—general store.  
Champlin, Lyman—carpenter.  
Cole, Franklin—justice of the peace.  
Crane, Philo—blacksmith.  
Dwight, Horace D.—mason.  
Earl, William—general store.  
Fern, Daniel—grocer.  
Gilmore, Moses—blacksmith.

20, dated June 26, 1834. He had been visiting the previous year at Jacksonburg, now the city of Jackson. He was young and unmarried, and was accompanied by six other young men who settled in various parts of Michigan, none of them in Onondaga.

Mr. Cranston settled on his land the same year, 1834, his arrival in the township being but seven days later than that of Mr. Booth. His descendants now living are E. A. Cranson, who lives on the parcel of land settled by his father, and T. Murray Cranson, now living at Gaylord, Mich.

By an act of the Legislature, approved March 6, 1836, T 1, N R, 2 W, then a part of Aurelius, was set off and organized into a township and was named Onondaga by one of a committee for that purpose, Orrin Phelps, who thought it one of the good old Indian names that are written on our waters and rooted in our soil. The first township meeting was directed to be held at the home of Barney Johnson, the first Monday in April, 1838, and Amos E. Steel was elected supervisor by a majority of seventeen votes. Josephus Tuttle, township clerk, and Peter Cranson, assessor. It was voted that the next annual township meeting be held at the house of Peter Cranson, and at that meeting he was elected township treasurer for the year 1830.

About the year 1840 Thomas K. Baldwin came to Onondaga. He was born in 1783 and was one of twelve children of Benj. and Ruth Baldwin. He was married to Dorcas Green 1806, in Vermont, and to them were born eleven children. He built the first frame house in the township, it being modeled somewhat after the Colonial style, with a fireplace and a large brick oven. The pine siding and shingles were hauled by him from Flint in the winter of 1845. Mr. Baldwin died at Onondaga in August, 1873, in his ninetieth year, having spent a long and useful life made possible by his indomitable will and energy.

Many well known families descended from this man, six generations now living in Onondaga.

Thomas K. Baldwin, a son of Thomas K. Baldwin, came to Onondaga in December, 1837, and bought a farm of 100 acres. At that time the land office was located at Ionia, and he walked all the way there and back to get the deed of this land. His nearest post office was Jackson and the nearest flouring mill Ann Arbor.

Many times during his first winter on this farm he walked to Jackson to get the expected letter from his wife, whom he left in New York state while he made ready a home for her. There were no bridges across Grand river then, so he had to find a shallow place and ford it. His road was the red man's path.

He lived to see the river come out of the dense black forests and flow through beautiful sunlit fields, crossed here and there by iron bridges and dotted with mills and factories. He saw the city of Lansing grow from a single log cabin to the thriving, prosperous city of today. Fever and ague came to his home, the rattlesnake hissed at his heels, the red man looked into his window while his squaw came and demanded the pan of biscuit and venison ready for dinner, but regardless of these difficulties, this good man did not falter. Not so with his wife-toil, care and constant fear of her surroundings told on her, and she died on March 14, 1854, leaving five children in the home.

Thomas K. Baldwin died in April, 1805. The chief characteristics of this man were his great physical endurance and his great love for home, friends and country. Such men as this have built what we now enjoy. His youngest son, Martin C. Baldwin, still owns the farm on which his father settled. Mosley A. Baldwin, another son of Thos. K. Baldwin, came to this township in 1837 and settled on the land now owned by his son, Henry Baldwin, who was the third child born in the township. Mosley Baldwin was supervisor of the town from 1849 to 1850, and treasurer in 1840.

Henry Allen, who lived south of the Cranson place, settled there in 1834, and his youngest son, William, born in June, 1834, was the first white child born in the township.

Benjamin Rossman, from Cayuga county, N. Y., came to Michigan in 1834, and located at Jackson. In April, 1836, he came to Onondaga and settled on the farm still owned by one of his sons, Wallace Rossman.

Geo. French settled in the same neighborhood in 1837, his son still living on the homestead, and Carl Sherman still owns some of the land on which his grandfather, Lowing Sherman, settled in 1837.

Warren B. Buckland was supervisor in 1852 and kept the first

post office. His son, Warren Buckland, still lives on the original farm.

I will mention briefly the names of some of the families that came into the township in the '50's: Joseph S. Pierson, Garrett Van Riper, Henry Crane; the first physician was Dr. Hiram Frye. The first school house was built on section 29, in 1837, and the first contract is now a curiosity. It reads, "the teacher shall receive \$1.60 per week and teach every alternate Saturday, mop the school house the other Saturday, and board around the district."

Henry S. Willis, another early settler in the '50's, came to Onondaga, built his home and worked at his trade of carpenter. Of their five children, Charles C. Willis is at present proprietor of the lumber and coal yards in the village. Henry Willis died at the age of 88 years. His was a busy life. In 1858 he built a ferry boat which he operated on the river east of the village to carry teams and passengers to and fro across the Grand river. He also carried on the business of buying and selling stock and grain.

In 1850 a saw mill, the first in the vicinity, was built by Potter and Lockwood on a small stream east of the village, and it afterwards became the property of Nathaniel Champe, whose father was famed for work he did under Washington in the Revolutionary War. Melvin Champe, a son of Nathaniel, owned this tract and lived there many years, and later his heirs sold it to the state and it is now operated by the State Prison at Jackson.

The original plat of the village of Onondaga was laid out, in part, by John Sherman and others in a part of NE Fr. 1¼ of section 29, July 13, 1870. Though several buildings had been previously erected the place dates its permanent growth from that time. It was also about that date that the Grand River Valley division of the railroad was built through the town, Mr. Sherman donating the land for the first depot.

Grove Baldwin laid out an addition in the southeast part of the section on July 10, 1874. The first store of any consequence was established by John Sherman, who opened a general stock of goods. The old part of the present Onondaga Hotel was built about 1847 by Percy Howland for a grocery, and the post office was kept there. It was purchased by Cyrus Baldwin, and converted into a hotel, and afterward sold to Henry S. Willis, who

built a large addition to it and run the hotel for years. At present it is owned by Robert R. Sweeney.

The Sherman House was built in 1856 by John Sherman, and is still owned by his son, Carl Sherman.

The first church built in the village was organized by the State superintendent of mission Churches, in 1877, with W. B. Williams, of Charlotte, as organizer. It was called the First Congregational Church of Onondaga. About 1907 it was remodeled and a basement built.

The Baptist church was moved from Winfield and rebuilt in 1905.

The first church in the township was at Winfield, an M. E. church built in 1869.

On the site of the old school house a fine brick building was erected in 1901, where now ten grades are taught.

The fraternal orders of the town are as follows: Lodge No. 197, F. & A. M.

The first Worshipful Master was Garrett VanRiper. The lodge held its first meeting on January 19, 1807. The present Worshipful Master is Warren Byrum; an O. E. S. Chapter was organized in 1908, first Worthy Matron, Ella Woodard, the one serving now, Mabel Tanner, and the membership is 100.

