

its character, and distributed somewhat in streaks, running east and west across the town. These streaks are of a light, sandy nature, and between them are corresponding streaks of a heavier soil, a sort of clayey loam, which predominates largely in the southern part of the town. The soil is well adapted to the cultivation of general crops, and well rewards the husbandman for his toil, and the heavier soil is especially well adapted to the growing of wheat.

The streams are more rapid than is usually the case in Michigan, and two of them furnish mill-seats in their course through this town. The principal stream is the south branch of the Shiawassee River, which enters from Cohoctah near the northwest corner of section 18, runs north to the north line of section 7, then east a half-mile, and then north till it passes into Argentine. Where it crosses the line between sections 6 and 7 the stream has a considerable fall, and affords the finest water-power in the town, and the only one that is utilized. From the Shiawassee, going eastward, we next reach the stream known as Yellow River. The Indian name, which had the same significance and was probably given it on account of the color of its waters, was "Saw-ick-sah." This stream takes its rise in a small lake in the north part of Oceola, which bears the name of Lown's Lake, from an early settler in that vicinity. Another branch of it rises in the south part of section 35, and flows west to about the centre of the south half of section 34, where it joins the outlet of the lake, and the combined streams follow a westerly, northwesterly, and northerly course, till it enters the southern extremity of Indian Lake. It leaves the lake, passing in a northerly course, crosses the county line, and unites with the Shiawassee River in the town of Argentine. Next east of Yellow River we come to Cranberry Creek, so called because it had its rise in a cranberry marsh. It rises in section 36, and is the outlet of Payne's Lake, on that section. Its general course through the town is northwesterly, and near a point seven-eighths of a mile north of the southwest corner of section 4 it empties into the Yellow River. On sections 15 and 10 it passes through a string of four lakes, and is augmented by their overflow. As we approach the eastern boundary of the town we reach another stream, more particularly described in the history of Tyrone, which is only second in importance to the south branch of the Shiawassee, if, indeed, it does not outrank it. It is North Ore Creek, and enters the town from Tyrone about eighty rods south of the northeast corner of section 13, pursuing a northerly course till it enters Bennett Lake, on the southeast

quarter of section 1. It once more leaves the lake, in the northeast quarter of section 2, and, running northwest, crosses the county line into Argentine, where it affords a very fine mill-seat at Argentine village. Its waters join the east branch of the Shiawassee in Argentine. The other streams of the town are little brooks, tributary to these larger streams. The land along these water-courses is generally more rolling than elsewhere, and in some parts the knolls and ridges are almost worthy to be designated as hills.

The town has rather more than the usual number of lakes. The largest is called Indian Lake, from the fact that an Indian family lived for many years upon its bank, and was known among the Indians as Portabeek's Lake. It lies west of the centre of the town, and contains an area of about 450 acres of open water. The marshes upon its shore are more or less overflowed at certain times. Most of the lake is on section 17, but its southern extremity reaches a few rods into section 20, and a limb extends north into section 8. Its length from north to south is about two miles, and its average width not far from three-eighths of a mile. Its outline is very irregular. Its outlet is the Yellow River. The next one in importance is sometimes called Laird Lake, but should be called Bennett Lake, after William Bennett, the first settler along its shore. The practice seems to have obtained here of calling these lakes by the names of those residing nearest them, changing the name every time the property is transferred to some new owner. This is a reprehensible practice, and should be discouraged. If—as would have been the best way—the Indian names for these lakes and streams could not be learned and perpetuated, it might answer to name them after the first settlers upon their shores; but once named, that name should be continued through all time, unless some more appropriate or better name should be, by common consent, conferred upon them. In this work we follow the rule, as far as possible, to call these lakes and streams by their earliest names, believing that they are the ones that should be preserved.

Bennett Lake is very irregular in form, surrounded, generally, by a wide marsh, and extends for a considerable distance into Tyrone. Its greatest length is from east to west, a distance of a little over two miles, and its average width is only about a quarter of a mile, though in places it widens out to nearly a half mile. It contains upwards of 300 acres of open water, exclusive of all marshes. Its western extremity is marked by a bolder shore than those of any other lake in the vicinity. Its outlet is North Ore Creek. It lies on sections 2 and 1 in this town, and 6 in Tyrone.

Ryan Lake lies in the northeast part of section 3, and contains about 80 acres. It is of rounded outline, and its outlet, running from its northwest side, empties into the Yellow River in Argentine. It is longest from northeast to southwest, and is surrounded by marshes. Its name was derived from John Ryan, an early settler in that vicinity.

Leonard Lake lies in the west part of sections 15 and 10, and was named after Samuel Leonard. It is three-quarters of a mile long, and a quarter of a mile in width, and contains an area of about 60 acres.

The rest of the lakes are small, and of comparatively little note. One of them lies across the county line on section 5; another across it on section 2; one lies in section 9, near the southeast corner; one near the centre of section 36; one near the northwest corner of section 29; one south of Bennett Lake, on sections 1 and 2; two on section 10; and one, sometimes called Cranberry Lake, on the corners of sections 3, 4, 9, and 10. All of these bodies of water are marked by the same general features. They are surrounded by marshes and tamarack swamps, have muddy or sandy bottoms, and average from 30 to 40 feet in depth. They were formerly well stocked with fish,—pick-erel, and the different species of bass preponderating, but many other kinds being found in greater or less numbers. Though the fishing is not now as good as when the country was new, still there are enough fish in the lakes to make the sport interesting, if not profitable in a monetary sense, and, to the true sportsman, the question of pecuniary profit is ever one of the minor considerations. In addition to these natural ponds there are two artificial ponds that should be mentioned. The first, and the only one wholly in this town, is the Deer Creek Pond, which overflows about 60 acres, on sections 6 and 7, forming the pond of the Deer Creek mills. The other lies on section 2, and is a portion of the Argentine Mills pond.

Having glanced thus briefly at its natural features, we naturally turn our attention to the steps taken to bring about the settlement of the town, and towards the development of its resources. From the beauty of its contour and appearance, as well as from the apparent fertility and ease of cultivation of its soil, it very naturally attracted the early attention of those who were traveling over the State in search of land on which to settle, or purchase for purposes of speculation. And scarcely was it thrown into the market before they eagerly seized upon the choicest of its lands, so that in a short time the whole of them had passed from the control of the government into the hands of private parties. These entries of land extended through a

period of thirty-four years, but more than seven-tenths of them were made in the one year of 1836. The first entry was made by John How, on the 27th of September, 1833, and was the only one made that year. In 1834 two entries were made, one of them by the same party, and the other by William Peel, both on the 7th of June. Then in 1835 the rush began, and continued from October, 1835, till the spring of 1837. In 1835, John How, William and Benjamin Bennett, Horace H. Nottingham, William Hatt and his son, William Hatt, Jr., Caleb Wood, and Bishop W. Sherwood, made purchases in this town. The purchases in 1836 were 152 in number. The rest of the entries were, in 1837, 9; in 1838, 3; in 1839, 2; in 1841, 2; in 1842, 1; in 1847, 3; in 1848, 5; in 1849, 5; in 1850, 1; in 1851, 2; in 1852, 2; in 1853, 2; in 1854, 4; in 1855, 4; in 1861, 1; and in 1866, 2. The following is a complete list of all the entries, giving the name and former residence of each purchaser, and the date, description of land, and number of acres of each entry, the names of those who actually settled here being marked with an asterisk (\*). The first part consists of those who entered land upon more than one section, and the second part of those who made entries on only one section. The list is made from the records as found in the Livingston County tract-book, and is as follows:

- Joseph Weiss,\* Oakland Co., Mich., Aug. 2, 1836, 67.75 acres on section 1 and 71.86 acres on section 2; March 7, 1855, 40 acres on section 1.
- Elijah Crane, Wayne Co., Mich., March 4, 1836, 80 acres on section 36 and 80 acres on section 35; June 7, 1836, 127.67 acres on section 1 and 80 acres on section 15.
- Julius K. Blackburn,\* Washtenaw Co., Mich., July 2, 1836, 120 acres on section 12; Aug. 2, 1836, 80 acres on section 2.
- James Pratt,\* Washtenaw Co., Mich., June 9, 1836, 40 acres on section 3 and 236.26 acres on section 2.
- Ebénézer J. Penniman, Wayne Co., Mich., March 4, 1836, 160 acres on section 4; March 18, 1836, 80 acres on section 4; April 20, 1836, 80 acres on section 4 and 80 acres on section 5; May 9, 1836, 40 acres on section 5; Nov. 18, 1836, 80 acres on section 4.
- John How,\* Westchester Co., N. Y., Sept. 27, 1833, 480 acres on section 7 and 160 acres on section 8; June 7, 1834, 160 acres on section 6; May 13, 1836, 100.03 acres on section 5; and Oct. 30, 1835, 28.42 acres on section 18.
- Vespasian Adams,\* Madison Co., N. Y., Jan. 12, 1837, 85 7/4 acres on section 18 and 56.48 acres on section 7.
- Daniel Boutell,\* Jr., Onondaga Co., N. Y., Nov. 5, 1836, 61.08 acres on section 30 and 59.06 acres on section 19; Nov. 14, 1836, 58.26 acres on section 19; and March 1, 1837, 56.24 acres on section 7.
- Joseph Coon, Wayne Co., N. Y., Aug. 1, 1836, 120 acres on section 8 and 40 acres on section 9.
- Edmund Flood, Wayne Co., Mich., Dec. 2, 1836, 40 acres on section 8 and 40 acres on section 9.
- Ira Lamb,\* of this county, Sept. 7, 1847, 40 acres on section 9; March 4, 1848, 40 acres on section 16.
- Benjamin Bennett,\* Washtenaw Co., Mich., Dec. 10, 1835, 320 acres on section 11, Jan. 19, 1836, 40 acres on section 10.
- Horace H. Nottingham,\* Washtenaw Co., Mich., Nov. 23, 1835,

80 acres on section 12, 80 acres on section 13, and 80 acres on section 14.  
 William Hatt, Sr.,\* Washtenaw Co., Mich., Nov. 24, 1835, 80 acres on section 12 and 160 acres on section 13; May 27, 1836, 40 acres on section 12.  
 Charles D. Topping,\* Washtenaw Co., Mich., June 20, 1836, 40 acres on section 12 and 80 acres on section 22; July 7, 1836, 40 acres on section 12.  
 Eliphalet S. Tooker, Washtenaw Co., Mich., June 2, 1836, 80 acres on section 12; June 3, 1836, 40 acres on section 13.  
 Joseph Welch\* and George Green,\* Washtenaw Co., Mich., March 9, 1836, 80 acres on section 23, 80 acres on section 24, and 80 acres on section 25; March 18, 1836, 80 acres on section 35; July 12, 1836, 40 acres on section 12; Nov. 5, 1836, 40 acres on section 27.  
 Samuel Leonard,\* Monroe Co., N. Y., April 14, 1836, 160 acres on section 14 and 80 acres on section 15.  
 Abram Cook, Wayne Co., N. Y., Nov. 26, 1836, 80 acres on section 17, 80 acres on section 18, and 80 acres on section 20.  
 Benjamin B. Kercheval, Wayne Co., Mich., Oct. 29, 1836, 80 acres on section 18 and 120 acres on section 30.  
 Daniel Miller, Washtenaw Co., Mich., Oct. 28, 1836, 40 acres on section 18 and 80 acres on section 30.  
 Myron H. Warner, Washtenaw Co., Mich., June 3, 1836, 80 acres on section 19, 80 acres on section 29, and 120 acres on section 31.  
 Robert Chambers,\* Monroe Co., N. Y., May 21, 1836, 80 acres on section 20 and 80 acres on section 29.  
 John H. Sanford,\* of this county, July 8, 1836, 80 acres on section 30; Sept. 23, 1836, 40 acres on section 30; Sept. 20, 1841, 40 acres on section 20.  
 Isaac N. Hedden, of this county, Sept. 24, 1836, 40 acres on section 20 and 40 acres on section 31.  
 Orrin Cartwright, Monroe Co., N. Y., April 1, 1836, 40 acres on section 22, 40 acres on section 23, 80 acres on section 26, and 80 acres on section 27.  
 Thomas C. Smith, New York, Aug. 2, 1836, 120 acres on section 22 and 40 acres on section 23.  
 Abram Fairchilds, Wayne Co., N. Y., June 14, 1836, 80 acres on section 22 and 80 acres on section 23.  
 Charles Kellogg, Cayuga Co., N. Y., July 16, 1836, 80 acres on section 23 and 160 acres on section 26.  
 David Bangs, Monroe Co., N. Y., May 5, 1836, 160 acres on section 24 and 80 acres on section 25.  
 Dennis McCarthy,\* Wayne Co., Mich., Feb. 29, 1836, 160 acres on section 25 and 160 acres on section 36.  
 Thomas Lewitt, Washtenaw Co., Mich., May 16, 1836, 80 acres on section 24 and 80 acres on section 36.  
 William Jubh,\* Monroe Co., N. Y., May 24, 1836, 80 acres on section 29 and 40 acres on section 30.  
 George Grant, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., June 3, 1836, 80 acres on section 29 and 40 acres on section 31.  
 William B. Wright, of this county, June 11, 1836, 80 acres on section 30 and 80 acres on section 32.  
 Garrett Martin, Yates Co., N. Y., May 21, 1836, 80 acres on section 35 and 160 acres on section 36.

The remaining entries are for more convenient reference arranged by sections, as follows:

SECTION 1.

|   |        |        |
|---|--------|--------|
| Hugh Gordon, Washtenaw Co., Mich., July 16, 1836.....       | Acres. | 187.75 |
| Abram Blackburn,* Washtenaw Co., Mich., Oct. 21, 1836.....  |        | 80     |
| Jefferson Eddy, Genesee Co., Mich., March 9, 1837.....      |        | 40     |
| Ebenezer Sterns, Yates Co., N. Y., March 23, 1837.....      |        | 40     |
| David S. Tomlinson, Allegany Co., N. Y., June 26, 1837..... |        | 80     |

SECTION 2.

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| William Bennett,* Washtenaw Co., Mich., Nov. 6, 1835..... | 188.12 |
| Asa Sprague, Wayne Co., Mich., May 4, 1836.....           | 40     |

|  |        |    |
|--|--------|----|
| Benjamin L. King, Wayne Co., Mich., Aug. 1, 1836.....        | Acres. | 40 |
| Hiram T. Blackburn,* Washtenaw Co., Mich., Aug. 2, 1836..... |        | 40 |
| John Rise, of this county, Dec. 6, 1836.....                 |        | 40 |

SECTION 3.

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Caleb Wood,* Washtenaw Co., Mich., Dec. 1, 1835.....      | 240    |
| Isaac Pratt, Washtenaw Co., Mich., June 9, 1836.....      | 80     |
| Elias Davenport, Wayne Co., Mich., Aug. 1, 1836.....      | 80.31  |
| Josiah Dort, Wayne Co., Mich., Aug. 3, 1836.....          | 80.34  |
| Russell M. Ormsbee, Wayne Co., Mich., Nov. 4, 1836.....   | 170.79 |
| Rebecca Cramer,* Washtenaw Co., Mich., Aug. 15, 1838..... | 120    |

SECTION 4.

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Clement Shaw, Saratoga Co., N. Y., May 21, 1836..... | 178.72 |
| Clark C. Boutwell, Hillsboro Co., N. H.....          | 267.4  |

SECTION 5.

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| William Peel,* Westchester Co., N. Y., June 7, 1834.....       | 80    |
| Bishop W. Sherwood,* Westchester Co., N. Y., Oct. 1, 1835..... | 240   |
| Jonathan How,* of this county, May 13, 1836.....               | 90.01 |
| Sidney M. Hawley,* of this county, March 11, 1841.....         | 97.51 |
| George Fairbanks,* Genesee Co., Mich., Feb. 26, 1852.....      | 48.75 |
| Levi Warner, Genesee Co., Mich., March 17, 1852.....           | 50.02 |
| Peter Crosby,* of this county, March 1, 1853.....              | 48.75 |

SECTION 6.

