

## **Early Farmington Settlement**

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# Farmington Observer

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## March: Farmington's month of founding

*The writer, David Litogot, is a Farmington Historical Society member and a history teacher at Wooddale Elementary School in Farmington Hills.*

March. That unpredictable month is also the month of Farmington's founding.

Assuming that the climate of the region is the same as it was over 160 years ago, it might seem an unlikely time for travel, building a cabin and establishing a home-stand.

On the whole, however, it was an ideal time for Arthur Power to start a settlement that would someday become Farmington and Farmington Hills.

In the fall of 1823, Arthur Power, a Quaker from New York, scouted the newly organized southern Oakland County region, even camping overnight near a spring close to the present Orchard Lake Road---10-Mile Road intersection.

He must have liked what he saw; the following February, he and four other men left their Farmington, N.Y., homes to make a new start in the Michigan Territory. Land was selling for \$1.25 an acre and Mr. Power, a widower, needed more of it for his family. (He had 11 children at the time. He would remarry and have two more).

The four other hardy adventurers were sons John and Jared (ages 27 and 19) and neighbors David Smith and Daniel Rush. They traveled by sleigh westward cross the Niagra River and into Canada. If the roads were "rolled," sleigh travel was faster and smoother than wagon travel.

According to the "History of Oakland County, 1877," the men hastened through "Upper Canada and meeting with no adventures more exciting than such as arise from extremely bad roads and worse lodgings and fare, with the occasional howl of wolf or scream of panther, to break the monotony of the route.

**ARRIVING IN** Windsor and eventually Detroit two weeks later, the five bought supplies and tended to some business before embarking on the inland trek to the newly purchased land.

Between Detroit and that land existed a "dismal" swamp. If it were spring or summer, travel, with the mud and mosquitos, would have been miserable.

Late winter gave the Power party a drier and harder trail. Indian trails did exist that would have taken the five directly to the present Farmington area.

Instead, they opted for a better-traveled route out of Detroit. This route at the time was called the Saginaw Trail and took the New Yorkers northwest from Detroit.

The road generally followed a sandy ridge close to the present Woodward and Livernois routes. Indians of the Saginaw Valley used this trail-road for years to visit Detroit to pick up supplies. The Saginaw Road skirted a swamp in what is today Royal Oak and the Power party spent the night in Hamilton.

**HAMILTON IS** now called Birmingham and was home to four families and three taverns (for it was a well-traveled road.) "From whence they proceeded by the settlements of Jenks, Sly, Durkee

and Baker to their places of destination."

Some research showed that Jenks was a group of cabins in what is Southfield today. Sly was near the present Maple and Franklin Road intersection, and Durkee probably in Bloomfield Township. Baker is still a question mark. The route was rather vague for the roads followed streams and Indian trails that do not exist today. Not until years later, after proper surveying and land developing, did the pattern of roads follow section boundaries.

Power's southwesterly route from Hamilton seemed out-of-the-way but as I mentioned, it was a better-traveled trail and other New York settlers were close by. (The New Yorkers even brought the names of Troy, Rochester and Auburn to Michigan's Oakland County).

Indian reservations existed in southwest Southfield and near Orchard Lake but the native Americans provided no real threat to these early settlers. The Treaty of 1807 "pushed" most of the Ottawa Indians westward.

**POWER AND** his crew eventually reached the Lansing Post Road (11 Mile) and followed it westward to the predetermined site, which was reached in the late afternoon of March 8. (According to Nathan Power's diary, it was March 3, but he wrote that years later.)

"Not much time was lost in preliminaries, they saw the foe before them---great forest-trees and they moved to the assault unhesitatingly." A giant tree was felled before the men turned in.

Evidently, they slept in the wagon or in a tent (remember it is March!)

The next task was to construct a cabin on this site near where Power Road and 11 Mile Road meet today. This cabin, "by the bank of a small run," was one of about 300 at the time in Oakland County.

Daniel Rush would last only three weeks on the job before being overcome by homesickness and returning to New York. David Smith would earn \$160 for his year of service under Arthur Power and settle down in the area.

During that first year, several acres were cultivated and more land was cleared. This 160-acre plot was to eventually belong to Arthur's son, Nathan, who was tending the Power interests in New York. (Nathan would arrive in 1826, taking only 10 days by steamship and wagon.)

**OTHER LAND** was purchased by the elder Power—a quarter section for each of his sons and 80 acres for each daughter. Eventually, the Power land-clearing operation moved south to the bank of the Upper Rouge, where a sawmill was built. During this time, over 40 people have settled in the area and was called Powerville, Quakertown and eventually Farmington.

This area of dense oak, maple, and beech forests was starting to witness areas of sunlight, openings where these settlers put their work ethic to task and start what we have today: a Farmington bigger than its namesake in New York and hopefully never forgetting its roots.

# The Farmington Enterprise

FORTY-SIXTH YEAR—No. 38

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JULY 19, 1934.

5c a copy; \$1.50 a year.

## 'How Farmington Was Founded' Is Told In Article

Narrative by N. H. Power Gets Wide Publicity in Detroit Sunday Newspaper.

*A story of how Farmington was founded and developed is now a widely published and read narrative, placed before the eyes of many thousands of Michigan people. The story, written from material furnished by City Clerk N. H. Power, was printed in the Detroit Free Press, and provided Detroit and outstate readers with a history of Farmington.*

*The article reads as follows:*

"Because a Quaker father of six boys and six girls, wanted at his death to give each of his boys a farm this city was settled 110 years ago and for years was known as 'Quakertown.'

"The story of the City's founding is recalled by Nathan Power, Farmington city clerk, and great-grandson of the founder, Arthur Power.

"My great-grandfather lived in Farmington, N. Y. Land was getting scarce and expensive there. To give his family the start that he considered his duty he was forced to emigrate. He picked Michigan, which at that time boasted no settlements of consequence except Detroit. He came through Canada, crossed the river ice at Detroit, and made his way slowly to the present site of Farmington by oxcart.

"He took up 680 acres in what is now the heart of Farmington and all of the old deeds can be traced back to his original grant. The land was covered with valuable trees, hard maple, oaks, and beeches. To clear it was a Herculean task.

"Logs that would be worth thousands today were cut and burned to clear a spot where the family's crops might be grown. There was no use and no available market for them then, Mr. Power recalls.

### Named for a N.Y. Village

"The new clearing was called Farmington for the pleasant New York village, which the family at times no doubt recalled with yearning.

"However, other members of the sect of Friends were attracted to the new community, and the place became known popularly as 'Quakertown.'

"Among the early settlers and the first physician in the community was Dr. Webb, a Quaker. He was a one-man Board of Commerce, Rotary Club and Civic Improvement Society. Active and progressive, he declared a post-office a necessity. Because of his persistence, Uncle Sam finally said 'yes' and probably with a sly chuckle named the insistent medic as the first postmaster.

"That was all right with the doctor and he undertook to deliver the mail as he was making his calls. The Government allowed him a shilling a letter for deliveries.

"The nature of the postal service given depended upon the health of the neighborhood. If many were ill there was daily service. If illness was rare the mail might remain in the doctor's bag for days or even a few weeks before delivery.

### Schools Opened in 1826

"Mr. Power's grandfather, also named Nathan, was the first school teacher in the community, opening his school in 1826. The hardworking, scrupulously honest Quakers prospered and won the respect of their neighbors. They opened stores and the town began to grow.

"The Quakers maintained their influence as between 50 and 60 of the few pioneers who made up the early population of the Village belonged to that sect.

"The Quaker cemetery is still an important burying place in Farmington. There lay the bodies of the generations which have helped build the city. Among them is the body of John Power, who despite his Quaker ancestry, served in the Civil War with Admiral Farragut at Mobile Bay. Over the grave of Arthur Power is a modest marker, stating that he was the first settler.

### Plague Claimed Victims

"Nearby are buried Mr. Power's grandmother, Mrs. Nathan Power, and her four year-old daughter, first to be buried in the cemetery, who were stricken Aug. 2, 1832 by the dread Asiatic cholera and died within a few hours.

