

# **PICTORIAL GLIMPSES OF THE HUDSONVILLE AREA**

**COMPILED BY EVELYN SAWYER AND SHIRLEY KROMBEEN**

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**EARLY GLIMPSES OF HUDSONVILLE, JENISON, GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP,  
JAMESTOWN TOWNSHIP AND BLENDON TOWNSHIP**

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(2008)**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*“No Man Is An Island”.* We have all heard that phrase many times. It is certainly true when compiling a book such as this.

We especially want to thank the following people for their contributions.

- Professor Carl Bajema – for generously allowing us to use historical information that he has collected over the years from newspapers and other sources.
- Marjorie De Weerd for the use of historic articles and photos.
- Gordon Krombeen for the use of photos taken of the 1999 fire which destroyed the furniture outlet, a card shop and an auto shop; and the 2003 fire which destroyed the Old Time Diner.
- Patricia Hall, Mary Arnold and Rocky and Brenda (Bricker) Stilwill for allowing us to use their family photos.

The following resources were used:

- Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of Ottawa and Kent, Michigan – H. Belden and Company, Publishers
- History of Ottawa County, MI, with Biographical Sketches: Chicago, IL: H. R. Page & Co., 1882
- Portrait and Biographical Record: Muskegon and Ottawa Counties, MI, 1893 – Chicago, Biographical Publishing Company
- The Gary Byker Memorial Library collection of historical and genealogical photos and information.

As we are human, mistakes will be made and we apologize in advance for them. We have attempted to include a variety of information that will appeal to many. Our hope is that you will enjoy this book for years to come.

Evelyn Sawyer and Shirley Krombeen



## Early History of Hudson- ville, Georgetown Township and the Surrounding Area

### **Georgetown Township**

Georgetown Township is located west of Wyoming Township, Kent County; north of Jamestown, east of Blendon, and south of the Grand River and Tallmadge Township.

It first consisted of four towns, Georgetown, Jamestown, Zeeland and Blendon, (with most of the settlers residing in the present limits of Georgetown at this time period) 5N and 6N, Ranges 13W and 14W. As they did not organize in 1839, the Legislature in 1840 enacted that they should be attached to Ottawa Township if they did not proceed to organize. In the early history of Georgetown its limits were changed almost every year. It may be considered as an extension of the Grandville Settlement, as that place and Jenisonville were for years one school district – one settlement divided by a county line. In 1843 there were two houses in Jenisonville. In 1846, “a petition was made by Hiram Jenison to the Senate of Michigan to reattach the townships of Ottawa and Georgetown, all lying in the Range 14 West, which is now in Polkton Township.” This did not happen.

There is a variety of soil in the township, from the stiffest clay to the lightest sand, and has considerable pine mixed with hard wood. There was so much forest that it was called “Georgetown Forest”.

The first settler in Georgetown was Hiram Jenison, who came from Grandville in 1834. In 1835 Lemuel Jenison, father of Hiram, came and was killed two years later by a falling tree and his wife died in 1840. By 1837 the following, David Burton, Charles Cory, Lorenzo French (an old bachelor), Nelson Bliss, G. Ketchum, L. T. Beardsley, and a Mr. Marshall came. In 1837 E. Gallop built a hotel. In 1838, George Ketchum and a Mr. Marshall built a grist mill at the mouth of Buck Creek, and two gang saw mills on Rush Creek. He bought a large tract of land and embarked in an extensive business, but his grist mill was destroyed by fire; he failed and went to California. The Jenisons bought the water power and 1,200 acres of land. Hiram Jenison ran the first lumber raft down the Grand River. The early history of Georgetown is a history of lumbering operations.

The leading lumbermen were the Jenisons, then Galen Eastman, John Haire and the Weatherwaxes. Among the prominent residents of

Georgetown in 1843 are: the Jenisons, Freman Burton, Charles Cory, E. Franklin Bosworth and Stephen L. Lowing, Esq. Stephen L. Lowing, Esq., now of Grand Haven (1876), was an early settler and one of the first officers of Georgetown. (Stephen Lowing was a lawyer for a time in Grand Haven but he returned to Georgetown Township where he owned land by the Grand River and is buried in Georgetown Township Cemetery.). In 1845 the populations was 133 persons and in 1850 there were 196.

The town was organized by act of legislature in 1839, at the first town meeting on the first Monday in April, 1840, when there were seven voters, who elected Hiram Jenison, Supervisor; H. Burton, Clerk; L. French, Treasurer; H. Jenison, G. M. Barker and L. French, Assessors; Joseph Gallop, H. Burton and H. Gridley, School Inspectors; Joseph Forman, Constable. \$100 was voted for contingencies and \$50 for support of the poor. The following were early officers in the township:

NAME	YEARS	POSITION	
BARKER, G. M.	1844	CLERK	
BARKER, G. M.	1846	SUPERVISOR	
BEARDSLEY, LIBERTY TANNER	1850	SUPERVISOR	
BLISS, N.	1869	SUPERVISOR	
BOSWORTH, E. FRANKLIN	1846, 1848, 1850, 1852-1853, 1856-1860	CLERK	
BOSWORTH, E. FRANKLIN	1855	SUPERVISOR	
BRENNAN, S.	1874	SUPERVISOR	
BROOKS, G. W.	1847	CLERK	
BURTON, H.	1841	CLERK	
CARR, W N.	1851	CLERK	
CLARK, W. D.	1878	CLERK	
DAY, L.	1874	CLERK	
HAIRE, JOHN	1857-1858	SUPERVISOR	
HUBBARD, GEORGE	1866-1869	CLERK	
JENISON, F. A.	1865	CLERK	
JENISON, HIRAM	1841-1845, 1848-1849, 1852, 1862-1863	SUPERVISOR	
KRONEMEYER, ALBERTUS	1871-1872, 1879-1880	CLERK	
KRONEMEYER, ALBERTUS	1881	SUPERVISOR	
LOWING, H. C.	1842-1843, 1862-1864	CLERK	