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Clark C. Boutwell and Reuben Moore, of the United States, May 25, 1836..... | 558.37 |
| John Myers, of Cayuga Co., N. Y., Jan. 23, 1839.....                        | 102.52 |

SECTION 8.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Lawrence Jones, Wayne Co., N. Y., Aug. 3, 1836.....                                   | 80  |
| William Bain,* Wayne Co., Mich., Jan. 21, 1843, April 18, 1854, and Aug. 8, 1855..... | 120 |
| John Thompson,* of this county, July 13, 1854.....                                    | 40  |
| Eli Howard, of this county, Oct. 27, 1855.....  | 40  |

SECTION 9.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Esick Pray, Washtenaw Co., Mich., June 21, 1836..... | 320 |
| Terence Hancock, Wayne Co., Mich., Dec. 2, 1836..... | 80  |
| Jacob J. Debar,* of this county, Aug. 27, 1851.....  | 40  |
| Bartimeus Packard, of this county, June 3, 1836..... | 80  |

SECTION 10.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Philo Strickland,* Erie Co., N. Y., April 14, 1836.....     | 80  |
| Lothrop Briggs, Lenawee Co., Mich., May 7, 1836.....        | 80  |
| James Van Benschoten,* Cayuga Co., N. Y., June 3, 1836..... | 160 |
| Nathan Cole,* of this county, Dec. 2, 1836.....             | 80  |
| Joseph Cole, of this county, Dec. 9, 1836.....              | 40  |
| Philo Bradley,* of this county, June 23, 1851.....          | 40  |
| Samuel C. B. Bradley,* of this county, Nov. 11, 1853.....   | 40  |
| Franklin Bradley,* of this county, July 3, 1855.....        | 40  |
| Silas Lindley,* of this county, March 10, 1854.....         | 40  |

SECTION 11.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Samuel Hogg, Washtenaw Co., Mich., March 18, 1836.....   | 80 |
| Lyman Purdy, Orleans Co., N. Y., April 19, 1836.....     | 80 |
| John S. Delano, Washtenaw Co., Mich., May 16, 1836.....  | 80 |
| Daniel D. Smith, Washtenaw Co., Mich., June 2, 1836..... | 40 |
| Dwight Kellogg, Washtenaw Co., Mich., July 16, 1836..... | 40 |

SECTION 12.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| William Hatt, Jr.,* Washtenaw Co., Mich., Nov. 24, 1835.....  | 80 |
| Washington D. Morton, Washtenaw Co., Mich., May 17, 1836..... | 40 |

SECTION 13.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Anson Pettibone, Genesee Co., N. Y., May 12, 1836..... | 240 |
| Abram Speers,* Washtenaw Co., Mich., May 18, 1836..... | 80  |
| Isaac L. Platt, New York City, Aug. 3, 1836.....       | 40  |

SECTION 14.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Jabez Lindley,* Washtenaw Co., Mich., May 20 and Sept. 19, 1836..... | 80  |
| Reuben Pease, Cayuga Co., N. Y., June 27, 1836.....                  | 80  |
| Jeriah G. Rhodes, Cayuga Co., N. Y., June 27, 1836.....              | 80  |
| Daniel R. Rhodes, Cayuga Co., N. Y., June 27, 1836.....              | 160 |

DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP.

SECTION 15.

|  | Acres. |
|--|--------|
| Darius Lewis,* Erie Co., N. Y., May 2, 1836, and Aug. 8, 1849..... | 200    |
| Leonard Lockwood, Steuben Co., N. Y., July 5, 1836.....            | 80     |
| Phineas and John B McCrary, Steuben Co., N. Y., Aug. 3, 1836.....  | 160    |

SECTION 16.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| C. W. Leonard,* June 16, 1842.....                     | 40  |
| Thomas McKinley,* June 11, 1847.....                   | 40  |
| R. Cramer, June 11, 1847.....                          | 40  |
| R. T. Young,* June 13, 1848.....                       | 80  |
| Eli Ward,* Oct. 11, 1848.....                          | 40  |
| James Cameron,* Nov. 25, 1848, and March 30, 1849..... | 80  |
| Hugh Anderson,* March 21, 1849, and July 1, 1861.....  | 120 |
| L. Lampson,* Aug. 25, 1849.....                        | 40  |
| M. Sackner,* Oct. 15, 1849.....                        | 40  |
| James H. Page,* April 16, 1866.....                    | 20  |
| A. D. Boyce,* April 16, 1866.....                      | 60  |

SECTION 17.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| William B. Hopkins, Monroe Co., N. Y., June 3, 1836....  | 80 |
| Flavius J. B. Crane, Monroe Co., N. Y., June 13, 1837... | 80 |
| Joseph Sibley, Cayuga Co., N. Y., Sept. 1, 1838.....     | 40 |
| Sands Libbey,* Cayuga Co., N. Y., May 1, 1850.....       | 40 |
| Henry Robb,* Cayuga Co., N. Y., Aug. 1, 1854.....        | 40 |

SECTION 18.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Lyman Morelle,* Washtenaw Co., Mich., Aug. 2, 1836....   | 80 |
| Edwin P. Spencer,* Washtenaw Co., Mich., Aug. 2, 1836    | 80 |
| Charles S. Hutchins, Madison Co., N. Y., Jan. 10, 1837.. | 80 |
| Robert Craig, Washtenaw Co., Mich., April 4, 1838.....   | 40 |

SECTION 19.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Joseph Willis, Oakland Co., Mich., June 11, 1836.....    | 80 |
| Lucius Willis, Oneida Co., N. Y.....                     | 80 |
| Aaron Abner, Washtenaw Co., Mich., June 18, 1836.....    | 80 |
| Lorenzo Bunnister, Ontario Co., N. Y., July 1, 1836..... | 80 |
| Warren M. Worden,* Wayne Co., Mich., Oct. 26, 1836....   | 80 |

SECTION 20.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Frederick Luce,* Oakland Co., Mich., Feb. 26, 1836, and April 14, 1836..... | 120 |
| Dean Phillips,* Montgomery Co., N. Y., May 9, 1836....                      | 80  |
| Luther Houghton, of this county, July 8, 1836.....                          | 80  |
| Ezra Sanford, of this county, July 8, 1836.....                             | 80  |
| Hannah Blood,* Monroe Co., N. Y., May 16, 1839.....                         | 40  |

SECTION 21.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Matthew Shannon, Steuben Co., N. Y., May 12, 1836..... | 160 |
| Thomas Sharp,* Seneca Co., N. Y., May 12, 1836.....    | 160 |
| Robert McKinley,* Steuben Co., N. Y., May 12, 1836.... | 160 |
| Jacob Cole, Wayne Co., Mich., June 20, 1836.....       | 80  |
| Job Stafford, Washtenaw Co., Mich., July 13, 1836..... | 80  |

SECTION 22.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| James Lewis, Erie Co., N. Y., May 2, 1836.....          | 160 |
| Alfred White, Livingston Co., N. Y., May 24, 1836.....  | 80  |
| Rensselaer Pomeroy, Wayne Co., N. Y., June 14, 1836.... | 80  |

SECTION 23.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| William S. Spalding,* Cayuga Co., N. Y., June 27, 1836. | 160 |
| Hall Deland, Genesee Co., N. Y., Aug. 2, 1836.....      | 160 |

SECTION 24.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| James Tyler, Tompkins Co., N. Y., June 2, 1836.....     | 80  |
| Sophia Smalley, Washtenaw Co., Mich., June 3, 1836..... | 40  |
| Charles Wright, Jefferson Co., N. Y., June 6, 1836..... | 160 |
| Adam Bayley, of this county, May 5, 1837.....           | 40  |

SECTION 25.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Russell Morton, Washtenaw Co., Mich., Jan. 11, 1836..... | 160 |
| Joseph Chamberlin,* Livingston Co., N. Y., May 3, 1836.  | 80  |
| Philo H. Munson, Livingston Co., N. Y., June 6, 1836.... | 80  |

SECTION 26.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Eli H. Evans, Washtenaw Co., Mich., Feb. 29, 1836.....  | 160 |
| Elisha G. Mapes, Washtenaw Co., Mich., Feb. 29, 1836... | 160 |
| Samuel L. Walden, New York, Aug. 2, 1836.....           | 80  |

SECTION 27.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Joseph Gilman,* Monroe Co., N. Y., April 1, 1836.....    | 80  |
| James Henry, Wayne Co., Mich., June 7, 1836.....         | 160 |
| Friend Burt, Genesee Co., N. Y., June 13, 1836.....      | 80  |
| Preston H. Smith, Madison Co., N. Y., June 20, 1836..... | 80  |
| Nelson A. Smith, Madison Co., N. Y., June 20, 1836.....  | 80  |

SECTION 28.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| William P. Finch, Saratoga Co., N. Y., May 21, 1836..... | 210 |
| David S. Ireland,* Monroe Co., N. Y., May 21, 1836.....  | 320 |
| Rhoda Davis, Washtenaw Co., Mich., May 30, 1836.....     | 80  |

SECTION 29.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| William Pike,* Monroe Co., N. Y., May 21, 1836.....          | 80 |
| Austin Deiano, Livingston Co., N. Y., June 3, 1836.....      | 80 |
| Robert Sowders,* Livingston Co., N. Y., June 4, 1836....     | 80 |
| Montgomery P. Adams,* Madison Co., N. Y., Nov. 14, 1836..... | 80 |

SECTION 30.

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Margaret Cooper,* Madison Co., N. Y., Nov. 14, 1836.... | 40     |
| Dennis Murphy, Wayne Co., Mich., Nov. 26, 1836.....     | 160 72 |

SECTION 31.

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Joseph Hosley,* Wayne Co., Mich., June 1, Sept. 23, and Nov. 14, 1836..... | 411.40 |
|--|--------|

SECTION 32.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| James Miller, Oakland Co., Mich., April 1, 1836.....    | 160 |
| Harry H. Neff, of this county, June 11, 1836.....       | 40  |
| John Cram, Erie Co., N. Y., June 28, 1836.....          | 120 |
| Dennis J. Rockwell, Wayne Co., Mich., Oct. 27, 1836.... | 160 |
| David F. Rockwell, Wayne Co., Mich., Oct. 27, 1836....  | 160 |

SECTION 33.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Ezel Merrill, Oakland Co., Mich., May 2, 1836.....      | 40  |
| Stephen C. Goff, Wayne Co., Mich., May 11, 1836.....    | 160 |
| George Faussett,* Seneca Co., N. Y., May 12, 1836.....  | 80  |
| Henry Faussett,* Seneca Co., N. Y., May 12, 1836.....   | 80  |
| Thomas Faussett,* Seneca Co., N. Y., May 12, 1836.....  | 160 |
| Benjamin Merrill,* Wayne Co., Mich., Sept. 23, 1836.... | 40  |
| Hiram Merrill,* May 3, 1837.....                        | 80  |

SECTION 34.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Henry Lown,* Genesee Co., N. Y., April 18, 1836.....   | 160 |
| Michael Bennett,* Washtenaw Co., Mich., June 4, 1836.. | 320 |
| Richard H. Caniff, New York City, Aug. 4, 1836.....    | 160 |

SECTION 35.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| William Payne,* Washtenaw Co., Mich., May 16, 1836.... | 80  |
| John Van Tuyl, Washtenaw Co., Mich., May 27, 1836....  | 80  |
| Hugh Gilshenan, Washtenaw Co., Mich., June 4, 1836.... | 160 |
| Electa A. Hedden, of this county, Sept. 24, 1836.....  | 80  |

SECTION 36.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Thales Deane,* Washtenaw Co., Mich., Jan. 11, 1836..... | 80 |
| John Winter, Genesee Co., N. Y., May 3, 1836.....       | 80 |

In the foregoing, the names of those who are known to have become actual residents of the town are distinguished by a (\*). In most cases considerable time intervened between the date of entry and the date of settlement. And in some instances this space was lengthened into months and years.

As will be seen, by any one whose curiosity prompts them to carefully examine the list, there is still some land that has never been purchased from the government. This embraces what might well be termed submarine farms, as it is mostly, if

not entirely, composed of the bottoms of the lakes, with perhaps a little strip of the bordering marshes. The total amount of land thus left unoccupied is 479 acres and a fraction, and is distributed as follows: on section 1, 79.4 acres; on section 2, 40.01 acres; on section 8, 40 acres; on section 15, 40 acres; and on section 17, 280 acres.

#### SETTLEMENT.

We of the present generation are wont to pay but little heed to the generations that have preceded us along the pathway of life. In the rush and whirl of active life, the past, with its people, their wants and wishes, hopes and dreams, fears and troubles, joys and sorrows, are forgotten and ignored. And yet it is always well to look back upon the pathway of the world's progress, study the events and experiences of the past, with a view to seeing their logical results, and thus to profit by what others have learned only through trial and suffering.

Turn back upon the footsteps of time but little more than one generation and mark the contrast presented by this part of our land. Here was a vast wilderness, unpeopled save by wild beasts and savages, with beautiful openings and impenetrable forests mingled together in a seemingly endless succession, with thousands of beautiful, placid lakes hid in the bosom of the forest, and smooth-gliding streams, running stealthily along, with the forest trees frowning darkly upon their own reflected forms. And this had been the inheritance of a people rude and uncultured, but having all the attributes of the race which, by its reason and conscience, was made fit for the position assigned it by the Creator's fiat, as ruler over all the earth. These aborigines have passed away, leaving their loved hunting-grounds to become fertile and fruitful farms, and we scarcely give their memories a passing thought. We know that they existed, and occasionally have the fact recalled to mind by the discovery of some relic that the plow brings forth from its earthy hiding-place, but we take no pains to perpetuate their memories or preserve their histories. Will the future inhabitants of this continent in ages to come be as careless and indifferent regarding us?

Though Deerfield was in many respects an excellent hunting-ground, and was, therefore, frequently visited by roving bands of Indians, it was not the site of any of their villages. The only Indian who resided here was an old chief who bore the name of Portabeek, and had a habitation, half-wigwam, half-shanty, upon the west bank of the Yellow River, near Indian Lake. There he lived with his old squaw and a widowed daughter,

who had two or three children. He was of fine appearance, unusual size, and possessing more than the usual amount of intelligence. He was of a jovial disposition, thoroughly honest and reliable, and always lived on the best of terms both with his red brethren and pale-faced neighbors. For some five or six years after the advent of the white settlers he continued to reside in his cabin, hunting, fishing, and trafficking with the pioneers, and then the family in some way became broken up, and Portabeek and his wife commenced a roving life, that lasted till the Great Spirit called them to the happy hunting-grounds. After his wife died he rambled about in his loneliness, spending most of his time in Tyrone, where he died; but the event was looked upon as of so little importance that neither the time of his death nor the place of his burial can now be learned.

The first white settler of Deerfield came to reside here in 1834, and his family was for a year or more the only family in town. This man's name was John How, and a brief sketch of his life will no doubt be of interest to the readers of this work in the present, as it must ever be to future generations of the descendants of the pioneers of this vicinity. He was an Englishman by birth and education, and learned the trade of cotton manufacturer and machinist. In 1820 he emigrated to this country, hoping to find a better market for his labor, and a field of operations that presented more hope of accumulating a competency. Soon after his arrival in New York he found a position in a cotton-factory near Yonkers, in Westchester County, and remained there for thirteen years, most of the time holding the position of agent in charge of the factory. During this time he had accumulated some property, and had been able to afford his children good school privileges; but now his sons were approaching the age when they would desire to start in life for themselves, and he thought the most feasible plan to promote his own and their interests was to push out into the undeveloped Western country, and invest his surplus capital in the cheap but well-reputed lands there so plentiful. He no doubt felt the itching to become a landed proprietor, which is so marked in those of our citizens who come from that country where only the wealthy and titled are privileged to hold a title to the soil. Leaving his son, John, in charge of the factory, he started for Michigan in the summer of 1833, and came by public conveyance over the usually traveled water courses till he landed in Detroit, where the United States land-office was situated. Hiring a guide and an Indian pony each for the guide and himself, he left Detroit on the Shiawassee trail to look up a

satisfactory location. He wanted to find a locality where the soil should be light enough to cultivate easily, and yet heavy enough to bear successive cropping, and still yield a remunerative return for the labor of cultivation. The plains he considered too light, and the timbered lands, as a whole, too heavy for his purpose, but hoped to find on the timbered openings, near the edge of the timber belt, a soil that would suit him.