"The plague was brought to Detroit by soldiers dispatched from the East to quell an Indian uprising in Illinois.

"As a youth, Mr. Power, now 73 years old, recalls that he attended the old Meeting House which adjoined the cemetery and which is now incorporated in a dwelling on the same site.

"Men and women, divided by a partition, sat on opposite sides of the church. There were no preachers or regular speakers. The worshippers

sat silent until they were 'moved by God' to speak when one of their number arose and voiced whatever noble thought inspired him,' he recalls.

"One other direct descendant of the pioneer founder still lives in the city. She is Miss Mary Power, a cousin of the city clerk.

"Mr. Power has two grown children to carry on the family name, but neither lives in Farmington.

"Pride in his family and its accomplishments has caused Mr. Power to make an intensive study of the City's history and he is popularly known as the 'Farmington Historian.'"

# The Farmington Enterprise

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FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1925.

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## FARMINGTON'S EARLY SETTLERS

### First Wedding in 1826— First Death Three Months After Arrival of First Settlers

The first settlers came to Farmington in the year 1824. They were few in number. More families came in 1825. Among them were Howland Mason, who invented a plow; George Thayer and Rufus Thayer, brothers who settled on section 31; and Nathaniel Tolman, who the next year, 1826, married Mary Lewis. This wedding was the first in the town. It was solemnized before "Squire" Amos Mead in a log house that stood on section 24 in the northeastern part of the township near the John Boyle farm. Short and simple was the ceremony. No diamond ring was placed upon the hand of the bride by the rustic groom. No wedding march was played and no old shoes thrown at the newly wedded pair, yet tradition says that in spite of these omissions their married life was a happy one.

Only a few brief months had passed after the first settlers came before death claimed its first victim in the person of Mrs. Sanford Utley, who died two months after her arrival from the effects of a fall from their wagon, just as they arrived in sight of their new home. She was the first person buried in the East Farmington cemetery. Mrs. Eliza Utley, who gave me valuable information in regard to this occurrence, is a resident of our

village at the present time. Her son resides on the land that the family bought from the U.S. in 1826. It is a curious fact that on the day of the burial of Mrs. Utley, the first child, John Collins, was born in the town. The town was rapidly settled in the years that followed these events. Among the new arrivals were Luther Green and his brother Leland Green, Myra Gage, Seth A.L. Warner, Esek Brown the first blacksmith, Nathan S. Philbrick, Benjamin P. Wixom, Edward Steel and his brother Harmon Steel, who built the first grist mill in 1827; John Thayer, Chauncey Wolcott and Joseph Horton.

In 1832 Asiatic cholera made its appearance in Michigan. Modern science is able to control this dreaded scourge but at that time it was little understood and greatly feared. It was brought to Detroit by the steamer Henry Clay which came up the lake with 370 soldiers aboard enroute for the Black Hawk war. Some of them were taken sick and left the boat at Detroit. One of them died next day. In a short time more than 200 residents were attacked and nearly 100 of them died. People were terror stricken and many of them fled. Not so Father Gabriel Richard, Catholic priest. He nursed the sick, comforted the dying and performed the burial rites over many. On Sept. 13 he was himself stricken and in a few hours he was dead. His death was mourned as a calamity by all. He brought the first printing press to Michigan and published the first newspaper in Detroit. He was the first territorial delegate from Michigan to the congress of the United States. A fitting tribute to his memory is the branch library at the corner of Grand River and Stoepel avenues and named after

him. While the cholera was raging in Detroit a man by the name of Barnum who lived on what is now called the Conroy road near where it is crossed by the D.U.R. visited Detroit and a few days after his return was taken sick and lived but a few hours and died. The neighbors were afraid of the disease and but a few of them dared go to the home of the deceased. Nathan Power who lived near him was not afraid and with one or two others went to the house, prepared the body and buried it in the door yard. Two weeks after this sad event the wife of Nathan Power was taken violently ill, at about 2 a.m. Aug. 2, 1832. Dr. Wixom was called. He came at once, said that her sickness was cholera of the most violent type. He did what he could but she died at 7 a.m. after about 5 hours of suffering. Her little girl, Minera by name, 5 years old died at 11 a.m. the same day. They were buried a few hours after in one grave in the Quaker cemetery and were the first to be laid away in that place. No other members of the family were attacked by the disease. The three that I have mentioned were the only cholera victims in the pioneer settlement. Mr. Power lived to be an old man but the memory of that sad day remained with him through all the years and he never discussed it or referred to it unless directly questioned in regard to it. N.H.P

# Farmington Enterprise

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FARMINGTON, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 1928

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## Early History Told By Power

Narrative Of Pioneer Days  
Tells of First Postmaster  
And Doctor In Farmington

An intensely interesting review of the history of Farmington from the time when Indians roamed the dense forest which covered this section, was read before members of the Farmington Exchange Club at its weekly meeting Wednesday noon by Nathan H. Power. Drawing upon material which he has collected from many sources, Mr. Power held his audience at a high pitch of interest with descriptions of early life in and around Farmington.

Mr. Power has consented to publication by the Enterprise of the paper read Wednesday. Although lacking the highly interesting interpolations with which Mr. Power enlivened his reading, the document still provides an absorbing story of early days, and a valuable addition to Mr. Power's already extensive contributions to Farmington historical work. The article is printed in part below, with remaining portions to appear in later issues.

By N. H. Power

I am going to talk to you today for a little while of the Farmington of the days that are gone. The Farmington of the forest, the Indian, the pioneer and his successors. I will try to be brief and not tire you. The white man who first came here found the town covered with a dense growth of timber, some of its centuries old. Trees magnificent and stately, fine specimens of God's handiwork. Anx-

ious to till the virgin soil the pioneers cut and slashed this timber without mercy and rolled the finest hickory, maple, oak, whitewood and walnut timber into large heaps and burnt them. The cutting was done in the late fall and winter and the burning in August and September. The value of this timber at present prices would run into millions of dollars. As soon as the fire was out and the soil cool, crops would be planted amongst the stumps and the pioneer would be rewarded with great yields. In these forests there were Indian tracks and paths. In the early explorations of the great lakes country by the French they found descendants of the Algonquin tribes in this part of the country and it is known that the French fur traders made visits here for the purpose of bartering with the Indians for their furs and pelts. Signs of old Indian occupation have been found. On what is known as the old Drake farm in the Northwestern part of the township, stone arrow-heads together with bones and other relics have been discovered. Tradition says that long years ago a fierce battle was fought by warring tribes at that place. Perhaps the most interesting find of all was an old Indian grave on the old Job Francis farm, situated on Grand River avenue near the Novi town line. In this grave seven skeletons were found while over another a tree two feet in diameter was growing. It is probable that no large villages were ever here. The clear crystal lakes a few miles to the north with their abundance of fish would be a more ideal spot for the red man to pitch his tepee. On an island in Orchard Lake apple trees were found that must have been planted long before the advent of the white man.

Orchard Lake is named from this fact. Tradition says that to this place the great Chief Pontiac came after his defeat at the siege of Detroit in 1764. They are gone now, gone to the happy hunting ground in which they believed. It was right that they should pass and give way to the pale-face with his nobler ideals and more beneficent civilization. The first white settlers in Farmington came from New York State. They came in a large sled drawn by two horses in the month of February, 1824. They drove through the province of Ontario and crossed the Detroit River on the ice. Others came the same year and among them Dr. Webb. He was the first doctor and also the first postmaster receiving his commission January 7, 1826. His office was in a log cabin that stood very near the ground now occupied by the home of George Gildemeister. Not much is known about him except that he was a small man, a Quaker and that he sometimes delivered the mail on horseback while visiting his patients. Some time after him came Dr. Wixom, the best known of any of the pioneer doctors. Many stories were told of him by the pioneers in praise of his skill and daring. He was a man of large frame, of rough exterior, but withal he had a kind heart. He went at any time of night or day if called, often on horseback over roads that were impassable to travel in any other way. Sometimes where there was only blazed trees or Indian trail. Bold, fearless, nothing daunted him. When the Asiatic cholera swept the town in 1832 he did what he could to stay its ravages. The people were panic stricken and those attacked often died within 4 or 5 hours. In Detroit, only twenty miles away

scores died daily during its most vicious attack. The cause and character of the disease is understood now and medical science is able to cope with it successfully. Not always choice in his language he could and did swear upon occasion.

