

## CHAPTER VII.,

## DELHI TOWNSHIP.

Mid-year meeting at Holt, 1919: the Aldrich family by Mrs. Adelaide Jones and Mrs. W. A. Melton: recollections of Mrs. Joseph Feier: history of Delhi township by Mrs. Myrtle B. Hilliard: story of Harvey Lamoreaux: North family: Clan Thorburn: recollections of M. E. Park.

## MID-YEAR MEETING AT HOLT, DEC. 4, 1919.

It was voted at the annual meeting of the Ingham County Pioneer and Historical Society, held in Mason, June 13, 1919, that the society should introduce the plan of holding a mid-year meeting. Holt entered into the scheme with great enthusiasm, agreed to hold the first meeting of the kind and give the society a good time, and right royally they fulfilled their pledge.

The thermometer ran low, and the day proved to be one of the coldest in a cold-winter, but the warm welcome the visitors received more than atoned for this, and the 200 people from Delhi and the surrounding country showed their interest in the township history by their presence on that day.

The morning was spent in getting-acquainted, and shortly before the dinner hour President L. H. Ives called the meeting to order, while Mrs. Frank Hilliard, general chairman for the day, outlined the program as it had been prepared.

A bountiful dinner was served in the basement of the M. E. church, where the meeting was held, the Ladies' Aid Society furnishing the meal for twenty-five cents per plate. After dinner, with both the audience room and the chapel well filled, the president called for Mrs. Hilliard to proceed with the program, which it had been designed to have purely a Delhi one.

First was a song service led by Rev. Andrews.

Address of welcome-Mrs. Wm. Binkley,

Response by President L. H. Ives.

Mrs. Hilliard read a letter from Mrs. Adelaide Jones, of Jones-

ville, a former resident, in which she gave a history of her father's family, A. D. Aldrich, and incidents of their pioneer days.

Mrs. Hilliard spoke of Harvey Lamoreaux, who is over 100 years old, and told of his disappointment at not being able to be present.

Mrs. Blake, mother of Mrs. Hilliard, was the oldest person present.

Several songs were sung by the Holt high school, who attended the meeting in a body, as it was thought the knowledge they would gain would be greater than they could get from their books in the same time.

A song by Rev. and Mrs. Ainsworth, one by three Holt pioneers and one by Mrs. Andrews helped to enliven the program, which was full of interest from start to finish.

Mrs. Joseph Fier told her first recollections of Delhi Township, and the customs of early days.

J. B. Thorburn gave a sketch of the Thorburn family.

M. E. Park described the country surrounding Holt before the land was cleared, when often the Sycamore was a raging stream with no bridge, except perhaps a fallen log. Described the first school house, where it was the custom on Monday mornings to send someone after a fire brand to start the fire. Patrons provided wood, such an amount for each child they sent, There was a school library which contained a History of the Bible, Life of George Whitfield and Mary Queen of Scots.

Intemperance was common in early days, and he concluded by telling of dance balls and conditions surrounding them in Delhi sixty years ago, then read a poem which he had printed in the Ingham County Democrat some years ago.

Dr. F. N. Turner then read a paper on Early Days in Lansing.

Mrs. W. C. Fisher read a history of the Grovenburg family and Mrs. Green one of the Watson family.

Mrs. Eva Felton related some of her girlhood experiences, and told of being followed by some wild animal while hunting for the cows some distance from home one night.

Wm. Wright told of coming into Michigan when a boy, and of his father's getting a team in Jackson to drive through to Delhi, and how they reached the top of the hogsback east of Holt and having to camp for the night. He helped cut roads through that

section 57 years ago, and had lived for 62 years on the same place. He remembered John, Jim and Mary, children of Chief Okemos.

The secretary explained the plan for increasing the interest in the society and for publishing a history of the county. An invitation to join the society led to 25 new names being added to the membership list.

Howard North gave a sketch of the North family, after which four young men from Grovenburg sang a quartet.

Meeting closed with the Benediction pronounced by Rev. Andrews.

There was a goodly display of historical relics, among them the naturalization papers of Matthew King, which led to some of his personal history being given.

The meeting was unanimously pronounced a success, and was a glorious precedent for other townships to follow.

Matthew King, a subject of Great Britain, made petition to become an American citizen on Oct. 16, 1844. Clerk Peter Lowe. Admitted on Dec. 14, 1844, showing that it was not such a long drawn-out performance then: as now.

#### THE ALDRICH FAMILY, PIONEERS OF DELHI.

My parents, Almond Denslow Aldrich and Delilah Ann Phillips Aldrich, his wife, with their two small children, one a babe in arms, came from the township of Plymouth, Chenango county, N. Y., to the township of Delhi, Ingham county, in the latter part of September, 1844. After a few months my father purchased a piece of land which had been taken up and a shanty built on it, though no clearing had been done.

When the family came from New York they only brought their clothing, bedding and dishes, no furniture whatever. They soon had a homemade bedstead, a trundle bed, table and four benches, one for each side of the table.

My mother said they were never pinched for food, everything planted 'grew so profusely, and my father was a good marksman, so there was generally a quarter of venison hanging up to be cut from. They soon had a cow or two, and it was not long before

there were pigs in a pen. But money, real money, was a scarce article.

The few citizens dealt with each other by making exchanges, one thing for another. Father said they would speak of this as "dicker." After we had lived on this place some time the neighbors got together and-chopped out a road north from the house. One day my father had taken up a part of the floor and was digging out underneath an apology for a small cellar, a place to put a few vegetables or set a crock of butter. My mother came in from the outside quite excited. She had seen an unusual sight. Wind-ing slowly along between the stumps in the new road was a wagon load of chairs. She said to father, "There's a load of chairs coming and they do not go by this place until I have one." He said, "What will you pay for it with?" and she said she would find something. My parents were possessed with determination as well as other sterling qualities. The chair peddler stopped to know if they wanted chairs. Mother said, "Have you a rocking chair?" and he said he had. Mother then asked, "Do you buy butter?" to which he replied, "Yes, I take most everything." Father had some good pocket books that he had taken on a debt from a man in New York. They were made of good leather, with several pockets and a place for bills. They were really well made and desirable pocket books. Father offered the peddler some of those which he was very willing to take. So with the butter and pocket books the chair was soon bought and paid for, and from then on was nearly always occupied. In a few years a log house was built of large basswood logs split in the center and placed with the round side out, the flat side making a good wall inside. A really comfortable house. Although other chairs were added the old rocking chair was taken to the new home and was still of good service. As time passed the arms were whittled and holes dug in them by jack knives in the hands of mischievous youngsters.

Owing to the untiring industry and thrifty habits of my parents, by this time the farm consisted of broad and well tilled acres. Years passed on, and a commodious and suitable brick house was built on the farm. Although more modern furniture was provided, still the old rocking chair was not thrown away. After the death of the dear parents it went to the home of a granddaughter, and is still in use. It has a new pair of arms, an upholstered seat

replaces the old finely woven splint seat, but it has the same frame, the same straight high back with four slats across it, and is often spoken of as the first chair that Grandma Aldrich bought in Michigan.

I am wondering if the present generation fully realize the worth and work of the pioneers. The majority of the pioneers of Delhi Township were intelligent, conscientious, ambitious, generous and helpful. All honor to the pioneers who have blazed the way for the improved farms, fine buildings, with all modern conveniences and also the great educational advantages of the present day,

MRS. ADELAIDE ALDRICH JONES,  
Jonesville, Mich.

