

Quakertown grows as town thrives

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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 Phillip 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. Ezekiel 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.

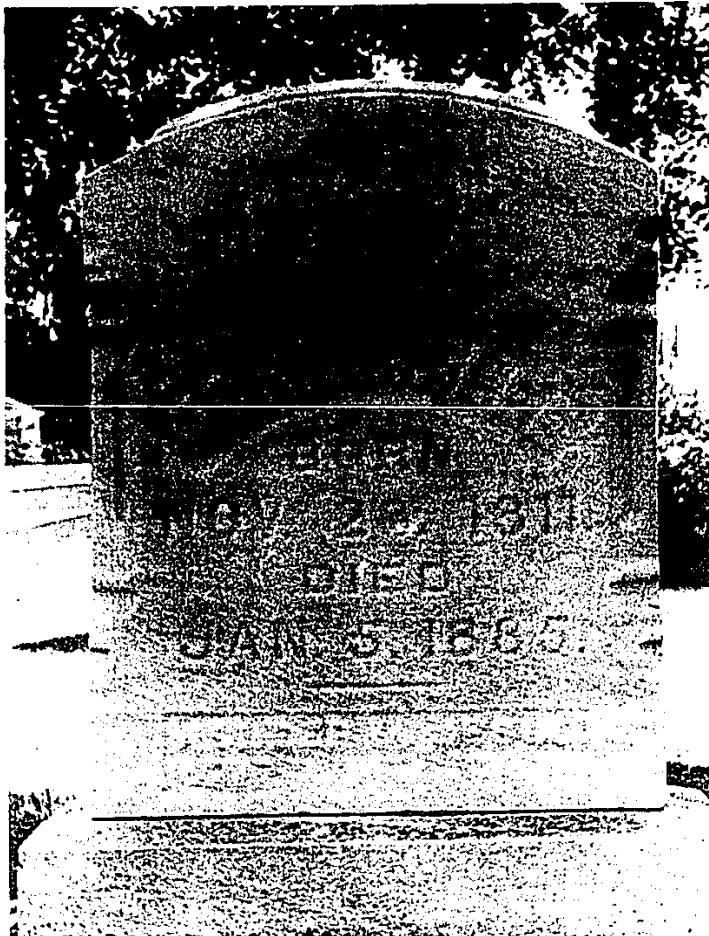
Earlier in the year, the state legislature had laid out the present boundary for the township, thereby separating it from Bloomfield Township.

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 founders' former New York home.

According to early records, the small

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Lee's tombstone stands in the old Quaker cemetery on Gill, south of Grand River. Lee was born in 1811 and died in 1885. The ledger on the stone reads, "Asleep in Jesus."

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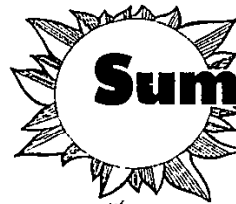


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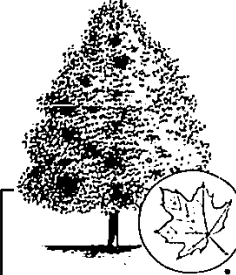
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