In 1848 a strange malady swept over the town. In the language of that time it was called brain fever. Its victims were young people. Isaac Carr ran a hotel at Clarenceville. It is now the Henry Ford Inn. He gave a New Year's dance which was largely attended. Some time afterwards this disease made its appearance and nine young people who had attended that party died within a few weeks. Most of those stricken were taken with a chill followed by fever and delirium which caused death usually in 48 hours. Benjamin Stevens, who lives on the 12-Mile road was cutting wood one day with his son on his farm. He had occasion to leave him for an hour or two. When he returned the boy was wild with delirium and so frantic that it was hard to get him to his home. He died the next day. It was called "brain fever" then. Modern medicine would give it another name probably and reduce its fatality.

# The Farmington Enterprise

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## REMINISCENCES OF OLDEN DAYS

### Stories of Sturdy Old Pioneers, Their Peculiarities and Activities

Many of the older residents of Farmington remember Ebenezer G. Stevens, pioneer shoe merchant of the town. He began making shoes in a shop built for him by Arthur Power in 1830. This shop was on Shiawassee Street near the site now occupied by the Baptist church. Soon after 1850 he moved to Grand River into a brick store which stood near the present location of the D. U. R. waiting room. With the business of making and selling boots and shoes he combined the trade of repairing clocks and watches. His honest methods of dealing secured a patronage that was loyal to him through all the years of his business career. Tall and spare in appearance and energetic in his movements he had some peculiar ideas, one of which was that death could be forever averted by the use of electricity. He used various devices to establish the truth of his theory but it was of no avail and he died Sept. 3, 1881, aged 76 years.

On the morning of Oct. 9, 1872 the town was visited by a fire which destroyed all the buildings from the one now used by Herman Schroeder as a meat market to the one used at the present time as a restaurant by Fred Pagel. Among the buildings consumed were Dr. Woodman's Drug Store which stood on the site of the Peoples

State Bank. The stone store of W. B. Selby and O. B. Smith, the latter being occupied by Wesley B. Horton and a hall over the store occupied by the Masonic lodge. This stone store was built in 1850 by Warren Selby and Joshua Simmons and was a substantial structure. The former conducted the pioneer jewelry establishment of the town in part of this store. It stood on the ground now covered by the brick store of Fred L. Cook & Co, and the Farmington Hardware Co. Another store just west of this owned by P. D. Warner and occupied as a dry goods store by Porter Shepherd burned also. The records of the Masonic lodge and those of the township were consumed at this time. In the stone store J. J. Green conducted a very highly successful dry goods business during the early '60's. Joseph Pindy and Wesley Horton, two young men employed by him as clerks, transacted a profitable business of the same kind in succeeding years. Warren Selby and Wesley Horton occupied the office of postmaster at different periods in the town's history. O. B. Smith's tailor business was destroyed by this fire. Altogether the property loss exceeded \$15,000.00 a considerable sum in those days.

The summer of 1872 was one of excessive drought. Buildings had become as dry as tinder and it was thought at one time during the fire that the whole town was doomed to destruction. Roofs were set afire by the hot cinders. The hotel property across the street was only saved by the heroic efforts of a bucket brigade composed of both men and women. Aroused by the light of the conflagration C. W. Green who owned and lived on the

farm now occupied by Mr. Empson, mounted one of his horses and rode with great speed into town. Born to command, with a voice that could be heard above the din and roar of the fire he at once began to give intelligent direction to the work of the frenzied fire fighters. Buildings in the direct path of the fire were pulled down and the work of the flames was in this way finally stayed. N. H. P.



## Farmington Has Interesting Early History

### *Early Founders Were Real Pioneer Settlers*

The history of Farmington City and Township from its early founding in 1824 up until the date of the establishment of a city form of government locally in late 1925 is very interesting and informative.

The story as we are presenting here has been printed a number of times in the past in pretty much the same form. We feel, however, that there are perhaps many newcomers to the community who have not yet seen or read the story. Many older residents who have more than likely read the story before have probably, much like us, forgotten many of the details.

In May, 1824, a party of adventurers led by Arthur Power and his several sons left their home in Farmington, New York, and traveled to Detroit. After two days hard traveling they reached their goal. The river offered an excellent location for a grist mill and saw mill. There was an abundance of standing timber for the construction of buildings and there was a good supply of food in the small game and wild fowl. Arthur Power and his group made camp, gave the name of their former home to their new settlement and so founded Farmington, Michigan.

These first settlers were closely followed by another party from New York State, among them the Warner family with their young son, P. Dean. They traveled by boat to Detroit and then took the overland route via Dearborn to Farmington.

#### **Churches and Schools**

Elkana Comstock traveling preacher from the Baptist church in Pontiac, visited Farmington in 1826 and saw to it that a place of worship was established. The Methodists built their church in 1844 on the hill. This little white church was the home of the Methodists for 76 years, until the night in 1920 when it burned to the ground. Two years after the fire their building on Warner Avenue at Grand River was dedicated. It was in 1852 that the Universalist church was built. The Baptist church had grown with the community and their new home was dedicated on October 9, 1861.

The first school in the community was a tiny log hut built in 1830. It stood on what is now Shiawassee Street, but in 1830 there was just an Indian trail through there. Twice a year the Indians passed through this way on

their journeys from their reservation near Lansing to collect their Government bounty from the agent in Detroit. A replica of one of the log cabins of the original settlement was constructed by Nate Power for the Farmington Centennial celebration. It stood for a number of years in the Town Hall Park.

Farmington's first school master was Nathan Power, one of Arthur's sons, and the first schoolmaster was Miss Parley Ann Mead. In 1835, Nate Power was authorized to build a new school and the fund of \$375 was granted to him for the job. He built it on the hill above the creek and it became known throughout the district as "The Little Red Schoolhouse." Mr. Power built his next school in 1852, this one being a two-story frame building right next to where the junior high school stands today. The town's next school building was erected in 1888, when Carlton A. Beardsley was superintendent.

#### **Main Thoroughway**

After Lansing was made the state capital, traffic between there and Detroit increased and Grand River became a main highway. Farmington benefitted commercially and was a stopping off place for the stagecoaches and wagons that traveled the road. Botsford Inn

was opened in 1836 as one of the finest hotels in the state. The Owen House, owned and managed by L. D. Owen, was on the corner of Farmington Rd. and Grand River where the Bank now stands.



After the Civil War, Farmington entered into a period of expansion which called for the organization of a community government. A village common council was formed and its first session was held on May 9, 1867.

A fire broke out at 2 a.m. on October 9, 1872, in O. B. Smith's dry goods store and quickly spread to the adjoining wooden buildings in the business block on the north side of Grand River East of Farmington Rd. There was no fire department and only 2 wells near enough to draw on for water. Had it not been for the quick thinking of one of the fire fighters who ordered a house torn down, creating a gap which the flames could not leap, the damage would have been far greater. As it was, the fire ruined the Smith Store, Dr. Woodman's drug store, the stores of W. B. Selby and Porter Shepard, the Masonic Hall and the Township office.

#### **Town Hall Built**

A new Town Hall was built in 1876. At the east end of the park was the wagon and blacksmith shop of John P. Eisenlord, and this was removed when the Town Hall was erected.

The drug store that was burned in the fire was the first such place in Farmington and stood where the former Municipal Building is now. Dr. Woodman was later appointed postmaster in 1885. Succeeding

postmasters were M. B. Pierce, 1889; E. C. Grace, 1893, Mr. Pierce again in 1897; and T. H. McGee in 1913. Mail was delivered to Farmington from Detroit by stage until the coach line was discontinued. A route then was established from Beech, Michigan, serving Farmington, Clarenceville, Redford and Bell Branch.