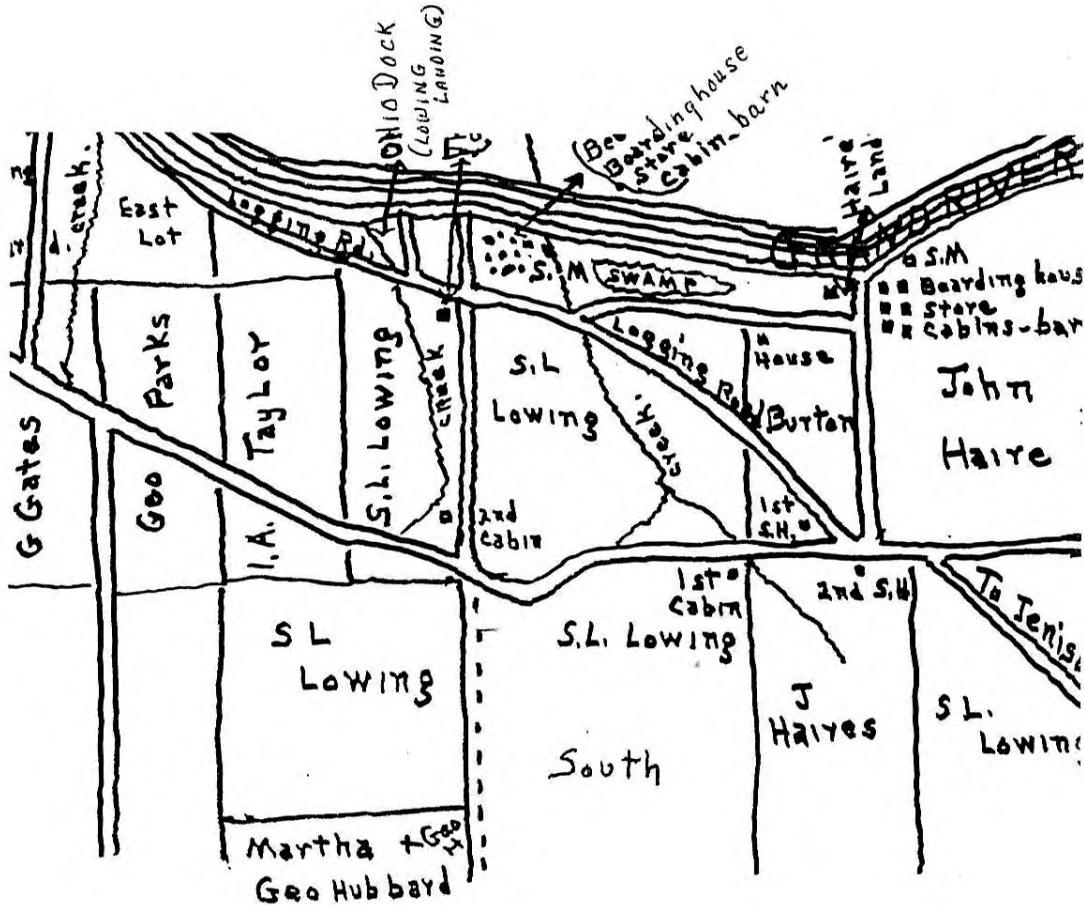
LOWING, H. C.	1865	SUPERVISOR
LOWING, STEPHEN L.	1849	CLERK
LOWING, STEPHEN L.	1851, 1853-1854, 1856, 1859, 1861	SUPERVISOR
PEARSON, T. D.	1864, 1866, 1868	SUPERVISOR
SCOTT, A.	1878	CLERK
SCOTT, A. A.	1848	CLERK
SCOTT, A. H.	1847	SUPERVISOR
SCOTT, M. W.	1854-1855	CLERK
SWEET, H. W.	1875-1877	CLERK
TATE, JOHN	1861	CLERK
WEATHERWAX, B. K. (killed in war)	1860	SUPERVISOR
WEATHERWAX, GEORGE	1873, 1875-1876, 1882	SUPERVISOR (Greenbacker)
WEATHERWAX, H. D.	1867, 1876, 1878-1880	SUPERVISOR
WEATHERWAX, W. W.	1871	SUPERVISOR
WILSON, ALEX	1870	CLERK

### Georgetown Township Public Schools

The schools are divided into ten districts. There were 691 pupils, 3 male teachers and 15 female teachers. \*The first school was at Haire's Landing taught by a Miss Tilden from Grand Rapids in 1846. (\*Another account makes a Miss Ann Evarts (now Mrs. Wm N. Angell of Grand Haven) the first teacher in 1845. The second school was organized soon after and taught by Miss Bemis (afterwards Mrs. Avery Brittain, of Grandville).

The Georgetown post office was the first in the township and was kept on the river on section 4 as early as 1850, Stephen L. Lowing being the first post master. It was moved on section 9 in 1854. E. Franklin Bosworth has held the office since 1862. The Georgetown Grange P. H., No. 458 was organized 4 June 1874, with forty-three charter members, and H. C. Lowing as Master; H. Haire, Overseer; J. Tate, Lecturer; Kendrick D. Harrington, Steward; W. Tate, Asst. Stewart; D. Purchase, Chaplain; H. M. Sweet, Treasurer; S. Brennan, Secretary; G. Gettings, Gate Keeper; Mrs. R. E. Brannan, Ceres; Mrs. L. E. Bosworth, Pomona; Lucy Bowen, Flora; Mrs. Julia A. (Lowing) Embody, lady Asst. Steward. The Masters have been H. C. Lowing, 1875-1877; W. R. Lowing, 1878-1880; H. D. Weatherwax, 1881. The Lecturers, John Tate, 1875-1879; W. D. Clark, 1877; Mrs. H. D. Weatherwax, 1880; W. R. Lowing, 1881. They own a hall on section 16, which is 25 x 60 feet, and 18 feet in height, costing about \$900. Present membership is 40.

The Church of the Disciples hold their meetings in the schoolhouse on section 8 under Rev. J. Herd, of West Haven. The society was organized in 1880 with thirty members. C. Salsbury is head Elder, James Wilson and H. Skinner, Deacons; I. Taylor, Secretary.



## The Landings in Georgetown Township

**HAIRE'S LANDING** – In 1851, John Haire had come to section 3 in Georgetown Township, and in 1856, he built a large sawmill and a landing called, "Haire's Landing". It was a steam mill and it burned down in 1864. The mill was rebuilt in 1871 and burned again in 1877, cutting 300,000 feet of lumber a day. It was burned again October, 1877, and never rebuilt. The property is now owned by Robert A. Haire.

The Jenisons, Galen Eastman, the Weatherwaxes and John Haire were the leading "lumber barons" in the Georgetown area. *Jack Haire was the first to develop the land. He built a large house and pulled the first stumps in 1855 (Everett).*

Mr. Haire was known for his hospitality, where dinner and a bed were free to any stranger. The landing was the site of a flourishing community – a village and a lumber camp. There was a schoolhouse and a cemetery that took his name as they were located on his land.

Jack and his wife, Mary, had eight children. They came to the Grand River about 1837 and took up 1,000 acres, principally pine. The saw mill and the landing were four miles downstream from Jenison. They first built a log cabin, but soon built a cement home. There were tenant homes, a large boarding house, a store, large barns and the saw mill. Indians roamed the area, knew of Mr. Haire's generosity, and profited by it.

He and his wife spent their last years in Mason County where he died in 1902.

