

# Book tells history of township

Although incorporation is just a decade old, the township is quickly becoming a faint memory. But at least one bit of history lingers which tells Farmington and Farmington Hills residents of this area's early history.

Printed in 1877 by L.H. Everts & Co., the history book covers a 60 year period from 1817 to 1877. It was published by Samuel Durant, who chronicled all of Oakland County as well as other areas of the country.

It was republished by the Farmington Historical Society in 1982 with help from the Farmington Area Arts Commissions and the Michigan Council for the Arts.

The ancestors of many persons still living in the area — including the Buttons, the Fairfields, and the Spragues — are described in detail in the pages of the book formally entitled: "History of Farmington Township, Michigan — With Illustrations Descriptive of its Scenery, Palatial Residences, Public Buildings, Pine Blocks and Important Manufactories."

Eight illustrations are included in the book along with editorial comments about some of the city's still-standing landmarks.

The Clarenceville District is described as follows:

"CLARENCEVILLE contains one general store, one wagon shop, and two blacksmith shops, and the hotel now kept by Milton G. Botsford; but the travel which supported it in the old time is no longer there, and its consideration as a public house has departed with the stage lines that supported it."

The book tells how the township supported 10 schools, noting that male

teachers in Farmington village received an annual salary of \$1,000 per year while female teachers were paid \$400 a year for performing the same work.

Business activity, including grist and saw mills and a large cheese factory are mentioned as well as the Farmington Foundry "formerly used in the manufacture of stoves; but, at present, its chief production is that of agricultural implement casings."

# Spicer farm history

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"FATHER AND I rode on horseback. We would go up to Farmington and 14 Mile Road to the store up there — owned by Mr. Piskopink — and get pop and ice cream.

"People knew each other then and were very friendly. I remember once we were near Harry McCracken's place (he was in school and township government for years) and father fell. Mrs. McCracken helped us bring him inside her house and gave him a drink of water."

In memory of their father who loved the Farmington countryside so much, the three children willed the Goodenough home to the community.

Mrs. Spicer hoped that developers and real estate men would leave the farm she loves alone. "The roots are so deep, I can't give it all up," she noted.

She has other memories. Floyd Cairn's father (he's Hills city clerk) came up the big hill on Farmington Road one day with the Cairn's milk wagon and tipped over, unable to make it to the top. And the place called Sleepy Hollow where Wadenstorer's had the old mill is in her memories. (Howard Road)

She moved in 1935 to the present house — a beautiful, long and narrow house set way back behind trees, unseen by motorists passing along Farmington Road.

The quiet farm reminds visitors of another, quieter age. And that's the way Mrs. Spicer would have liked to keep it.

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