Onondaga Lodge, No. 150, I. O. O. F., was instituted February 21, 1871, with Henry S. Willis as Noble Grand; there is also a Rebekah Lodge and Degree of Honor, its present Chief of Honor is Clara Champe.

The present population is 800, with about 150 children of school age in the township.

"The Knowledge Seekers Club," a ladies' literary club, was organized in 1898, and federated in 1901. Its membership is 30, with Miss Carrie Baldwin the present president.

Some of the prominent men of Ingham county were born in Onondaga Township: Lawton T. Hemans, came with his parents, John and Frances Hemans, when they settled on a large farm there in 1875.

Hon. Job T. Campbell was born in Onondaga in 1855, and died at Mason April 13, 1899. His parents came from Buffalo, N. Y., and located in Onondaga in 1850. For many years his father, Marshall Campbell, was a prominent citizen, holding

many important offices. **He was** justice of the peace for several terms and was usually spoken of as Squire Campbell.

Solon C. Lanes was the son of Jonathan Lane, one of the earliest settlers who came to the township in **1834**, and took up 640 acres of land.

The village of Onondaga at this date comprises several business places, all conducted by **efficient** business men. It has a cheese factory, conducted by G. E. Moore, where loads of milk are brought from the country every morning. There is a large amount of farm produce shipped from the station; the fine farming country around produces large crops of different varieties. It has an intelligent and enterprising lot of settlers, who are justly proud of its natural beauties, advantages and resources. Local affairs from the first have been well managed; no better evidence of this can be found than in its improved highways; automobile owners **have** been quick to learn this fact, that good roads are an increasing economic and social factor.

Three-fourths of a century has passed since the woodsman's ax was first raised against the sturdy oak. At that time this country was a dense wilderness, and little did the settler think **he** was helping open a country whose resources would far surpass the productions of any country, inhabited by man, though **at** that time he was not thinking of that, his only ambition was **to** build a home where he could produce enough for **the** daily needs of himself and family. Slow but sure was the progress, until today we are numbered among the most prosperous townships in the state.

(Written by Mrs. Ira Eldred, *Onondaga, Mich.*, June, 1917, and read at the meeting of Ingham County Historical and Pioneer Society, Mason, *Mich.*)

At the first historical meeting for Onondaga Township Mrs. **M. C. Baldwin** acted as chairman. In the absence of the president of the county association, the secretary explained the object of the township meetings. Mrs. **M. B. Ferrey**, of the Michigan Historical Commission, gave a talk on the importance of systematic work if the history of the county is to be preserved, and urged that the children be made a part of the organization, and as far as possible the study of local history be carried into the schools.

The day was replete with good things, not least among **them** the dinner served in the church **dining room**; **many interesting stories were told which were lost, because they had not been** written according to the request **of the secretary**.

**It was decided to organize a township association, and Supt. G. O. Doxtader** was elected president, Mrs. Floy Hayward, **vice-**president, and Mrs. Van Clay, secretary and treasurer.

Several unique and valuable relics were displayed, books, documents, pictures, household utensils and wearing apparel.

#### ADDITIONAL ONONDAQA HISTORY.

By **Mrs. M. C. Baldwin**.

Rachel Green Baldwin, wife of Thomas Kidder Baldwin, was born at **Haverhill**, Mass., May **22**, 1793. Laid at rest in **Onondaga** May **23**, **1869**.

Thomas Kidder Baldwin served his country during the War of 1813, and later came to Michigan, settling in Onondaga **Township** and died there. He is buried in the Onondaga cemetery by the side of his wife.

**Mrs. Baldwin organized the first Sunday school in Onondaga**, probably at **the** first school house built in the village in **1839**. This stood on **the** south side of the main street running east and west through the village, just opposite of the cemetery where **she sleeps**.

When **Mrs. Baldwin** became weary with her toil and infirm with years, a Mrs. Cochrane came to Onondaga and took her place, causing many to think she was **the** one who organized the Sunday school.

Mary **Copeland** Cochrane was widowed in County Ulster in Ireland. She bravely gathered her brood of little children and came to America, first to Canada and later to Michigan. **She** died in Lansing 1870, at the home of her youngest daughter. Mrs. Sara A. C. Plummer.

Another daughter, Dr. Martha Strong, now resides in Jackson. **The only descendants** now living in Onondaga is a grandson, William Cliff, and his daughter Julia, now Mrs. Erwin Rhines.

## ONONDAGA EIGHTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

By MRS. M. C. BALDWIN.

The State Land Office was then at **Ionia**, while Jacksonburg, as it was then called, was the nearest shopping center, post office, and railroad station. Ann Arbor had the nearest flouring mill. The roads were the red man's path. Grand river was the drinking fountain. It was fed by tiny rills running down the hills from bubbling springs above.

There were no school houses, no churches, no barber shop, no saloons, no town hall or movies, no woman's club, nor any bridge over the river.

There are now four river bridges in the township and one on the line between Ingham and Eaton counties, kept up by both. These are all iron bridges, the **change** from wood to iron bridges being made by Frank A. Hoes, while he was highway commissioner.

The first lands plowed were small tracts where the Indians had **camped** and burned the timber. Later this land was set to orchards.

The first **flowing** well was drilled by Grove Baldwin in 1869. There are now five in the village.

The first white child born in the township was a daughter of Thomas P. and Ursula Baldwin, Ann Jeanette, born 1839, died 1847.

The first railroad trains were running through this village in 1864. The road was then called the "Grand River Valley Division" of the Michigan Central Railroad.

In 1913 the State bought a large tract of land in school district No. 1 for a farm to be used in connection with the State Penitentiary at Jackson. The large clay beds made it valuable for making brick and tile. It is called the Clay-pit farm. There can be any number of children living there and attending the village schools, yet the State pays no taxes. Also the prison autos and trucks **run daily on our highways**. The **State pays no road tax**.

In 1914 M. M. Moore bought the old cider mill property and put in a cheese factory. In 1921 the people organized a stock

company and incorporated the "Onondaga Cheese Co., "managed by M. M. Moore.

The Farmers' State Bank was incorporated and opened for business May 1, 1918, with Walter E. **Goold** president, M. J. Baldwin, vice-president, and A. Rosenbrook, cashier.

The first garage was built by Henry Shamp, **who came from** West Unity, Ohio, in 1915. There are now two of these in the village.

In 1897 there were two apple evaporators and building where beans were hand-picked. Those **are** things of the past.

Garrett Van Riper was the only man in the early days who made any pretensions toward fruit growing along scientific lines. He set, grafted and pruned trees with great success. He owned the farm now the property of Jasper Baldwin, and over fifty years ago set **the** orchard which is still bearing.

**The** first hardware and tin shop was built by the Sanford brothers, George and Albert. Albert Sanford built **the house now owned** by the Ladies' Aid Society and used **as** a parsonage. George **San-**ford married Martha Champe, granddaughter of Nathaniel Champe (whose history is given in the chapter concerning **Mili-**tary Prowess in Ingham County).