Written for the mid-year meeting of the Ingham County Pioneer and Historical meeting held in Holt, Dec. 4, 1919.

(In the old Aldrich homestead, now owned by Frank Hilliard, are preserved the old homemade bedsteads made by A. D. Aldrich.)

**Almond Denslow Aldrich** was born in Connecticut, April 9, 1816, and went with his parents to Plymouth, Chenango county, N. Y., when he was three years old. March 1, 1837, he united his future prospects with Miss Delilah Ann Phillips, of the same place, and a true and noble wife she proved to be. In 1844 they came to Delhi Township, and settled on the farm which was their home until they died. Their worldly effects when they arrived here consisted of a horse team and thirty dollars in money. Every cent they ever had was made by their own straight forward industry. **Four children were born to them:** Adelaide, born in Plymouth, N. Y., on March 11, 1839; **Almond Denslow, Jr.**, born April 19, 1843, at Plymouth; Ann Eliza, born December 23, 1849, in Delhi, Ingham county, Mich., and **Nathan Phillips**, born March 28, 1853, also in Delhi.

Adelaide was married December 22, 1859, to John Jay Jones. To them two children were born, Mervin Aldrich Jones, born November 18, 1860, in Delhi, and was married January 8, 1890, to Allie J. Pray, of Windsor, Eaton county, they have two children, **Maurene Adelaide and Daale Pray**, both in college at Ypsilanti.

**Etta** Beatrice Jones was born August 29, 1866, in Delhi, and

married Freeman G. Pray, of Dimondale, now lives in Jonesville, Hillsdale county, Mich.

**Almond Denslow Aldrich, Jr.**, first married Amelia Ann Cornwell, of Delhi. Two children were born to them: Alma Irene, born July 5, 1870, single and living in Newaygo, Mich. **Claude Denslow Aldrich**, born Jan. 29, 1877, in Onondaga, Ingham county, now postmaster at East Lansing, Mich. **Almond D. Aldrich, Jr.**, was married the second time to Hattie Welch, of Delhi, June 28, 1894. Two children were born: Maude Adelaide, died when a few months old; Ada Harriet, born June 3, 1905, in Delhi. **Almond D. Aldrich, Jr.**, died August 25, 1913, at Holt.

Ann Eliza was married to William Adelbert Melton July 3, 1870. Three children were born to them: Eliza Myrtle, born September 14, 1871, and died April 14, 1874; Addie May, born September 21, 1873, married September 20, 1898, to Louis Kyle Politte, of California, died at her home in Fernando, Calif, on March 8, 1902.

Grace Aldrich Melton was born June 3, 1878, married June 21, 1899, to Burt Leland Green, of Mason, Mich. They have two boys, Leland Melton and Ferris Kyle, both in school.\*

**Nathan Aldrich** was married to **Rosaltha Thompson** in Delhi in 1875, and died in July, 1880.

A. D. Aldrich, the father and pioneer settler, was a staunch Democrat. He was a great lover of good horses, and owned at one time eighteen. He loved to hunt and it took a lively man to keep up with him in the woods, but as well as he loved the sport he never neglected his work for the pleasure of hunting. He was known as a good farmer and believed in doing his work in the very best way. One of his sayings was, "a thing that is worth doing at all is worth doing well."

I have him to thank for knowing how to sweep and hold my broom so it will wear straight. In the log house with the fireplace and big brick hearth, it was his delight to see it swept clean, and I, a little girl, was shown how to sweep that hearth by my father.

In our day we know but little of the hardships endured by the early pioneers. A. D. Aldrich and wife, my father and mother, journeyed to Michigan in the fall of 1844, bringing their two children, one an infant only eighteen months old, with them in an open wagon. They settled in the wilderness, as their friends back

East called it. There was only a cattle path through the woods. They lived in a little shanty with a stick chimney, and I have often heard my mother say that almost every day she would have to carry water up 'on the roof and put out the fire as it would catch from this primitive chimney. The first bedstead was made by putting poles in between the logs and building a stationary frame; the trundle-bed for the children was pushed under the pole bedstead. There was always room for one more, and no one was ever turned from the door. In that little new home my father had two or three men logging and helping clear the land. For those men my mother did all the washing in a deep trough hewed from a log and a washboard made by herself with the butcher knife. That outfit was used for five years. The cooking was done by the fireplace, which for the first ten years of Michigan life was all the stove my mother had, I have often heard her tell of her first stove and her first chair.

After a few years of shanty life my father built a split log house, which was talked about a great deal and considered something very grand, and house warmings were very common in that new house. Neighbors would come from miles around for an evening's visit, after a social time, with supper, the fiddlers would tune up, a set would form on in the nice big chamber, and they would trip the light fantastic toe until the "wee sma' hours." Those were happy days; all were working for a home but they took their good times as they went along.

I think it was in 1847 that the Capitol was located and named Lansing. My father helped cut the underbrush so they could play ball where the Capitol now stands. When a certain saw mill was built in Lansing all the men in Delhi who could went together and cut the tallest tree they could find, left all the limbs on and then hitched all the oxen and horses in town to it, and dragged it to mill,

They had so much fun pulling each other off the tree as they were going that my mother often told how she sat up all night to make a new pair of pants to take the place of the ones my father wore to the saw mill,

It cost twenty-five cents to send a letter, and when one came from the loved ones in the eastern home it was hailed with delight.

The Indians came to the homes occasionally and asked for

food. They were friendly, but my mother was always afraid of them. She said they would look at her and then laugh and say "red squaw." They knew very well why her face was red.

Both my father and mother enjoyed the pioneer meetings, they seemed to take them back in years, and they would live those happy early days over again, that were filled with golden memories of long ago.

The day my father was sixty-three years old, April 0, 1878, he with one other man attempted to load a big log onto a sled from a side hill. The hand spike broke and the log rolled onto my father breaking his back. He lived fifty-nine hours suffering great agony. On September 4, 1880, my mother left us, and within three years father, mother, brother and his wife had gone, leaving the big brick house empty. It has now passed out of our family, been sold, and others live in those rooms that are filled with loving memories of our dear ones who are gone never to return.

\*(Leland R. Green was in the S. A. T. C. at East Lansing when the armistice was signed on November 11, 1918. In the fall of 1919 he had an operation for appendicitis, pneumonia followed, and he died at the hospital in Mason.)

Written by Mrs. W. A. Melton, and read by her at the annual meeting of the Ingham County Pioneer and Historical Society in Mason, in June, 1914.

#### DELHI TOWNSHIP RECOLLECTIONS OF MRS. JOSEPH FEIER, HOLT, MICH., DEC. 4, 1919.

I came from Eaton county in 1883 with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Ables, to the township of Delhi.

After we crossed the west town line my father said we were in the Grovenburg Settlement, and that they—the Grovenburg's—were noted for being great hunters, that when they went with their guns they always came home with their share of the game, which was abundant at that time.

The buildings in the settlement were all of logs, though there were but few of them. After a time we came to a place of mud and water, and when I asked what it was my brother told me it was Ghost Lake. He said the men would fix the road good, and

in the night the ghosts would come out of the water and turn the road up side-wise or sink it entirely. That was the reason it was called Ghost Luke.

Fifty-seven years have passed and upon inquiry I think the ghosts must still be on their job, as in 1010 the people are having the same trouble with that road, which to be more modern is now called the Mud Lake road.