**WEATHERWAX LANDING** – It is located on the south bank of the Grand River about one mile downstream from Rush Creek. The 1864 map shows the George Weatherwax property with two buildings and a lumber railroad running down to the river. A school house was located along the river road near the Weatherwax Landing. In 1876, George Weatherwax's property is shown between the river and the river road. A road runs from the river road to the river. A house is located next to the road and the river.

In 1862, the Weatherwax Brothers started a steam mill at Lamont. This saw mill was probably partly supplied by a log railroad built in Georgetown Township which dumped logs into the Grand River upstream of Lamont. The railroad route is shown on the 1864 map.

**LUKE LOWING LANDING** – The site of Luke Lowing's Landing is located on the south bank of the Grand River about one mile downstream from the mouth of Sand Creek. This is about halfway between the Blendon Landing and the Ohio Dock along the road connecting these landings. A creek flows into the Grand River at Luke Lowing's Landing.

Luke, a brother of Stephen L., of the Ohio Dock, came to Ottawa County in 1844. On the 1864 map there is one building shown at Luke's Landing and the property belonged to Stephen L. Lowing. By 1876, the property belonged to Luke Lowing. By 1897, part of the land is Luke Lowing's and part belongs to Mrs. N. Hubbard. A road runs down to the landing – there is one building on the Hubbard property.

**OHIO DOCK (Also Called LOWING LANDING)** – On the south bank of the Grand River opposite the mouth of Sand Creek, the Lowing Landing in section 4, is between two small creeks with Luke's Landing to the west and Haire's Landing to the east. Stephen lumbered hoping to sell his logs at Grand Haven but in the 1840's barely paid for his expenses. He dammed a creek and had a waterwheel built which he used until 1846 when he built a larger mill. In 1850, he built a third mill.

Stephen came to Georgetown Township in 1837 and purchased 80 acres, which was recorded at Ionia in 1838. He then returned to New York state for a time. In September, 1841, he returned by boat and landed at Sand Creek. He brought a team of oxen, household goods, and farming and lumbering equipment. He built a crude log cabin. In 1847, he petitioned the court at Grand Haven for a divorce from his wife, Ruth, who was back in New York state and would remain there. In 1853, his cabin burned. He lived for a number of years in Grand Haven where he was a lawyer but in his later years, he returned to his property in Georgetown Township. In 1876, the Lowing Landing had seven buildings.

**LICHFIELD LANDING** – Two miles further downstream another large mill was operated by C. A. Lichfield, cutting 100,000 feet a day. At this point there was also a shipyard and several large schooners were built there. The lumber was supplied to the mills by a steam tramway which burned in 1861.

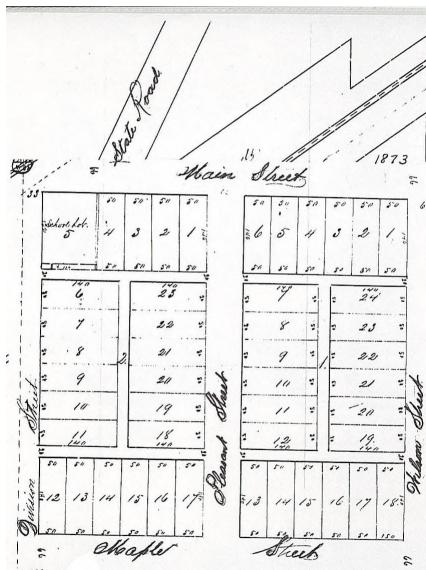
By the 1897 map, the Lowing, Haire and Blendon Landings were all gone.

**SAND CREEK LANDING** – This landing was located on the north bank of the Grand River at the mouth of Sand Creek in Tallmadge Township.

#### **1908 Celebration of a New Ferry**

October 25, 1908 – The first trip of the new Jenison Ferry crossing the Grand River was celebrated by many of the local people. This new ferry will transport people and their equipment across the Grand River saving them much time and miles. Otherwise, it is necessary to drive to Grand Rapids to cross the river. Mrs. L. Husband's efforts to bring this to fruition are finally rewarded and everyone is grateful to her.

## Hudsonville



**Homer Hudson Plat Map**

Hudsonville is a hamlet of about 100 inhabitants situated on section 28. It amounted to very little until the completion of the railroad in 1872. On 20 February 1873, Homer E. Hudson had 20 acres platted out and it was called the Hudson Plat which is located in the northwest corner of section 33. In 1881 it contains two saw mills, a planning mill, a cheese factory, two general stores, a blacksmith shop, churches and etc.

The first name for the community was South Georgetown which was established 1 May 1868. It received its present name on 18 February 1872 when Homer E. Hudson was appointed post master. He has held this post until this spring of 1881 when he resigned in favor of John Green, the present incumbent. The post office distributes mail to a large population.

Some of the businesses of Hudsonville include: Messrs. Cunningham who built a saw and planning mill in 1874 and used the same as a wagon and blacksmith shop until 1878 when they added a planer, and in 1880 a saw mill propelled by a twenty-horse power engine. At present their principal business is manufacturing cheese boxes.

Curry and Bennett's saw mill was built in 1875 by Curry and Richards. In May, 1880, William Bennett purchased the interest of Mr. Richards. It is propelled by a thirty-horse power engine.

Hudsonville Cheese Factory was established in 1876 by F. J. Lamb, who operated it one year and sold to S. H. Oatman, who still owns and operates it. It contains two milk vats of 500 gallons each and averages about 35,000 pounds of cheese per year. The milk is supplied by about twenty farmers. The building is 32 x 32.

Hudsonville Grange, P. of H., No. 112 was organized 2 February 1881, with the following charter members: James B. Yemmans, Dudley Cunningham, Luther M. Wolf, I. M. Winegar, Walter F. Tate, Eugene Spears, James Pitt, Winfield Atkins, John G. Baragar, Horace A. Hudson, and W. B. Yemmans. The following were charter initiates, vis: Homer E. Hudson, John McEwen, Charles L. Underhill, Daniel Flipse, Wm W. Morris, Wesley Annable, W. H. Linacre, James Richards, Charles E. Bosworth, Robert Alward, O. C. Knappen, B. H. Lowing. The first officers: L. M. Wolf, N. G.; James Yemmans, V. G.; H. A. Hudson, R. S.; Eugene Spear, P. S.; James Pitt, Treasurer; I. M. Winegar, Warden; W. B. Yemmans, Con.; D. Cunningham, O. G.; W. F. Tate, J. G. Barager, Scene Supporters; H. E. Hudson, R. S. N. G.; John Tibbett, L. S. N. G. The present officers; James B. Yemmans, N. G.; I. Winegar, V. G.; L. H. Hanley, R. S.; William Whipple, P. S.; James Pitt, Treasurer; James Richard, Warden; William Morris, Con.; W. Linacre, I. G.; Winfield Atkins, O. C. Knappen, Scene Supporters; H. E. Hudson, R. S. N. G.; John Tibbett, L. S. N. G.; B. B. Godfrey, R. S. V. G.; C. L. Underhill, L. S. V. G.; E. G. Morris, Chaplain. The present membership is 33. The regular meeting each Wednesday evening.