Almost all goods sold in Farmington were hauled from Detroit by Samuel Blanchard. He would make 2 trips a week, each trip being a two-day expedition. For most of the distance between Farmington and Detroit, Grand River was laid with Oak plank, but only in a single lane. Detroit-bound traffic had the right-of-way, and out-bound vehicles had to get off into the mud to clear the lane.

#### **Have A Toll Road**

There were four toll-gates on the way in the 1870's, one at the Farmington - Redford line, one at Mill Road, another at Monnier Road and a fourth at Warner Rd. The toll-charge for a two-horse vehicle was two cents per mile. For a loaded wagon, a one-way trip took from four to six hours, but a single buggy with a good driving horse could make it in only 3 hours.

In the boom days of the 1870's a farm hand could expect to be paid \$20 a month, plus his find and keep, for his work. Day laborers were paid about \$1 for a workday of ten to 12 hours. A carpenter's rate was 15 cents an hour, brickmason's was 20 cents. Fresh eggs were priced at 10 cents a dozen, butter sold for 20 cents a pound; pork, 8 cents to 10 cents a pound, the best steaks, 25 cents a pound; good suit of clothes, \$15. Very few homes were more than \$1,000 and a house and garden rented for about \$100 a year.

#### **Business Activities**

The first newspaper was printed on November 2, 1888 by Edgar R. Bloomer. The Enterprise was a hand made newspaper and Fred

Cook was printer's devil, whose chief task was pushing the ink roller across the face of the type between impressions.

One of Farmington's early practitioners was Dr. J. J. Moore, who built the home later occupied by the Amos Otis family. His son, Harry W., had a general merchandising business in the '90's and later became City Clerk.

In 1894, Fred M. Warner, the boy who had been adopted by P. Dean Warner, had a hardware store and was manager of the Farmington and Franklin Cheese Company, having established the Warner Dairy Co., in 1892. He was also a partner with Fred Cook and Clint W. Wilber in what was listed as a 'mercantile establishment.'

P. Dean Warner at this time was a private banker. James L. Hogle had a drug store. L. W. Sowle was in the dry goods business. Henry W. Lee was a harness maker. Custom-made boots and shoes were the specialty of H. W. Habermehl. Miss Marie Gill catered to the ladies with her millinery and dress-making. James W. Hatten sold farm implements. Henry Schroeder had a meat market and vegetable store. Rival blacksmiths were Thomas L. Irving and William Kennedy, and the town's two tonsorial artists were M. B. Pierce and C. W. Chamberlin. In addition to his barbershop, Mr. Chamberlin also sold cigars and did watch and clock repairing. E. C. Grace's general store was another of Farmington's many business places. The year 1898 also saw the opening of the Farmington Roller Mills under the management of Louis Gilde-meister.

After the turn of the century, the one outstanding event that put Farmington on the map was the election of Fred M. Warner as governor of Michigan in 1906. Gov. Warner served three terms in Lansing.

### **Electricity Comes**

Electricity came to Farmington toward the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the old stagecoach passed away and the nearest railway stations were at Novi and Northville. Grand River Ave. afforded the only link with Detroit and the capital, but traffic still moved no faster than the horse. Then the Detroit and Northwestern Railway laid tracks to Farmington and the service began in 1900. There was no station at first, just a freight pick-up spot on Farmington Road as the cars swung around from Grand River to Northville. The railway had a power plant where the LaSalle winery is now, and across the street were the car barns. This was the connection place for the Orchard Lake Road line to Pontiac.

The telephone came to Farmington near the turn of the century, when several pay stations were set up in the stores by the Michigan State Telephone Co. The local exchange was operated by Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Doherty.

Another fire threatened the town on July 5, 1909, the flames spreading to the roof of the Baptist Church before the fire department brought the blaze under control.

### **Starts Dairy Business**

On Jan. 1, 1921, Joe Himmelspach took possession of a milk business from John Lathrup on Gill Road. Driving his horse and wagon, he made delivery of some 80 quarts of milk each day. The milk bottle washing department conducted its work in the laundry tubs in the basement. In 1923, he remodeled the old bank and made it the Farmington Dairy. After the Detroit Urban Railway went out of business, Mr. Himmelspach bought their Farmington depot in 1931, built a new dairy and moved in in 1932.

The townsfolk voted in 1925 to become a city and adopt a city charter. The charter was adopted by the commission on Dec. 14, 1925 and approved by Gov. Alex

Groesbeck on the following Jan. 7. In the election immediately afterwards, Wells Butterfield was chosen mayor by a majority of some 15 votes over Howard Warner and the city commission held its first meeting on March 1, 1926.

# Farmington Observer

Volume 93 Number 82

Monday, July 26, 1982

Farmington, Michigan

58 Pages

Twenty-five cents

## Proud heritage hails Farmington

Whether a person lives, works or shops in Farmington, it takes little time to realize that this an area proud of its history.

Numerous historical landmarks have been preserved, and the area's history has been well documented.

Farmington was founded 155 years ago by five members of the Society of Friends (Quakers), who journeyed here in the middle of winter from Farmington, New York.

It was probably the lure of inexpensive land (\$1.25 an acre) and the chance to build a legacy for his large family that brought Arthur Power, his sons John and Jared, and David Smith and Daniel Rush to this area in 1824.

History buffs are fortunate in having many good accounts of Farmington's genesis, including the Oakland County history published in 1970, a history by local teacher Lee Peel and the diary of Arthur Power's son, Nathan, who joined his father here in 1826 at the age of 25.

These documents give a remarkably clear account of Farmington's beginnings 150 years ago.

By 1820, the government had made large tracts of land available to settlers. In 1823 Arthur Power came to the Farmington area and made arrangements to purchase large parcels of land in the area of Nine Mile and Eleven Mile along Power Road.

Power returned to New York and made arrangements for the trip west.

He, his two sons and two hired men, Smith and Rush, left New York about Feb. 1, 1824 and arrived in Windsor on Feb. 15. Their mode of travel was apparently a sleigh drawn by a pair of horses.

After a stop in Detroit for supplies, they travelled along Saginaw Road to Royal Oak and then to the small town settlements then called Jenks, Sly, Durkee and Baker.

Just before sunset, the five arrived at their destination. They staked their spot by cutting down a giant oak in the clearing which is now Eleven Mile and Power.

The date was March 8, 1824.

The settlers built a log cabin and began clearing land, including a plot for Nathan Power, who had remained in New York with the rest of the family.

Arthur Power and many other early Quaker settlers are buried in the old Quaker Cemetery on Gill Road, south of Grand River.

The two hired men went different ways. Rush had an attack of homesickness and left a few weeks after he arrived. David Smith completed a year's service to Power, bought some land and was still alive in 1877 when the Oakland County history book was first issued.

Power Road remains as a reminder of Farmington's founders as does Power Junior High, named in honor of the area's first teacher, Nathan.

Among present descendants of Arthur Power are Eugene Power, former University of Michigan regent, and his son Philip Power, board chairman (on leave of absence) of Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Other settlers soon followed the Power footsteps.

About seven weeks after Power and his sons arrived, George Collins and his wife located on a tract of land. Cynthia Collins was the first white female settler in the area and on Sept. 26, 1824, she gave birth to John Collins, the first white child born in Farmington.

Another early settler was Dr. Ezekial Webb, a friend of Power and also a Quaker.

He was the area's first physician and also its first postmaster. Among the settlers the next year were Holland Mason, brothers George and Rufus Thayer and Timothy Tolman who, according to the records, built the first frame dwelling in Farmington on 12 Mile near Middlebelt.

One of Farmington's best known families, the Warners, arrived in 1825. The Warner's son P. Dean Warner, was 3 when they arrived in Farmington.

He left home at 14, returned to Farmington several years later and engaged in business ventures.

He was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives and married Rhonda Botsford.

Having no children, they adopted a son and a daughter. The son Fred, later became a state representative, secretary of state for Michigan, and was finally elected governor in 1906.