As we came farther east it was nothing but swamp and woods, with one or two log houses. Soon we came to what was then known as Delhi Center, where were not more than six buildings, besides the tavern, later known as the hotel, and still later as the old hotel. Here one could get what he wanted to drink and all he wanted. The large dance hall always called great crowds from far and near.

Delhi had a bunch of about a dozen fighters, and they would challenge the fighters from Aurelius, Dansville, Williamston and other towns, and when there was a dance the fighters from some other town would come to Delhi to clean up the bunch here. When they first got here they would not be in fighting mood, but as soon as they thought they were properly filled on drink they would go at it, but they generally got too full to be very great as fighters.

If Delhi got the most black eyes then the men from there would visit the home of their victors, and that made an endless chain of fights,

My home was about one hundred rods south of here (the M. E. church in Holt) and I remember one morning after one of these dances of passing five men lying dead drunk beside the road as I went to school, and the scholars from the north said there were more than that up their way. As they also sold liquor at the "Five Corners" (now known as North Holt) there was no reason for a man to go thirsty. People say that the world is growing worse, but I cannot conceive anything worse than some of those "good old times" we occasionally hear tell about.

When the ladies went to the dances they carried their party gowns in a band-box, and those from a distance generally arrived about five or six o'clock. These boxes were not disturbed until just before the midnight supper, when the ladies would retire to

their rooms and change their gowns in readiness for supper, and after the supper would dance until daylight.

We may well be thankful that we do not live under some of the conditions existing then; it is not that the people were so very bad, but that social laws differed from those of today.

Delhi Township suffered greatly from the effects of the Civil War; those pioneers who laid the foundations for the beautiful farms we now see everywhere were many of them called to the colors. Some gave their lives on the field of battle, and others in Andersonville and other Southern prisons, while those who came home were either maimed or physical wrecks because of the hardships they had endured, but with the same spirit they showed in battle they started anew with their ox teams, ax and hoc, the general equipment of that day.

They were greatly handicapped by sickness, ague being the prevailing disease; the theory was if the drills kept growing lighter every day you would wear it out, but if they grew harder every day it was likely to get you. Probably it was all caused by the impure water, all open wells. Some were stoned up and others were planked inside, and the surface water would seep through the openings. Once or twice a year they would be cleaned out, and often dead animals and other objectionable things would be found.

Pioneers of those days were very punctual in paying their debts. It was often necessary to run a store account to be paid after harvest, and that was always the first thing attended to. You would see a farmer with his ox-team and load of grain start for the market town, in a hurry to sell and pay his debts. There was no such thing known as the installment plan. Their motto was, Courage, Perseverance, and Faith in God.

I have tried to make you live fifty-seven years ago under conditions existing fifty-seven years ago throughout the township. Now I want you to imagine you have been gone fifty-seven years and just arrived in Holt, Delhi Center no more.

Notice our homes, churches and schools, then walk out into the surrounding country and see the productive farms, fine homes, with all modern conveniences, where lighting, heating, washing and milking are all done with modern equipment; high powered tractor:

where they can fit twenty acres of land for wheat in one day, where it took our, forefathers twenty days to fit one acre, and yet people are not content.

Delhi people are proud of their schools, which have always been of high standard, and I don't believe there is another township in the county whose rural population has turned out more professional men and women than Delhi, doctors, lawyers, teachers, preachers and missionaries-and all making good in their work.

Last but not least, we have our politicians, just as great workers in their particular line as any city can produce,

Let us compare the pioneers of the '60's with us today; they with **their** faithful ox **teams**, and frugal way of living, which enabled them to pay all debts promptly, with our way of 1919.

The first party I ever attended I went in an ox cart, one with two large wheels, and the driver walked beside the oxen, **but** it was a swell party for us school children. Now it is with a high powered machine, and we go so fast that we have to dodge the man we owe in order not to run **over him**.

The early days compared to those of 1919 **reminds** me of a bit of verse by Clem Bradshaw, entitled "A Dollar Down."

"Our forefathers frugal planked down the cold cash for their furniture fashions and fixings; they did the same thing for their clothes and their hash, and they ran up no bills for their mixings. But folks now-adays in the country or towns have schemes that are modern and clever; they buy all their stuff a dollar down and a dollar a week forever. And the weeks they come and the weeks they go and ever we're paying, paying; and it's easy to figure and easy to know where the plunks go straying, straying. Carpet and table and folding bed, cabinet, chairs and **piany**; we pay and we pay till its takes the last red, and then start on a new hat for Fanny, . Our 'ancestors lived in an age that was slow; they'd have thought that our ways were most shocking; they bought on the theory 'Pay as you go,' and they saved a **few** coins for the stocking. We live in an age that **is doing** things brown, an age of high aim and endeavor, and we live by paying a dollar down and a dollar a week forever."

Read at the mid-year **meeting** of the Ingham County Pioneer and Historical Society held in **Holt, Dec. 4, 1919.**

## DELHI TOWNSHIP,

Written by Mrs. Myrtle B. Hilliard, **Holt, Mich.**, June 0, 1910.

Read before the Ingham County Pioneer and Historical Society at the 44th Annual Meeting.

This township is situated in the northern part of Ingham county. It is bounded by the township of Lansing on the north, Alaiedon on the east, Aurelius on the south and Windsor, Eaton county, on the west.

The township in most parts has a level **surface**, although some sections are slightly rolling. **There** is however one **ridge** of hills, called the Hogsback, which traverses the township from section **2** to **36**. It is composed of clay, sand and gravel, the last two predominating. The hills are becoming quite valuable, the gravel being used for road building and other purposes. On section **2 a** gravel pit has been opened by Messrs. **Holbrook** and Skinner, and a steam shovel installed. The **Michigan Central** R. R. has run a spur in and a car can be loaded in twelve minutes. This is shipped to all parts of the State.

A few years ago many fine fruit trees were seen growing on the sides of the Hogsback. 'Apples, pears and peaches, also many grapes were raised. These however are decaying fast, and will soon be a luxury of the past. This is also true of much of the fruit in the whole township.

There are many excellent and finely improved farms in the township, which rank among the best in productiveness in the county,

Immense quantities of timber have been cut and **marketed** in former years from the forests, This was mostly oak, whitewood and black walnut.

I said marketed, but I am afraid the term may give to the younger generation a false impression. While much of the wood was sawed and put to good use, much of it was piled into high heaps and burned. This was necessary in order to get it out of the way so the land could be plowed.

When a man wanted to have a logging bee, his neighbors would come from miles around with their ox teams to assist in hauling and piling the logs, after which they **were** fired.

The first settlers in the township are said to have been Frederick

Luther and John Norris. This was in 1837. It is said that H. H. North came here the same year, but could not at that time be called a settler as it was necessary for him to return to New York for his family, and he was not fully settled here until June, 1839. George Phillips settled here in 1839 on section 23, and afterwards kept a hotel and post office at his place at Delhi Center.

Among the other early settlers may be named the several North families, Alonzo Douglas, David Wait, Darius Abbott, John L. Davis, Z. L. Holmes, Matthew King, Wm. Cook, Caleb Thompson, Wm. B. Watson, Price Welch, Josiah Hedden, Wm. Long, Dennis Long, A. D. Aldrich, D. H. Hilliard and Perry Rooker.

The name Delhi is credited to Roswell Everett, just what he took the name from is uncertain.

The first town meeting was held in a log school house at Delhi Center, April 4, 1840. The whole number of votes polled was twenty-two.

Henry H. North was the first supervisor. The first marriage in the township was between Wm. I. Robbins, of Alaiedon, and Lydia M. Wells, of Delhi, July 6, 1842.