When there came the call for help in the World War Onondaga filled her quota on time at every time, whether it was **for money**, buying bonds or giving the best of her young men. Their service flag contained **QQ** stars.

Two from the Onondaga school were promoted: Erwin Rhines, 310th Engineers, was made sergeant at Camp Custer; Truman Sanford, 119th Artillery, was promoted to corporal while overseas. All Onondaga boys returned practically sound, physically and morally. Nearly all have since, married and not yet a whisper of a divorce.

When **the** war was an assured fact some of the **Y. M. C. A.** men of the county, headed by Hon. A. R. Hardy, started from Lansing to sell Liberty Bonds and organize Red Cross societies. They stopped at Leslie, were joined by Rev. Gordon Speer, then proceeded to Onondaga. They went to the home of Mrs. M. C. Baldwin, clerk of the Congregational church, where they were sent to get help, because "those people never turned down a good thing."

A week later a Red Cross society was formed, with headquarters at the Town Hall, with Miss Carrie Esther Baldwin manager of the sewing department and Miss Julia Cliff (now Mrs. Erwin Rhines) in charge of the knitting department. Every woman turned in to work. Their motto was, "The work must be done that a victory may be won."

Onondaga produced one good artist, Mrs. Emma Sibley Wheeler, daughter of Martin Sibley and early settler. Mrs. Wheeler's paintings hang in almost every house in the village. She now resides in Jackson.

One of the greatest struggles the township has ever known was in regard to the prohibition question. Two pioneers on that subject were Albert Doxtader and George Washburn. Later, when the question of local option came up, there were Sylvester Davis, C. C. Porter, T. Murray Cranston, Dr. R. H. Nichols, W. M. Carroll, Warren D. Byrum and others to champion the cause led by Rev. Fred Wilbur Corbett, of Lansing. Those who worked for nation-wide, bone-dry prohibition along W. J. Bryan lines were Mrs. C. A. Hunt and son William, and Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Baldwin.

Very few business men had the bravery to work in these causes because they might lose a patron or a vote, so the women and no-accounts had to do it.

"There are slaves who dare not be  
In the right with two or three."

(Read at the Onondaga Township Historical meeting on October 18, 1921.)

## HISTORY OF EAST ONONDAGA.

By MRS. MONTE HAYWARD.

I have been allotted the history of East Onondaga, which, having no established boundaries, I have chosen to include in its territory that, part of school district No. 1, east of the village, districts Nos. 3 and 12 and fractional district No. 7.

The greater part of this tract passed from the United States Government into the hands of the Farmer's Loan and Trust-Co.

of New York City in the early '40's. This company sought to dispose of its holdings to New York speculators and homeseekers, thus, while some homesteads passed through several hands before being settled upon permanently, we readily see why this portion of the township was settled by New Yorkers.

The many changes were due largely to the cheapness of the land-46 acres on one instance being traded for a quantity of spelling books, 80 acres for a pony, etc. Among those whose patient industry and influence had much to do with the moulding of our commonwealth were the **Newmans**, Butts, Walkers, Lyons, Champes, Bucklands, Hunts, Carpenters, **Annis's**, **Dwights**, James, **Baldwins** and others. I have been unable to gain access to abstracts other than our own, but find that Grandfather Adney Hunt purchased our present home, Chester A. Hunt's, from this New York company in 1845, and it has ever remained in the family.

These were brave, thrifty, progressive people, to whom we are greatly indebted for this desirable community in which we live. This being a dense forest at the time of its settlement the parent industry was lumbering, which was carried on, not for the products, however, but for the sole purpose of clearing the land. It was, therefore, a most common sight to see immense piles of logs burning day and night.

Some would condemn our ancestors for this seeming malicious destruction of the forest, but there, was slight demand for forest products and a pressing demand for the products of agriculture. Remembering that the first wheat crops sold for 50 cents per bushel, delivered in Jackson, one-half the price of which had to be taken in trade, our theory of price regulation through supply and demand seemed to be a fallacy, but money was scarce.

While engaged in preparing their lands for cultivation, the **settlers** were obliged to find some means of subsistence, and many turned their attention to the cooper's trade, **Among those** who worked at **this** extensively was Grandfather Hunt, who owned the first stave machine, and who with his neighbors marketed their productions in Michigan Center at 25 cents per barrel. Two weary days were required to make this journey, with ox teams, over the old Indian trail, later known as the Plank Road.

Some time in the '60's five **or six men** formed a company to

take over the trail, and secured a charter to build a Plank Road from Jackson to Eaton Rapids and collect toll at the rate of one cent per mile for double rigs and one-half cent per mile for single rigs. This toll was collected at gates stationed about every five miles along the route.

The road was constructed of two-inch planks eight feet long, laid on two 2x4 inch stringers, making a single roadway. That teams might pass a dirt road was made at intervals along the side. Over this road the trip from Jackson to Lansing was made daily, except Sundays, by means of Dan Hibbard's stage coaches, consisting of two four-horse coaches and one two-horse coach.

This road was very satisfactory for a time, but as the planks became warped and badly decayed, the company appealed to the Legislature to have their charter amended allowing them to use gravel. Mother has described to me her first "joy ride" over the bumps from Jackson to Eaton Rapids when a girl of fourteen she journeyed from New York state alone to her new Michigan home.

The charter was amended and the road graveled to Berryville, but the gravel being of poor quality public dissatisfaction increased, and the people of Blackman and Rives of Jackson county and Leslie and Onondaga of Ingham county called township meetings and appointed committees to present their arguments for the repeal of the charter. Attorneys were secured, a hot debate ensued, which resulted in an agreement by the company to cease toll collections a year from date.

Peace reigned therefore for a year, but the company refusing to discontinue as agreed the wrath of the people was again aroused.

Travelers broke down and burned the gates, fought the gatekeepers, and at last forced the abolishment of the entire system.

There is a current story that when the question of a site for the Capitol of our state was under consideration that point on the Plank Road now known as Champ's Creek lacked only two votes of being the chosen spot. The name of the city was to have been Michigan City instead of Lansing. There was then at this point a store, and an upright saw mill operated by Mr. Newman, who owned what was later known as the Champ farm extending from the village east to the five corners.

The mill pond basin is now plainly visible, over which extended a long bridge. A very little later a general store was built and

operated by the Champ sisters, in what is now the Fred Cook residence.

Passing on to a point on the river just below the bridge was located, in a very early day, the ford on the Mason trail. This trail extended eastward through East Onondaga to the "Hog's Back" on what is now John Hayward's farm, thence along the ridge to Mason.

In the vicinity of the ford the first government post office was located in 1838, and operated by Postmaster Buell Buckland, father of Warren Buckland, a resident of East Onondaga. As the Indian trail was difficult to traverse he journeyed to Jackson on foot where he received the mail.

While the Plank Road far surpassed any previous transportation enterprise here, it was soon rivaled by the Grand River Valley Railroad.

This road was chartered in 1846, but its construction was not attempted until 1866. During the two years following, it was completed, and on July 4, 1868, the first train, consisting of flat cars only, passed over the road carrying as passengers many who are here today.