He was Michigan's first two-term chief executive.

In May 1827 the township government was formed, with the first meeting held at the home of Robert Wixom.

Earlier in the year, the state legislature had laid out the present boundary for the township, thereby

separating it from Bloomfield Township.

The little settlement had come to be known as Quakertown (not to be confused with what later became the village of Quakertown.)

But both Power and Webb suggested Farmington as a name to honor the founder's former New York home.

According to early records, the small village, developed along Shiawassee and centered at the road's intersection with Farmington Road. This "old city" area still exists today, with several homes still standing dating back to the 1840's.

After the 1840's, the village center shifted a bit south to Grand River and Farmington Roads. Grand River had become a main road between Detroit and the new state capitol of Lansing.

The year 1850 brought the Fugitive Slave Act, and Farmington's Quaker population, led by Nathan Power, quickly became associated with the anti-slavery movement and the Underground Railroad.

The extent of their participation is disputed by Lee Peel in his book.

He notes that while rumors and stories persist about certain Farmington homes being way stations in the underground route to Canada, evidence is "shaky" and dubious.

Various stories about the house at 11 Mile and Power Road and the basement of the First Baptist Church being hiding places for runaway slaves cannot be proven, according to Peel.

After the Civil War, the people living in the square mile territory around Grand River and Farmington Roads voted to become a Village. The village common council held its first session on May 9, 1867. The village didn't become a city until 1926.

Other important dates appear in the documents of the Farmington history.

In 1828, the first school in the township was built, a small log hut

on Shiawassee. Nathan Power, the school's first teacher, also built other schools in 1835 and 1852.

Besides the Quakers, other religious groups came to the Farmington area. A Baptist church was constructed at Halsted and 12 Mile, with the Rev. C.D. Wolcott as the first minister in 1827.

Methodists met in a private home, and then in 1840, built a church at the corner of Warner and Shiawassee. It burned in 1920, but was rebuilt later on its present site at Warner and Grand River.

Another important event in Farmington's early history was the Plank Road Act, passed in 1848. A plank road made of oak was constructed from Detroit to Howell.

The resulting increase in travel gave rise to several inns including the Botsford Inn, the Swan Hotel (later Owen House) and Wixom Inn. Botsford is still in operation today.

A charge or toll was levied to use the plank road.

At the turn of the century, the plank road operation changed hands and an electric railway was built – the Detroit Urban Railway (DUR).

The DUR lasted about 30 years until the automobile made inroads into the line's profits. It ceased operation in January 1931.

A power plant for the line later became the home of LaSalle Wines (Grand River and Orchard Lake Roads) which closed in the early 1970's. The building presently is used as an office complex.

# The Farmington Enterprise

1888

Official Publication for Farmington City and Township

1963

75th ANNIVERSARY

SEVENTY-SIXTH YEAR—No. 7

TWENTY-EIGHT PAGES

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1963

## Looking Back Through The Files Since Enterprise Began in 1888

When E. R. Bloomer published the first edition of the Farmington Enterprise on November 2, 1888, all kinds of farm tools were in stock at Hatton's Hardware. You could get fancy goods and notions at Miss H. A. Nelson's shop. The veterinary surgeon, N. W. Hopkins was available at the Owen House on Saturdays for all who wished to consult him. The Central Barber Shop of S. J. Harwood offered artistic hair cuts and a fine line of cigars.

You could go to James L. Hogle, registered druggist, for everything from medicines to glass, and putty. Plans were also in the making to have a telephone installed in the Town Hall at Novi. Copies of the Enterprise sold for two cents and you could get a year's subscription for one dollar.

(1898)

**WHEN THE FARMINGTON** Enterprise was observing its tenth anniversary in 1898, the most prominent industry in the community was the thriving cheese factory, one of three in the area operated by the Hon. Fred M. Warner of Farmington, Senator for Michigan's 12<sup>th</sup> District. A new enterprise opened in 1898 which was the Farmington Exchange Bank, Farmington's first banking house.

The Farmington Roller Mills were turning out fifty barrels of flour a day in their third year of operation. Farmington's Owen House, boasted the finest inland Hotel in the State, had been in operation for nearly a quarter of a century. The Farmington Bakery and T. H. McGee's Drug Store were other thriving businesses.

(1908)

**TRANSPORTATION** service was one of the industry's which picked up considerably in the year 1908. Citizens could ride the DUR from the Farmington Junction to Detroit, Pontiac and Northville on trolleys scheduled every hour from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m. Travelers could stop over at the Owen House for \$1.50 a day. Otis Lumber and Coal Yard was the Headquarters for hard and soft coal, lumber, shingles, cement, lime and roofing paper. Fred M. Warner of Farmington was the Governor of Michigan, serving his third term. Subscriptions to the Enterprise were still just one dollar a year. The Fred L. Cook and Company Store handled a large assortment of flannelettes and other dry goods.

(1918)

**THE YEAR 1918** in Farmington: The community was saddened by the loss of two of its young men who were killed in action while

with the American troops in France. Bertrand Groves and Lemuel Walker were the Farmington boys who laid down their lives for their country during WWI. It was in their memory that the American Legion Post in Farmington was named, Groves-Walker Post 346. The Farmington Theater, Eisenlord and Card, proprietors, were showing the flicker, "Daughter of the West," starring Baby Marie Osborne on Saturday, December 15, 1918. Admission was 10 and 15 cents.

(1928)

**THE YEAR 1928** was "a year of beginnings" in Farmington as local merchants held their first "Better Business Day" on April 7, the first Safety Patrol was organized in Farmington Schools, a street widening program was approved for Grand River, and several new businesses were opened locally including the George K. Checketts automobile agency and a new inn at Farmington Junction opened by S. A. Engel. Farmington High School athletic teams won basketball, baseball and golf titles. "The widow of Farmington's last Civil War veteran, Mrs. W. H. H. Smith," died on May 23. And you could get a one-pound can of Maxwell House Coffee for just 45 cents at the A & P Store.

(1938)

**THE YEAR THE** Farmington Enterprise celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, 1938, residents in the

community went to the polls in a special school election and approved by a vote of 166 to 8 the levying of a maximum of three per cent on property to retire a \$45,000 bond issue which in conjunction with a PWA grant of \$36,818 financed the construction of a new gymnasium and school auditorium. The new building allowed the old Thomas Street high school gym to be partitioned off to provide more classrooms. The high school football team got nipped by Keego Harbor in the league title game, 6-0. And you could buy two pounds of cream cottage cheese at the Farmington Dairy for just 15 cents.

(1948)

**THE YEAR 1948** in Farmington ushered in carrier delivery service for the first time in the local Post office. James Nourjian was elected Commander of the Groves-Walker Post. Adult Education classes were approved by the School Board. Fire caused \$10,000 worth of damage to Westwin Kennels. Voters approved annexation of Floral Park Subdivision. Twenty-two football players were awarded FHS letters. Falcons trounced Wayne 38 to 28 in basketball opener. And you could get grade A eggs for 69 cents a dozen at Conroy's Market.

(1953)

**TEN YEARS AGO** in Farmington the Enterprise headlines told of the completion of the new Farmington Senior High School which was opened to students in September. Prominent news also included the special election on the no-hunting ban proposal which voters in the Township overwhelmingly approved. A new parking lot was acquired by the City through the purchase of land south of Grand River and east of Farmington Road. The Falcon gridders turned in a dismal season, 0-6-1. And a gal could get 51 gauge, 15 denier nylons for just 57

cents a pair at Dancer's Department Store.

(1958)

**INCORPORATION** attempts highlighted the activities in Farmington during the year 1958. Areas hoping to become incorporated as villages or cities to prevent their being annexed by the City of Farmington stimulated a heated campaign which ended with the proposals going down to defeat in the fall general election. The Farmington High School football team closed out their 1958 grid campaign with a perfect record and several players attained All-State honors. A man could get five pounds of Sunflower seeds from Dan Lowe's Hardware in Downtown Farmington for just 45 cents.