Roswell Everatt and Eliza Ann North were married a few months later.

The first building used for a hotel at the Center was built by Price Welch in 1848. Among the landlords who later kept hotel were Mr. Beebe, Joseph Hunt, Wm. Willoughby, Frank North, John Decker, H. J. Aldrich, John Ferguson, Nathaniel Thayer, David Laycock, Reuben Barker and A. J. Black. This hotel was on the ground where the residence of Dr. Alexander now stands.

Some sixty-five years ago (1851) a man named Thomas Treat built a hotel in the western part of Delhi Township on the angling road running from Lansing to Eaton Rapids. It was built of grout and was octagonal in shape. It was called the Octagon Hotel. A frame dance hall was connected with the building. This building was torn down several years ago.

A post office was established at the Center in 1848, with George Phillips as postmaster. He was succeeded by Price Welch, and since then the following persons have served: Caleb Thompson, Samuel Hoffman, S. S. Gidney, L. W. Baker, James Wiegman, Fred Phillips, John Ahrens, S. W. Mayer and Herbert E. Gunn.

All letters were addressed to Delhi Center until after the close

of the Civil War. As soon as the Michigan Central R. R. commenced to carry mail, in 1865 or '66, it was thought best to change the name from Delhi to Holt, as the mail was often mixed with that for Delhi Mills. It took some time to bring this about; I cannot say the exact year when the change took place, but think it must have been between 1865 and 1870 when it was changed to Holt in compliment to Postmaster General Holt.

The first mercantile establishment at Holt was opened by Robert Smith in 1857. Others who have kept general stores are Mosher and Thompson, Samuel J. Hoffman, Hoffman and Watson, Elmer, Baker and Bond, U. T. Watrous, Henry Lott, James Wiegman, M. T. Gunn, E. G. Hunt, M. E. Park, Manchester and Son, Mr. Welch, Sheathelm Bros., Fred B. Phillips, A. E. Hilliard, A. J. Black, Frank Clapham, Gunn and Froodtert, Albert and Nickel, Pay and Wrook, Manz Bros., and Wrook and Eifert.

I think that it must have been in the early eighties that Carl Wohlfahrt opened a harness shop and general leather store. He did a good business for about twenty-five years.

The first saw mill in the township was built by Lee and Corey in 1856. In 1864 it was purchased by J. M. Ables.

The first carriage and wagon shop was owned by Addison Stone at the Five Corners. In 1878 Augustus Gaylord opened a shop at the Center and made wagons, carriages, wheelbarrows, etc.

Durant's history of Eaton and Ingham counties tells us that the first blacksmith was Nelson Hilliard, who owned and operated a shop at the Five Corners, later moving it to section 10. This his children think is not quite correct, as they believe James Cole opened a shop before their father did, at any rate they were both doing business at the same time.

A foundry and repair shop was established about three-fourths of a mile east of Holt by Edwin Shaw, in 1875. In 1879 Isreal Wood became interested and the shop made land rollers, plows, drags and did general repairing.

At one time brick was made on section 13 by Henry Lott and M. T. Brown. Several years ago Alexander Ferguson did quite a business making bed springs, but quit it later.

There are three township cemeteries in Delhi. One on section 3, the North Cemetery, purchased in 1842 from Joshua North for the sum of fifteen dollars.

One on section 14, called "The Pioneer Cemetery," purchased in 1859 and "The Maple Ridge" Cemetery, purchased in 1884. All are located on sandy knolls and kept in good condition. Associations have been formed to beautify and care for each, in co-operation with the town board.

There is also another cemetery in the southwest part of the township called "The Markham Cemetery." This is private property and not under control of the town board.

Dr. **Leverett P. Chaddock** came to Delhi in 1850 and practiced medicine for many years. I think it was in 1884 that he retired from actual practice, but was often called upon for council.

Dr. Wm. Matthaie was a practicing physician in an early day, also Doctor's Joel S. **Wheelock** and Jefferson Ohlinger.

The first school in the township was taught by Miss Lydia M. Wells in the cabin of George Phillips. She also taught the first two terms in the log school house at the Center.

The first school house at the Center was built of logs about 1840. In **1853** a frame building was erected. This did duty until 1875 when a brick building took its place. This burned Nov. 17, 1914, and the following year a modern and commodious school house was built. Three teachers are employed and ten grades are taught.

The Presbyterian church was organized April 5, **1865**, principally through the instrumentality of Rev. Alfred Bryant. Rev. **Hosea** Kittridge was also a valuable assistant. The original members were: James Thorburn, Sr., Wm. Somerville, Mrs. Jane Somerville, Mrs. Mary Hedden, Mrs. Susan Thompson, Mrs. Harriet Stanton, Mrs. Fanny Harkness, Church Wilbur, Mrs. Hannah Wilbur, James Thorburn, Jr., Mrs. Marion Thorburn, Casper Lott, Mrs. Catherine Lott, Mrs. Mariah Mallory, Miss Alice M. Mallory (now Mrs. Pixley), Miss Hattie Stanton (later Mrs. Geo. Bristol), Mrs. Arena Gunn, Wm. Irwin and Mrs. Jane Thorburn, Mr. G. W. Mallory joining a little later. The first minister was Rev. Alfred Bryant, who remained three years at this time, returning again in 1877 and staying nearly three years more.

There were a few Methodists in Delhi at an early date. Rev. Bennett used to preach in the dwelling house and school buildings, and his followers at that time were Mrs. Isabella Abbott, Mrs.

Geo. Phillips, Mrs. L. R. Chaddock, Mrs. Alonzo Douglas, Mrs. Thomas J. Brown, and Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Langley. Wm. Mayer, a native of England, who came to Delhi in 1854, and Albert McEwen were early members also.

About 1854 Mr. McEwen organized a class. At first meetings were held in the school house at the Center, and in the homes, but at a later date at the German Methodist church at the Five Corners, the Germans and others using the church alternately. This continued for about five years, and in 1876 the Methodist Episcopal church was erected at a cost of \$1,500.

Among the early ministers were Revs. Clump, Kellogg, Dodge and Crittenden. The first to preach in the new edifice was Rev. Jason Cadwell, followed by Rev. B. W. Smith.

The German Methodist church was organized in 1868 and in the same year a building for public worship was built at the Five Corners, one-half mile northwest of the Center. This did service until 1894 when the present fine brick church was built. Among the pastors who have preached there we find the names of Rev. G. A. Reuter, G. H. Fiedler, A. Mayer, Daniel Volz, Revs. Gerlock, Gommel, Aust, Scheuman, Dobrie, Wahl and Hey.

The early members were A. Helmker, H. Wiegman, J. Switzgable, G. Diehl, Lewis Dail, Geo. Roth, Geo. Ahrend, Phillip Biebsheimer, H. Exner, Adam Knieriem, Mr. Zickgraf, and Mr. Moldenhauer.

The oldest man in the township at the present time is Harvey Lamoreaux, who was ninety-seven years of age May 20, **1916**. (Was **100** years old on May 20, **1919**, and died in January, **1920**, having fallen and broken his hip a month before. Ed.) He purchased eighty acres of land on section 10, in 1844, and moved his family there the following year, where he lived until his death.

The oldest woman in the township is Mrs. Eliza Collins, who says she will be **100** years old in August, **1916**, but her relatives think her to be one year older than that. There are no records to prove her age, but from events she has mentioned they think her older than she claims to be. She was born in Scottsville, N. Y., and came to Michigan when twenty years of age, coming to Detroit by boat.