To those who granted the right-of-way for the road the usual compensation of one year's free transportation was given, and father tells how many old ladies took advantage of their opportunity by almost daily taking their knitting and making the round trip.

Although hardships seemed to predominate in the lives of our ancestors there was a sentiment of community loyalty and common interest which unified and strengthened them. They worked, played and worshiped as one great family.

Religious advantages were limited and greatly appreciated in the community, where the only meeting place was the school house and the chief source of Bible instruction the home.

A general hospitality was extended to the "circuit rider" or traveling parson, who visited practically every home, an honored guest.

Foremost among these was Elder Walker, who traveled long distances on foot to his appointments, receiving little or no compensation. His participation in the joys and sorrows of his parishioners endeared him to those in whose service he spent his

life. The homestead taken up by this good man has ever remained with his kinfolk, now being in the possession of his great grandson, Alfred Walker.

Realizing the importance of education, arrangements were made to organize a school, and Mr. Butts donated the land on Lyon's Creek, which is the present school house site of district No. 12. He with the aid of his two sons erected the first building known as the Butts school house.

Two of the first school officers were Josephus Tuttle and Chalon Lyon, the latter the grandfather of Robert Lyon, and one of the very first settlers, having taken land from the government in 1837, during the presidency of Martin VanBuren. The deed, written on parchment, is now in the possession of Mr. Lyon.

Among the first teachers were Mary Ann Bump and Bartley Blaine, who because of hardships and handicaps were indeed "soldiers of the interior."

While school and church activities constituted the earlier social life, groups were continually forming to meet public needs and we find the "paring bee" coming into existence to care for the fruits of the first orchard, in possession of Merritt Johnson, who owned the Otto Peterson home and adjoining lands. This was followed by husking bees, quiltings, rag bees, singing and spelling schools until today it seems we must have reached the zenith of civilization.

We are today making history. Will it be that of which the coming generations can be proud and through which it can improve?

A nation is the sum of its communities, the future of which depends on the character of its citizens.

Are we teaching future citizens due respect for honest labor, reasonable service for reasonable pay, and above all the Golden Rule? Let us not forget that our duties lie with the world that is and is to be.

## WINFIELD AND NORTHWEST ONONDAGA.

By **MRS. HENRY GIBBS.**

It may be of interest to know something concerning the early settlers of North Onondaga as well as of **Winfield.**

Joseph Gale came here in 1839, taking up a considerable portion of land, a part of which is now owned by his youngest son, William Gale.

Three of his older children settled in this town, Charles Gale, who lived in District No. 4 for many years on the farm now owned by Roy Ives. Elizabeth, who married Joseph Pierson and settled in District No. 1. John, who settled in the Plains District on the farm now owned by his son, Fred Gale.

Peter U. Earle came to Onondaga in 1839, with a large family. Two of his sons, Ed and William, were later connected with the store in Kinnieville. His youngest daughter, Sarah, married Charles Cogswell, and they spent their life on the old farm. After the death of Mr. Cogswell the place passed into the hands of Dr. Stimson, of Eaton Rapids, who had lived with them when a boy.

Lawrence Ryan also came in 1839 with a wife and eleven children. Three of these settled in their home town-Milton, who later moved to Mason, where he held many prominent offices and became known as a poet of no mean renown; Horatio, who moved later to the west, and William, who for many years made his home in Kinnieville.

Richard Ferris was one of the early comers, and his son Edward now owns the old homestead.

Abraham Van Buskirk came in 1853, and his daughter Frances now owns the place on which he settled.

My own grandfather, William II. Tonn, came to Michigan in 1887, first settling near Pleasant Lake, but moved to District No. 4, Onondaga, in 1844, where he lived for several years.

Then there were the Sherd's, John, Arcaleus and Emmons, the Battley's, Buck's and Decker's, all lived long and useful lives and did much to help build up the country. They are now all gone and almost forgotten,



Concerning District No. 2 I know very little. Russell Trefry settled there in the forties on the farm now owned by Frank Younglove; a man by the name of Taylor owned a place farther east, and Chris Laycox owned near there in 1859.

In District 13, or Kinnieville, we find William Hutchings on the place now owned by Arthur Bentley.

Homer Wilkinson, in 1856, on the place now owned by his daughter Elizabeth.

Hiram Cranson, whose father took land from the government in 1834, deeded it to him in 1844. He started for California in 1849 and died on his way. His wife and two children, Jane, now Mrs. Robert Lyon, and John, deceased, continued to make their home on the old place.

Mrs. Cranson, or Mollie as she was familiarly called, was known as the best lady dancer anywhere in the country, and it was nothing for her or her mother, who lived in Jackson, to go on foot to visit each other.

Old Rue Ferrine was a rather eccentric old fellow who lived on the county line. He once hitched his team to a boat to attend the town meeting. He also was considered a great dancer.

The Abbey's, Hiram and Fred, settled in District No. 10. Hiram on the place now occupied by Earle Frye and Fred on the one owned by Isaac Mosely. Mr. Mosely came to Onondaga when a young man and later married Jane Abbey.

Stephen Van Kenney came to this county from Nova Scotia in 1844 and took up a large tract of land which is now owned by Clare and Ray Trefry, great nephews of his, and where the village of Kinnieville now stands. He laid out a village for which he had great hopes, giving it the name of Nova Scotia, but Kinnieville has always been the familiar name.

He was rather short-sighted, for a chance came to have Olivet College come there, but he refused the location, fearing that it would make a "nigger settlement" of the place. Mr. Van Kenney built a dam across the river with a saw mill on the east end of the dam, just when is not known, but probably about 1844, and a grist mill on the west end of the dam. Joseph Pierson was the head carpenter, and this mill stood and was run continuously for over forty years, and was known as the best grist mill anywhere in the country. As late as 1890 people from far and wide took

their wheat there to be ground, and Kinnicville became quite a well known market. The last owner, Snmuel Stetler, with his brother-in-law, Samuel Matthews, came here in about 1871 or 1873. After a few years Mr. Matthews sold out and went west and Mr. Stettler became the sole owner of the mill. He gave it a thorough overhauling, replacing the old stones with the new roller process. He had a private switch at Welkinson's crossing, and kept a man and team busy hauling and loading flour on the trains there. Every housekeeper in the country considered the Kinnieville flour the best on the market. He also had a cooper shop and employed William Bellamy to make his flourbarrels. At least three young men that I remember learned the miller's trade there. Homer Canfield, who was connected with a mill in Albion for some years; J. K. Trefry, who owns and runs the mill at Rives Junction, and Frnnk Bassett, who was head miller in Eaton Rapids for a while.

Somewhere about 1886 a man named Smith raised the dam at Smithville, greatly improving the water power at Kinnieville, and on April 4, 1890, the mill burned.