### **Early Churches**

There were travelling parsons who served the Hudsonville area in the early days. Also, the Grandville Congregational Church provided pastors at times.

**Congregational Church of Hudsonville** was organized in 1877. Homer E. Hudson gave a lot on Main Street to the church for a building.

**The Baptist Church** at Hudsonville was organized in the summer of 1866, with fourteen members, and its first pastor was E. H. Covey, who died June, 1872. Since that time C. E. Storrs and John Dunham have officiated as pastors. Recently the society has had no regular pastor, but D. Osborn, of Grand Rapids, supplies the charge. The officers of the church are R. Franklin, deacon; H. H. Chamberlain, clerk, who, together with Horace A. Hudson, comprise the trustees. The present membership is 45. A union Sunday school is conducted here. The society owns a lot and have taken steps toward erecting a church edifice. (NOTE: Unsure if this church was ever erected.)

**Disciples of Christ Church** – The church was built on the northwest corner of Main and School streets about 1890. When the church disbanded, it was rented to the Hudsonville Reformed Church congregation by Rev. Loren Drew. Rev. Drew stipulated that when he died the building would belong to the Reformed church which took place in 1912. Hudsonville Reformed Church continued to use this church building until 1948 when it burned to the ground. A new brick church was built on the same spot.

**First Christian Reformed Church** – the church was formed in 1902 and for the first year held their meetings in the Congregational Church. They bought a lot on the southeast corner of Division and Maple streets and erected a church building in 1904.

### **Hudsonville Public Schools**

**School #1** - was built in 1855 at the southeast corner of Van Buren and 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue on land donated by Luman and Lucius Jenison. This was no longer in use by 1879.

**School #2** - In March, 1879 - the school board paid to James DeCator on school house lot - \$65.25. According to the school book, on May 6, 1879 - school seats were ordered and a school house stone was ordered. On May 17 & 18, 1880, the school seats were set up.

**School #3** - On July 18, 1892, an addition was to be added to the present school at right angles to it. It was built back from School Street. The bid by Hues (?Hughes) Brothers was accepted on August 3, 1892 - \$670.00.

**School #4** - The square "block" or "brick" school with the belfry was built in 1908. The first class to graduate from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade was in 1910. It was built in front of the wooden school on School Street. This school housed the entire student body at this time.

**School #5** - The yellow brick house was built about 1929. This was the elementary building and School #4 became the high school, grades 8 through 12.

**School #6** - The yellow brick school was added on to and remodeled a few times – a wing was added to the north, later the gym was either remodeled or replaced and some additional rooms added to the north wing and east entrance. It housed the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes in the 1960s - 1980s after the new Hudsonville Public High School was completed on 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue south of Allen Street in 1963. In 1996, it became the ninth grade building and is called the Freshman Campus. Some homes were torn down and, in 1997, a new entrance was added on Madison Street.

**School #7** - Hudsonville Public High School was completed in 1963. Due to the continuing increase of residents, the high school was added to in 1999.

The years between have brought many changes. Jamestown, Forest Grove and Bauer Elementary Schools are under the Hudsonville Public School system. Other grade schools include Alward, Park and South schools. All of these schools have had additions to them. Two new middle schools were built, one on Baldwin Street, and another one on Riley Street in the Jamestown area. One new elementary school has been built west of Baldwin Street Middle School.

This area has responded well whenever there was a need to improve the schools.

### **Georgetown Township Biographical Sketches From the 1882 Ottawa County History**

**E. Franklin Bosworth** – was born in Washington County, NY, 28 Oct 1818. At a very early age he settled in Vermont, and in 1827 went with his family to Buffalo, NY. In 1843 he settled on section 9, Georgetown, where he still lives. He has been Supervisor, Town Clerk and Post Master of Georgetown. He married 27 Sep 1846 to Mary Lowing, who was born in Genesee County, NY, 5 Jun 1825. They have six living children.

**Ira Y. Burnham** – was born in Orange County, VT, 22 Dec 1829. He graduated from Burlington University in 1853. Mr. Burnham subsequently studied law, being admitted to practice in January, 1855. He followed his profession at Northfield three years, thence to Manitowoc, WI, and in Milwaukee until 1863, when he settled in Georgetown, taking a government contract of constructing a road from Berlin to the Allegan County line, and receiving therefore one and a half sections to the title, of which he still retains some 2,000 of the 3,000 acres. At present he resides at Grand Rapids, but has ever been identified in the interests of Georgetown. He exerted a large influence in securing the railroad which is operating in this locality. Mr. Burnham married in May, 1855 to Abby King, who was born in Grandville, VT, 17 Dec 1830.

**J. W. Closterhouse** – was born in Georgetown, 5 Jun 1857. He studied medicine for nearly two years, but due to failing health, he engaged in the mercantile business at Grand Rapids. Subsequently he established a store at Jenisonville, where he is now doing business. He is the present post master. Mr. Closterhouse married 2 Nov 1880 Nora M. Taylor, who was born in Knox County, IL, 20 May 1860. His father's name is Wilby, who was born in the Netherlands and settled in Michigan in 1848.

**Dudley Cunningham** – was born in Kalamazoo County, Michigan, 16 Aug 1843. He early learned to be an engineer and blacksmith, and commenced business in 1865, having a blacksmith shop in Byron Township, Kent County. He subsequently owned a saw mill in Jamestown, Ottawa County. In 1875 he located at Hudsonville, running a blacksmith and wagon shop. In 1878 he added a Planer and Cheese Box factory, and in 1881 he added a saw mill, where he is still employed. He was married 25 Oct 1867 to Sophrona Griffith, who was born in Lamont, Ottawa County, 5 Jun 1839. They have two children.

**Thomas Curry** – was born in Cecil County, MD, 6 Mar 1838. He learned the trade of a woolen manufacturer early in life, and in 1860 entered into the business of manufacturing in Butler County, PA, and remained there two years, when he engaged in oil speculation. In 1866 he went to Ashtabula County, Ohio, and engaged in saw mill and farming business. In 1877 he located at Hudsonville, Ottawa County, and built a saw mill, which he still operates. Mr. Curry married 13 Oct 1864 to Mirium N. Kiester, who was born in Butler County, PA, 15 Apr 1844. They have two living children, Laura M. and John B.