From there to Dexter part of the way she rode in a wagon and part of the way she walked, bringing with her her two children,

one aged two years and the other three months. Later she with her husband settled at Eaton Rapids. Her husband here did the work of justice of the peace, lawyer and undertaker. He helped to cut the first trees and build the first building in Eaton Rapids, It is said that he prepared for burial the body of everyone who died in the place until he too passed away.

Mrs. Collins was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Bunker, pioneers of Ingham county, who lived on a farm near where now stands the Bunker church in Aurelius Township. In 1870 Mrs. Collins settled on a farm in the western part of Delhi, and this is still her home. Her grandson and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Everctt, live with her. She is remarkably well preserved for one of her years; her mind is clear and at times she loves to tell anecdotes of pioneer days, which are very interesting to her hearers.

Just who was the first white child born in Delhi Township I cannot say for certain. Henry Phillips was born June 5, 1841, and I have been told that this was the first birth.

If I undersand correctly why it was requested that this paper should be prepared, it was that a history of Delhi Township should be preserved for the benefit of coming generations. Believing this to be the object I would not end the paper without telling something of what is being done in our town today,

First I would mention our churches. There is the German Methodist church with Rev. Theodore Hey as pastor, The Presbyterian church, whose pastor is Rev. Winfield S. Sly, and the Methodist Episcopal church presided over by Rev. George Brown. There is a feeling of good fellowship existing between the three churches, There is a Sabbath school in connection with each, and a good work is being done,

In the western part of the town is another church called the Grovenburg Methodist Protestant church, Rev, Thompson is the pastor. This is a very flourishing wide awake little country church, and is doing much good.

About 1900 there was a post office established near this church called West Holt, with Samuel J. Haley as postmaster, This was continued until rural service was established,

There are three general stores in Holt, Gunn and Foedtert are the proprietors of one. The postoffice is situated in this store, with Herbert E. Gunn as postmaster, For several years there

were two rural mail routes running out of Holt, but one has been discontinued, and Edward Switzgale is the only carrier now.

Wrook and Eifert are proprietors of one general store, and they have a meat market in connection with this. This store, as well as the one occupied by Gunn and Foedtert, is in a new building belonging to the Odd Fellows. The second floor of this building is used for fraternal gatherings.

A, J. Black owns the other Holt store and also the stock. He keeps a line of groceries and buys cream, David Potter runs a tin shop in the rear of Mr. Black's store.

Bryce Spencer and Fred Nickel each run a blacksmith shop where horseshoeing and general blacksmith work is done.

Drs. E, P. North and R, H. Alexandar are our efficient doctors. Practice is quite evenly divided.

The Bell Telephone has an exchange at Holt. The rates are \$14 per year for Holt and \$16 for Holt and Lansing. This gives a wide range of territory and good service is had.

The Michigan Central Railroad runs one-half mile east of Holt village, where there is a passenger station and a freight depot.

Perhaps the one thing that has been the greatest boom to Holt and made it a desirable residence place is the electric railway. This runs directly through the town, and all cars stop in the village, making it very convenient for people to live here and work in Lansing and also send their children to school there.

Holt is a well kept, neat little villngo. The people are, as a rule, of good habits, quiet and law-abiding. One thing is noticeable, and I think commendable, all seem loyal to their home town. If perchance they have found homes elsewhere, they are almost certain to come, back in time to view old scenes and renew old acquaintances.

Along the electric road, all the way from Holt to Lansing, small tracts of land are being bought and houses built. This land brings from \$200 to \$300 per acre.

These houses are being built so rapidly that the saying has already gone forth "that Lansing will soon be a suburb of Holt."

Since writing the above I have learned that the first white child born in Delhi was Marion North, daughter of H. H. North, and in after years became the wife of Irving Holmes. She was the mother of Clarence E. Holmes, Superintendent of the School for the Blind,

also the mother of Mrs. Wm. Gardner, who with her husband was drowned in Grand river some years ago.

I believe Henry Phillips was the first male child born in the township.

Henry D. North wrote for the annual meeting of the Ingham County Pioneer Association, held in Mason, May 25, 1878, the following:

The township of Delhi was first settled in January, 1888, by Frederick R. Luther and wife of Lenawee county, Mich. William Wood, Joseph Wilson, Philander Morton and Mr. Norris came the same year.

In 1839 my father, Joseph E. North, settled in what is now Lansing Township, from his former home Lansing, Tompkins county, N. Y. My mother died in August, 1854, aged 64 years, I first came to Ingham county to look for a location in the fall of 1837, and moved my family here in the spring of 1830.

The first death was that of the wife of William Wood, who died in the summer of 1889. Our oldest child was the first white child born in the township.

Elder Bennett, of the M. E. church, was our first minister. The first couple married here was Russell P. Everet and Eliza A., daughter of Joseph E. North. Delhi was inserted in the petition to the Legislature for organization in 1841 by Roswell Everett,

Matthew King came from Scotland in 1889, and bought 160 acres of land from the government at one shilling an acre, one-half mile east of Delhi Center. He lived in a cave in the hogs back the first winter, then built a log house and married Flora Hudson. Seven children came from this union, Sarah, Jane, Maryann, William, Catherine, John, Marcia and Mattie, five of them still living in 1919. Later Mr. King took some gravel and lime and built one of the first gravel or grout houses, which still stands on the hogsback. One day the family looked out of the house and saw a hog coming toward them; some wild animal had eaten a meal out of one ham, and the hog was hastening into the vicinity of human beings.

Such was life in those early days!

Written for the mid-year meeting at Holt, Dec. 4, 1919.

#### HARVEY LAMOREAUX.

Was born in Ransellaerville, Albany county, N. Y., May 20, 1819, and died at his home near North Holt, Ingham county, in the spring of 1920. He remained active and in possession of all his faculties, except his eyesight, until after his one hundredth birthday. Soon after the year 1920 opened he had the misfortune to fall and break one hip, and his death followed after a few weeks.

When he was five years old his parents moved to Green county, N. Y., among the Catskill Mountains, Five years later they moved to Wayne county on the old Erie canal. When he was fifteen years old his parents migrated to Michigan and settled in Lenawee county. Michigan was then a Territory, He lived in Lenawee county ten years before he finally settled in Ingham county, purchasing the farm on which he died, three-fourths of a mile north of the German church in North Holt. Mr. Lamoreaux bought the farm from Alexander Morton, who had taken it from the government. He gave \$176.00 for eighty acres.

In 1843, the year he bought the farm, Mr. Lamoreaux was married to Lucretia Glassbrook, and the next year they came to their home in Ingham county. There were no roads at this time and as there was no house on this land he and his family stayed at the home of his brother-in-law, Fred Luther, who lived on what is now the Miller farm at Miller's Crossing, until he could build a shanty. This he did and moved in a little before Christmas with the snow a foot deep. The shanty was 12 x 14 feet square and covered with shakes.

The family lived in this shanty six years, then built a log house 16 x 25 feet with a chamber. The logs were whitewood, hewed very smooth and about two feet wide. These used to be white-washed. Mr. Lamoreaux moved his goods from the shanty to the log house on a hand sled. In 1868 he built the substantial frame house where he lived with his daughter at the time of his death. He says that his sister, Mrs. Luther, was the first white woman ever in Delhi Township, and that she was here six months before she ever saw another white woman, and then Eck North, who had

been to **Leslie** and married, came, bringing his wife to his home in Lansing, and stopped at Mr. **Luther's**.