At the time my grandfather, James Trefry, came to Kinnieville, about 1856, there were three general stores and a hotel, but no one seemed to know exactly when they were built, though Joseph Pierson was said to have been the head carpenter. The lower store, as it was always called, was run by a man named Griffith. It was burned in 1885. The upper store was owned by John Jordan, and was traded by him to Walter Wilkinson for the farm now owned by Pearl Towns. This building stood until 1918, when it was torn down by the Rev. Hamlin.

The store on the north side of the road was run by Mr. Sprague, and this old building is still standing.

Old Mr. Fister had a blacksmith shop, and nearly all the older residents can remember him. Nichols and Lester Frances owned the grist mill. Just who run the tavern is not known, but the old building is still standing and occupied by Mrs. Luke, though it has been moved from its original site.

There is no record of any log school house, and if there never was one, then the first school building is still standing. About 1879 the county line district west was united with Kinnieville and a new school house was built one-half mile west of the vil-

lage. George Waggoner was the head carpenter. The old school house was bought and made into a dwelling by Edward **Rossman**.

William Earle was the first postmaster in 1860. The mail was brought to Onondaga by stage **coach** and carried from there over to Winfield, the official name given the post office. This office was kept up until the coming of free rural delivery, when it was taken up.

After locating in Kinnieville my grandfather, James Trefry, owned and run a small wagon and repair shop and did other wood work. George Waggoner, who worked in one of the stores in **the** early sixties, used to tell that on Saturdays they would be so busy that they would not have time to go to **dinner** and the other stores were as badly rushed. People came from Eaton Rapids, Onondaga and the surrounding country to mill, and bought their store supplies there.

Some time between **1865** and **1870**, a Mr. Payne built and run a tin and hardware store. Ed Miller built a shingle and stave mill on the river just below the grist mill, and Ira Trefry built and run a boot and shoe shop, doing custom work.

In **1870** a stock company was formed and a cheese factory built, with **Hosen** Kcnyon as **cheese** maker. This did a thriving business for several years, but a poor cheese maker for a season or two caused disaster and the building was bought and converted into a dwelling house by Lee Cobb. This was destroyed by fire in 1884.

When the railroad was built in 1869 Kinnieville was sure that it was coming that way, and great was the rage and dismay when **the** town was **passed** by. It wns rumored that certain influential citizens paid the company well to make that big curve in the tracks just there. This was really a bitter blow, and from that time Kinnicville's prosperity **began** to **wane**, until today but little is left of the once busy little hamlet.

The first town meeting of which we hare nny record was in **1844**, nnd was likely held in Kinnieville as at that time it was a more important place than Onondaga village. For several years all town meetings were held there, and then as Onondaga grew in size they had every other election, but at last the stronger conquered and Kinnieville was beaten.

**There** were no liquor restrictions in those days and large

amounts of intoxicants were sold and drank, and **free-for-all** fights and "high old times" were indulged in on election days.

In 1880 the Baptists grew strong enough to build a church under **the** leadership of Rev. Smith. I can shut my eyes now **and** see some of those old faces as they looked when gathered in **this** little church. The older and more reliable **ones** were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cogswell, Mr. and Mrs. Henry **Laycock**, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. H. Brewer, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Trefry, Mr. and **Mrs.** T. M. Cranson, Mrs. Janet Waggoner, **E. B.** Trefry. There were others, but these were the faithful ones always in their places.

In **1904** the Baptists decided that **they would do** better in Onondaga and moved their church to this village, but about **1917** the Methodists united with the Baptists in community work.

Though **nearly** everyone went **to church and the old school** house was taxed to its limit, a church **was** not erected until 1870, then the Methodists, Rev. Wallace, erected their present building.

I can still see the faces of the worshipers in this church, too. There were Mr. and Mrs. John Smith, or "Uncle Johnny" **as he** was called. He used **to pay \$75 each year toward the minister's** salary, **and was the wealthy man of the community. Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Lane, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Conklin, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Munro, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Losey, Mrs. Drusilla Town,** Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Gibbs, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Winters, **Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Doxtader, and Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Partick. Mr.** Patrick always led the singing, and **it is safe to say that he taught** singing school in every rural school house in that part of **the** country, and if there was a funeral anywhere he **went if the preacher** did. These were the reliable **attendants**, and no matter **what the wind or weather it did not keep them home, and the old church** wns well filled every Sunday. **For the last twenty-five years this** church faced *n* rapidly decreasing membership, and a few years ago the church was closed, its members uniting with the community church at Onondaga. The last knell was struck for Kinnieville. She is today like Oliver Goldsmith's "Deserted Village," but a "name and a memory."

## EARLY HISTORY OF ONONDAGA.

By MRS. WILL BYRUM.

By an act of the Legislature, approved March 6, 1836, Town 1 N, Range 2 W., then a part of Aurelius, was set off and organized into a township named Onondaga. The boundaries had been surveyed in 1824-25.

The first recorded town meeting was held at the home of Barney Johnston the first Monday in April, 1838. Amos E. Steele was elected supervisor. Early history shows that many of the first settlers came from Onondaga county, N. Y., among them Orange Phelps, to whom is given the credit of naming the village. It is an Indian name and has various pronunciations. The first land entry was made by Oliver Booth, from Gaines, Orleans county, N. Y., May 26, 1834, and included all of section 29.

Just one month later he settled in what is now the village, this being the first settlement in the township. Mr. Booth lived about a year after he came, and his was the first death of a white man in the township.

Just seven days after Mr. Booth came to Onondaga Peter Cranson, a young unmarried man, arrived. He came from Cayuga county, N. Y., and made the second entry of land, section 20, on June 26, 1834. He was one of the inspectors of the first town meeting, and the second meeting was held at his home. Later he located the farm now occupied by his son Emmett.

Henry Allen, a son-in-law of Oliver Booth, moved his family into the township in 1834, and settled south of the Cranson place. His son William was the first white child born in the township, June, 1834.

Mr. Booth returned to New York on business soon after he settled, and Jeduthan Frye, from Massachusetts, returned with him in October, 1834. He lived for some time in the Booth family and in February, 1838, he married Harriet Booth, the first marriage in the township, and their daughter, Harriet, born December 25, 1830, was the first white female child born here. The Frye home was originally west of Onondaga village. The only de-

scendent of Oliver Booth is Gerdun Goold, a grandson, and son of Gerdun Goold, another son-in-law of Oliver Booth.

Benjamin Rosstnan, from Cayuga county, N. Y., came to Michigan in 1834, and to Onondaga in 1836, bridging with him his wife, Eliza Westfall Rossman, and seven small children. He purchased a farm one mile east of the village now owned by his son Wallace.

Thomas Paddock Baldwin, from Dorsett, Vt., and later from New York, learned through a land speculator of the wonderful hunting in Michigan, came to investigate in 1836. He served in the Vermont militia in 1812. He found two log cabins where the village of Onondaga now stands. One occupied by the Booth family and the other one empty, having been built by Lowing Sherman (a veteran of the War of 1812), who had moved into Jackson county. Later his son John returned to Onondaga and built the Sherman house. He, with others, in 1870, laid out the original plat of the village. It is said that he was instrumental in getting the railroad through Onondaga instead of Kinnieville. A great grandson of Lowing Sherman. Lowing Sherman Barnes, still lives in the township.