Not unmindful of the advantages of a healthful location, where the too prevalent chills and fevers were less common than in some parts, he sought for a situation well towards the sources of the streams, judging that there their courses would be more rapid and their waters more pure. Then, too, as he was a practical mill-wright and machinist, he thought that a good water-power would be an excellent thing to own, as it would furnish motive power for saw- and grist-mills for the accommodation of the coming settlers, and might in the future, when the resources of the State became more fully developed, become valuable for purposes of manufacture. With all these things in view he traveled along the Shiawassee trail to Owosso, without finding a satisfactory stopping-place, and turned upon his track, determined to follow some of the streams towards their sources, and see if something suited to his mind could not be found. Arrived at Byron they left the trail and followed along the east bank of the South Branch of the Shiawassee River till they reached this town, and found a country which answered to Mr. How's preconceived notions. He finally decided that he had found a spot that possessed all the desirable qualities and natural advantages that could be expected anywhere, and made minutes of the description of the pieces he wanted to purchase. Mounting their ponies he and the guide retraced their steps and followed the Detroit and Shiawassee or Walled Lake trail to Detroit, where Mr. How entered a section of land, embracing the east three-fourths of section 7, and the west quarter of section 8. Having thus secured his land, which was the first taken up in the town, he returned to the East to settle up his business and prepare his family for removal.

It was the 1st of May following before they were ready to begin their journey, which was made by steambot up the Hudson to Albany, by canal to Buffalo, and steamer to Detroit. The party consisted of John How and wife, four sons,—Jonathan, William, Thomas, and John, Jr.,—two daughters,—Susannah and Mary,—and a hired man, named William Peel, and his wife. Upon their arrival at Detroit, Mr. How hired a teamster to carry his goods to Birmingham, and purchasing

an ox-team and wagon loaded in himself and companions and proceeded to Birmingham. He looked about for a place to live in while he was preparing a house on his land, and finding an unoccupied house near Orchard Lake, in Bloomfield, his friend of its owner, Mr. Harris, who was also a former acquaintance, and moved there. Then with his three sons,—John, William, and Jonathan, and Mr. Peel, he went on to his land to build a house. They succeeded in finding the place without much difficulty, and Mr. How at once recognized the land he had chosen, and pointed it out to them. John had made something of a study of the plan of the United States survey, and knew all the marks of section lines, corners, quarter-stakes, etc., and he at once informed his father that if it was the land he had selected it certainly was *not* the land he had entered. A close examination of the plat proved this to be the case. In some way (thought to be the fault of the guide) a mistake had been made, and Mr. How's section was just a half mile south from where he intended it to be. He was vexed, and also alarmed lest some one else had appropriated his selection, and taking a careful description of it he hastened back to the land-office in Detroit. He found that the plat was still unbroken, except by his former purchase, and at once entered the southeast quarter of section 6, and William Peel entered the west half of the southwest quarter of section 5. These entries were made June 7, 1834. They then returned to Deerfield.

The first trip from Orchard Lake to Deerfield occupied a week's time, as they were careful to make a good road through the woods, and though following the trail to the crossings of the streams, yet succeeded in straightening it a good deal, and freed the track from logs, stones, and underbrush. It was marked throughout by "blazes" on the trees. When they reached their destination, work was immediately begun both upon the house for the family, and upon a clearing for a potato-patch. The potatoes were planted as quickly as possible, and in the fall gave a satisfactory yield.

The site decided upon for the dwelling was about eighty rods west of the southeast corner of section 6, and, while the work of putting it up was in progress, the workmen lived in a small tent they had brought with them for that purpose, and sheltered their tools in a small bark shanty, erected immediately after their arrival. This first white man's dwelling in the town was similar in construction to the log cabins of the period. The logs were sawed flat on two sides, and notched at the ends to bring their unsawn sides as closely together as possible. Then, with mud and split basswood or poplar poles, the spaces between were



JOHN HOW.

### JOHN HOW.

John How was born near Carlisle, England, in the village of Dalston, April 19, 1814. His father, also named John, was a machinist by occupation, and reared a family of six children,—four sons and two daughters,—our subject being the eldest. In 1821 the family emigrated to this country, and settled in New York City. The following year the elder How removed to Yonkers, Westchester Co., N. Y., where he established a cotton-factory, which he operated successfully for about thirteen years. In 1833 he came to Michigan. Arriving in Detroit, he secured the services of a guide and started on a pedestrian tour in search of a home in the wilderness. At this time the government had disposed of most of its desirable lands in the southern part of the State, and it was not until they reached Deerfield that Mr. How found a suitable location. Here he entered about six hundred acres of land. He soon after returned to New York, and the following year returned with his family, which was the first in the township, their nearest neighbor being at White Lake, Oakland Co.

The elder How was a man of great industry and ability. He was the first supervisor of the town, and was highly esteemed by all who knew him.

He died in Deerfield, in 1850, in the sixty-first year of his age.

At the date of the emigration of his father, John, Jr., was twenty years of age. He had obtained in New York a good common-school education; this, coupled with a hardy constitution and industrious habits, were of eminent service to him in his new home.

In the entire county no single individual will be found, perhaps, who has taken such an active and prominent position in the history of his town as has Mr. How in Deerfield. He has been prominently identified with its political history. He represented the town upon the Board of Supervisors for many years, and of that body was considered to be an able and efficient member. In 1857 he was elected to the representative branch of the Legislature, and has filled many other positions of trust and responsibility.

In 1841, Mr. How was married to Miss Eunice Jones, who was born in Middlefield, Otsego Co., N. Y., Feb. 22, 1822. Her parents, Levi and Betsey Jones, were pioneers of Salem, Washtenaw Co. Mr. and Mrs. How have been blessed with three children, one of whom, James, is living at the old home.

securely chinked and plastered. It was provided with a stick chimney, and what was rather unusual in those days,—a board roof. The lumber for the roof, floors, door, and casings for the door and windows, was brought from Pontiac. It was the intention to finish up the house in time to get back to Pontiac to celebrate the "fourth of July." It was necessary to take two days for the return trip, stopping over one night on the road at White Lake. So, when the morning of the 3d dawned, they packed up and started for Pontiac. Before they reached White Lake, in the early evening, they began to hear the regular booming of cannon, and thought that the Pontiac boys were commencing their celebration a little earlier than usual. But when they reached the settlement they found to their disgust and chagrin that they had somehow lost a day in their reckoning, and would arrive in town the day after the celebration. As soon as possible the family and goods, together with three yoke of oxen, two cows with calves, and a pony, were transported to Deerfield, and the regular pioneer life was begun.

While the house was building, ten acres were cleared and sown to wheat, being the first wheat sown in Deerfield. When harvested the next summer it yielded about 20 bushels to the acre.

The work of clearing was rather more arduous than was usually the case in this "opening" country, because the timber was heavier than on most of the surrounding sections. Of the experiences of their first winter we are not able to speak in detail, but imagination draws a pleasant picture of the cosy cabin, snow-shrouded, with a column of fleecy smoke rolling from its stick chimney into the azure vault, while within were the comfort, and quiet, and pleasant peace of "home." Then there were the rude but healthful labors in the clearing, and the exciting hunting scenes, as the settlers pursued the deer, or lay in wait for the turkeys, all of which added a charm to the new life on the frontier. The boys soon formed the acquaintance of old Portabeek and other Indians, and used to hunt and fish in their company, furnishing the family table with by far the greater share of its supply of meat as the result of their efforts. Succeeding years passed in nearly the same way, though the family, like nearly all the pioneers, was gradually growing into better circumstances, and had to endure less and less privation with each succeeding year. They were the only residents of the town till the fall of 1835 or (as seems more probable to the writer) spring of 1836, when William Hatt, William Hatt, Jr., and Horace H. Nottingham moved into the eastern part of the town. Soon after the completion of his house, Mr. How

rigged up a "pit-saw," and began cutting pine-trees, numerous on his land, and sawing them up into boards. This was the first mechanical industry of the town.

John How was a self-made man, and possessed the virtues of honesty, energy, thoughtfulness, and good judgment to a marked degree. He was capable as a manager, as well as industrious as a workman, and in his brief connection with public affairs acquitted himself with credit. Upon the organization of the town he was elected its first supervisor, and held the office for three successive terms. Appointed as the first treasurer, in 1839, he held that office seven successive terms, and then retiring from public life devoted his time to the management of his farm and mills until his death, which occurred Jan. 21, 1848, at the age of fifty-nine years, eight months, and fourteen days. His wife died two years before him, April 7, 1846, at the age of fifty-six years.

Jonathan How married Lucinda Bennett, of this town, Jan. 7, 1838, the ceremony being performed by David Dickson, Esq., and settled on a 60 acre farm he had bought on the northwest quarter of section 5. He died there in 1846, leaving a wife and three sons, the youngest but ten months old.

William How married Lovisa Anable, May 21, 1848, and lived on a part of the old homestead till his death, Feb. 5, 1864, in his fifty-seventh year. He left a wife and four children.

Thomas How married Sarah C. Bristol, March 7, 1848, and settled on the place where he still lives, on the east half of the southeast quarter of section 18.

John How, Jr., to whom the writer of this sketch is much indebted for invaluable assistance, was the one member of the family who has particularly distinguished himself. Jan. 14, 1841, he was united in marriage with Miss Eunice Jones, and settled on 300 acres of land lying mostly on section 7. His residence was built on the east half of the northeast quarter of that section, and is still standing near the more modern residence that has supplanted it. On the same place Mr. and Mrs. How are calmly enjoying the pleasures of later life, surrounded by children and friends. Mr. How entered early into the arena of public life, his first appearance being in the role of school inspector, in 1839. He then held the office of town clerk for three years, and was elected as supervisor in 1848. He has served twelve years as supervisor at different times, and in 1856 was elected a Representative in the State Legislature. In all of these positions he discharged his duties with zeal and fidelity, winning the good opinion of his political foes, as well as of the members of his own



party. A more complete sketch of his life appears elsewhere in this work.

John How, Senior's, two daughters were married and lived in this town, and are still residents here. Susannah married Philander Sackner, who died Feb. 25, 1862, and is now living with her daughter. Mary married Ira O. Marble, and has since resided in the south part of the town.

The second company of settlers consisted of William Hatt and his son-in-law, Horace H. Nottingham, and their respective families, who came early in the spring of 1836. William Hatt built a house near the south quarter-post of section 12, and Nottingham built his near the southwest corner of the same section. Mr. Hatt lived here until he removed to Argentine, where he died a few years since. His son, William Hatt, is now living on the homestead. Nottingham was a well educated man, one of the earliest school-teachers of the region, and held the office of school inspector several years. Some twenty or twenty-five years ago he lost his wife, and soon after removed to Grass Lake, Jackson Co.

At about the same time the Bennett family made a settlement here. William and Benjamin Bennett were sons of Robinson Bennett, and were formerly from Springfield, Otsego Co., N. Y., coming early with their parents to Michigan, and settling in Salem, Washtenaw Co. After their parents' death they decided to locate new farms, and came to Deerfield, in the fall of 1835, to locate their land. In April, 1836, Benjamin came with his wife and children, and built a large, double log house near the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of section 10, into which they moved and where they lived for a good many years. It was at that time and for several years thereafter the largest and best house in the town. The public business was transacted there because of its size, which made it more convenient than other buildings. In a little more than a year after coming here his wife sickened and died, her's being the first death in the town, so far as known to the writer. He remarried, as is shown by the following extract from the town records, which we give entire, as being an interesting memento of the early times:

"STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF LIVINGSTON, ss.

"I, David Dickson, Justice of the Peace, Do hereby certify that Benjamin Bennett and Catharine Wise Were Married by me on the 26th day of November, 1837, in the Township of Deerfield, David Dickson, Justice of the Peace, in and for the Township of Deerfield.

"EDWIN P. SPENCER, *Town Clerk.*"

So far as known this was the first marriage solemnized in Deerfield, and the parties are both living, after forty-two years of wedded life, on their

original homestead. Their present residence is on section 11, nearly opposite the site of the old log house. George Bennett, a son by his second wife, and Mrs. Matilda H. Wesley and Mrs. Christina Deitz, children by his present wife, are also at present residents of Deerfield.

William Bennett was captain of a vessel on the lakes, and followed that calling for a number of years. He came to Deerfield, with his wife and three children, a few weeks later than his brother Benjamin, and built his house on the west side of North Ore Creek, at the foot of Bennett Lake, which received its name in honor of him. There he lived for fifteen years, when he removed to Argentine, went from there to Saginaw, and finally brought up in Detroit, where he died, Dec. 25, 1876. His wife survived him, and is now living in the city of Jackson. One of his objects in purchasing the land at the foot of the lake was that he expected to be able to utilize its outlet for a water-power, and during his life here he tried to fulfill this expectation by building a dam preparatory to the erection of mills at that point. But some one at Argentine had been a little more expeditious in utilizing the stream, and had built a dam that sent the backflow of water to the foot of Mr. Bennett's dam, who, seeing the folly of proceeding further, at once abandoned the project.

James Pratt was another settler of 1836, coming from Salem, Washtenaw Co., with his wife (*née* Clarissa Thompson) and one child. He was (though as a boy) one of the early residents of Michigan, coming with his father, Dr. Pratt, from Monroe Co., N. Y., in 1826. Upon his arrival here he built a log house on the southwest corner of section 2, where, several years later, he built his first frame house,—still standing, and now occupied by his son Allen. He was quite a prominent man in the town, though never a very ardent politician, and was elected to several town offices. In the fall of 1866 he sold his place to his son, Allen, and moved to Fenton, where he has since resided. His family consisted of four sons,—John E., who lives in Tyrone; Edwin S., in Traverse City; Jay F., in Argentine; and Allen, on the homestead.

Joseph Walsh was a native of Lancashire, England, born and reared near Blackburn, and emigrated to this country with his wife and three children in 1828. After living a while on Long Island, N. Y., he came to Michigan, which was then a Territory, and took up some land in the towns of Lodi and Scio, in Washtenaw County. From there he kept writing back to his cousin, George Green, urging him to leave the old country, and come to America, where land was cheap and there was a good chance to do well. George's

brother, William, much impressed with the statements contained in these letters, decided to come, whether his brother did or not; and in January, 1832, he started for Liverpool to embark, his brother accompanying him, though not intending, at least at that time, to leave England. But after they had got aboard the vessel, George concluded that he too would cross the ocean, and remained on board. The letter containing the directions for them to reach their destination had become badly worn, and upon their arrival in New York, the emigration officers hastily concluded that it must mean "Scio, Allegany County, N. Y.," and sent them to that place. The brothers arrived there and made inquiries for Joseph Walsh, but unsuccessfully, and finally learned their mistake. Being somewhat short of funds, and also determined to be independent and pay as they went, they both hired out to work for Judge Church, William as the gardener, and George as the family coachman. Mr. Walsh learned of their mishap, and came to Scio, expecting to take them back to Michigan with him, but the judge would not release them unless they forfeited their wages, which they would not consent to do. So Mr. Walsh returned to Michigan, where George followed him in the fall of 1832. William became disgusted with America, and, in June, 1832, returned to England. Walsh and Green lived together in Scio till 1836, when they came to Deerfield. They first came in March, and entered 320 acres of land on sections 23, 24, 25, and 35, and built a log house, which stood near the site of the present residence of Mr. Green. They hired Thomas Parshall, Mr. Neff, and Samuel and Benjamin Griswold, all of Oceola, to break up 30 acres of the land on the west half of the northeast quarter of section 35, where there was a considerable plain. In the fall of 1836 they moved the family and goods, and occupied their house. In the spring of 1837 they built the first frame barn in the town, and a year later a large frame house, about thirty rods south of the log house, which was the first frame dwelling erected in Deerfield. Both these buildings are still in existence, and the latter is occupied by John Walsh, a son of Joseph. Joseph Walsh died in February, 1848. Of his children, Mrs. Ann, wife of Frederick Gurdon, Mrs. Jane, wife of Edward Bunting, Mrs. Ellen, wife of George Green, John and James Walsh are still residents of Deerfield; Mrs. Martha O'Connell lives in Tyrone; Mrs. Mary Cottrell in Fenton; and Joseph Walsh in Conway.

George Green married Ellen Brindle, a step-daughter of Mr. Walsh, in the summer of 1842, and continued to live with the family till 1856, all the business of both families having been transacted

in common under the firm-name of Walsh & Green till after Mr. Walsh's death. Soon after this event the property was divided, and in 1856 Mr. Green built himself a house a little north of the old log house, and went there to live. In February, 1872, this house was burned, and in the summer following the present residence was built. Both himself and wife are still living there in the enjoyment of peace and plenty, after many years of laborious toil to secure them. Four of their children are also residents of Deerfield. Their names are William and James, Mrs. Mary A. Hatt and Mrs. Alice Holcomb.