The Indians were frequent callers and always hungry, but when fed would leave very good-natured.

Mr. **Lamoreaux**, when 96 years old, told that he split all the wood his family burned the preceding winter, except one-half cord. On his one hundredth birthday a family reunion was held at his home to which some of his oldest neighbors were invited, and he greatly enjoyed the day, and particularly having his picture taken.

Mrs. **Lamoreaux** died Feb. 93, 1905, and of their eight children six survived both the father and mother. Thirty-seven grand and great-grandchildren are left to hear the story of the pioneer life of Mr. and Mrs. **Lamoreaux**.

#### THE NORTH FAMILY IN DELHI,

By **HOWARD C. NORTH**, Holt, Mich., 1920.

Our family is of English origin. The first one to come to the United States was **Roger North**, who came before the Revolution and settled near Philadelphia, **Joseph North, Sr.**, his grandson, left there when a young man and settled at Lansing, N. Y., in Tompkins county, which was the "frontier" at that time. His son, **Joseph North, Jr.**, came to Michigan and settled in Lansing Township in 1836. With him came **Levi Buck**, an older brother of **Daniel W. Buck**, "an old pioneer of Lansing, and they settled in section 32. **Joseph North** gave the name Lansing to the township after his old home in New York. A few years later, when the Capital was located at the junction of the Grand and Cedar rivers, at what was then the town of Michigan, his younger brother, **Henry Harrison North**, my grandfather, went before the Legislature and proposed the name of Lansing for the new city, which was accepted April 1, 1848.

**Joshua**, another son of **Joseph North, Sr.**, came to Ingham county in 1837, and the father, **Joseph E.**, came the following year,

Their goods were shipped by canal to Buffalo, thence by the steamer Michigan to Detroit. From there they were shipped to

**Ypsilanti**, which was then the end of the road. There they were met by **Joseph E., Jr.**, who had come from Lansing with an ox team to meet them.

My grandfather, **Henry Harrison North**, came on a visit in 1837. He went back to New York, and in December, 1838, was married to **Miss Almira Buck**, a sister of **Daniel W. Buck**. They came to Michigan and settled with his father on the farm in Delhi which always remained their home. His son, **Dr. J. S. North**, lived on it until his death and it is still owned by his family.

Another brother, **John**, father of **Dr. E. P. North**, soon purchased a farm adjoining his brother's,

**Joshua** also purchased an adjoining farm in 1840, and went back to the old New York home to marry another sister of **Daniel W. Buck**. When they arrived in Ann Arbor, to which the road had been extended, he found his father, who had taken a load of wheat to market, and went home with him. The father and four sons purchased in all 1,280 acres, parts of which are still owned by their descendants.

**Joseph North**, who was a surveyor, laid out the road from Lansing to Mason through Delhi Center in 1837. The same year he built the first bridge over the Cedar river in Lansing.

The first marriage in the township was that of **Russell P. Everett** to **Eliza Ann North**, daughter of **Joseph North, Sr.**

The first white child born in the township was my father's oldest sister, **Marian**, the mother of **Clarence Holmes**, of Lansing. An incident which happened then illustrates the wilderness conditions of that time. The family needed additional help and **Joshua** went over where Mt. Hope Cemetery is now, and engaged the services of a young woman living there. He was taking her home behind him on horseback. The road was only partly brushed out; night fell; he had lost the path and looked for it in vain. The candle in his old-fashioned tin lantern was nearly gone, so he stopped and kindled a fire in the butt of a fallen tree, to drive off the wolves which were following them. Then they sat by the fire and watched until morning. When day came they found the trail and continued their journey.

The township of Delhi was organized from **Alaiedon** in February, 1842. The name is credited to **Roswell Everett**, who inserted it in the petition sent to the Legislature.

The first cemetery in the township was the North Cemetery, which was laid out in 1842, and cost the township fifteen dollars,

The first town meeting was held in a log school house at Delhi Center, April 4, 1842. It was organized by appointing David Wait, chairman; Roswell Everett, Caleb Thompson, D. H. Stanton and Henry H. North inspectors. The whole number of votes cast was twenty-two. The following is the list of officers elected:

**Supervisor—Henry H. North,**

**Clerk—Caleb Thompson.**

Treasurer—Roawell Everett,

Henry H. North brought into the township with him the first hog that was here. He made a log pen and covered it with logs to keep out the wild animals. One spring day while he was making sugar in the woods my grandmother, hearing the hog making an outcry, ran out just in time to see a bear push off the top logs and try to lift the hog out of the pen. She ran where they were and tried to scare the bear away, but he had no mind to lose his pork dinner. At this opportune moment two of my grandfather's brothers arrived on the scene, and succeeded in driving the bear away with **clubs**, and *without* the hog. The porker's back had to be sewed up where the bear's claws had ripped it open, but in a short time she was none the worse for the adventure, and lived to tell the story to her children.

I have heard my father tell stories of the Indian Chief Okemos. He often stopped at grandfather's and would open the door and walk in without knocking. Grandfather reprovved him, saying that white folks knocked before entering anyone's house. The next time Okemos stopped he pounded vigorously on the door, then opened it at once and entered with a satisfied expression, exclaiming, "Me heap *white* man now, me *knock*." Once a year, sometimes twice, he and his band would pass grandfather's home and camp on the flints north of there. The string of ponies was often **more than three quarters** of a mile long. When the **first** one was opposite the house the last one had not yet passed the North school house.

One day, a 'squaw stopped at grandfather's and wanted to trade baskets for food. Seymour North, then a little fellow of three or four, had crawled way back **under** the elevated oven of the old fashioned stove, but the sharp eyes of the Indian woman saw

him, and she pointed at him with a broad grin, saying, "Little papoose, little papoose!" Then she turned and picked up a board which she had leaned against the wall on entering. On **it** was strapped an Indian baby and holding it up she said, "Me little papoose too."

**One** day father and some of his brothers followed the band to see them make camp. When they reached the flats a short distance north of the old home, the braves seized their guns and disappeared in the **forest in quest of game, leaving the squaws** the setting up of tents, starting fires, and such trivial duties. They worked very swiftly, and in **a** short time the rifles began to crash out in the forest, telling that the braves, too, were busy. One after another they came in with their woodchucks, squirrels, rabbits or birds and threw them at the feet of the squaws. Their part was done until meal time. The daughter of Chief Okemos who was one of the most beautiful Indian girls, had just married a young brave, who by virtue of his marriage to the Chief's daughter became second chief. She had just finished setting up the wigwam and started the fire when her husband, stalked in with a big deer over his shoulder. This he laid at her feet. In an **incredibly** short time she had skinned it and had some of the choicest portions over the fire. Perhaps this was due to entire elimination of washing either hands or venison.

Once some of the boys persuaded Chief Okemos to have his picture taken. He protested vigorously, saying, "If any tnce my face I die." Then one after another sat for their **pictures** to show them it did not harm them. **At last** with some misgivings he sat with two of them to have his picture taken.

Fifty-five years ago (1865) my father was passing along the path where Whitmore's Corners now lies. He'd been spending the evening with a young lady and was returning home somewhere about midnight. Suddenly a black shape reared up in front of him, and an ominous growl was heard. Thinking it a rather surly, big black dog he fired **twice** with his pistol. The black shape vanished and he went on to the place where he worked just west of the corners. The next day two men came by inquiring if he had seen a bear. He said "No," but went with them, **following** the tracks. These led to the place just where he had seen and **fired** at the "dog." They were bloody tracks from that point.