**John Green** – was born in Genesee County, NY, 31 Mar 1831. He is a blacksmith by trade. Mr. Green settled in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1850, remaining until 1853, when he commenced business on his own account at Grandville, Kent county, finally settling in Georgetown, Ottawa County, in 1856, being among the first settlers in the vicinity of Hudsonville, where he engaged in farming, and has ever since resided in Ottawa County. In the spring of 1881 he sold his farm, and engaged in general merchandise at Hudsonville. He is also the post master. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, 6<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry, as a blacksmith and farrier, serving three years and three months. Mr. Green has been married twice; first on 22 Feb 1853 to Ann Eliza Morris, who was born in Racine, Wisconsin in 1836, and died 17 Feb 1854. He married second, 31 Dec 1859 to Phebe S. Smith, who was born in Ontario County, NY, 4 Oct 1828. They have five children.

**John F. Hardy** – born in Kent County, Michigan, 20 Sep 1851. He early learned the milling business, which he has ever followed, and at present is the head miller in the custom mill of L. & L. Jenison at Jenisonville. Mr. Hardy was married 28 Feb 1881 to Mary Hice, who was born in Lamont, Ottawa County, Michigan, 28 Feb 1858. His father's name is Thomas Hardy, born in Franklin County, VT, 12 Jul 1827 who settled at Grand Rapids in 1843, and in Georgetown in 1865, where he held several township offices of trust. Thomas married 1 May 1847 Lucinda Powell, who was born in the State of New York in 1831.

**Homer E. Hudson** – the subject of this sketch, as statistics show, has been and is one of the prominent self-made men of Hudsonville. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, 30 May 1828, he early turned his attention to the nursery business. In 1847 we find him employed in the nursery of Elisha Kellogg, of Grand Rapids. Subsequently, in 1851, he settled in Holland, Michigan, and engaged in the same business on his own account, where he remained ten years. Then in 1861, he established a nursery at Hudsonville, Georgetown Township, on section 33, which he followed until 1873, when he sold out his nursery business, and is now engaged in farming. In township matters, Mr. Hudson has ever taken a part. He has been Township Treasurer two terms, Highway and Drain Commissioner, School Director, and Post Master since the establishment of the post office until the spring of 1881. He is the present Master of Hudsonville Grange, P. of H., and has been ever since its organization, with the exception of three years. Mr. Hudson is also the present Master of Western Pomona Grange, P. of H., No. 19. He married 18 Oct 1849 Clarinda Burt, who was born 2 Oct 1829. They have five living children.

**Hiram Jenison** – was born in St. Lawrence Co., NY, 11 May 1813. he and his father were the first settlers in Georgetown. He has ever been largely identified in the government of his township; was the first supervisor, which he retained for years; also twice a member of the State Legislature. He is a farmer and lumberman, residing on section 23. He married 12 Oct 1838, Mary Beardsley, who was born in Genesee County, NY, 26 Jun 1819. They are the parents of eight children. His father, Lemuel, was born in Vermont and killed by the fall of a tree in 1837.

**L. and L. Jenison**, twins, were born in St. Lawrence County, NY, 25 Apr 1823. They are the sons of Lemuel Jenison. They settled near Jenisonville, Georgetown Township, in 1836 on section 34. They are actively engaged in farming, and also proprietors of the grist mill at Jenisonville, built in 1864. Neither of the brothers has ever married.

**Independence Day Knappen** – was born in Chesterfield County, NY?, 4 Jul 1797. He enlisted as a teamster in the War of 1812 and 1813, and served eighteen months, previously however he had made his home in Plattsburg, NY (1811). In 1817 he went to Quebec, Canada, and engaged in lumbering until 1837, when he espoused the cause of the Patriots, and soon after was taken in custody by the English Government as a rebel, but preferring liberty to death, took "Scotch leave" coming back to the United States and settling in Oneida County, NY, where he acted as foreman on the canal, thence to Chemung county, NY, where he acted as contractor on wooden docks on the canal. He first settled in Michigan at Hastings in 1844 where he became the owner of a saw mill, which he operated for some years. He finally settled in Georgetown, Ottawa County, Michigan in 1855, and at the present writing (Dec. 2, 1881), we found him in his 83rd year engaged in pulling stumps, and as hale as a man of 50. He was married 18 Mar 1842 to Miami Fulton who was born in Pennsylvania in 1814.

**Albertus Kronemeyer** – was born in the Netherlands, 10 Feb 1839. His father was a mechanic by trade, and settled in Holland, Michigan in 1847, bringing his family with him. Mr. Kronemeyer settled in Georgetown in 1858, and now lives on section 21. He is the present (1881) Supervisor, has been Township Clerk, Treasurer, etc. He enlisted June, 1862, in the 21<sup>st</sup> Michigan Infantry, Company G, and was taken prisoner at Bentonville, SC. He was married 28 Jun 1866 to Mary Van Strate, who was born in the Netherlands, 13 Mar 1845. They have three children.

**Franklin Phelps** – was born in Ashtabula County, Ohio, 13 Aug 1833. He settled in Georgetown on section 28, in 1865 where he now lives. He married in 1855 Julia A. Cone, who was born in Medina County, Ohio, 16 Feb 1839. They have three children, Winnie L., born 17 Oct 1866; Willis A., born 26 Aug 1868; Flora A., born 26 Feb 1870.

**Benjamin Robinson** – was born in Schoharie County, NY, 31 Jan 1810 and settled in Kent County, Michigan in 1838. He then settled in Georgetown, Ottawa County, in 1858. He married 10 Feb 1831 to Phebe R. Wilson, who was born at Chittenden County, VT, 23 Oct 1811. They are the parents of ten children, six of whom have died.

**John H. Toren** – was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, 5 Mar 1857. He settled in connection with his father's family in Ottawa County in 1860. Subsequently he engaged as a clerk in Grand Rapids. In 1879 he established the business of a general merchant at Jenisonville, where he still does a thriving business. Mr. Toren was married 18 Jul 1877 to Nellie Sonke, who was born in Zeeland, Michigan, 19 Feb 1860. They have two children, Ada and Guy.

**Eugene A. Weatherwax** – was born in Hillsdale County, Michigan, 25 Aug 1811. He was actively engaged in lumbering until 1879, when he settled in Georgetown, where he died 4 Apr 1881. He was married 26 Mar 1877 to Mary Haire, who was born in Georgetown 29 May 1853, who after receiving a very liberal education, engaged in teaching, both day school and instrumental music. They have two children, Don and Jessie.