# The Farmington Enterprise

VOL. XXXVIII No. 30

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1924.

5 Cents Single Copy \$1.50 A YEAR

## Pioneers Had A Bad Year

### Present Backward Season Ideal Weather Compared With Spring of 1843

The year 1843 was a year long remembered by the pioneers of Farmington. On the night of 17<sup>th</sup> of June of that year a killing frost occurred. It was so severe that it could be scooped up by the handful from boards, walks and fences. It was disastrous to all growing crops. Wheat was in blow and was a total loss in almost every case. There was hardly a farmer that raised enough wheat to supply him with bread. Very little hay was grown that year. Corn and potatoes that were out of the ground were cut down and had to be re-planted. No fruit was raised that year. The following winter 1843-44 was noted for its unusual snow fall. It began to snow early in December and from that time until late in the following March few days intervened without an addition to the snow fall. The farmers were ill prepared for such a winter. Because of the frost and cool summer of 1843 they had raised scarcely any hay or corn fodder. These articles, which were indispensable for the raising and keeping of livestock, could not be had at any price. There was none to sell. In their dilemma the settlers drove their cattle to the woods where they cut down the young trees and let them eat the tops. This was a poor substitute for hay and grain and many a farmer

saw his stock get weaker day by day until they died from starvation. Only a few were strong enough to survive this terrible ordeal. It was in this winter that Halley's comet appeared in the northern sky. It was very bright and large. Not much was known at that time about this celestial visitor. Many thought it an omen of disaster. A man in New York state, Miller by name, claimed to have received a revelation in which he saw the earth and comet come together in a might collision, causing the total destruction of both by great heat. He drew large pictures of this dire calamity. He exhibited them in Farmington in a building near where the Baptist church now stands. He warned people that the destruction of all earthly things was at hand and set the date when the earth was to roll up like a scroll and be consumed with fervent heat. Some believed what he said, and sold or gave away their possessions, made themselves robes and prepared for the ascension of the faithful into realms of bliss. They were called Millerites after Miller. But the day and hour came when this prophecy was to be fulfilled and nothing unusual occurred. The heavenly bodies pursued the even tenor of their ways, the comet disappeared, the snow melted and nature, it would seem, as if anxious to make amends for her somewhat erratic behavior, made the summer of 1844 one of the most beautiful and one of the most productive ever known in Michigan. N. H. P.

## Brief History of Early Farmington Settlement

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This is a brief history of the early settlement and development of Farmington as prepared by Harley Walters for presentation recently on a radio program "Salute to Farmington."*

*Walters, a native of the Farmington area and longtime manager of the Detroit Edison Company branch office here, has shown a very keen interest in local history for some years now.*

Farmington was one of the first, if not the original Quaker settlement in Michigan. The hardy pioneer families came here from Farmington, New York, from which the town received its present name. The name as printed on early maps was Powerville, as it was named for its founder in 1824. The names of other families are inscribed on the tombstones in the old Quaker Cemetery on Gill Road.

At that time the land was covered with dense forests and wild animals were plentiful. A well worn Indian trail followed the route of the present Shiawassee Road and bands of Indians often traveled through here.

Being a good neighbor had real meaning, even though the nearest one might live a mile away. Clearing the ground, building cabins and harvesting crops, was accomplished only with the aid of horses, hand tools, and cooperating the strength and ability of one's neighbors. Whenever storm, sickness or injury struck, people were dependent on each other for help.

**THE CLEARED LAND** was found productive for vegetables, grain and fruit trees, the forerunner of our large apple orchards. Soon three water power grist mills were built along Rouge Creek, near Power Road, Farmington Road and Drake Road. The one at Drake Road was in Pernambuco Hollow, one of the beauty spots near Farmington. The miller, who had formerly been a sailor named it Pernambuco Hollow for a seaport which he had liked in Brazil.

Farmington's first one room school was built near the McGee Hill in 1835, at a cost of \$375. The Universalist Church in 1853 and with the exception of a new entrance, remains one of our outstanding buildings. The Baptist Church was dedicated in 1861 but has since had many alterations.

During the night of October, 9, 1872, fire started in one of the stores on Main Street and only by the fast action of tearing a house down in its path was the town saved. Many historical records were lost in the fire.

Roads were nothing more than trails and often impassable. As farm production increased, transportation to market was a problem, until the Detroit-Howell Plank Road was built. Planks were laid end to end, wide enough apart for wagon wheels but were often shifted out of place during the rainy season. Loaded wagons had the rights of way and a toll of 2 cents a mile was collected at four toll gates between here and Detroit. Stage coaches used this road and

Botsford Inn was a regular stop. Botsford Inn had been built as a residence in 1836 and later converted to an inn. It is one of the oldest hostelrys operating in Michigan.

**THE TOWN HALL**, built in 1876, became the center of some social activity, such as dances and home talent shows. The Masonic Lodge occupied the second floor as they have since. It is one of the few town halls remaining and the Farmington Historical Society is making an effort to preserve it as a link with the past.

Farmington's first newspaper, The Enterprise, was started in 1883. During the first 64 years there hadn't been much to read and about the only entertainment was a few traveling medicine shows or a caravan of gypsies to cause a little excitement.

Farmington Roller Mill was built in 1898 and was operated with steam, which proved more dependable than water power for all seasons of the year and doomed the old mills.

Things were on the move during the early 1900's, even though the population had increased to only slightly over 600 people. Telephone service was available both day and night. It was just a matter of awakening the night operator to put a call through after midnight. The Detroit United Electric Railway furnished hourly passenger and daily freight service to Detroit and surrounding communities.

**THE OWEN HOUSE** at Farmington Road and Grand River was filled to capacity, a favorite stop-over for traveling men. Fred M. Warner, a native son, was serving three terms as Governor of Michigan and his cheese factory and other businesses were expanding

here. There were 16,000 automobiles in the state and one of our doctors had purchased a Cartercar, after near disastrous driving instruction from a factory representative. Electric power lines were coming out Grand River and people were busy tearing up floors for wiring their homes and installing hideous looking fixtures in preparation for the light up ceremony, which took place on Saturday night, October 28, 1911.

Electricity meant the end of cleaning lamp chimneys or having one's teeth drilled with a foot treadle apparatus and soon we were enjoying the Perils of Pauline and other silent movies. The village government after much debate had made the decision to plunge the community into a \$15,000 debt for a central water system complete with wooden water mains.

More Civil War veterans were riding to the cemetery each year than were marching in the Decoration Day parade and it would require pages just to mention the good people I have known during my 58 years in Farmington.

# The Farmington Enterprise

FORTY-THIRD YEAR No. 47

FARMINGTON, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1931.

5c a Copy; \$1.50 a Year

## *Old Farmington Resident Looks Back Over Span of Fifty Years*

By N.H.P.

On Saturday, September 19, 1881, President James A. Garfield died. This was 50 years ago last Saturday. The writer of these lines remembers well the day. The transmission of news was not as rapid then as now and the sad event was not known here until the next day.

President Garfield had been a gallant soldier in the Civil War, a distinguished member of Congress, had been elected President in 1880, inaugurated March 4, 1881, and was mortally wounded by an assassin July 2 of that year. It was thought at first that he would recover but it was not to be and he died at Elberon, New Jersey, September 19, 1881.

President Garfield had the unique distinction of being a member of the House of Representatives, and while a member of that body was elected to the United States Senate and at the next presidential election was chosen President of the United States.

### **Many Changes**

Time ever busy, has worked many changes in these 50 years. Perhaps nowhere have they been more marked than in Farmington. New streets have been opened. Old buildings that were landmarks torn down and new ones built.

At the village election held May 2 of that year Lewis D. Owen was elected president, Frank D. Clark, recorder, Gardurus Webster, treasurer, Oswald Kynast, P. D. Warner and Daniel Doyle, trustees. The president L. D. Owen was the popular owner of the Owen house

which stood many years on the corner now occupied by the Farmington State Savings Bank building. Frank D. Clark the clerk, was a well-known carpenter and had his shop in the building now occupied by A. C. Wallbank on Grand River avenue. This building was built and owned by him. Many years ago, he with his family went to Detroit where he died.