The men followed on, found the bear and killed him just west of where the School for the Blind is now. In **the bear's** hide they found two holes made by father's pistol shots,

One night John North, Dr. E. P. North's father, was on his way home from an evening spent with Miss Eliza Skinner, who later became his wife. When he reached a little flat which was known as "Grovenburg's prairie" he was overtaken by a pack of wolves. He shinned up a tree just in time to escape the leader's jaws. There he was forced to cling and shiver while the pack camped underneath. At last, when daylight came, the brutes withdrew deeper into the forest, and, cramped and half-frozen he was able to scramble down and go home.

#### C L A N THORBURN.

The history of Delhi Township would not be complete without a sketch of the **Thorburn** family,

It was in 1848 that John and Robert **Thorburn** sailed from Glasgow, Scotland, in an old wooden sailing vessel, leaving their native land for the new world. The fact that land could not be bought in **Scotland**, and the desire to own homes of their own, and having heard of the cheap lands in **America**, were the chief reasons for their making the change. The desire had been growing for several years; as such things usually grow,

Leaving Glasgow, they turned their faces westward, the old vessel slowly moving before the wind down the river Clyde toward the ocean. When in mid-ocean they were taken in a calm and lay rocking in the cradle of the deep for nearly four weeks. Food and water became about exhausted and had to be rationed out. At length a breeze arose and the vessel began to move, finally **reaching** New York harbor, where our wanderers were welcomed to the new world at Castle Garden, after a three months' voyage on the briny deep.

Upon reaching New York they left at once for Pittsburgh, Pa., where each of the **Thorburn** brothers found work at his respective trade, one as a blacksmith and the other as a stonecutter. They did not stay long in Pittsburgh, however, but soon came to Michigan to the home of a former friend and **acquaintance** in Scotland,

William Cook, who with his wife and **family** had four years previously come to Michigan and settled on section **23**, Delhi Township, in Ingham county.

Soon after John and Robert **Thorburn** reached Delhi John took up forty acres adjoining Mr. Cook, on the south, and here during the winter following they chopped off four or five acres of timber and erected a log house in preparation for the father and mother who were to arrive in the following spring.

The father and mother, James and Christina Boe Thorburn, reached Delhi in the summer of **1849** and settled in the new house the boys had built the previous winter. Their children were John and Robert, who preceded them to Delhi, James, Jr., and one daughter, Jane, who married William Somerville in Scotland.

James, Jr., and **Marian**, his wife, came with their family to this country in 1856 and settled on **120** acres of land on section **23**, Delhi. The same year Jane and her husband, William Somerville, came to Michigan and settled on a forty acre farm adjoining James **Thorburn** on the south. Robert took up a claim in Gratiot county, where he raised a family of four boys and two girls.

He died early in life leaving his wife with six children, who were looked after by the grandfather, James Thorburn, Sr., and soon were moved to Ingham county and located **on** an eighty acre farm on section **27**, Delhi, which one of these boys still owns. The mother is best known among her friends as Aunt Jane **Mal-lory**. Her sons, James, Robert, John D., Thomas Martin, are all much respected residents of **Holt**. William is a resident of Lansing. One daughter, Christina, married Matthew Cook, **of** Holt, and is the mother of two girls, **Mettie** and Inez. Mr. Cook died young. Jane Ann married Byron Wilcox and to this union four sons were born, George, Raymond, Bert and Chester,

On Jan. **26, 1854**, John **Thorburn** was married to Hannah Jane **Olds**, of Lansing. This union was blessed with three sons, James Boe, William Warren, and **Robert** Clark. James Bde married Louisa Mary, daughter of Casper and Catherine Lott, of Delhi, Dec. **23, 1874**, and two daughters, Rose Bell, born Oct. **6, 1875**, and **Nettie** May, born May **22, 1880**, with one son, John Royal E., born Dec. **2, 1883** (died Dec. **13, 1912**), came to bless this home. **Nettie** May married Rev. Cecil Everett **Pollok**, Oct. 6, **1903**.

They have two sons and one daughter. Rose is a maiden lady and lives at home with her parents.

She was a successful public school teacher until failing health forced her to retire.

**William** Warren was born in Delhi Aug. 14, 1858, and was married Jan. 31, 1878, to Anna **T. Wauvle**, also of Delhi, and to them **was born** one son, George, on **Dec. 24**, 1878. Mr. Thorburn's second marriage occurred on **Oct. 20**, 1891, to **Marian** Lang, of Delhi.

Robert Clark, third son of John Thorburn, was born Aug. 14, 1865, and on Aug. 10, 1899, he married Bertha Phelps, of Bath. They had one son, Russell, born March **18, 1900**. Robert C. was a member of Co. **F, 31st** Michigan Volunteer Infantry, with the rank of sergeant, and served in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. **He** contracted fever in the service, which resulted in his death on **Oct. 30**, 1908.

John **Thorburn** was a blacksmith by trade, and after getting his father and mother comfortably located in the new home in Delhi he worked for some years in Mason, Jackson and Ypsilanti. **He** finally located in Lansing and built a brick shop on the south side of Franklin Avenue east, which he run for five years very successfully. **He** contracted typhoid fever about that time, and after a three months illness concluded he would quit blacksmithing and move to the farm,

In March, 1858, he moved his family to the farm on section **24** Delhi, and there remained the balance of his **life**, having collected 950 acres of land and other property, **He** died **Dec. 20**, 1908. His wife Hannah Jane died March **16, 1889**.

Politically the Democratic and Republican parties are both represented. However the Thorburn's never figured much in politics, but they have all been conscientious and loyal supporters of **the** government, and also loyal supporters of the Presbyterian church at Bolt. In fact, they were so numerous in the church at one time that nearly every other person you met was a Thorburn, **but like** the disciples of old, they have been scattered and can be **found** doing a good work for the Master in other churches.

Well do I remember Grandfather James **Thorburn** as a weaver farmer and churchman. Weaving was his trade in Scotland and of course when he came here the country was new and cloth

scarce. It was a great advantage in a new country to be able to make one's own cloth. The women would prepare wool which was taken to Lansing and carded, then they would spin the yarn, and perhaps color some of it, and grandfather would put it in the loom and weave the cloth for our clothes. This would wear well as I have reason to **know**. **he** a farmer hidoperations were not extensive, but what he did was thoroughly done. Well do I remember the old ox-cart, made by cutting two blocks off a large log **for** wheels, and an **"ex"** (axle-tree) and a tongue made from a sapling, and with a box the cart was complete.

As **a** churchman grandfather was all right. Coming from the free kirk of Scotland he had some notions of his own, yet he was a firm believer, a faithful worker and strong supporter of the church.

Perhaps I might give one incident which shows something of the character of the man. The young people had organized a choir and taken an organ into the gallery and on Sunday morning they went up to sing, not having asked permission of the session first. Grandfather, who was a member of the session, being hard of hearing, used to sit in a chair in front of the pulpit, facing the audience. He took his seat this particular Sunday morning, and as he happened to look up and saw the young people there he asked **Mr. Lott**, another member of the **session**, what they were doing. **Mr. Lott** told him when he requested this other elder "to gang **awa** up and tell them to come **doon**," and the result was that when **Mr. Lott** delivered his message they immediately "came **doon**." Grandfather joined the church as a charter member in 1865, and was a faithful member and official until his death which occurred in May, 1876

A little incident occurred the **first** {winter when the boys were clearing their land which might be of interest. Each had a good ax, and both were strong and active. One day as they were chopping a tree, one on each side, making the chips fly, their axes came together with a clap in the middle of the tree, and the result was two axes badly damaged. The next question was where could they **find** a grindstone? They were told that **Mr. Darius Abbott** at Mud Lake corners had a stone, and they went there to sharpen their tools, consuming much valuable time in so doing. John, who was of a practical turn of mind, decided that a grindstone was needed in their own, neighborhood, and their neighbor **Mr. Cook**

said if they would buy the stone he would make a frame and hang it, to which they readily agreed and a stone was soon procured.

