

Settlers make imprint by contributing talents

(Continued from page 5)

absence) of the 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 Twelve 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.

While having no children, they did adopt a son and a daughter. The son, Fred, later became a state representative, the 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 Dr. Webb suggested Farmington as a name to honor the founders' 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 1840s.

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

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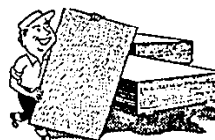
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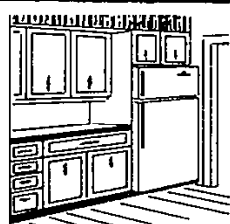
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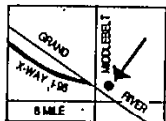
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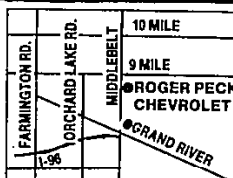
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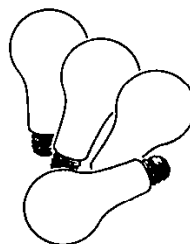


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