**George Weatherwax** - was born in Clinton County, NY, 3 Dec 1822. He settled in Ottawa County, Tallmadge Township, in 1848 and engaged in lumbering. He owned a saw mill at Lamont, and has ever since been engaged in the same business, settling in Georgetown in 1855, owning 320 acres of land in sections 11, 12, and 14. Mr. Weatherwax has been Supervisor, Justice of the Peace, etc. He married in 1851 Hulda Ann Van Tassel. During the Civil War, he received a Captain's commission and enlisted in Company I, 3<sup>rd</sup> Michigan Infantry in 1861, served in the army of the Potomac eight months and resigned.

**Henry D. Weatherwax** – Formerly the Sheriff of Ottawa County, now a prosperous agriculturist of George Township, was born in Peru, Clinton County, NY, 19 Apr 1833. His father Jacob M., was a native of Peru and resided in New York state until his death. Jacob married Miss Annis Ketchum of New York. They were the parents of seven sons and three daughters, Henry D., being the fourth born. When he was six weeks old, he was taken by his parents to Orleans County, NY where they lived for four years before moving to Michigan and settling in Adrian. Here he attended school and Hillsdale College. He learned the carpenter trade, spent two years in California in 1859, and when the war excitement was at its peak, he returned to Michigan while his brothers enlisted in the service, he superintended their lumber interests.

After the war, he continued farm, buying and selling property, and held positions of trust – Township Supervisor for six years, Justice of the Peace for eight years, etc.; Sheriff of Ottawa County for four years and removed to Grand Haven for four years for that time period.

In 1863 he married Miss Adeline V. Taylor, daughter of George and Rachel F. (Boyd) Taylor. She was born in Maine and obtained her education in Hillsdale. Mrs. Weatherwax taught school for five years and served two years on the Town Board, eight years on the County Board. They had two children, Helen, who died in infancy, and Harry who lives with his parents.

**William Whipple** – was born 19 Sep 1839, Ontario County, NY. His father, Stephen H. Whipple, was born in Erie, PA, and at the age of eleven moved with his parents to Ontario County, NY, where he resided until he was forty years old. Stephen settled south of Hudsonville. He married Miss Mary Ann Smith, whose parents removed from New Jersey to Michigan. Stephen and Mary Ann had six children, of whom William, Jr. was the oldest.

William came to Michigan at the age of sixteen with his parents and assisted in improving his father's farm. When he attained his majority, he commenced to work as a laborer in the employ of others. In August, 1862, he enlisted as a member of Co. D, 21<sup>st</sup> Mich Infantry. He participated in numerous encounters with the rebels, including the battles of Perryville, KY and Stone River, TN. At this last battle he was severely wounded and was confined in a hospital for fourteen months, at which time he was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps. On 16 Aug 1864, he was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. He was discharged 30 June 1866.

Upon returning home, Lt. Whipple resumed farming. Prior to entering the army he was married 2 Feb 1862 to Miss Maria P. White, daughter of Albert C. and Sarah (Pasco) White, natives of Connecticut. They are the parents of one son, Fred G., who has been a student in the

Western Michigan College and the Columbian College at Grand Rapids. Socially, William is a member of the G. R. Lodge No. 34, F. & A. M., and the Hudsonville Lodge, I.O.O.F., in which he has held all the chairs. In politics, he is a Republican. He has served in a number of local offices, including the positions of Township Clerk and Drain Commissioner.

### Cemeteries

**Hanley Cemetery (formerly known as Olmstead Cemetery)** – This is the oldest cemetery in Georgetown Township. It was located on the William Olmstead property on the north side of Jackson Street, and in the beginning, it was an association. The collected money for caring for the cemetery and at least once a year, the members met and cleaned the cemetery. The hamlet of Hanley was located on Jackson Street, mostly on the south side. For some reason, Jamestown Township took care of the cemetery, after the association no longer existed, until about 1960 when they turned over the responsibility to Georgetown Township.

**Haire Cemetery** – This cemetery was located on the property of John Haire, who had a landing on the river. They had a hotel there for people to stay who traveled the river and who worked in their sawmill. There are only a few stones left on this cemetery but noticeable indentations where there are burials.

**Lowing Cemetery** – Located on Bauer Road where 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue intersects. This small plot is still tended – a small monument and five graves stones are located there. In 1971 the Lowing Reunion Association placed a large mounted stone with a brass inscription honoring the Lowing Family. In 1836, Stephen Lowing purchased 80 acres and put a log cabin up. His father, mother and siblings came to Georgetown and the father put up a large home in 1843 southwest of Stephen's home.

The history regarding the cemetery began when Holden Lowing, Stephen's brother, wanted to extend a logging road from Hudsonville across Stephen's land to the Ohio Mills dock on the Grand River, which would have been good for their businesses. Stephen refused. Years later, Stephen wanted to build a road to the river and began the procedure for approval. Holden was Supervisor of Georgetown Township and hadn't forgotten Stephen's earlier refusal. Knowing a cemetery cannot be disturbed, he turned the southern most part of his land into a pauper's field, burying one of the poor charges of the township there.

**Shackhuddle Cemetery** – Located on the south side of Barry Street, west of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. It was a private cemetery on Abijah Edson's land where both Abijah, his wife, Cynthia, a daughter, Belinda Botzum and her husband, Nicholas were buried. Benjamin, their son, was also buried here but then removed to the Georgetown Township Cemetery. Along with some family members, there were some friends buried there. About fifteen people in all. The cemetery was later abandoned.

**Smallpox Cemetery** – Originally this cemetery was private and located on Van Sloten property. In the 1870's, several people from the area died of smallpox, including three members of the Closterhouse family. They are believed to be buried in this cemetery. Smallpox, influenza and scarlet fever were diseases that were highly contagious and people were not allowed to transport them to a cemetery so they were usually buried on their own property. After the Van Sloten family sold the property in 1943, it fell into disrepair. By the 1950's the cemetery was called both the Indian Cemetery and the Smallpox Cemetery. In the 1990's the cemetery became a dumping ground. Then a developer started building homes and when he was excavating, he came upon some bones. In 1994 the Jenison Historical Association was allowed a 30 square foot plot from the developer in memory of those buried there. The association members cleaned up the property and planted myrtle. Then in 2002 a cyclone fence and gate were installed. It is unsure how many were buried in this cemetery and is estimated to be between 4 and 40.

**Hudsonville Cemetery** – The south side of Van Buren Street, east of 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. In the 1860's and 1870's, a small cemetery was located next to the Congregational Church. When Georgetown Township Cemetery was opened, those buried in Hudsonville were transferred to the Georgetown Cemetery.

**Georgetown Township Cemetery** – Lucius and Luman Jenison owned the property on 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue south of Rosewood Street. They gave a wooded, hilly section of this land to the township for burials in the mid 1870's. The first burial was Matheus Vander Boegh in 1877. The cemetery has been expanded at different times.