Thos. P. Baldwin located large tracts of land and returned home. He at once told Martin Sibley and William Wolcott, his brothers-in-law, of the beautiful country he had visited, where the forests were alive with wild game, and the clear running streams with fish. They, with their young wives, Betsey Baldwin Wolcott and Ruth Baldwin Sibley, came immediately to Michigan and began planning homes in the wilderness. The Wolcott home is occupied by Ed Holleken and the Sibley home by George Sibley, a grandson. Thomas P. Baldwin remained in New York and married Ursula Coleman.

In 1837, leaving his wife and infant son with his father, he came again to Onondaga to build a home for them. He located one mile west of the village, directly across the road from Benjamin Rossman. This farm is now owned by his youngest son, Martin Coleman Baldwin. Many times that winter Thos. Baldwin walked to Jacksonburg for the expected letter from his wife. In May, however, she with her baby, James Baldwin, accompanied by her husband's brother, Mosely A. Baldwin, and his wife, Electa Gibbs Baldwin, came to the new home.

They came by boat from Buffalo to Toledo and then with ox team by way of Tompkins county, Ohio, to Onondaga, arriving May 24, 1838.

Moseley Baldwin located two miles east of the village and spent all the rest of his life there. His oldest child, Henry D., was the third white child born in the township. The deed to a part of this farm was signed by Franklin Pierce. It is now owned and occupied by Aaron Moseley Baldwin, a grandson of Moseley Baldwin. In 1839 Thomas Kidder Baldwin, father of Thomas I., came to the new country bringing with him three other sons, Grove, Aaron and Cyrus. (Thos. K. Baldwin came from Dorsett, Vt., where he served in the militia during the War of 1812.) The Baldwin family were prominent in all the early history of Onondaga. Thos. K. located a farm just south of the village, now owned by Malcolm and LaVan Clay, a great granddaughter. Cyrus Baldwin built the first hotel, the Colby House, in 1859. It is now owned by Robert Sweeney. Grove Baldwin purchased 170 acres of land south of the village, and his grandson, Frank J., lives there now. Grove Baldwin has perpetuated his memory more than the others, for he drilled the first flowing well in front of his village home in 1809, and it still flows as he refused to have it piped.

Thomas and Elizabeth Haywood, from Buckinghamshire, England, came to America in 1838 and to Onondaga in 1840. Their farm is owned by John and Jessie Terry, a granddaughter.

Other early settlers were George French, 1837. His son John still lives here. Marcus Lane, who located across from the Lane cemetery. The abstract gives the date as 183G. The Maynard's, Sharpe, the village cabinet maker.

Statistics show that the first school house was built on a winding road west of the village, and tradition says Orrie Lane was the first teacher.

The first store was owned by Nathaniel Champe and conducted by Nance Hoxie, his daughter. The building still stands owned by Fred Cook. The first doctor was Hiram Frye, a brother of Jeduthan Frye. He was a root and herb doctor. He came in 1838 from Andover, Mass. The first regular practitioner was Dr. Charles Newell Hayden.

The first post office was on the Maynard farm, one and one-half

miles east of the village. The first post office established in the village was in 1844, with Percy Howland postmaster.

The Grand River Valley Railroad was built in 1864.

The first druggist was Levi Godding, a veteran of the Civil War. A Sunday school was organized in 1866 by Miss Sara Cochran and others. Rev. J. R. Stevenson, of Eaton Rapids, preached occasionally, and in October, 1866, the first Congregational church was formed with fourteen members. This became extinct in 1877, when another organization was perfected and the present frame church dedicated.

Onondaga sent her quota of men into the west in search of gold. She sent her share of boys into the ranks during the Civil War, and many of the descendants of the early pioneers served for America in the World War.

#### DISTRICT NO. 6.

By HON. WARREN D. BYRUM.

The original purchasers of land from the Government of the United States, or the State of Michigan, in what is now District No. 6, on section 11, Bradley Freeman and John Allen, Sept. 21, 1836; Adney Hunt, Jan. 29, 1838; Levi T. Davis, 1817, and Wm. J. Clark, April 24, 1865.

Section 12, Prince Bowerman, Dec. 12, 1836; Wm. Royston, June 14, 1837; John S. Hendee, June 12, 1840; James M. Reck, Jan. 30, 1844; John Elmore, Oct. 26, 1849.

Section 13, Prince Bowerman and Barney Johnston, Dec. 18, 1836; Benj. R. Clark, Jan. 20 and June 5, 1837.

Section 14, Denton Garrison and Bradley Freeman, July 25, 1836; Benjamin R. Clark, June 5, 1837.

August 12, 1837, the township of Onondaga, which was then a part of Aurelius Township, was divided into two school districts, District No. 3 being that part of the township lying east of Grand river, and District No. 4 being that portion lying west of the river. Later a portion of what is now District No. 6 must have been in what was then known as the Peek district, the school house being located on section 1.

The first official record of what is now District No. 6 is to be found in the following:

School Inspector's Notice.

Mr. Ephraim Potter,

Sir, you are hereby notified that a school district is formed and numbered 6, set off of school district number 5 and school district number 3, and is composed of the following territory: S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 10, S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 11, S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 12. All of Sec. 13 except S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 13. All of Sec. 14 except S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 14 and E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 15. You are also notified that you are authorized to notify personally each taxable inhabitant of the above formation and that you are to meet on Saturday, December 26, 1867, for the purpose of electing district officers and to organize your district No. 6 at your cooper shop at 6 O'clock p. m.

You are also required to return the same to this board. Done by order of the school inspectors of the township of Onondaga.

December 19, 1857.

This is a true copy of the doings of the school inspectors whose names are appended to the same thus.

J. E. Howlan,

Hilon Osborn,

Inspectors of Primary Schools.

The cooper shop mentioned in this call was located on section 11 and was owned and operated by Ephraim Potter and E. Smith for several years preceding 1860, and employed four or five men. All of the meetings regarding the organization of the district and planning for the building of the school house were held at this cooper shop. The meeting was held pursuant to the call at the cooper shop on December 26, 1857, Horace Haynes acting as chairman. E. Smith was elected director, E. Potter moderator, Squire Stevens assessor. Horace Haynes, Peter Hunt and E. Potter were elected to serve on the building committee. The school board was instructed to procure a site for the school house at the southwest corner of section 12 at a reasonable rate. It was voted at this meeting to raise \$200 by tax to build a school house, and that the building committee present a draft or drafts of a school house at the next meeting, which was to be held two weeks later at the cooper shop. At a meeting January 16, 1858,

they voted to adopt a plan for a school house which Mr. Haynes presented, 26 by 33 feet in size. At a later meeting when it was found that a building on this plan would cost \$400 to \$460, they voted that the greatest amount they would raise for that purpose would be \$300, and it was voted too that they drop the plan submitted by Mr. Haynes and adopt a plan shown by Mr. Hunt for a building 22 $\frac{1}{2}$  by 33 feet.