Among the settlers of 1836 were the Faussetts, who were of Irish descent, and who came here from Lodi, Seneca Co., N. Y. In the spring of 1836, Thomas and George Faussett, brothers, their brother-in-law, Henry Faussett, and their cousin, Thomas Sharp, came through Pennsylvania and Ohio to Oceola, where they hired Asa Parker to guide them through the surrounding country in search of land. On the 12th of May they entered their land, George and Henry purchasing 80 acres each, and Thomas and Sharp each taking a quarter section. They then worked on the Michigan Central Railroad until harvest time, when all but George returned East. Soon after, Thomas Sharp married Mary Faussett, a daughter of Richard Faussett, of Dundee, and in September a party was made up to start for Michigan. Thomas Faussett and his widowed mother, Thomas Sharp and his wife, Henry Faussett with his wife and one child, and William Faussett (a brother of Henry's who settled in Clinton County) composed the party. In Oakland County they were joined by George, and all came on to Deerfield together. They had to camp in the woods while a house was being built, which required several days to accomplish. The site selected was a little north of the Yellow River and near the centre of the northeast quarter of section 33. There they all lived until the next spring, when Sharp and Henry Faussett built houses of their own, the former on the southeast corner of section 21, and the latter on the northwest corner of section 33. Mr. Sharp died on his place about twenty-one years ago. Mrs. Faussett died March 6, 1838, a little over sixty years of age. Thomas Faussett was married, Sept. 16, 1841, to Miss Mary A. Marvin, of New Hudson, Oakland Co., and continued to live in the old log house till about 1846, when he built a better and larger log house near the northeast corner of section 33, on the site of his present residence, which was erected in 1861. Henry Faussett and wife, and George Faussett, who has never married, are also among the pioneers of the town, who are still its citizens.

Caleb Wood settled in 1836, on the corner of section 3, opposite James Pratt's, and lived there till about twenty years ago, when he moved to Mundy, Genesee Co., where he is now living.

One of the most prominent of the early settlers in Deerfield was Charles D. Topping, familiarly known as "Judge" Topping,—a title he obtained by having served as a side judge of the County Court. He was a native of Mentz, Cayuga Co., N. Y., and settled in Scio, Washtenaw Co., in 1832-33. He entered his land, on sections 12 and 22, June 20. and July 7, 1836. Preparations having been made for the removal of the family—then consisting of himself and wife and six children—late in the fall or early in the winter of that year, they and the household effects were loaded into three wagons, drawn by oxen, and started for their new home through a blinding snow-storm that continued nearly the whole of the three days that they spent on the road. They met with the usual experiences of the settlers, suffering some privations and having their full share of the fever and ague, but had no serious troubles. Mr. Topping was a very sedate, candid, and conscientious man, carefully exact in his speech, because he so greatly despised exaggeration and deception, industrious in his habits, but not over anxious to accumulate wealth, a respected citizen, and an honored member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. During his life in this town he held several offices, was treasurer one year, supervisor three years, and justice of the peace upwards of a score of years. He accumulated a competency, and afforded his large family of nine children the best education within his means. He sold his farm here and moved to Fenton, where both he and his wife died. Of his children, Mrs. Ellen S. Gardner, Mrs. Eliza Caruthers, Mrs. Kate Barber, and Albert D. Topping live in Newburgh, Shiawassee Co.; John F. and Charles H. live in Deerfield, the latter on the old homestead; James L. and Orlando live in Fenton; and William W. lives in East Saginaw. James L. and William W. served in the Union army, the former as second lieutenant of the 16th Michigan Infantry, and the latter as a private in the 20th Illinois Infantry. While the latter was sick in the hospital he was nursed back to health by the woman who, after the close of the war, became his wife, and is doing so much to make pleasant the life she was instrumental in saving.

Henry I. Lown came from Western New York in the fall of 1836, and settled on the southwest quarter of section 34, building his house about one hundred rods from the present residence of Ira O. Marble. He became insane about nine years after coming here, and a couple of years later disap-

peared, and has not since been heard from. About the year 1852 his family returned to their former home in New York.

Samuel Leonard was one of the first comers in the spring of 1837. He was a native of Great Barrington, Berkshire Co., Mass. About 1812 he started in life for himself, selecting the town of Brighton, Monroe Co., N. Y., as the field of his operations. There he met Miss Margaret Lindley, a daughter of a New Jersey family, to whom he was united in marriage. In 1826 he bought a 50-acre farm near the village of Penfield, in the same county, where he lived till he came to Michigan. In January, 1836, he came to Deerfield, selected his land, and returned East in the spring, stopping at Detroit to enter the three lots he had selected. After harvesting his crops and settling up his business he packed up and moved to Michigan. In the fall Mr. Leonard and his eldest son, Calvin W., came on and cut logs enough for a house, and in March, 1837, they again came on, and with the help of the Hatts and Nottingham, put up the house. As early as possible the family and goods were brought on and occupied the house, which stood on the northwest corner of section 14. Here they continued to live till the fall of 1869, when the place was sold, and they moved to Linden, Genesee Co. In the fall of 1868, Mrs. Leonard died, and from that time till his own death, in the spring of 1869, Mr. Leonard lived with his son, Calvin W., at Deerfield Centre. Four children—Calvin W., William, Orange W., and Mrs. Mary Bagg—are now living in this town. Mr. Leonard was a Whig in politics, and was not, therefore, called to office in this Democratic town, as he would otherwise undoubtedly have been. In his religious belief he was a Baptist, though not connected with any church here, and his wife at the time of her death had been a member of that connection upwards of forty years.

Joseph Wise was of German ancestry—the name being more properly spelled Weiss, but the anglicized form being adopted by the present generation. He came from Prattstown, Steuben Co., N. Y., in the spring of 1835, settling in Southfield, Oakland Co. Two years later he moved to this town, where he purchased 180 acres of land. His house was built on the northwest quarter of section 1. He was accompanied by his wife, two sons, and a married daughter with her husband, Daniel T. Hyatt. Another daughter, Catharine, was then living in Marshall. He remained a resident of the town till his death, in 1867. His wife survived him about five years. Of his children, Joseph and Mrs. Benjamin Bennett are still residing in Deerfield; John lives in Argentine; Mrs.

Maria Hyatt, in Fenton; and Mrs. Christina Moore, in Genesee, Genesee Co.

Daniel and Lorenzo Boutell were among the settlers in the spring of 1837. They were from Onondaga Co., N. Y. Daniel, with his wife, two sons, and one daughter, settled on the west half of the northwest quarter of section 30, and built his house at the southwest corner of the quarter section. He at once assumed quite a prominent part in town affairs, and frequently held office. He was the first collector, and served five years in that position. He also held the offices of assessor, highway commissioner, constable, and supervisor. In 1856 he removed to Saginaw County, and a couple of years later to Bay City, where he died eleven or twelve years ago, and where his wife and several children still reside. One son, George T., remained in this town, and died here but a few years ago, at the age of thirty-two years. Daniel was a great fisher and hunter, a fluent talker, and the most amiable of men in family and society. He was one of the first members of the Oak Grove Methodist Church, and lived an exemplary Christian life. Lorenzo Boutell settled on the west half of the southwest quarter of section 19, and built his house near the southeast corner of his lot. He was three times married, and by his third wife had one child,—a son,—named Chauncey, who is now living with his widowed mother on the homestead. Mr. Boutell's second wife was Mrs. Sarah Chapman, who died in 1840, and his third wife was Mrs. Polly Hart. He moved to Fenton eleven or twelve years ago (1867-68), and died there in September, 1875, having been an invalid for several years. He was a very social, agreeable, and benevolent man, much interested in church matters, and a member of the Methodist Church. He was not very deeply interested in the strifes of politics, but was elected to the office of overseer of the poor fifteen years, and, with the exception of three years, these elections were consecutive. Having no family of his own, he yet was very fond of children, and made this of practical use by taking a number of children at different times, and keeping them until they were able to do for themselves.

Michael Bennett, with his wife and three small children, came from Northfield, Washtenaw Co., in the spring of 1837, and built a house near the north quarter-post of section 34. He was of Irish birth, and had lived for some time in Eastern New York before coming to Michigan. He purchased the north half of section 34 the year before he came here, and subsequently sold 120 acres to James Conklin, who came here with him. He and his wife died some four or five years ago. Two of their sons are living on the homestead, and one

daughter, Mrs. Mary Downey, also lives in the town.

James Conklin commenced living on the place he bought of Mr. Bennett, in 1839, and his mother, two brothers,—Patrick and Thomas,—and two sisters came at that time and lived with him for two or three years, when his sisters married, and his brothers went to live on section 27, where Patrick had bought a farm. The mother remained with James, and died in 1843. In 1844 he married Margaret Dougherty, of White Lake, Oakland Co., and lived here till his death, which occurred some six or seven years ago. His wife survived him till the spring of 1879. Their children—two daughters and a son—are now living on the homestead.

Robert Chambers and wife, and David S. Ireland, with a wife, four sons, and two daughters, came in company from Scottsville, Monroe Co., N. Y., in the spring of 1837, and settled in this town. Mr. Chambers settled on the northeast corner of section 29. He was for many years a prominent man in the town, was one of the first justices of the peace, and was once elected supervisor. He was a successful farmer, and brought his land under a state of high cultivation. About ten years ago he moved to Fenton, and died there in 1877. His widow is now living at Deerfield Centre.

David S. Ireland bought the north half of section 28, and built his house on the northwest corner of the section. He died in 1848, and the family moved to Holly, Oakland Co., some time during the war.

Bryan Corr, Dennis and Timothy McCarthy, John Ryan, and John Lyons were all Irish emigrants, who came here at different times and settled in different parts of the town. Corr is still living on section 24, where he settled in 1836. John Ryan settled on the county line, on section 3, at an early day, and died there in 1875. The McCarthys and Lyons came in 1837 and settled on sections 25 and 36. Timothy was killed at an early day by a falling tree, and Dennis died in this town some twenty years ago. Several other brothers and sisters have lived in Deerfield some portion of their lives, but none of them are here now, with the exception of one of them, Charles McCarthy.

Samuel L. Bangs, with his wife and one child, and his brothers, Benjamin and Mark, came from Monroe Co., N. Y., and settled on the northeast quarter of section 24, in 1837. Lyman was quite prominent as a leader among the Whigs during his short stay here. In 1839-40 he moved to Ann Arbor. He subsequently emigrated to Illinois, where he is now living. Benjamin lived on what is now the McKeone farm till 1859, and then moved to Fenton, where he is still living. Mark left here



COL. C. SUTHERLAND.

#### COL. CASTLE SUTHERLAND.

Among the early settlers of the city of Ann Arbor no name is more familiar to the people of Washtenaw than that of Col. Sutherland, and perhaps it may be said that no name is more carefully treasured or will be longer remembered by those who knew him. Col. Sutherland was born in Geneva, N. Y., Nov. 11, 1790. In 1828 he came to Ann Arbor, where he remained until 1834, when he removed to the town of Deerfield, where he purchased a farm, and where he lived until about 1850, when he returned to Ann Arbor, where he resided until his death, which occurred July 13, 1862. Col. Sutherland was a gentleman of the old school, a man of sterling integrity, with a firm and unswerving devotion to the right. Patriotism was one of the prominent points in his character. He enlisted

in the war of 1812, and was employed by the government in making and repairing guns, which avocation he subsequently followed many years. During the war of the Rebellion he was frequently heard to express regret that he had not strength to bear arms in the defense of his country.

Col. Sutherland was prominently identified with Deerfield. He held many positions of trust, and was everywhere recognized as a man of ability, a kind neighbor, and a firm friend.

Solomon Sutherland, the youngest in a family of eleven, was born in Scio, in 1833. He resided in Deerfield until he came to Green Oak in 1860, where he now resides. He married Miss Myers, a granddaughter of John Myers, one of the town's first settlers.

in 1840, went to the State of New York, and from there to Illinois, where he engaged in the practice of the law. He has risen to considerable prominence there, having been a candidate for Governor.

Castle Sutherland was formerly from Geneva, Ontario Co., N. Y., settled in Ann Arbor, in 1832, and came to this town in 1837, locating on section 12. He was a man of more than ordinary ability, and was familiarly known as "Colonel," a title derived from militia service, or perhaps from actual service in the war of 1812. He lived here some twelve or fifteen years, and then, his wife dying, he returned to Ann Arbor, and lived with his sons until his own death occurred, a score or more of years ago.

One of the self-made men of this town is Joseph Chamberlin, who is now residing on the farm on which he originally settled forty-one years ago. He was formerly from Lester, Livingston Co., N. Y., and first came to this State in August, 1831, working in Saline, Washtenaw Co., for two years, and then returned to New York. Having purchased his time from his father, he worked until he had saved enough money to pay for two 80-acre lots of government land, and in May, 1836, bought the east half of the southeast quarter of section 25, in this town, and 80 acres adjoining it, in Tyrone. In 1838 he married Delia Kittle, of Groveland, Livingston Co., N. Y., and in November of that year came here, stopping eight weeks with Orson B. Stevens, in Tyrone, while building his house on the southeast corner of section 25. In 1874 he built his present tasty and commodious residence. During his life he has added 400 acres to his original purchase, and, having disposed of a portion of it, still retains upwards of 240 acres. Commencing life as a poor man, he has, by faithful industry and economy, succeeded in accumulating a competency, and has earned the reputation of a public-spirited citizen.

Darius Lewis was a settler of 1838. In company with Nathaniel and Jabez Lindley, he came to locate his land in the spring of 1836. In October, 1838, he came from Newstead, Erie Co., N. Y., with his wife and two children, and settled on his land on section 15. There he lived until 1863, when he moved to Deer Creek, on section 6, and lived there till his death, January 1, 1871. He was rather a peculiar man, full of a nervous energy, and exceedingly tenacious in accomplishing anything he undertook to do. He was engaged in farming, but also practiced law in the justice's courts of this and adjoining towns, and acquired considerable reputation as a successful pettifogger. He was the first postmaster at the Centre, and enjoyed the distinction of being the only

Whig or Republican ever elected to the office of supervisor of this town. His widow and two sons, Hartwell and Philander, are still living in Deerfield.

The Marbles have been among the most prominent families of the town since their arrival, in April, 1840. Ira Marble was a native of East Douglass, Mass. When a youth the family moved to Dixfield, Oxford Co., Me., and there he afterwards married Miss Hannah Park. With her and three sons, in 1829, he came to Nelson, Madison Co., N. Y., rented a farm, and lived on it one year. Then he came to Ann Arbor and took up an 80-acre farm. Five years later he sold that, and took up another new farm of 80 acres, which he also cleared before coming to Deerfield. In 1840 he traded his Ann Arbor property with a Mr. Jones for 160 acres on section 26, in this town, and moved into the house he had built, about twenty rods east of the southwest corner of the section. Here he devoted his life to farming and dealing in real estate. At one time he owned 760 acres of land in this town. He was supervisor of the town three years, and retired from the office only because he would not accept it again. He gave each of his children a farm, or its equivalent, and retained a homestead of 170 acres. He died June 26, 1870, and his wife died Dec. 26, 1873. He had six children,—four sons and two daughters. The eldest of these, Moses P., married Elizabeth, a daughter of John Anderson, of this town, and is now living on the homestead with his second wife, formerly Mrs. Rhoda Graves; Enoch M. married Theresa Pike, a daughter of William Pike, and lived in this town till, some seven or eight years ago, he moved to his present home in Handy. He was quite prominent as a political leader of the Democratic party of this town, and served one year as constable, six terms as school inspector, two terms as highway commissioner, three years as town treasurer, four years as town clerk, and one year as supervisor. Ira O. married Mary, daughter of John How, Sr., in 1849, and is now living on section 34, on the farm he purchased from the heirs of Henry I. Lown. He has been prominent in political life, having held the offices of constable, school inspector, highway commissioner, treasurer, justice of the peace, and supervisor in this town,—the last-named office for four terms,—and has served one term as treasurer of the county. Oscar V. married Margaret, a daughter of John Anderson, and is now living in Nebraska, where he moved in 1878. Polly E. married John H. Bristol, and died in this town in September, 1869. Maria married John Merrill, and is now living on section 21, in this town.

William A. Hull and his son, Mishal, came from Newark, Wayne Co., N. Y., in the spring of 1845, and settled on section 22, on land they had bought of Rensselaer Pomeroy, who entered it in 1836. They were originally from New Jersey. In 1866, William A. removed to Hartland village, and died there a few years since. Mishal is still a resident of Deerfield and one of its prominent men, and is living on section 30, having removed there in September, 1878.