**Jenison Private Cemetery** – Located on the north side of Port Sheldon Road near 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue – This cemetery was set aside by Luman and Lucius Jenison for the burial of Jenison relatives. They also had a marble mausoleum built for their own burials.



#### Homer E. Hudson Family

Back Row: Horace Hudson, Frank Hudson      Front Row: Eugene, Delphia, Homer and Belle  
Bottom: Two pictures of the Homer Hudson Home which was later purchased by Henry and Elizabeth Warner. The Warner's adopted Elizabeth's niece, Mable, who married Edward Hall, and it became the Hall family home for many years until it was sold in the early 2000's.





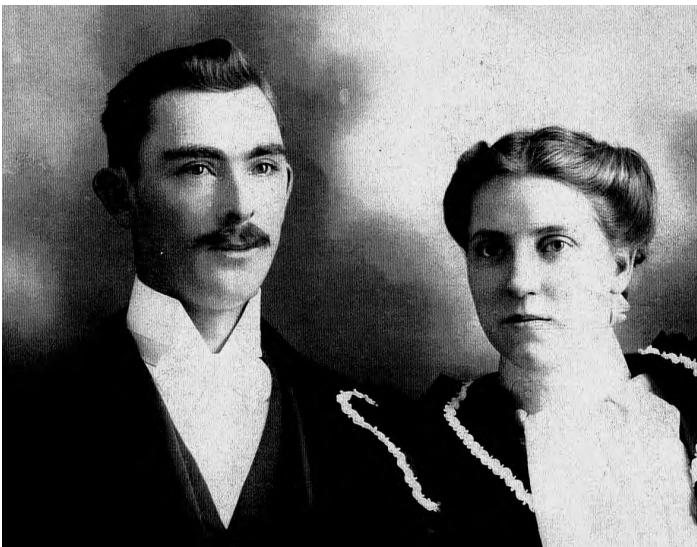
### Albrecht Family

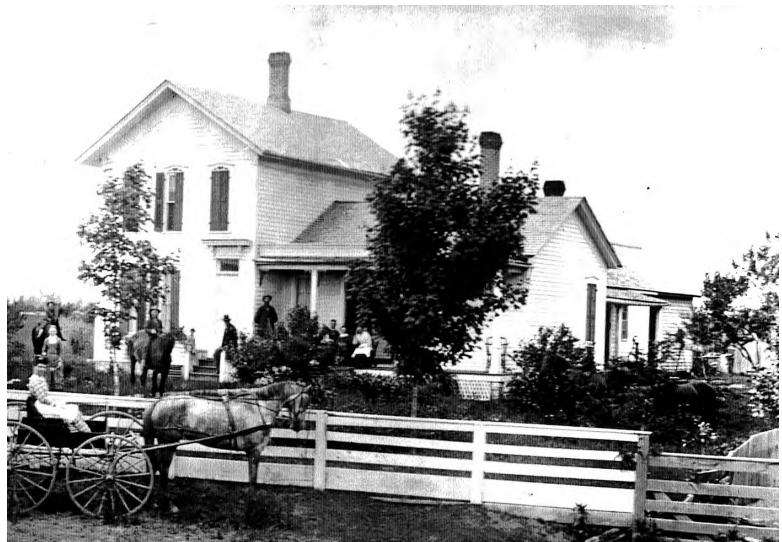
**Top Left:** At Will Boldt home about 1912-1915  
Back: Henry Groustra, Will Albrecht,  
Will Boldt, Martin Boldt  
Front: Children of Will Albrecht, Mary  
(Anker) Albrecht, Anna (Albrecht)  
Groustra, Jessie (Ensing) Albrecht, Mary  
(Albrecht) Boldt

**Top Right:** Virginia and Kenneth Albrecht

**Bottom Left:** Herman Albrecht and wife, Minnie.

**Bottom Right:** Marie Albrecht, daughter of Will and Jessie. She worked for Dr. and Mrs. Henry Moes for a time.





**Robert Alward Farm**

The farm was located at the northwest corner of Port Sheldon Road and 36th Avenue. The land for the Alward School was given by the family. Robert Alward, a descendent, still resides in the family home



**Robert Alward Family**

Back Row: Dora, Herbert, Stanley, Lafayette "Lafe", Lila  
Front Row: Allen, Egbert, Robert, Alveora (Barton), Fern, Almera

- 16 -

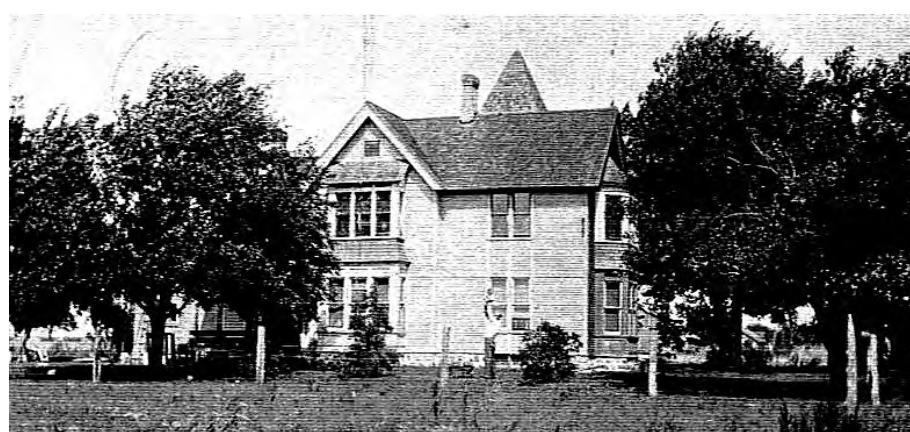
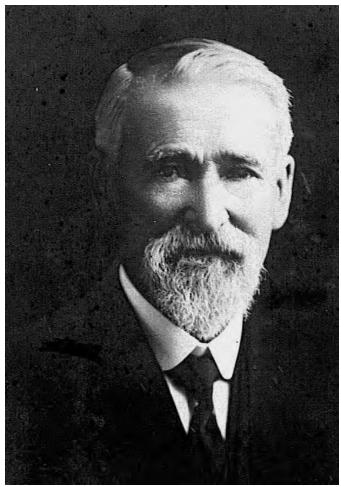


**Alward - Doan Family**

Norma (Alward) VanHeukelum, Gladys (Doan) Huyser, Allie W.  
\_\_\_\_\_, Bert Alward, Marguerite Doan, Laura (Doan) Alward



Left: Wayne Alward  
Above: Norma Alward  
Children of Bert and Laura (Doan) Alward



Top Left: Charles Barnaby, Top Center: Barnaby home on northwest corner of 36th Avenue and VanBuren; Top Right: Charles Adelbert Barnaby, son of Charles and Sarah

Bottom Left: Charles Barnaby and his grandchildren, Ellis, Charles H., Bud, Ray, Harold and Clare, about 1918

Bottom Center: Elmer Lyle Barnaby and his grandfather, Charles Barnaby. Elmer died in WWI.; Bottom Right: Susie, Emily Barnaby, daughters of Charles.