Gardurus Webster, many years a citizen, lived and died in the house now occupied by his son, J. J. Webster. A man of unblemished reputation, honorable in all things, he believed in the divine mission of the Methodist church and the Republican party, and he never faltered in his allegiance to either.

Oswald Kynast with his father and brothers, made and sold furniture in a building that stood a few feet west of the log cabin in the park. P.D. Warner was an old time citizen of the town, active in business and honored time and time again by election to office as a supervisor, member of the legislature, etc.

### **Park Was Treeless**

Daniel Doyle was a wagon maker by trade and worked for John Eisenlord in his shop which stood a little west of the Town Hall in the park. This land was devoid of trees at that time and did not become a park until years after. There were no buildings on the south side of Grand River avenue between Farmington road and the property now occupied by the Nelson sisters. This was a farm lot and extended to the property now owned by Harrison Johnson.

Constantine Collins, the owner, tilled the land and the writer has seen wheat that yielded 25 bushels to the acre grow upon it.

Mill street had not been opened at that time. Theodore Grace ran a General store and did a thriving business on the corner now occupied by Fred Pauline. Will Root had a drug store on the corner in the building now used as a shoe repair shop. The building now owned as a shop by the Nelson sisters stood just north of Curly's place on Farmington road at that time, and in it J. B. Webster made and sold harness to the farmers. He had an established reputation for making excellent goods. He was a good singer, genial, kindhearted, a Republican of the stalwart type, liberal in his religious views and with many friends about town.

The Town Hall, built in 1876, was at that time the pride of Farmington. Little did the citizens think that the time would come when its ownership would be disputed and be a subject of litigation in the courts. The brick building occupied by the Victory restaurant is the oldest business building in our city and I think it was built about 1853 by Lewis Hutton and used by him as a blacksmith shop.

John Jackson, with his sons, at that time did a flourishing business as a blacksmith in a shop that stood on the lot now owned by Ulysses Grace as a residence. Many a horse was shod there and many a tool repaired there by this sturdy Englishman and his sons in the days that are passed and gone.

Dwelling houses covered the Grand River frontage where now stands Olin Russell's garage. They were owned at different periods by well-known and popular citizens

including Wallace Hutton and family. Almeron Aldrich and family and others. Mrs. Aldrich was especially known for her optimistic temperament, her kindly deeds and her willingness to help others. Jacob Drake repaired wagons in a little weatherbeaten shop on the ground now occupied by the Methodist church. His one-story dwelling house stood on the same lot. The land between his lot and the Banfield house on Grand River was vacant. It was low and wet and the boys, when it froze over in the winter as it often did, skated upon it.

At this time Orchard street and Maple avenue were a part of the Warner farm. There were no streets east of Power Avenue. Most all of this land was farm land the greater part of which was owned by Hudson Wilcox and Charles Stoughton. Oakland avenue west of Grand River extended only to Cass avenue. The S. D. Harger house was the only one on the street with the exception of the Baptist parsonage which stood at the end of the lane, as Oakland avenue was called at that time.

John Collins was postmaster. The office was located in his store which was on the east side of the lot where now stands the Atlantic and Pacific store. It was long before rural delivery and the farmers came to town after their mail and to trade. Some rode in wagons, some in lighter vehicles called buggys and a few in more expensive carriages. All were drawn by horses over dirt roads.

The farmers were generally prosperous. Taxes were kept within bounds. The Township budget for roads and bridges was \$1,000, other expenses, \$675, total expenses \$1,675. No men were looking for work. Every man had a job who wanted one. Merchandise was paid for at the time it was bought. The boys and girls were taught to work. There were no electric lights, no radio, no jazz, but our country

was prosperous and the people happy and contented.

In this brief sketch I have tried to tell of some of the changes the last fifty years have brought to our city.

The years roll on in a never ending succession. Another fifty years will come and go and greater changes will be made than have ever occurred in a like period. Most of this generation will have passed on but some of the boys and girls now walking on our streets will be here and see what time has done. Some one of them may make a record of it. May it be a story of years of progress by a prosperous people, of goals attained and part at least of life's intricate perplexing problems solved.

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| Eisenlord, John                  | 20 | Houses: Harger House                  | 15 |
| Eisenlord, John P.               | 11 | Hutton, Lewis                         | 20 |
| Empson, Mr.                      | 9  | Hutton, Wallace                       | 21 |
| Farmington & Franklin Cheese Co. | 11 | Indians: Algonquin Tribe              | 7  |
| Farmington Enterprise            | 11 | Inns: Botsford Inn                    | 10 |
| Farmington Hardware Company      | 9  | Irving, Thomas L                      | 11 |
| Farmington Roller Mill           | 18 | Jackson, John                         | 20 |
| Farmington State Savings Bank    | 20 | James W. Hatten farm implements       | 11 |
| Farmington Village Cemetery      | 15 | Jenks Settlement                      | 13 |
| Farragut, Admiral                | 4  | Jenks,                                | 2  |
| First Baptist Church             | 14 | Johnson, Harrison                     | 20 |
| First Child Born                 | 6  | Kennedy, William                      | 11 |
| First Death                      | 6  | Kynast, Oswald                        | 20 |
| First East Cemetery Burial       | 6  | L.W. Sowle Dry Goods                  | 11 |
| First Quaker Cemetery Burial     | 6  | LaSalle Winery                        | 12 |
| First Wedding                    | 6  | LaSalle Winery                        | 14 |
| Francis, Job                     | 7  | Lathrup, John                         | 12 |
| Fred L. Cook and Company         | 9  | Lee                                   | 15 |
| Fugitive Slave Act               | 14 | Lee, Henry W.                         | 11 |
| Gage, Myra                       | 6  | Lewis, Mary                           | 6  |
| Garfield, James A                | 20 | Litogot, David                        | 2  |
| Gildemeister, George             | 7  | Litogot, David                        | 15 |
| Gildemeister, Louis              | 11 | Little Red Schoolhouse                | 10 |
| Gill, Marie                      | 11 | Marie Gill's Millinery & Dress Making | 11 |
| Grace, E. C.                     | 11 | Mason, Holland                        | 13 |
| Grace, Theodore                  | 20 | Mason, Howland                        | 6  |
| Grace, Ulysses                   | 20 | Mason, Howland                        | 13 |
| Green, C. W.                     | 9  | Masonic Hall                          | 11 |
| Green, J. J.                     | 9  | Masonic Lodge                         | 18 |
| Green, Luther                    | 6  | McGee Hill                            | 18 |
| Groesbeck, Alex., Gov.           | 12 | McGee, T. H.                          | 11 |
| H.W. Habermehl's Boots & Shoes   | 11 | Mead, Amos                            | 6  |
| Habermehl, H. W.                 | 11 | Meeting House                         | 4  |
| Halley's Comet                   | 17 | Methodist Church                      | 10 |
| Hamilton,                        | 2  | Methodist Church                      | 14 |
| Harger House                     | 15 | Methodists                            | 16 |
| Harger, S. D.                    | 21 | Michigan State Telephone Company      | 12 |
| Hatten, James W.                 | 11 | Miller, Mr.                           | 17 |
| Henry Ford Inn                   | 8  | Millerites                            | 17 |
| Henry Lee's Harness Shop         | 11 | Mills: Farmington Roller Mill         | 18 |
| Henry Schroeders Meat & Vegt.    | 11 | Moore, J. J., Dr.                     | 11 |
| Himmelspach, Joe                 | 12 | Nelson, Sisters                       | 20 |
| Hogle, James L.                  | 11 | Newspapers: Farmington Enterprise     | 11 |
| Horton, Joseph                   | 6  | North Farmington Cemetery             | 15 |
| Horton, Wesley B.                | 9  | O.B. Smith's Dry Goods Store          | 11 |
| Hotels: Botsford Inn             | 14 | Oakwood Cemetery                      | 15 |
| Hotels: Botsford Inn             | 18 | Old Detroit Road                      | 16 |
| Hotels: Henry Ford Inn           | 8  | Otis, Amos                            | 11 |
| Hotels: Owen House               | 11 | Otis, Harry W.                        | 11 |
| Hotels: Owen House               | 14 | Owen House                            | 11 |