No doubt there are others among the earlier residents who are worthy of special mention, and whom we would gladly give a place in this sketch had we material in hand to enable us to do so. Among them would appear the names of the Adams's, David Dickson, Joseph Hosley, B. W. Sherwood, Edwin P. Spencer, the Sellers family, E. F. Cooley, Sidney M. Hawley, Alfred Holmes, William Pike, Robert McGarry, Freeborn Luce, John W. Locke, James Van Benschoten, Lyman Lee, David Royce, William Payne, Bela Fenner, David B. Bradley, James Scullin, and others of more or less prominence in the subsequent history of the town. But it is impossible to go into detail, as we have already transcended the usual limit of space assigned to this branch of the work. Before proceeding farther, however, we will give the earliest tax-roll of the town now to be found, or, rather, so much of it as contains the names of resident tax-payers. The earliest roll, of which any record has been preserved, was made in 1838, and a warrant for the collection of taxes, hereafter mentioned, was issued to Daniel Boutell, collector, by the Board of Supervisors, on the 6th day of October. It was signed by John How, Jacob Snell, Richard Lyon, Andrew Osborn, Robert Worden, Jr., Ralph Fowler, John J. Blackmer, George W. Lee, Joseph M. Becker, and Solomon Sutherland. The tax included the following items, viz.: For township expenses, \$120.75; for township poor, \$25. To which was added the State and county tax, the amount of which was not specified, and an additional sum of five per cent. for collector's fees. Only a small portion of this roll, containing the names of non-resident tax-payers, has been preserved, and for the first complete roll we are obliged to take that of 1844. We copy from that the names of the resident tax-payers, with the number of the section on which they were located, the number of acres assessed to them, the valuations of their real and personal estate, and the amount of their tax. The list is as follows:

| Name.                | Section. | Acres. | Valuation. |
|----------------------|----------|--------|------------|
| Austin Allen.....    | 14       | 80     | \$255      |
| William Bennett..... | 2        | 160    | 320        |
| William Bradley..... | 4        | 40     | 68         |

| Name                          | Section.      | Acres. | Valuation. |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------|------------|
| Philo Bradley.....            | 9             | 220    | \$570      |
| Benjamin Bennett.....         | 10, 11        | 280    | 770        |
| Adam B. Bailey.....           | 2             | 40     | 100        |
| Julius K. Blackburn.....      | 1, 12         | 120    | 280        |
| Abiram Blackburn.....         | 1, 12         | 80     | 136        |
| Amos Ball.....                | 12, 14        | 145    | 380        |
| Thomas A. Burt.....           | 23            | 15     | 40         |
| George Burr.....              | 24            | 40     | 100        |
| Benjamin Bangs.....           | 19,*          | 130    | 263        |
| Hiram Blackburn.....          | 24            | 40     | 107        |
| Lorenzo Boutell.....          | 19, 24,† 25,† | 322    | 502        |
| Daniel Boutell.....           | 25, 30, 30†   | 321    | 751        |
| Peter Bush.....               | 26            | 80     | 325        |
| Michael Bennett.....          | 34            | 200    | 445        |
| John Cramer.....              | 3             | 120    | 200        |
| Alexander Cramer.....         | .....         | .....  | .....      |
| Catharine Colburn.....        | 11            | 40     | 104        |
| Bryan Carr.....               | 24            | 40     | 91         |
| E. F. Cooley.....             | 22            | 80     | 210        |
| Robert Chambers.....          | 20, 29        | 160    | 460        |
| Rufus Clark.....              | 29, 31        | 120    | 350        |
| James Curdy.....              | 32            | 30     | 60         |
| James Clark.....              | .....         | .....  | .....      |
| John Clark.....               | .....         | .....  | .....      |
| Joseph Chamberlin.....        | 25, 30*       | 148    | 346        |
| James Conklin.....            | 27, 34        | 160    | 370        |
| Samuel Cole.....              | 33            | 110    | 400        |
| Nathan Cole.....              | 33            | 50     | 205        |
| David Dickson.....            | 5             | 8.1    | 220        |
| Jacob J. Debar.....           | 28            | 1 1/4  | 40         |
| William Edwards.....          | 35            | 10     | 150        |
| Bela Fenner.....              | 22            | 80     | 225        |
| Broughton Fenner.....         | 22            | 80     | 193        |
| Henry Faussett.....           | 32, 33        | 120    | 280        |
| George Faussett.....          | 33            | 120    | 190        |
| Thomas Faussett.....          | 33            | 120    | 240        |
| Elisha Gleason.....           | 23            | 30     | 60         |
| Henry Gibson.....             | 18            | 160    | 395        |
| Daniel T. Hiatt.....          | 2             | 10     | 20         |
| Sidney M. Hawley.....         | 5             | 97     | 167        |
| John How, Sr.....             | 5, 6, 7, 8    | 846    | 1620       |
| John How, Jr.....             | 7             | 140    | 250        |
| Jonathan How.....             | 5             | 90     | 180        |
| William Hatt.....             | 12, 13        | 100    | 280        |
| Henry Humphrey.....           | 23            | 10     | 20         |
| Noel Harrington.....          | .....         | .....  | .....      |
| Sylvester Hull.....           | 18            | 80     | 200        |
| William How and A. Jones..... | .....         | .....  | .....      |
| James L. Hills.....           | 30, 32        | 170    | 410        |
| William Hosley.....           | 31            | 252    | 534        |
| Joseph Hosley.....            | 31            | 160    | 343        |
| Daniel S. Ireland.....        | 28            | 238    | 540        |
| Nelson Johnson.....           | 2             | 55     | 114        |
| Bennett Joy.....              | 3             | 80     | 200        |
| William Judd.....             | 18            | 80     | 203        |
| Henry Jubb.....               | 20            | 160    | 328        |
| William Jubb.....             | 29, 30        | 120    | 270        |
| John Knox.....                | 12            | 60     | 140        |
| Allen Leonard.....            | 3             | 40     | 80         |
| Daniel Locke.....             | 2             | 76     | 176        |
| Samuel Lindley.....           | .....         | .....  | .....      |
| Andrew W. Lewis.....          | 4             | 120    | 220        |
| Jabez Lindley.....            | 11            | 80     | 180        |
| Nathaniel Lindley.....        | 10, 14        | 160    | 320        |
| Samuel Leonard.....           | 14, 15        | 160    | 480        |
| Darius Lewis.....             | 15            | 237    | 789        |
| Calvin W. Leonard.....        | .....         | .....  | .....      |
| Freeborn Luce.....            | 20            | 120    | 340        |
| Lyman Lee.....                | 29, 31        | 120    | 375        |
| John Lyons.....               | 25            | 80     | 190        |
| James H. Murray.....          | 3, 10         | 118    | 286        |
| Robert McGary.....            | 13            | 160    | 490        |
| Robert McKinley.....          | 21            | 160    | 390        |
| Timothy McCarthy.....         | 36            | 120    | 355        |
| Benjamin Merrill.....         | 33            | 40     | 95         |
| Ira Marble.....               | 26, 35        | 320    | 925        |
| Moses Marble.....             | 26, 35        | 160    | 355        |
| E. M. Marble.....             | .....         | .....  | .....      |
| John McCarthy.....            | 32            | 40     | 80         |
| Jeremiah McCarthy.....        | 32            | 80     | 170        |
| Charles McCarthy.....         | 25, 36        | 60     | 130        |
| Dennis McCarthy.....          | 25            | 60     | 150        |
| Horace Merrill.....           | 33            | 80     | 160        |

\* Town 4 north, range 6 east.  
 † Town 4 north, range 4 east.



PHOTO. BY J. R. PHIPPS, FENTON, MICH.

*Joseph Chamberlain Mrs F. R. Chamberlain*

## JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN.

Joseph Chamberlain, one of the pioneers of the town of Deerfield, was born in the town of Scipio, Cayuga Co., N. Y., May 13, 1814. He was the son of Ezekiel Chamberlain and Sally A. Palmer, who had a family of eleven children. The elder Chamberlain was a native of Thetford, Vt., and settled in Scipio in a very early day. He was an industrious, thrifty farmer, and highly esteemed. His father, Benjamin Chamberlain, was a Revolutionary soldier, who served seven years and participated in many of the decisive battles of the war. At its close he settled in Thetford, Vt., where Ezekiel was born, about 1764. When Joseph was six years of age his father removed to Livingston Co., N. Y. Up to the age of seventeen he worked on the farm, with an occasional term at the district school. Frequently, after chopping all day, he pursued his studies far into the night by the light of hickory barks. At the age of seventeen he resolved to commence life for himself. He purchased his time of his father for the sum of one hundred dollars, and, with a scanty wardrobe and a few dollars in money, started for Michigan. He went to Saline, Washtenaw Co., where he engaged

himself to work as a farm-hand at ten dollars per month. At the expiration of two years he returned to New York, where he remained several years.

In 1836 he made a second visit to Michigan, and located one hundred and fifty acres of land where he now lives. He again returned home, and in the autumn of 1838 removed with his family, which consisted of his wife and one child. Here he has since resided, and in his chosen occupation has been very successful. He now owns a fine farm of three hundred and ten acres.

The life of Mr. Chamberlain has been devoted to the cares of his farm and his family. He has never courted political advancement, preferring the quiet of the farm to the excitement of politics. In 1878, Mr. Chamberlain was married to Miss Fanny Reed, a lady of much culture and refinement. She was born in Virgil, Cortland Co., N. Y., April 29, 1836. When she was a babe her parents emigrated to Michigan and settled in Jackson County. Mr. Chamberlain is emphatically a self-made man. Commencing life in a new county, with only a strong pair of hands and a robust constitution, he has attained success in whatever he has undertaken.



| Name.                      | Section.       | Acres. | Valuation. |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------|------------|
| Horace H. Nottingham.....  | 12, 13, 14     | 240    | \$520      |
| Daniel O'Connell.....      | 26             | 160    | 320        |
| James Pratt.....           | 2, 3           | 240    | 810        |
| Nathan B. Porter.....      | 9              | 80     | 160        |
| Dean Phillips.....         | 20             | 80     | 175        |
| William Paine.....         | 35, 36         | 160    | 355        |
| William L. Pike.....       | 29             | 80     | 273        |
| Elijah Root.....           | 4              | 240    | 528        |
| John Ryan.....             | 3, 34*         | 240    | 510        |
| Patrick Ryan.....          | 3              | 40     | 80         |
| John P. Springssteen.....  | 5              | 80     | 220        |
| Brinsley Stevens.....      | 10             | 17     | 46         |
| Philo Strickland.....      | 10             | 80     | 190        |
| Samuel Stout.....          | 2              | 80     | 160        |
| Castle Sutherland.....     | 11, 12, 13     | 168    | 440        |
| William Smalley.....       | .....          | .....  | .....      |
| Bishop Sherwood.....       | 5              | 200    | 480        |
| Cornelius Slate.....       | 23             | 25     | 70         |
| William Snow.....          | 15             | 3      | 6          |
| William S. Spalding.....   | 23             | 80     | 203        |
| Calvin Spalding.....       | 14, 23         | 95     | 215        |
| Thomas Sharp.....          | 21             | 159    | 348        |
| Orson Smith.....           | .....          | .....  | .....      |
| Marcus Sackner.....        | .....          | .....  | .....      |
| James Scullen.....         | 28             | 80     | 160        |
| John H. Sanford.....       | 30             | 120    | 275        |
| Robert Sowders.....        | 29             | 80     | 136        |
| Joel S. Stillson.....      | 30             | 5      | 30         |
| John Sellers.....          | 22, 23, 26, 27 | 240    | 788        |
| C. D. Topping.....         | 12             | 80     | 320        |
| Cyrus B. Thomas.....       | .....          | .....  | .....      |
| William Thomas.....        | 11             | 40     | 80         |
| David Tenney.....          | 24             | 80     | 190        |
| George Van Valkenburg..... | 1              | 80     | 80         |
| Stephen Wilson.....        | 1, 6†          | 207    | 534        |
| Joseph Wise, Sr.....       | 1, 2           | 12     | 24         |
| Joseph Wise, Jr.....       | 1              | 50     | 118        |
| Caleb Wood.....            | 3              | 105    | 360        |
| Warren M. Worden.....      | 19             | 80     | 194        |
| J. Walsh and G. Green..... | 24, 25, 35     | 508    | 1870       |

Of the experiences of the pioneers we can speak but briefly, though the trials and adventures they met with would be sufficient to fill a volume. The nearest trading point was at Pontiac for a number of years, and some went even so far as Detroit to find a market for their produce, and a satisfactory stock of goods from which to select what they wanted. When Howell made the county-seat, and stores were established there, this trade was gradually transferred to that point. The grain market was at Pontiac until the building of the Grand River plank-road afforded a better transportation route from Howell. The pioneers had to go to Pontiac, too, to get their milling done, and each trip occupied at least four days, and often a week's time would be necessary to complete it. On one occasion John How had to go to mill, and before going had to get wheat at Farmington. The trip was a long one, and before he returned the family's stock of provision had run very low, and for a few days they lived on bran pancakes and on buckwheat cakes, made from flour ground in a coffee-mill and screened in a flour-sieve. The boys, who were hard at work splitting oak-rails, used to speak feelingly of the unsatisfactory character of this kind of food as a strength-producer. The How family used to dress in deer-skin, and,

\* Town 5 north, range 5 east.  
 † Town 4 north, range 6 east.

before they learned to prepare the skins for themselves, used to go to Shiawassee, where Alfred Williams kept a trading post, and get of him skins he had purchased of the Indians. Game of all kinds was abundant, and the usual supply of small fruits was found to assist the pioneers in providing a variety for their tables. The Irish settlers were strangers in a strange land, and did not understand the customs of the country. This ignorance, coupled with the natural superstition of their minds, made them very suspicious and fearful of everything they could not at once understand. Of course this has worn away, as time and experience have shown them its uselessness, but it was often the cause of curious misunderstandings and laughable mistakes. One of them had a large lot of hay to sell, and, hearing of it, one of his Yankee neighbors who was not known to him went to buy some. Coming up to him, he said, "Well, squire, I hear you have some hay to sell. How much do you ask a ton for it?" The unwonted appellation sounded so strangely to the foreigner's ears as to alarm him, and he refused to have anything to do with the person whose use of such a title in connection with his name he deemed to be a covert underhanded attempt, in some mysterious way, to deprive him of or abridge his liberty.

CIVIL AND POLITICAL.

When the county of Livingston was organized, this town formed a part of the township of Howell, and so remained till the spring of 1837. In the winter of 1836-37, the inhabitants began to think that they were entitled to become a separate political division, and held a meeting at the house of Charles D. Topping to consider the question. The meeting was held in the evening, and was attended by about a half-dozen persons. A petition was drawn up and signed preparatory to its presentation to the Legislature, and several names were proposed. This petition was duly forwarded, and the Legislature, ignoring all of the names proposed, gave the town the name that it pleased them to select. The act of erection read as follows:

"SECTION 3. All that part of the county of Livingston, designated by the United States Survey as township four north, of range five and six east, be, and the same is hereby set off and organized into a separate township, by the name of Deerfield; and the first township-meeting therein shall be held at the house of Benjamin Bennett, in said township."

As will be seen, the territory thus set off embraced the present town of Tyrone, which a year later was taken off and made into a new township.

Pursuant to the provision of the act, the first town-meeting was held at the house of Benjamin Bennett; but the record of the meeting being kept

on loose paper, has, along with those of several succeeding years, become lost, thus making the task of procuring a list of officers laborious and perplexing.