Evidently after considerable discussion and a number of motions, it was moved and seconded in the meeting of January 22, 1858, that the building committee be excused from serving. This motion was lost, and the director, E. Smith, concludes his records by stating "All in harmony up to this time." Meetings were held every week at the cooper shop from December 26, 1867, to February 17, 1858. On February 17 it was voted to drop the plan previously presented by Peter Hunt for a house 22 $\frac{1}{2}$  by 32 feet. It was then agreed to erect a building 30 by 25 feet, and the building committee to use its own judgment in procuring materials and building said school house, and the school board was authorized to procure the site at the price of five dollars.

On April 30, 1858, four legal voters of the district petitioned the school board for a special school meeting to be held for the purpose of rescinding a vote taken January 22, that the district raise no more than \$300 to build a school house, and to raise as much as might be thought necessary for said purpose, and for the purpose of altering the plan of school house last adopted, if thought necessary, and for the purpose of having the school house built the present summer, and to authorize the building committee to hire money for said district as the meeting judged best to secure the building of said house in the time specified.

This meeting was held May 8, 1868: They voted to enlarge the plan of the school house by adding six inches to the width, voted unanimously to rescind the vote of January 22 that they raise no more than \$300 to build a school house, voted unanimously to build a school house the present season, voted unanimously to rescind the vote taken December 26, 1857, to raise \$200 to build a school house, voted to raise \$300 by tax next fall and the balance of the cost of the school house one year from next fall.

The five dollars purchased one acre of ground, which is the pres-

ent school ground where the building over which the preceding controversy was held is still standing.

The following is a list of the children residing in the district at its formation in 1857, between the ages of four and eighteen years:

Henry Bratfield	<b>Annis</b> Stevens
Sarah Bratfield	Edgar Stevens
James Bratfield	<b>Alanson</b> Potter
George Bratfield	Frank Potter
Daniel Clark	Mary Cummings
<b>Adell</b> Clark	Clark Cummings Jr.
George <b>Hunt</b>	William <b>Byrum</b>
George Harris	Lewis <b>Byrum</b>
Mary Harris	Floyd <b>Byrum</b>
Charles Harris	

The census taken at the end of the school year, 1858, shows the following additional names to those given above:

Luther Potter	<b>Diantha</b> A. Bratfield
Sarah J. Hunt	James E. <b>Bratfield</b>
<b>Adell</b> Hunt	Darius Johnston
Wade B. Smith	Martin Johnston
Carson J. Clark	Merritt Johnston
Yale Johnston	Content Johnston
Theodore Johnston	Isaac Johnston
Ass Johnston	<b>Narcissa</b> Johnston
Otto Johnston	Leroy Johnston
<b>Medora</b> Harris	Ervin Johnston

In 1864 the census showed the following names added:

<b>Eliza</b> Wells	Sarah Michael
<b>James</b> Wells	Ann Herman
<b>Prose</b> Wells	Mary <b>Herman</b>
<b>Maryette</b> Clark	Olin Stevens
Eldorus <b>Byrum</b>	Mary Bratfield
Monte <b>Byrum</b>	Libby Smith
Eva Johnston	Irene Clark
Frank Michael	Wade Smith
Jane Michael	

The school officers elected at the organization of the district were E. Smith, E. Potter and Square Stevens.

**1858—Geo. W. Byrum**, Horace Haynes, John Bratfield.

**1859—John** Bratfield, E. Potter, R. Harris.

**1860—Square** Stevens, John Bratfield, Robert Harris.

**1861—Clark** Cummings, Robert Harris.

1861 to 1873 various men serving on the school board were as follows: Wm. J. Clark, Benj. R. Clark, Stephen W. Tripp, Washington **Corliss**, G. S. Hyde, Aid Garfield, **Chauncy** Hoyt, Charles Fox, W. B. Hill, Robert **Bolles**, J. B. Carlough, C. C. King, Lewis **Byrum**, S. A. Davis, George Hazelton, James Elliott.

The first teachers contract was made April **29**, 1888, in which Mary Jane Tompkins was to teach thirteen weeks at \$1.60 per week and board, she to be paid on or before the first of next October. It was understood that six days constituted a week, but she was not required to teach each alternate Sunday. The term closed August 10, 1858.

The second contract, was with Dudley **Bateman**, who was hired to teach for four months beginning November **14, 1859**, at \$16 per month and board.

Margaret P. Case was the third teacher, beginning January 16, 1860, and teaching nine weeks at **\$2.50**, and she was **also hired** for the summer term of seventeen weeks, beginning April **23**, 1860, at WOO per week.

In perusing the records of the annual and special meetings of the district, there are a number of votes or actions of the electors which appear to be more or less typical of rural schools in those days and show the **difficulty** of maintaining a school, the necessary tendency toward the strictest economy, and the tendency to more appreciate the value of the school from year to year.

At the annual meeting held in September, 1869, it was voted to appropriate two-thirds of all moneys received to pay teachers wages **at the winter school**, showing that **the winter term** was the all-important term of the year. They voted to "raise for school purposes fifty cents for each scholar," and one-half cord of wood (stove length) to each scholar, to be furnished the school according to the direction of the director. Voted "to discharge the building committee and thank the members for their services." At this meeting, as **well** as those preceding and subsequent to it, they

have considerable difficulty in finding men to serve on the school board. Three men were nominated and refused to serve as director at this one meeting. Voted to "rescind the vote to raise fifty cents on each scholar and voted to rescind the vote to appropriate two-thirds of the public money for the winter school."

September 14, 1801, voted that non-resident pupils pay fifty cents a month from the time of entering the school until the close of term, and that fuel be raised by scholars when called for by the director.

March 8, 1862.	
Paid teacher for 15 weeks, at \$4.25. . . . .	\$63.75
Hoard, George Byrum, 12 days. . . . .	2.14
Board, Robert Harris, 9 days. . . . .	1.60
Board, Square Stevens, 3 days. . . . .	.53
Board, E. Smith, 10 weeks, 3 days. . . . .	13.00
Total. . . . .	\$81.02

September 1, 1862, voted that the mill tax be applied on winter term and primary money on summer term; every man to get one-half cord of wood for each scholar. Voted to apply the fine money, \$3.08, to incidental expenses for the year, and to raise \$4 by tax for additional incidentals.

September 7, 1863, they raised \$15 for incidental expenses and \$20 for teachers wages, and voted that the school house be opened for all religious services not interfering with school; the building properly taken care of, and with the right, to use wood for the meetings. Voted to raise \$10, for a bell to be placed on the building.

September 5, 1864, it was voted that the board have the power to dismiss a teacher within a week's notice, and that this be put in the contract. At this meeting it was voted that the teacher should "board round," but on September 19 they called a special meeting and rescinded this vote.

September 4, 1865, voted to get 18 cords of wood by tax, hard body wood, and that \$14.47 be raised to pay for same.