|                              |    |                                   |    |
|------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------|----|
| Owen House                   | 14 | Quakers                           | 16 |
| Owen House                   | 18 | Quakertown                        | 2  |
| Owen House                   | 20 | Quakertown                        | 4  |
| Owen, L. D.                  | 11 | Quakertown                        | 14 |
| Owen, Lewis D.               | 20 | Quakertown                        | 15 |
| P.D. Warner's Hardware Store | 11 | Railroad: Detroit Urban Railway   | 14 |
| Pagel, Fred                  | 9  | Railroads: Underground R. R.      | 14 |
| Pauline, Fred                | 20 | Railways: Detroit & Northwestern  | 12 |
| Peel, Lee                    | 14 | Railways: Detroit Urban Railway   | 12 |
| Peoples State Bank           | 9  | Restaurants: Curly's Place        | 20 |
| Pernambuco                   | 18 | Restaurants: Victory Restaurant   | 20 |
| Philbrick                    | 15 | Richard, Gabriel, Father          | 6  |
| Philbrick, Nathan            | 16 | Roads: Detroit-Howell Plank Road  | 18 |
| Philbrick, Nathan S.         | 6  | Roads: Old Detroit Road           | 16 |
| Pierce, M. B.                | 11 | Roads: Plank Road Act, 1848       | 14 |
| Pindy, Joseph                | 9  | Roads: Territorial Road           | 15 |
| Plank Road Act, 1848         | 14 | Rouge Creek                       | 18 |
| Pontiac, Chief               | 7  | Rush, Daniel                      | 2  |
| Power Junior High School     | 13 | Rush, Daniel                      | 3  |
| Power, Arthur                | 2  | Rush, Daniel                      | 13 |
| Power, Arthur                | 3  | Russell, Olin                     | 20 |
| Power, Arthur                | 4  | Schools: Little Red Schoolhouse   | 10 |
| Power, Arthur                | 9  | Schools: Power Junior High School | 13 |
| Power, Arthur                | 10 | Schroeder, Henry                  | 11 |
| Power, Arthur                | 13 | Schroeder, Herman                 | 9  |
| Power, Arthur                | 15 | Selby, W. B.                      | 9  |
| Power, Arthur                | 16 | Selby, W. B.                      | 11 |
| Power, Eugene                | 13 | Selby, Warren                     | 9  |
| Power, Jared                 | 2  | Shepard, Porter                   | 11 |
| Power, Jared                 | 13 | Shepherd, Porter                  | 9  |
| Power, John                  | 2  | Simmons                           | 15 |
| Power, John                  | 4  | Simmons, Joshua                   | 9  |
| Power, John                  | 13 | Sly Settlement                    | 13 |
| Power, Mary                  | 5  | Sly,                              | 2  |
| Power, Minerva               | 6  | Smith, David                      | 2  |
| Power, N. H.                 | 4  | Smith, David                      | 3  |
| Power, Nathan                | 2  | Smith, David                      | 13 |
| Power, Nathan                | 3  | Smith, O. B.                      | 9  |
| Power, Nathan                | 4  | Smith, O. B.                      | 11 |
| Power, Nathan                | 6  | Society of Friends                | 13 |
| Power, Nathan                | 10 | Southfield                        | 2  |
| Power, Nathan                | 13 | Sowle, L. W.                      | 11 |
| Power, Nathan                | 14 | Steel, Edward                     | 6  |
| Power, Nathan                | 16 | Steel, Harmon                     | 6  |
| Power, Nathan H.             | 7  | Stevens, Benjamin                 | 8  |
| Power, Philip                | 13 | Stevens, Ebenezer G               | 9  |
| Powers Creek                 | 15 | Stores: Dr. Woodman's Drug Store  | 11 |
| Powerville                   | 2  | Stores: O.B. Smith Dry Goods      | 11 |
| Powerville                   | 15 | Stores: P.D. Warner's Hardware    | 11 |
| Powerville                   | 18 | Stoughton, Charles                | 21 |
| Presbyterian Church          | 16 | Subdivisions: Pernambuco          | 18 |
| Quaker Cemetery              | 4  | Subdivisions: Powerville          | 18 |
| Quaker Cemetery              | 13 | Swan Hotel                        | 14 |
| Quaker Cemetery              | 15 | Swan Tavern                       | 16 |

|                                     |    |                          |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|--------------------------|----|
| Taverns: Swan Tavern                | 16 | West Farmington Cemetery | 15 |
| Taverns: Weston House Tavern        | 15 | Weston House Tavern      | 15 |
| Telephone: Michigan State Telephone | 12 | Weston, Allen            | 15 |
| Territorial Road                    | 15 | Wilber, Clint W.         | 11 |
| Thayer                              | 15 | Wilcox, Hudson           | 21 |
| Thayer, George                      | 6  | Wixom                    | 15 |
| Thayer, John                        | 6  | Wixom Inn                | 14 |
| Thayer, Rufus                       | 6  | Wixom, Benjamin P.       | 6  |
| Thayer, Rufus                       | 13 | Wixom, Dr.               | 6  |
| The Enterprise                      | 18 | Wixom, Dr.               | 7  |
| Tolman, Nathaniel                   | 6  | Wixom, Robert            | 13 |
| Tolman, Timothy                     | 13 | Wolcott Cemetery         | 15 |
| Tolman, Timothy                     | 15 | Wolcott, C. D., Rev.     | 14 |
| Town Hall                           | 11 | Wolcott, Chauncey        | 6  |
| Town Hall                           | 18 | Woodman, Dr.             | 9  |
| Town Hall                           | 20 | Woodman, Dr.             | 11 |
| Towns: Buckhorn Corners             | 15 | Woodman's Drug Store     | 9  |
| Towns: Powerville                   | 15 |                          |    |
| Towns: Quakertown                   | 14 |                          |    |
| Towns: Quakertown                   | 15 |                          |    |
| Township: Bloomfield                | 2  |                          |    |
| Townships: Bloomfield Township      | 14 |                          |    |
| Underground Railroad                | 14 |                          |    |
| Universalist Church                 | 10 |                          |    |
| Universalist Church                 | 18 |                          |    |
| Utley                               | 15 |                          |    |
| Utley Cemetery                      | 15 |                          |    |
| Utley, Eliza                        | 6  |                          |    |
| Utley, Sanford, Mrs.                | 6  |                          |    |
| Victory Restaurant                  | 20 |                          |    |
| Village of Farmington 1867          | 14 |                          |    |
| Walker                              | 15 |                          |    |
| Wallbank, A. C.                     | 20 |                          |    |
| Walters, Harley                     | 18 |                          |    |
| Warner                              | 15 |                          |    |
| Warner Dairy Company                | 11 |                          |    |
| Warner, Fred                        | 13 |                          |    |
| Warner, Fred M.                     | 11 |                          |    |
| Warner, Fred M.                     | 18 |                          |    |
| Warner, Governor                    | 18 |                          |    |
| Warner, Howard                      | 12 |                          |    |
| Warner, P Dean                      | 13 |                          |    |
| Warner, P. D.                       | 9  |                          |    |
| Warner, P. D.                       | 20 |                          |    |
| Warner, P. Dean                     | 10 |                          |    |
| Warner, P. Dean                     | 11 |                          |    |
| Warner, Seth A. L.                  | 6  |                          |    |
| Waterways: Power's Creek            | 15 |                          |    |
| Webb, Dr.                           | 4  |                          |    |
| Webb, Dr.                           | 7  |                          |    |
| Webb, Dr.                           | 14 |                          |    |
| Webster, Gardurous                  | 20 |                          |    |
| Webster, J. B.                      | 20 |                          |    |
| Webster, J. J.                      | 20 |                          |    |