#### CIVIL LIST OF DEERFIELD.

The following list contains the names of all the officers of the town of Deerfield, from its organization in 1837 to the present year, 1879, as far as it has been possible to learn them from any trustworthy source, either from records, or from memory when records failed. The books of this town, like those of most other towns, have generally been kept in a careless and slovenly, and utterly unbusiness-like manner, and the work of gleaning from them the statistics needed for a work of this character has been laborious, vexatious, and unsatisfactory. The present clerk, Mr. Cameron, is an exception to the general rule. His books are kept in a tasty, methodical, and careful manner, rendering them ready for reference, and reliable as to statement. For the benefit of future historians it is to be hoped that the citizens of Deerfield will continue so capable and efficient an officer in that position as long as he can be induced to accept it. With these preliminary remarks, we now introduce the list of officers, by years, as follows, viz.:

- 1837.—Supervisor, John How, Sr.; Town Clerk, Montgomery P. Adams; Collector, Daniel Boutell; Justices of the Peace, Robert Chambers (one year), Charles D. Topping (two years), Samuel L. Bangs (three years), David Dickson (four years).\*
- 1838.—Supervisor, John How, Sr.; Town Clerk, Edwin P. Spencer; Collector, Daniel Boutell; Justice of the Peace, Robert Chambers; School Inspectors, Alfred Holmes, Lorenzo Boutell, David Dickson. †
- 1839.—Supervisor, John How, Sr.; Town Clerk, Edwin P. Spencer; Collector, Daniel Boutell; Treasurer, John How, Sr. (appointed); Justice of the Peace, Charles D. Topping; Assessors, Elhanan F. Cooley, Samuel L. Bangs, Daniel Boutell; School Inspectors, Edwin P. Spencer, John How, Jr., Samuel L. Bangs.
- 1840.—Supervisor, Charles D. Topping; Town Clerk, Edwin P. Spencer; Collector, Daniel Boutell; Treasurer, John How, Sr.; Justice of the Peace, John Lyons; Assessors, Daniel Boutell, Samuel Leonard, Sidney M. Hawley; School Inspectors, Edwin P. Spencer, Darius Lewis, James Pratt.
- 1841.—Supervisor, Alfred Holmes; Town Clerk, Edwin P. Spencer; Collector, Daniel Boutell; Treasurer, John How, Sr.; Justice of the Peace, David Dickson; Assessors, Sidney M. Hawley, Joseph Walsh, Rufus Clark; School Inspectors, Edwin P. Spencer, Horace H. Nottingham, John How, Jr.
- 1842.—Supervisor, Alfred Holmes; Town Clerk, Edwin P. Spencer; Treasurer, John How, Sr.; Justice of the Peace, John Sellers; Assessors, Samuel Leonard, Ira Marble, Alfred Holmes; School Inspectors, Horace H. Nottingham, John H. Sanford, Edwin P. Spencer.
- 1843.—Supervisor, Robert Chambers; Town Clerk, John How, Jr.; Treasurer, John How, Sr.; Justice of the Peace,
- Charles D. Topping; Assessors, Robert Chambers, John Ryan, Freeborn Luce; School Inspectors, Joel S. Stilson (two years), J. H. Downer (one year).
- 1844.—Supervisor, Ira Marble; Town Clerk, John How, Jr.; Treasurer, John How, Sr.; Justice of the Peace, John Ryan; Assessors, Ira Marble, John Ryan, George Green; School Inspector, Sidney M. Hawley.
- 1845.—Supervisor, Ira Marble; Town Clerk, John How, Jr.; Treasurer, John How, Sr.; Justice of the Peace, David Dickson; Assessors, Ira Marble, Robert Chambers, Sidney M. Hawley; School Inspector, Benjamin Bangs.
- 1846.—Supervisor, Ira Marble; Town Clerk, James Vaubenschoten; Treasurer, Lyman Lee; Justice of the Peace, Robert Chambers; Assessors, John W. Locke, Freeborn Luce; School Inspector, Horace H. Nottingham.
- 1847.—Supervisor, Darius Lewis; Town Clerk, John Sellers; Treasurer, Lyman Lee; Justice of the Peace, Charles D. Topping; Assessors, Daniel Boutell, William Payne; School Inspector, Benjamin Bangs.
- 1848.—Supervisor, John How (formerly Jr.); Town Clerk, James Scullin; Treasurer, Bela Fenner; Justice of the Peace, John Lyons; Assessors, Sidney M. Hawley, William Payne; School Inspectors, Benjamin Bangs (full term), John Bennett (vacancy).
- 1849.—Supervisor, Charles D. Topping; Town Clerk, James Scullin; Treasurer, Bela Fenner; Justice of the Peace, David Dickson; Assessor, no record; School Inspector, James L. Topping.
- 1850.—Supervisor, John How; Town Clerk, James Scullin; Treasurer, Enoch M. Marble; Justice of the Peace, John Anderson; Assessors, William Payne, John W. Locke; School Inspector, Enoch M. Marble.
- 1851.—Supervisor, John How; Town Clerk, James Scullin; Treasurer, Enoch M. Marble; Justice of the Peace, Charles D. Topping; School Inspector, Simeon Kittle.
- 1852.—Supervisor, John How; Town Clerk, James Scullin; Treasurer, Enoch M. Marble; Justice of the Peace, Ira O. Marble; School Inspectors, Enoch M. Marble (full term), Orlando Topping (vacancy).
- 1853.—Supervisor, John How; Town Clerk, James Scullin; Treasurer, George Bunting; Justices of the Peace, David Dickson (full term), Robert Chambers (vacancy); School Inspector, John Bennett.
- 1854.—Supervisor, Daniel Boutell; Town Clerk, Darius Lewis; Treasurer, John D. Converse; Justices of the Peace, Augustus C. Fox (full term), Robert Chambers (vacancy); School Inspector, Benjamin Bangs.
- 1855.—Supervisor, Charles D. Topping; Town Clerk, Enoch M. Marble; Treasurer, John W. Locke; Justices of the Peace, William A. Hull (full term), Oscar V. Marble (vacancy); School Inspectors, Orlando Topping (full term), Mishal Hull (vacancy).
- 1856.—Supervisor, John How; Town Clerk, Enoch M. Marble; Treasurer, John W. Locke; Justice of the Peace, Charles D. Topping; School Inspector, James Scullin.
- 1857.—Supervisor, Sidney M. Hawley; Town Clerk, Enoch M. Marble; Treasurer, Charles D. Topping; Justices of the Peace, Franklin Bradley (full term), D. T. Hyatt (vacancy); School Inspectors, Orlando Topping (full term), James Cameron (vacancy).
- 1858.—Supervisor, Sidney M. Hawley; Town Clerk, Enoch M. Marble; Treasurer, John W. Locke; † Justices of the Peace, Augustus C. Fox (full term), John Ryan (vacancy); School Inspectors, James Cameron (full term), John How ‡ (vacancy).

\* No record of assessors or school inspectors.

† No record of assessors.

‡ Refused to serve, and the Town Board, thereupon appointed Charles D. Topping to fill the vacancy on the 22d of April.

‡ How vacated the office, and on the 11th of October the Town Board met and appointed Ira O. Marble to fill the vacancy.

- 1859.—Supervisor, Enoch M. Marble; Town Clerk, John F. Topping; Treasurer, James Scullin; Justices of the Peace, Philander Sackner (full term), John Ryan (long vacancy), Sidney M. Hawley (short vacancy); School Inspector, Enoch M. Marble.
- 1860.—Supervisor, Sidney M. Hawley; Town Clerk, John F. Topping; Treasurer, James Scullin; Justices of the Peace, Joseph Wise, Jr. (full term), George Boutell (vacancy); School Inspector, Cornelius Bennett.
- 1861.—Supervisor, John How; Town Clerk, George Bunting; Treasurer, James Pratt; Justices of the Peace, A. D. Royce (full term), Azariah H. Van Camp (vacancy); School Inspector, Orlando Topping.\*
- 1862.—Supervisor, John Sellers; Town Clerk, Robert Chambers; Treasurer, Ira O. Marble; Justices of the Peace, Simeon Kittle (full term), William How (vacancy); School Inspectors, Cornelius Bennett (full term), James Cameron (vacancy).
- 1863.—Supervisor, John Sellers; Town Clerk, Robert Chambers; Treasurer, Ira O. Marble; Justices of the Peace, John Ryan (full term), Thomas How (vacancy); School Inspector, John Scullin.†
- 1864.—Supervisor, John How; ‡ Town Clerk, John F. Topping; Treasurer, George G. Rich; Justice of the Peace, Joseph Wise, Jr.; School Inspector, Henry O. Caldwell.‡
- 1865.—Supervisor, Ira O. Marble; Town Clerk, Robert Chambers; Treasurer, George G. Rich; Justice of the Peace, George Douglass; School Inspectors, William B. Skinner (full term), James Cameron (vacancy), Ellsworth S. Bennett and Enoch M. Marble, appointed May 9th.
- 1866.—Supervisor, Ira O. Marble; Town Clerk, Robert Chambers; Treasurer, James Pratt; Justice of the Peace, Simeon Kittle; School Inspectors, James Cameron (full term), Henry O. Caldwell (vacancy).
- 1867.—Supervisor, Ira O. Marble; Town Clerk, James Cameron; Treasurer, John Ryan; Justice of the Peace, Augustus C. Fox; School Inspector, Henry O. Caldwell.
- 1868.—Supervisor, John How; Town Clerk, James Cameron; Treasurer, John Ryan; Justice of the Peace, Luther Field; School Inspector, Enoch M. Marble.
- 1869.—Supervisor, John How; Town Clerk, James Cameron; Treasurer, William W. Henderson; Justices of the Peace, David Royce (full term), Wiltsie Glaspie (vacancy); School Inspector, William B. Skinner.
- 1870.—Supervisor, John How; Town Clerk, James Cameron; Treasurer, William W. Henderson; Justice of the Peace, John F. Topping; Drain Commissioner, John Ryan; School Inspector, Enoch M. Marble.
- 1871.—Supervisor, Elias H. Sellers; Town Clerk, Stephen B. Cooley; Treasurer, William W. Henderson; Justice of the Peace, John R. Bunting; Drain Commissioner, John Ryan; School Inspectors, John Sweeney (full term), James Cameron (vacancy).
- 1872.—Supervisor, John How; Town Clerk, Stephen B. Cooley; Treasurer, Charles H. Topping; Justice of the Peace, James Bennett; Drain Commissioner, John Ryan; School Inspector, James Scullin.
- 1873.—Supervisor, John How; Town Clerk, Henry Robb; Treasurer, James McKeone; Justice of the Peace, Wil-

liam B. Skinner; Drain Commissioner, John Ryan; School Inspector, not recorded.

- 1874.—Supervisor, James Cameron; †† Town Clerk, Henry Robb; Treasurer, James McKeone; Justices of the Peace, John F. Topping (full term), William B. Skinner (vacancy); Drain Commissioner, John Ryan; School Inspector, Stephen B. Cooley.
- 1875.—Supervisor, E. Henry Stiles; Town Clerk, James Cameron; Treasurer, Minor J. Hosley; Justice of the Peace, Mishal Hull; Drain Commissioner, John Ryan; † School Superintendent, John R. Sweeney; School Inspector, Stephen B. Cooley.
- 1876.—Supervisor, E. Henry Stiles; Town Clerk, James Cameron; Treasurer, Minor J. Hosley; Justice of the Peace, James Bennett; Drain Commissioner, Sidney M. Hawley; School Superintendent, John R. Sweeney; School Inspector, William B. Skinner.
- 1877.—Supervisor, Ira O. Marble; Town Clerk, James Cameron; Treasurer, James McKeone; Justices of the Peace, William Leonard (full term), Frederick W. Bredow (vacancy); Drain Commissioner, Charles Lamb; \*\* School Superintendent, Charles H. McKeone; School Inspector, William B. Skinner.
- 1878.—Supervisor, E. Henry Stiles; Town Clerk, James Cameron; Treasurer, James McKeone; Justices of the Peace, John R. Bunting (full term), Mathias Cummins (vacancy); Drain Commissioner, David B. Bradley; School Superintendent, Charles H. McKeone; School Inspector, William B. Skinner.
- 1879.—Supervisor, E. Henry Stiles; Town Clerk, James Cameron; Treasurer, Charles Lamb; Justices of the Peace, Alfred V. D. Cook (full term), Joseph Wise (three years' vacancy), James Lanning (two years' vacancy); Drain Commissioner, William Robb; School Superintendent, Timothy F. Sweeney; School Inspector, William B. Skinner.††

The places at which the annual town-meetings have been held are as follows: in 1837-38, at Benjamin Bennett's; 1839, at Robert Chambers'; 1840, at Elhanan F. Cooley's; 1841-46, inclusive, at Darius Lewis'; the 1846 meeting was adjourned to the school-house at Deerfield Centre, and from that time till 1863 the meetings were held there; 1864, at Calvin W. Leonard's; and since 1865, at the town-house.

It seems, from an examination of the records, that it was at first customary to furnish liquor upon the occasion of town-meetings and elections, and sometimes, it is said, a noticeable degree of hilarity was produced in some who were most fain to partake of the enticing beverage. On one occasion two elderly citizens had become so overcome by the united effects of politics and whisky as to be nearly oblivious to their external surroundings. As their homes lay in the same direction they, mindful of the motto, "United we stand, divided we fall," took hold of hands in

\* Removed from town the following winter, and on the 1st of March, 1862, the Town Board appointed John F. Topping to fill the vacancy.

† He failed to qualify, and William Harper was appointed in his stead.

‡ Refused to qualify, and on the 16th of April the Town Board filled the vacancy by the appointment of Sidney M. Hawley.

‡ During the following summer William Harper removed from the town, and on the 24th of September the Town Board appointed Ellsworth S. Burnett school inspector to fill the vacancy.

‡ Resigned April 13, and E. Henry Stiles appointed in his stead. †† Mr. Ryan died in office, and Joseph Wise was appointed to fill the vacancy.

\*\* He failed to qualify, and Joseph Wise was appointed.

†† Failing to qualify, John R. Sweeney was appointed to fill the vacancy.

order to assist one another homeward. The result proved the truth of another adage, "When the blind lead the blind," etc.; for "both" fell "into the ditch," and in falling they became separated. Each struggled to his feet, but with their faces turned in opposite directions. Each insisted that his way was right, and as neither could convince the other of the "error of his way," finally trudged away in opposite directions. Through the intervention of friends both finally reached home safe and sound. Warned by such occurrences as this, the voters determined to pursue a different policy, and in 1843, and for several years thereafter, annually voted that no liquor should be furnished at elections.

But this action does not fairly represent the position of the town on the liquor question, for it has generally been a liquor-trafficking and liquor-drinking community, at least to a more marked degree than most of its sister towns. The only records bearing upon the matter are those of votes taken at four different times. The first, in 1845, was 17 voted for license, and 15 against it. The second was taken in 1846, and resulted for license, 25, against license, 48. The third was the vote of 1850, when 66 votes were cast for license, and only 14 against it. The last was that taken in 1868 as to changes in the constitution of the State, when the vote for the prohibitory clause was 23, and the vote against it was 185.

In the matter of building a town-house, the first public action was taken at the town-meeting in 1863, when \$300 was voted for the purpose of building a town-house, and a committee of five, consisting of Ira Lamb, James Pratt, James Cameron, John Sellers, and William Payne, was appointed to select and procure a site as near the centre of the town as possible. The committee purchased a site of Bela Fenner. At the town-meeting of 1864, \$300 was voted to apply on the job, and the committee were instructed to build a new house, to cost not more than \$800. The committee sold back to Mr. Fenner the lot purchased of him, and bought of Mr. Leonard one-half acre of ground a little west of the northeast corner of section 21, for the sum of \$20. The contract was let to the lowest bidder, Jethro Shout, for \$790, April 28th, and on October 15th, the job being completed, the house was accepted, and was occupied for the election. The total cost of the building and lot, including furnishing, amounted to about \$920.

A special meeting was held Feb. 22, 1868, to consider the question of issuing town-bonds to the amount of \$15,000, in aid of the "Chicago and Michigan Grand Trunk Railway." The project

met with a chilling reception, being negated by a vote of 126 to 46.

At the annual town-meeting of the same year, the proposed changes of the constitution were voted upon with the following result: in favor of the new constitution, 35; against it, 185. For annual sessions of the Legislature, 0; for biennial sessions, 191. For prohibition, 23; against it, 185.

Another vote on constitutional amendments was taken Nov. 5, 1872, and the following votes were cast: for the payment of railroad bonds, 13; against it, 198. For the re-division of the judicial districts of the State, 12; against it, 200. For the proposed change in the salaries of State officers, 14; against it, 197.

During the war for the suppression of the Rebellion this town did its best to fill its quota under the several calls for troops, and to accomplish this result held several special township-meetings. The first of these meetings was held in response to a petition signed by prominent citizens. It was held at the house of Calvin W. Leonard, Feb. 20, 1864, and a resolution was passed to raise \$100 bounty for every man enlisted and credited to the town till its quota was filled, by a vote of 111 to 19. March 21, 1864, another petition, bearing the names of 29 citizens, was presented, praying for action at the town-meeting to extend this provision to others. At the town-meeting held April 4, 1864, it was accordingly voted to raise by loan a sufficient sum to pay each volunteer who had enlisted or should enlist in the United States service and be credited to the town, on any quota, under calls of the President made since Jan. 7, 1864, the sum of \$100, the bonds to bear 7 per cent. interest, and to be payable in one, two, and three years. Another special meeting, held at Mr. Leonard's, Aug. 6, 1864, extended the same provisions to drafted men, or those who furnished substitutes, subsequent to Feb. 4, 1864.