September 5, 1866, the tuition rate was increased to \$1 per scholar, and voted that no foreign pupils be admitted to the school. At that time there were 44 names in the school census list.

September 5, 1870, they raised \$90 for teachers wages. Robert Harris was let the job of painting the school house two coats in a "good, workmanlike manner," for \$33.60, and the school house was to be shingled with Number 1 pine shingles for \$69.00.

These shingles were not removed until 46 years later.

Aside from the cooper shop operated by Potter and Smith, the industry in the district of most interest was a large saw mill erected about 1860 on the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 11, and operated for a time by Raxford Clark and later by Bowles and Bushan. A great deal of lumber was sawed at this mill, which burned about 1867.

The first township meeting of Onondaga Township was held in District No. 6, at the home of Barney Johnston, on section 14, on the first Monday in April, 1838. Previous to this time Onondaga had been a part of Aurelius Township, but by act of the Legislature approved March 6, 1830, town 1 north, range 2 west, was set off and organized into a separate township by the name of Onondaga. At this first meeting Amos E. Steele was elected supervisor by a majority of 17 votes, Josephus Tuttle, township clerk by a majority of 16, and for assessor Peter Cranson received 15 votes, Gabriel V. N. Hatfield and Josephus Tuttle each 14 votes. Other officers elected were Jeduthan Frye, John Darling, Silas Booth, Gilbert Rossman, Adna Hunt, Frederick Abbey, Chauncey Day, Merritt Johnston, Henry Allen, Orris Cranson, On motion it was voted that any resident of the township taking or killing a wolf in the township should receive a bounty of eight dollars therefor. It was also voted to hold the next township meeting at the home of Peter Cranson.

The supervisors of Onondaga Township from its organization in 1838 to 1880 were as follows: 1838, Amos E. Steele; 1830, Josephus Tuttle; 1840, Martin R. Sibley; 1841 to 1848, Joseph Gale; 1853, Warren E. Buckland; 1863-1866, Joseph Gale; 1860, Joseph S. Pierson; 1860, John French; 1861-1862, Garrett Van Riper; 1869, John Brown; 1870, Nelson Everett; 1871, Mosely A. Baldwin; 1872, Nelson Everett; 1873, A. S. Noble; 1874, Milton Ryan; 1875-1877, Henry Crain; 1878-1879, Mark Conklin; 1880, Pomeroy VanRiper.

The township clerks of Onondaga for the same period were as follows: 1838, Josephus Tuttle; 1839, John Phelps; 1840, Warren

Buckland; 1841-1842, Josiah C. Preston; 1843, Horace Carlick; 1844, W. B. Buckland; 1845-1852, Perez Howlans; 1853, Clinton D. Griffith, resigned, and Merrick Nicholas appointed; 1854-1855, Joseph S. Pierson; 1850, George Phelps; 1857, Hilon Osborn; 1858, James E. Howland; 1859, Wm. O. Callahan; 1860, G. Hutchings; 1861, William Wilkinson; 1862, William Carll; 1863, James E. Howland; 1864, George H. Waggoner; 1865, Benjamin E. Sawtell; 1866, Wm. II. Plummer; 1867, Wm. L. Cochrane; 1868, William Hutchings; 1869-1870, William Ryan; 1871, Garrett VanRiper; 1872, Frank Hoes; 1873, P. F. Crain; 1874, Albert Sanford; 1875, Frank Hoes; 1876, James P. Townsend; 1877, Frank Hoes; 1878, Fred D. Woodworth; 1870, Albert Sanford; 1880, Albert Sanford.

The township treasurers during the same period were as follows: 1838, Peter Cranson; 1840, Moseley A. Baldwin; 1841, Henry Fray; 1842-1843, Lyman Elderkin; 1844, M. A. Baldwin; 1845-1846, David M. Perrine; 1847-1854, Leonard Gilman; 1855, Henry Gibbs; 1856, W. S. Wilkinson; 1897, Elisha Smith; 1858, Peter I. Elting; 1859, James Baker; 1860, Theodore Wisner; 1861, Wm. Hutchings; 1862-1863, John W. Jordon; 1864, Garrett Van Riper; 1865, Gabriel Trefry; 1866-1867, Garrett VanRiper; 1868-1870, Abner S. Noble; 1871-1872, Philip I. Crain; 1873-1875, George H. Waggoner; 1876, James Stringham; 1877-1878, Luther I. Stone; 1879-1880, Geo. II. Waggoner.

Other men holding township offices during this period were Hazen Rolfe, Cyrus Hampton, Peter Earle, Franklin Elmer, Nathan J. Stark, Richard Ferris, Joseph Sibley, John Matteson, Ruel Perrine, Marshall Campbell, Isaac Tyler, W. H. Town, Horace Haynes, Horace M. Buck, Benjamin Rossman, D. C. Griffith, E. S. Haynes, John Sherman, Aid Garfield, James Baker, John Brown, Rufus Swart, E. A. Parker, James Potter, Henry S. Willis, Brutus Hill, Edwin Miller, Thaddeus Slaght, Frank Norris, B. F. Morris, Wm. Longyear, Levi F. Slaght, Thomas M. Cranson, Richard S. Colby, David W. Lane, T. Murray Cranson, Wallace Rossman, John W. Jones, Ward Leshner, L. B. Hatt, Edward Morrison, Seth Jones.

#### STAGE COACH DAYS IN ONONDAGA AND VICINITY,

N. Morrell, of Jackson, tells the following:

"I have lived just outside the county of Ingham all my life of seventy-five years, and have helped haul loads of farm produce to Jackson over stones and ruts, through mud, up hill and down, and even then the roads were better than my father found here when he came in 1833. Then it was but an Indian trail that wound through the forests and avoided the low wet places, when it could. This trail was poorly marked, and when my father and his brother Edward learned that one of their old neighbors was coming to the west, they cut a tree top as large as two yoke of oxen could handle, and dragged it over the trail to improve the road."

Between 1830 and 1835 this trail became a main traveled highway for that section, though still hard to travel, and settlers had taken up land along both sides of it. This same road, with but little improvement, is said to have answered for all transportation until some time in the '50's, when a company was formed to take over the road, and with a charter from the Legislature they built a plank road from Jackson to Eaton Rapids. Toll houses and gates were erected, and a toll of one cent per mile for a double rig and one-half cent per mile for a single rig was exacted. The road was made of planks eight feet long, two inches thick, laid on 2 x 4 stringers. This was a narrow road, and in order that teams might pass each other a dirt road was built along the side of the plank one.

Before the railroad was built north from Jackson, Dan Hibbard's stage coaches were a familiar sight. Two four-horse and one two-horse stages made the trip between Jackson and Lansing daily, except Sundays. At first this road gave entire satisfaction, the dirt road was too soft for easy travel, the planks became warped and were soon cut off where the track ran, and 'was in every way so unsatisfactory that people refused to pay toll, and company finally went to 'the Legislature and had their charter revoked, allowing them to build a gravel road. This did not meet the needs and wishes of the traveling public, and later the residents of Blackman and Rives in Jackson county, and Onondaga