In 1859 when John Thorburn moved from Lansing to the farm on section 24, Delhi, the city people laughed at him and said he would soon starve out. He replied, "I will give it a five year trial and if in that time I do not succeed as a farmer I will move back to the city." Result, The first year the weevil took the wheat so that only five or six bushels were left, not enough for seed. The following year the frost killed the wheat and corn, so that year there was no wheat for bread nor corn for johnny-cake. Two years of crop failure made it look as though the Lansing people were laughing right, but the laugh soon was turned, for that fall the farmer sowed wheat and rye. The spring following he sowed spring wheat, oats, corn, buckwheat, beans, etc., and had the joy of reaping good and bountiful crops of everything. But something had to be done to offset the bad years. The farmer had several fat sheep which he killed, took the carcasses, pelts and tallow, also some whitewood lumber, and drove through to Dexter and traded these commodities for flour and provisions. Tallow was high in those days as nearly everyone used tallow candles. At the end of the five years' probation on the farm things were so prosperous that father had no desire to return to the city, but continued to farm until 1890, when he practically retired.

It was customary for the cows to run in the woods in the early days before fences were built, and it often happened that at dark no cows were in sight, and it would become necessary for father to listen for the bell that he might be guided to where the cows were. Some of the bell cows would become so cute that they would stand perfectly quiet so the bell would not ring, then it was difficult to locate them. When father first came to the farm the deer would often show up in the clearing. Often droves of wild turkeys would cross the farm or live in the cornfield next to the woods. Wild pigeons were very plentiful in spring and fall. Thus father and mother, no less, experienced the joys and privations of the new country and lived to see the wilderness blossom like the rose. They, together with their brothers and sisters, took a large share in the making of Delhi Township what it is today.

Having labored, their work is finished and their mantles have fallen upon the shoulders of their sons and daughters. May they rest in peace,

**JOHN BOE THORBURN.**

#### RECOLLECTIONS.

A paper read by M. E. Park, Holt, Mich., at the mid-year meeting of the Ingham County Pioneer and Historical Society on December 4, 1919.

I covet the ability to tell the story of the past at this time, for I am looking into the faces of many this afternoon that have had some of the same experiences and witnessed many of the things that I have.

Where my parents settled, and where I was born, on section 11, Delhi, was one of the most unpromising places you can imagine. Long stretches of causeway had to be built on both sides of our home. The hogsback on the west was as steep as anyone could climb, and was eight rods from the base to the top. On the north end of our farm was the Sycamore which for years had to be forded, or passage made on a log laid across the stream. Many times I crossed with great fear and trembling. One time when I was carrying a niece of mine to the other side we both fell in. Later there were built several bridges at different points over the creek. Some of them had as many as twenty-five bents, and were covered with planks but no railing. I always walked very close to the middle when going over.

One-half mile east of our place was what was known as the "Mason clearing," several acres in extent. There were hardly any stumps on it, and this might have possibly been the first home of white people in Ingham county. I was told that two brothers by the name of Mason, accompanied by a woman, cleared the land. The woman died and the men went away. I was shown where the grave was.

The reason for their stopping here might have been that the timber on considerable land in this vicinity was small and easily cleared off.

There was always a dispute as to who was the first settler in Delhi; Fred Luther coming first to what is the Miller farm at Miller road, where he built a shanty. John Norris came some time later and built a house on section 3 and moved his family into it before Mr. Luther's house was occupied, and thus he claimed the distinction of being the first settler in Delhi.

The school house where I first attended school was built of logs, and was about 18 x ~~24~~ feet in **size** with the stove set in the middle of the room.

The desks were built around the sides and end of the room, We had to sit facing the walls when writing, which was the only time we used the desks, While studying and reciting we sat facing the center of the room on benches split out of trees which had sticks placed in holes bored in them to support them.

Logs were drawn up by the side of the school house, and the young men from fourteen to twenty years of age cut the wood to warm the room. These young men, many of them visited their traps before coming to school, These were generally of the kind called "dead-falls," One young man reported on two different occasions having found two mink in his traps. The fur **was** bringing \$10 at that time, which was just the price of a **pair** of French calf boots.

Matches were scarce and we were often sent to the neighbors for live coals with which to start the fire.

The readers used in the schools at that time contained the best expressions on patriotism of any time in the history of the country. The contents were also of a religious nature, The leather covered Sander's fifth reader, which **I** still possess, devoted one-third of its contents to religious quotations founded on the Bible, The Scriptures were brought to the pupils through the text books., On examining the readers of the same grade used in our schools now we found only two selections that made mention of God or religion.

The qualifications of teachers in those early days was determined by three school commissioners who conducted the examinations orally. At that early date, 1856, each school possessed a library of good books. Many of them discussed religious subjects and contained biographies of good men.

When I was quite a lad the Indian chief, Okemos, and his tribe **was** much talked of. I saw him once. The squaws came several times to our house, peddling baskets, The old Chief often visited Lansing, but could never be persuaded to have his picture taken, saying if they took his face he would die, until on one **ocassion** Joseph North, father of the North's that early settled in Delhi, and my grandfather, **Dennison** Hewett Hilliard, met him

in Lansing, and knowing his appetite **for** fire-water persuaded him to take enough so that he was in condition to fall in with their plan for getting his picture taken.

This I saw several times, with North on one side of the old Chief and Hilliard on the other.

There are but three landmarks in the **way** of **buildings** left, **One** is **Fred Nichol's** blacksmith shop, which is a part of the first hotel, and was the bar-room. The residences of William Buck and C. A. Gunn are the others. Delhi at this time has the distinction of having the two oldest people in the county, Harvey Lamoreaux and **Eliza** Collins,

The village for **many** years was known as Delhi Center, but in the early sixties it was changed to Holt, in honor of the postmaster general at that time. The first settlers mostly came from New York, but a little later many came from Germany, England and Scotland. In 1875 the German language was about as commonly spoken as the English.

At an early day the village had two hotels, and both had bars where liquor was sold, and large dance halls, often as many as two hundred and fifty couples attending these dances. There was much drunkenness and fighting and various kinds of immorality prevalent then.

#### JERUSALEM WAGON FITCHBURG CURIOSITY,

Correspondent Sends **Interesting** Item to News. Wagon of 1877 Had Wheels Six Feet in Diameter--Has No Axle.

To those who have read "The Chronicles of Break **O'Day**," a story dealing with affairs in the early seventies, in the southern part of Ingham and the northern part of Jackson counties, to hear of a "Jerusalem Wagon" will be nothing new, though they, as well as others, may be interested in an item furnished by a Fitchburg correspondent to the Ingham County News in October, 1877. It reads as follows:

One of the curiosities of this burg is a new Jerusalem wagon, brought into existence by a Mr. Drew, three miles east of **this** place. The wheels are six feet in diameter, the running gear is simply two racks, The wheels run between two perpendicular