Previous to June 10, 1865, the sum of \$5425 had been contributed to clear the town of its liability under the call for 500,000 men, and a meeting was held on that day to take some action regarding the refunding of such contributions by raising a sufficient sum by tax, and also to pay drafted men in 1863, '64, and '65, who served or furnished substitutes, the sum of \$100 each. A motion to raise the tax, and also one to pay the bounty, was negated by a vote of 91 to 44.

The population of Deerfield in 1850 was 822. In 1860 it had increased to 1015. In 1870 it was 1128, of whom 988 were natives, and 140 were of foreign birth. In 1874, for some unexplained reason, the population showed a falling

off, as it was then reported at 1043. This number was divided as follows: Males, under five years, 78; from five to ten years, 60; from ten to twenty-one years, 153; from twenty-one to forty-five years, 177; from forty-five to seventy-five years, 96; from seventy-five to ninety years, 9; total, 573. Females, under five years, 64; from five to ten years, 63; from ten to eighteen years, 96; from eighteen to forty years, 145; from forty to seventy-five years, 98; over seventy-five years, 4; total, 470. Their condition in life was reported as follows: Males, from ten to twenty-one, all single, 153; over twenty-one, single, 67; married, 199; widowers and divorced, 16: Females, from ten to eighteen years, single, 95; married, 1; over eighteen, single, 38; married, 184; widows and divorced, 25. Total, married, 384; single, 618; widowed and divorced, 41.

From the census of 1874 we also glean some interesting statistics regarding the town, its resources, and productions, which are given in as concise a form as possible. Deerfield then possessed an area of taxable lands of 21,659\* acres, of which 12,078 acres were improved and 49 acres were exempt. Three acres were devoted to places of burial for the dead, and 2½ acres to church- and parsonage-sites. There were then in the town 184 farms, averaging an area of 117.71 acres each, the average being a little higher than is that of most towns. In 1873, 3021 acres of wheat were harvested, yielding an average of 14.47 bushels to the acre, giving the town fourth rank in the county; and 1022 acres of corn produced an average of 27.55 bushels per acre, giving the town the twelfth for corn. In the quantity produced it holds rank among the towns of the county as follows: it is third for wheat and all other grains, except corn, and for pork, fourth for cheese, fifth for potatoes, ninth for wool, eleventh for corn, thirteenth for butter, and fifteenth for hay. In a general average it stands as the seventh town of Livingston County. The following table shows the quantity of its products for 1873:

|                       |        |                       |        |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|
| Bushels of wheat..... | 43,725 | Pounds of pork.....   | 81,060 |
| " corn.....           | 28,152 | " cheese.....         | 245    |
| " other grains        | 32,102 | " butter.....         | 35,525 |
| " potatoes.....       | 8,976  | " dried fruit...      | 3,430  |
| Tons of hay.....      | 1,326  | Barrels of cider..... | 324    |
| Pounds of wool.....   | 24,704 |                       |        |

There was then 424 acres of orcharding, and the yield of apples for that and the previous year was reported at 14,394 bushels in 1872, and 9634 bushels in 1873.

\* By the United States survey the area of the town is reported at 23,871.25 acres, the sections on the north overrunning, and those on the west falling short of the true area of a section. Neither the lakes nor the streams were "meandered," which accounts for the apparent discrepancy.

The amount of stock kept was for that year: horses, 517; mules, 5; working oxen, 52; milch cows, 417; other neat cattle, 677; swine, 731; sheep, 5498.

As will be seen from this, the towns-people are pursuing a diversified system of farming,—paying, perhaps, as great attention to dairying and sheep-husbandry as to any particular branch, and are bringing their town to rank well with the other towns of the county. That the soil is fertile, and yields a liberal return for the toil of the husbandman, and that the people are possessed of thrift and public spirit, is evidenced by the many pleasant dwellings and commodious barns that are scattered about the town.

From its organization down to the present time the town has been uniformly Democratic in its political bias, though from 1845 to 1850 the Whig party made strenuous efforts to overcome their opponents, and came so near accomplishing their object that it put their opponents upon their mettle to retain their supremacy. The Democratic majority at the general election has ranged from 30 to 60 since that time. The political hosts on the Whig and Republican side have been marshaled under the leadership of Darius Lewis, Samuel Leonard, Calvin T. Burnett, Joseph Chamberlin, Calvin W. Leonard, and others, while the leaders of the Democracy have been Hon. Charles D. Topping, Hon. John How, Sidney M. Hawley, Ira O. and Enoch M. Marble, Robert Chambers, John Sellers, E. H. Stiles, and others. Never but once have the Democrats failed to elect their candidate for supervisor (though often being defeated for some of the minor offices), and that memorable event occurred in 1847, when Darius Lewis was elected by the Whigs. Neither the Know-Nothings or the Greenbackers have ever had an existence as a party in the town.

POST-OFFICES.

The first post-office in Deerfield was established in 1837-38. It was intended to call the office by the name of the town, but the department having already established an office in Lenawee County under that name, issued a commission to Alfred Holmes as postmaster of "Deer Creek" post-office. It was then kept in his blacksmith-shop, a little south of the west quarter-post of section 17. In 1843 the office was transferred to John How, and moved to his house on section 6, where it remained for about seventeen years. In 1848, Mr. How died, and was succeeded by his son William, who retained it till his death, in 1864. His widow kept it a few months, and then it was transferred to Darius Lewis, who, for private reasons, kept it

for a while on his front stoop. His successor was Alexander Bain, who kept it at his ashery, and was succeeded by the present postmaster, William W. Henderson, in 1870, since which time it has been kept in the store.

Daniel Boutell first carried the mail over this route, which led from Howell to Shiawassee, embracing the offices of Deer Creek and Byron. Oak Grove, Cohoctah (at first called Tuscola), Argentine, and Madison were added when they were established, and the northern terminus of the route transferred to Linden, so that the present route embraces five offices, and is more than thirty miles long. The round trip is made from Linden to Howell and return on Thursday and Friday of each week.

The Madison post-office was early established at Deerfield Centre, but the exact date is not known. It was probably during the early part of Harrison's administration, as the first postmaster, Darius Lewis, was an ardent and zealous Whig, and would hardly have been selected for the post by a Democratic administration. Why the name Madison was given it is not known, though it was without doubt in honor of the ex-President. Mr. Lewis kept the office several years at his residence on section 15, and then it was turned over to John Anderson, and removed a half-mile west of the Centre. It was then brought back to the Centre and kept a couple of years by Calvin W. Leonard, and afterwards by Lewis until his removal to Deer Creek, in 1863, when Luther V. Field was appointed to succeed him. Since Field, the office has been kept successively by Mishal Hull, Edwin Townsend, Leroy Dean, and the present postmaster, George Gibson. At first it was on a special route to Argentine, but was afterwards changed to the Howell and Linden route, to which it now belongs.

#### INDUSTRIES.

The first mechanical industry in the town was the manufacture of lumber, and was inaugurated by John How, who rigged and operated a "pit-saw" for that purpose in 1834. This primitive style of sawing did not long remain in vogue, for in the winter of 1835-36 he commenced work on a saw-mill. The first step was the building of a dam across the Shiawassee River, and the spot fixed upon was that where the stream crossed the south line of section 6. The line of the dam lay diagonally across the section line, and it was about 100 feet long. It was built of logs held in place by small trees, whose butts rested upon the logs of the dam, and whose untrimmed tops extended upstream, and were anchored by dirt and stone dumped upon them. It was necessary at times to

do this work of filling in by cutting holes through the ice that formed and dumping the ballast through them. In the spring, when the sun began to warm up the earth and streams, the water began to work through the half-frozen, lumpy mass, and soon undermined the dam, which, as the freshet increased in volume, was nearly all swept away. It was rebuilt as soon as the high water subsided, and in the following summer the mill was built and commenced operations. This mill was about 20 by 42 feet in size, furnished with an old-fashioned "flutter-wheel" and a "sash" saw, and was run simply for custom sawing, though Mr. How afterwards bought some land on section 18, on which was some fine timber, and did a little lumbering. But even this lumber was used for building purposes by the settlers of this and adjoining towns. After Mr. How's death the mill property passed through several ownerships, and finally came into the possession of Isaac L. & D. N. Roberts, who, about 1852-53, built the first grist-mill in the town. Since that time the property has had several owners, and has been divided. The grist mill has been owned by Philander Sackner, David B. Bradley, Isaac L. Roberts, William Sturgis, Isaac L. Roberts, Darius Lewis, George Green, and is now owned by Holcomb & Green. It is a building 36 by 44 feet in size, two stories high, with a basement, and fitted up with two run of stones and the usual accompanying machinery. It has three iron turbine water-wheels, furnishing an aggregate of about 40 horse-power. It has a capacity for grinding 150 bushels of wheat and 300 bushels of feed per day, and is doing a good custom business. The saw-mill has been owned, since the property was divided, by Philander Sackner, Joseph Rider, George G. Gibson, and Simeon Kittle, who is the present proprietor. Before the division it was rebuilt as it now stands. Its annual product was put down in 1874 at 100,000 feet. It now does but a limited custom business in times of high water.

In 1838 a distillery was built by Joseph Walsh and George Green, on section 25. They began operating it in the fall of 1839, and for nearly thirty years it was kept running for about nine months in the year. Its daily consumption of grain was about eighteen bushels. After Mr. Walsh's death the business was continued by Mr. Green until 1867, when it was given up on account of the high tax imposed, and because, from its location away from the arteries of commerce, it was difficult to get supplies to it, and to ship its product.

An ashery was operated at Deer Creek several years ago by Alexander Bain, and was subse-

quently moved to his land on section 17, where it was run for a while and then abandoned.

The first blacksmith in the town, so far as known, was Alfred Holmes, who had a shop on section 17 as early as 1837. William Snow had a shop near the Centre as early as 1840.

The first store was kept by William Edwards, who bought a few acres of ground on section 35 of William Payne, and opened a store on the corner opposite the old Cole's tavern in Oceola, about the year 1844.

#### VILLAGES.

In an agricultural community villages are usually of slow growth, and rarely attain to any considerable size, unless, by means of manufactories and railroads, a foundation is laid, and an impetus given to the trades and branches of business that build up a place. And yet, to the citizens of the vicinity, the growth of these little hamlets possess a degree of interest that renders a history of them, however brief, desirable.

#### DEER CREEK,

which received its name from the post-office, lies in the northwest part of the town, mostly on the southeast quarter of section 6, but extending a little on to the northeast quarter of section 7. It is very pleasantly located on high, lightly-rolling ground, on the east bank of the south branch of the Shiawassee River, and contains a population of about 75 souls. The name most commonly applied to it by people of the vicinity is "How-burg," derived from the name of John How, the original owner of the land on which it is built.

The first step towards the building up of the village was the erection of the mills already described and of houses to accommodate the owner and employees. While Isaac L. Roberts was operating the mills he opened the first store in the place in a building he had erected on the site of Mr. Henderson's present store. On that site stores have since been kept by John Davis and the present merchant, Mr. W. W. Henderson. Another store was opened soon after the close of the war by James Rooney, on the corner just north of Henderson's building. The building was afterwards used for a cabinet-shop, a saloon, and other purposes, and Oct. 1, 1878, was again opened as a store by Adelbert D. Chase, acting in the capacity of agent for Leslie Lewis, of Fenton. Just before the war, Jotham Brefford opened a blacksmith-shop at this point, but soon after was succeeded by Horace Soper. The first wagon-shop was started by a Mr. Bentley, some ten or twelve years ago, in a small building on the north side of the road near the grist-mill. In 1877, Isaac Hopper built a new shop on nearly the same site, and

is doing a moderate business. At the present time the village consists of one grist-mill, one saw-mill, one wagon-shop, two blacksmith-shops, two stores, and fifteen dwellings.

#### DEERFIELD CENTRE,

as its name implies, is located at the centre of the town, and is but a little huddle of dwellings, with a store and blacksmith-shop. It commenced in 1842, when Calvin W. Leonard made the first purchase of land on the school section, and built the first house in the village. It was located on the site of Mr. Leonard's present handsome residence. At that time the nearest houses were Bela Fenner's, a half-mile south, and Elhanan F. Cooley's and Elias B. Holcomb's, about the same distance east. A couple of years later Mr. Fenner sold two small lots on the north line of section 22 to Addison Sutherland and Mishal Hull. Each of them built a house on his lot, and Sutherland, who was a blacksmith, also put up a small shop on his lot, and went to work at his trade, Hull working in the shop with him. The next building erected was the stone building on the southwest corner of section 15, which was intended for a school-house, but not used as such,\* the district voting to not accept the building, and subsequently purchased another site of Mr. Leonard, and on that erected their present frame school-house, one of the best in the town, at a cost of about \$800. Next, the town-house was built in the summer of 1864, and soon after John R. Bunting, a returned soldier, who had lost one foot in the service of his country, erected the present store building, and opened a grocery. He soon after sold to Mishal Hull. Since then it has passed through several hands, and is now owned by a Mr. Giddings, of Gaines, Genesee Co., Mich. In 1874 the Methodist church was built. The present statistics of the village show that it contains one church, one school-house, one town-house, one store and post-office, one blacksmith-shop, about a dozen dwellings, and a population of about 50.

#### HIGHWAYS.

The first road in the town was the one opened by the How family, leading north from their settlement to the Shiawassee road, or trail as it then was. Of course this was not surveyed, but was cleared of rubbish and marked by "blazed trees" as a private undertaking. The first recorded surveys of roads

\* Some time about 1869 the stone building and one acre of ground was purchased by Mr. Leonard, who finished it off for a blacksmith-shop and sold it to George Knickerbocker, who worked in it for some time. After several changes of owners it was finally bought by Mishal Hull and fitted up for a store-room in connection with the store,—a use to which it has ever since been devoted

were made by A. Adams, between the 15th and 20th days of May, 1837, and were opened in the following order: first, a road in continuation of the one running east from Oak Grove, which crossed sections 31 and 32 in a southeast direction, and passed into Oceola; second, a road running on section line from the northeast corner of section 31 to the west line of Tyrone; third, one across the town a mile north of the second road; fourth, one connecting these two, running from the northeast corner of section 32 to the northeast corner of section 29; fifth, one running west, three-quarters of a mile from the east quarter-post of section 18; sixth, one running from the northeast corner of section 31 to the southeast corner of section 6. These roads were, of course, supplemented by others as fast as the needs of the pioneers made them necessary. In 1847 the non-resident highway tax was appropriated "to build a bridge across Ore Creek at Bennett's dam," which is now one of the most important bridges in the town, it being on the direct road to Linden and Fenton. The present fine bridge at that point was erected in the centennial year. The How bridge across the Shiawassee was built in 1851.

#### SCHOOLS.

The division of the town into school districts was a work which extended through a considerable length of time, and since their first formation many changes in their boundary lines and numbers have been made from time to time, so that it would be a laborious task, as it would be a practically useless one, to try to trace them all from their organization to the present. We will therefore give but a brief resume of the most salient points in the history of each.

District No. 1 was formed May 5, 1838, and then embraced sections 3, 10, and 15, and the west half of sections 2, 11, and 14. It now contains section 10, the greater part of sections 2, 3, and 11, and small parts of sections 14 and 15. Samuel Leonard was the prime mover in getting this district organized. A log school-house was built, in the summer of 1838, by John Anable and "Bee-Hunter" Johnson. Edwin P. Spencer taught the first school there,—which was also the first in the town,—in the winter of 1838-39. Some twenty-six years ago the school-house was replaced by the present brick building, which will seat 35 pupils, and is valued at \$750. Ann Stephens and Alma Debar were early teachers in this district.

District No. 2 was formed Oct. 1, 1839, and consisted of sections 24, 25, 26, 35, and 36, and the east half of section 23. It now embraces sections 24 and 25, three-quarters of sections 26 and 36, seven-eighths of section 23, and the east half of

section 35. The first school-house was built on section 24, in 1839; it was burned down and replaced by another, which gave place to the present frame building some twelve or fourteen years ago. This house will accommodate 90 scholars, and is valued at \$700.

District No. 3, as first formed, Oct. 3, 1838, embraced sections 33 and 34 in this town, and sections 3 and 4 in Oceola. It is now entirely in this town, and is known as No. 11. It contains section 34, seven-eighths of sections 27 and 33, three-quarters of section 28, the west half of section 35, three-eighths of section 32, and one-fourth of sections 26 and 29. The first school-house in this district was a log building, which stood about eighty rods from the town line, on section 34. In 1850-51 the district got into turmoil over the question of selecting a site for a new school-house, the question was carried to the courts, and even before the Legislature, and finally two buildings were erected, one on the northwest corner of section 34, and another near the town line. It resulted in a disruption of the district, and the establishing of the northern lot as the regular site. The building erected there was a small one, and cost about \$100, exclusive of the voluntary labor performed on it by the citizens. The present frame house, built in 1866, will seat 50 pupils, and cost about \$1000.

District No. 4 was formed Oct. 24, 1838, and consisted of sections 1, 12, and 13, and the east half of sections 2, 11, and 14. It now contains the whole of sections 12 and 13, and parts of all the others, but is considerably smaller than at first. The school-house is a frame building, capable of accommodating 50 pupils, and is valued at \$500. It stands near the north quarter-post of section 13.

District No. 5 was formed Jan. 5, 1849, and was made a fractional district by the addition of some territory in Tuscola (now Cohoctah) on the 18th of December, 1841. By subsequent changes it has been made the largest district in the town, now embracing sections 18, 19, 20, 30, and 31, and portions of sections 17, 21, 28, 29, and 32. The school-house is a frame building, capable of seating 125 pupils, valued at \$600, and stands on the northeast corner of section 30.

District No. 6 was formed Oct. 1, 1839, and contained the whole of sections 22 and 27, and parts of sections 14, 15, 16, 21, and 23. The first meeting recorded was held May 6, 1844. This is the central district of the town, and now embraces the whole of section 16, the greater portion of sections 15, 21, and 22, and parts of sections 9, 17, and 14. The school-buildings in this district have been mentioned heretofore. The present one will accommodate 70 scholars, and is valued at \$500.



District No. 7, now obsolete, was organized March 2, 1839, from sections 20, 21, 28, and 29.

District No. 8 was formed Feb. 16, 1841. It now contains sections 5, 6, 7, and 8, and parts of sections 4 and 9. The school-house is a rather dilapidated frame building, seated for 65 scholars, and reported to be worth \$700. It is situated in section 5.

District No. 9, now obsolete, was formed of section 32 in Deerfield and adjoining territory in Oceola, Jan. 14, 1843. Another district was formed May 2, 1846, with this number (containing parts of sections 7, 8, 18, and 17), which has also become a thing of the past.

District No. 12 is fractional with Argentine, and comprises in this town parts of sections 3, 4, and 5. The school-house, valued at \$250, is a frame building, fitted for 40 scholars, and located in section 4.

The first full report of the districts to the school inspectors was made in 1843, and whatever comparisons are made in the following statistics are made between the years 1843 and 1879.

No record of the total expenditures for support of schools in 1843 is to be had, but in 1879 the amounts in the several districts were reported as follows: No. 1, \$194.84; No. 2, \$378.26; No. 4, \$186; No. 5, \$308.44; No. 6, \$278.05; No. 8, \$239; No. 11, \$177.50; No. 12, \$218.58; total, \$1980.67.

The following list is composed of the early teachers of the town, and embraces all to whom certificates were granted by the school inspectors previous to the year 1850, so far as any record has been preserved. The first seven were commissioned in 1844. The names are Horace H. Nottingham, Matilda B. Nottingham, Matilda Humphrey, Mary Nelson, Rhoda F. Packard, Theresa Pike, Sarah Gibbs, Graham N. Barker, Jasper Bentley, Harvey R. Stevens, Cynthia and Caroline L. Royce, James Vanbenshoten, John Curran, Mary and William Clark, Emeline Sprague, Abby F. Jones, Joel A. Chapman, Lucinda M. Hart, John Bennett, Emeline Youngs, James Andrews, Sophia Topping, Maria Crispell, Theda Y. Hazard, Martha A. Leet, Herman I. Cranston, John How, Martha J. Vankeuren, Esther M. and Nancy J. Batcheller, Mary G. Sutherland, Esther Marvin, John F. Topping, Hudson B. Blackman, and — Corey.

#### RELIGIOUS HISTORY.

In the late fall of 1836, the first religious meeting in the town of Deerfield was held, at the house of Reuben Pease, on section 14, in the Topping neighborhood. Rev. Washington Jackson, the pioneer Methodist preacher of this vicinity, had given out the appointment, in connection with

several others in this region, some time before. It was a Sunday appointment, and a severe wintry storm which set in and continued through the preceding night, and was unabated on Sabbath morning, promised to prevent the meeting. But the people were hardy pioneers, used to and fearless of storms, and load after load of people came from different directions through the snow-drifts, the ox-teams and drivers hoary with snow and frost. In spite of the inclement weather a large congregation got together; the meeting was one of unusual interest, and long held a place in the remembrance of those who attended it.

No regular class was formed in this town until October, 1846, when the

#### FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF DEERFIELD

was organized at the Centre. It had but a few members, among them being Mrs. John Anderson, John D. Converse and wife, Reuben Young and wife, and William A. and Elizabeth Hull. Mr. Hull was the first class-leader. What its first circuit relation was is not known. Upon the organization of the Oak Grove circuit, in 1855, it was conjoined with that circuit, and so remained until 1874, when it was transferred to the new Parshallville circuit. It has had quite a varied experience, meeting with, perhaps, more than the usual amount of alternating periods of prosperity and adversity, but still maintains its position upon the battlements and floats the pure white banner of the Saviour to guide repentant sinners to the pathway leading to life eternal. Its present membership is about 25. No class-leader has been appointed since the position was vacated some time ago, and the preacher in charge of the circuit consequently acts in that capacity. The pastors of the church since 1855 have been as follows: 1855, William Birdsall; 1856, Lyman H. Dean; 1857, L. P. Murch; 1858-59, James H. Caster; 1860, F. Brittan; 1861-62, Samuel P. Lee; 1863-64, James R. Cordon and J. G. Horton, two months; 1865-66, D. O. Balls; 1866-68, Joseph W. Holt and J. G. Horton in the latter year; 1869-70, Alexander Gee; 1871-74, James Balls; 1875, Orlando Sanborn; 1876, William Birdsall; 1877-78, Edwin Daw; 1879, Orlando Sanborn. Under the preaching of Rev. E. E. Caster, O. H. P. Green, and Edwin Daw there were revivals, that under Caster being the most notable and extensive.

The meetings were held principally at the school-house at the Centre, until the building of the church in 1874. This edifice was built as a sort of union church, but has been controlled by the Methodists, and is such practically. It is

legally known as the "First Church in Deerfield." The ground on which the church was erected, consisting of one-half acre on section 21, was purchased of Calvin W. Leonard for \$50, and the church was built by Robert Chambers, of Howell, and Charles Chambers, of Cohoctah, and cost altogether, including furnishing, about \$2400. The ceremony of dedication took place Oct. 27, 1874, Rev. Mr. McEldowney, of Flint, preaching the discourse, and Revs. W. E. Bigelow, P. E., John Hamilton, and James Balls participating on the occasion.

The formal incorporation occurred Feb. 16, 1875, when, at a meeting of the Quarterly Conference of Oak Grove Circuit, Flint District, Detroit Annual Conference, held at Deerfield Centre, Daniel O. Taft, Danford Parker, Josephus Lair, John Hetcheler, Mishal Hull, Wiltsey Glaspie, and William Leonard were elected as the first board of trustees. The first four were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The present board is composed of George Bunting, Nelson Lamb, Abram Major, Hiram Farnham, Calvin Spalding, John F. Topping, and James Tamlin.

#### BAPTIST.

A Baptist society was formed some time between 1845 and 1850, at the school-house in District No. 1, it being a branch of the church at Parshallville. Its membership was small, and contained, among others, Horace H. Nottingham and wife, Mrs. Samuel Leonard, Mrs. Perry, Mrs. Jemima Downer, Abiram Blackburn, wife, and mother, and Jethro Shout and wife. Preaching was kept up once a month, at the school-house, for a few years, and then the society was broken up, its individual members transferring their membership to other churches of the connection. At the present time, Baptist services are held every two weeks at the church in Deerfield Centre, by Rev. I. W. Lamb, pastor of the Parshallville Church.

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC.

There were a number of Irish emigrants among the early settlers of Deerfield, all of whom were communicants of the Church of Rome, and as soon as they could see their way clear to do so, they set at work to erect a church. Preparatory to this undertaking a church was organized in June, 1846, by Rev. Patrick Kelly, a missionary sent out to organize churches among the Catholics of this State, which then numbered 13 families, most of them being young married people. James McKeone was the leader of the enterprise, and among the others who assisted in the work were Dennis and Timothy McCarthy, Bryan Corr, John

McKeone, Edward Sweeney, Michael Bennett, Patrick and James Conklin, James Scullin, James Murphy, James McGuire, and John Ryan.

Joseph Walsh, who was not a member of the church, gave two acres of ground on section 25 for a church site, and on it the church was erected that season. The frame was put up and inclosed and an altar built so that services could be held in it, and then the work stopped, and was not resumed until in 1862, when it was finished. A few years ago it was thoroughly repaired. Its first cost was about \$400, but at the present time it is valued at \$2000. In 1857 two acres of ground on the southeast corner of section 26 was purchased, and on that a parsonage was built, at a cost of about \$1000.

This church was first connected with six other appointments, Oceola being one, and is now a mission of the Fenton Church. In connection with the churches of Fenton and Gaines, they are now building a church in the west part of the town of Cohoctah. The present membership includes 76 families. The pastors have been Revs. Patrick Kelly, Francis X. Vanpalmer, Joseph Lambert, F. X. Pourette, Thomas Rafter, James Wheeler, and William Kilroy.

Although not incorporated,—the priest, according to the rules of the church, holding the title,—the church is known as "St. Peter's and Paul's Roman Catholic Church of Deerfield."

#### CEMETERIES.

There are but three burying-grounds in Deerfield, and two of these have been regularly incorporated. The first is called

##### THE DEERFIELD CENTRE BURIAL-GROUND.

As has been mentioned, the first death in town, so far as known, was that of Mrs. Achsah (Wood) Bennett, the second wife of Benjamin Bennett, who died in June, 1837. The second is believed to have been that of Mrs. Nancy Faussett, widow of James Faussett, and mother of Thomas and George Faussett: she was the first person buried in this ground. Her death occurred March 6, 1838. Other early deaths were those of Mr. Joseph Wise's father, date unknown; Lydia E. Luce (daughter of Freeborn and Eunice Luce), an infant, Aug. 2, 1838; and Mrs. Sarah Boutell, second wife of Lorenzo Boutell, Oct. 9, 1840.

Mrs. Faussett's nephew, Thomas Sharp, was one day talking with her when she broached the subject of death, and said that she would soon be called away, and wanted to select a pleasant place of burial before she died. Mr. Sharp told her that, if she had no objection to being buried upon

Mrs. Faussett's nephew, Thomas Sharp, was one day talking with her when she broached the subject of death, and said that she would soon be called away, and wanted to select a pleasant place of burial before she died. Mr. Sharp told her that, if she had no objection to being buried upon 437. his farm, he would give her an acre on any part of his land she should select, to be used as a burying-ground for the neighborhood. She made her selection, taking a piece near the northeast corner of the southeast quarter of section 21; and there, within two years' time, she was buried on the very spot selected by herself, where a marble slab marks her resting-place. From time to time other interments have been made, until the original lot became so well filled as to necessitate an addition being made, which was accordingly done. The ground is well kept and contains a number of neat and tasty monuments and tombstones.

The first transfer of the title was made Jan. 20 1855, when the ground was deeded to John Sellers, E. F. Cooley, and Darius Lewis, trustees of the Deerfield Centre Burying-Ground. The formal incorporation took place at a meeting held May 16, 1863. The officers elected were: President, Elhanan F. Cooley; Secretary, Simeon Kittle; Treasurer, John Sellers; Sexton, John Merrill.

At that time, Ira Lamb, A. D. Royce, John F. Topping, William Leonard, E. B. Holcomb, Calvin W. Leonard, John Anderson, Luther V. Field, and Samuel Leonard, in addition to those already named, were members of the association.

The present officers are: President, Elias B. Holcomb; Vice-President, Christopher Nicholson; Secretary, Almeron Holcomb; Treasurer, Mishal Hull; Sexton, John Merrill.

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## DEER CREEK BURYING-GROUND

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This is located on the northeast quarter of section 7. It contains about 1.1 acres. The ground was first opened in 1846, by John How, as a family and neighborhood burial-place, and was finally incorporated at a meeting held in the Deer Creek school-house, Oct. 30, 1875. After adopting a name, officers were chosen as follows: President, John How; Vice-President, William W. Henderson; Secretary, Frederick Bredow; Treasurer, David B. Bradley; Sexton, John G. Gibson. These officers hold their position at the pleasure of the association until removed for cause.

No change has yet been made in the official board.

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## CATHOLIC CEMETERY

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Around the Catholic church, on section 25, is located the third burying-ground in Deerfield. It contains nearly two acres, and has numerous graves, over many of which have been erected beautiful and costly monuments. It looks somewhat neglected. With a little effort and watchful care, it could very easily be made the prettiest cemetery in the town.

In closing, the writer desires to return grateful thanks to John How, James Cameron, Calvin W. Leonard, Joseph Chamberlin, and others, for courtesies extended, facilities afforded, and assistance rendered in this work. Deerfield and its citizens will long be pleasantly remembered.

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\* By the United States survey the area of the town is reported at 23,871.25 acres, the sections on the north overrunning, and those on the west falling short of the true area of a section. Neither the lakes nor the streams were "meandered," which accounts for the apparent discrepancy.

¶ Some time about 1869 the stone building and one acre of ground was purchased by Mr. Leonard, who finished it off for a blacksmith-shop and sold it to George Knickerbocker, who worked in it for some time. After several changes of owners it was finally bought by Misfial Hull and fitted up for a store-room in connection with the store,—a use to which it has ever since been devoted.

" Can I forget that dreadful night?  
Clasp'd to my bosom there she fell;  
She saw my tears, bid me not weep,—  
'I bid you one and all farewell.'

" For fifty years we lived in love,  
I love her, claim her still as mine;  
With her I took my pledge of love,  
She left with me her love behind.

" This love's a ring that ne'er will break,  
It did our hearts together twine;  
Though sorrow's path I alone must take  
I will the hill of Zion climb."

#### JOHN T. CARMER

was born in the town of Ellery, Chautauqua Co., N. Y., Sept. 3, 1831. His parents, Daniel Carmer and Bethiah Turner, reared a family of eleven children,—six sons and five daughters. When John was four years of age the family removed to Crawford County, where they resided until June, 1849, when the elder Carmer removed to Tyrone, purchased the farm now owned by his son, John T., and resided there until his death, which occurred in 1879. He was born in New Jersey, Sept. 3, 1789, and married Bethiah Turner in 1820. She was born in New York, Feb. 17, 1802, and is still living. The elder Carmer was a very exemplary man, strictly honorable in all dealings, and was highly esteemed by all who knew him.

John received a good common-school education, and his life has been devoted to his chosen calling,

that of a farmer. He has earned an enviable reputation for integrity and ability, and is prominently identified with the political history of the town of



JOHN T. CARMER.

Tyrone. In 1870 he was elected supervisor, and re-elected in the years 1872, 1874, 1875, 1878, and again in 1879. On the Board he is recognized as an able exponent of the interests of his town. He has filled the office with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of his constituents.

## DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP.

THE TOWN of Deerfield embraces a territory a little more than six miles square, lying on the north line of the county of Livingston, just east of the centre. In the United States survey, it is known as township 4 north, of range 5 east. It is centrally distant from Howell, the county-seat, nine miles in a northeasterly direction, and is bounded on the north by the town of Argentine, in Genesee Co., on the east by Tyrone, on the south by Oceola, and on the west by Cohoctah. It is of the kind of land known as timbered oak-openings, and presented such a peaceful beauty to the eyes of the land-lookers that it is no wonder they were led to come and settle beneath the shades of its beautiful oaks. The whole upland of the town was like one immense grove, where the majestic trees, standing wide apart, let the sunlight

of heaven in upon the earth, to produce the luxuriant growth of grass and flowers that delighted the eyes of the beholder. Through the wide aisles of this forest the startled deer fled precipitately before the tread of the settler; the saucy squirrels whisked their bushy tails, and chattered loudly from their high perches in the tree-tops, as if protesting against the rude invasion of their sylvan domain; the sober-plumaged partridge crept stealthily from its nest and suddenly whirred away through the trees; and the shy wild turkeys stole like black ghosts into the undergrowth, and hid from the sight of their foes.

The general surface of the town is lightly rolling, becoming more hilly in the northwest and west parts, and subsiding to more level lands in the central and southern parts. The soil is varied in