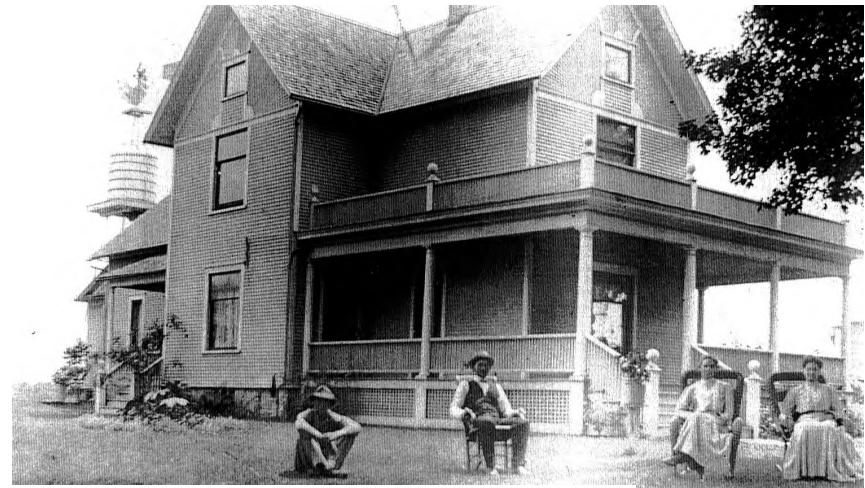
**1897 Reunion at the John Boldt Farm** - located on west side of 40th Avenue, north of the railroad tracks.

Later, this was the Centennial Blueberry Farm for many years.

Standing: —, —, Henry Steenman, Minnie Boldt, John Boldt, Jr., John Boldt, Sr., Mary Steenman, Will Boldt, Mary (Albrecht) Boldt, Fred Boldt, Bessie (Snyder) Boldt holding Clara (Boldt) Gillett

Sitting Back: Will Steenman, —, Mabel (Boldt) Meyer, Minnie (Boldt) Edson, Ella (Steenman) Bryant, Beatrice Miller and Willie Boldt

Sitting Front: Martin Boldt, Bertha (Boldt) Huyser, Edith Boldt



### Boldt Family

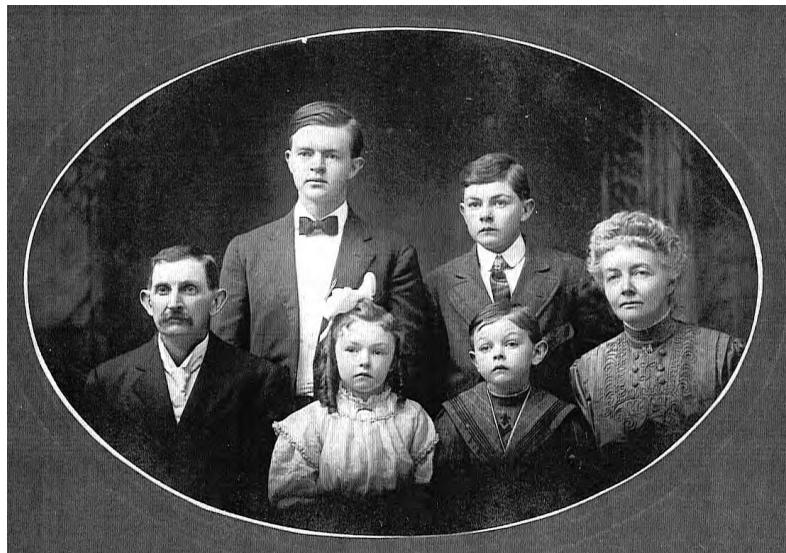
Top Left: Fred Boldt and Family going to St. John's Lutheran in Bauer on Sunday.

Top Right: Will Boldt's Home built in 1909 on 32nd Avenue, just north of the First Christian Reformed Church

Bottom Left: Eda, Will, Mary, Minnie and John Boldt

Bottom Right: Will Boldt mowing the lawn at about 90 years of age.





### Colman Cory Family

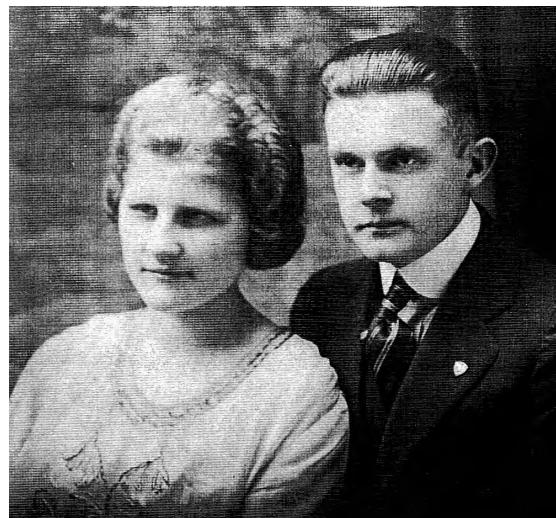
Top Left: Back: Clyde, Roy Front: Colman, Gladys, Robert, Mamie (Hughes) Cory

Top Right: The home of Colman Cory which was built in 1880 by Libbeus Giddings. They purchased the home in 1900.

Bottom Left: Roy and Henrietta (Telgenhof) Cory

Bottom Right: The Roy Cory Home with his barber shop to the left.

The home is still (2008) on 32nd Avenue just north of the light.





### **The Nicholas Rynbrandt Home**

It was located on the south side of 32nd Avenue on property that they owned between Barry and Beechcrest Streets.



This home was located on 32nd Avenue next to the Veterans Park and was torn down for the Doornbos Insurance office building. At one time John Peuler, the barber, lived there.



### **Rensoler Cory Home**

Rensoler was the brother of Colman and they were the sons of Charles Cory, who was the first to settle in Georgetown Township near what would become the village of Hudsonville.



Top Left; James DeCator Farm—James was one of the first settlers building a log cabin on the present farm. Emma was also from the Whipple family which settled south of Hudsonville early on.

Top Right: James and Emma (Whipple) DeCator

Bottom Left: The DeCator Farm when owned by Bert DeCator, son of James and Emma

Bottom Right: James and Emma DeCator built the first brick home in Hudsonville on the southwest corner of School and Van Buren Streets when they moved from their large farmhouse.



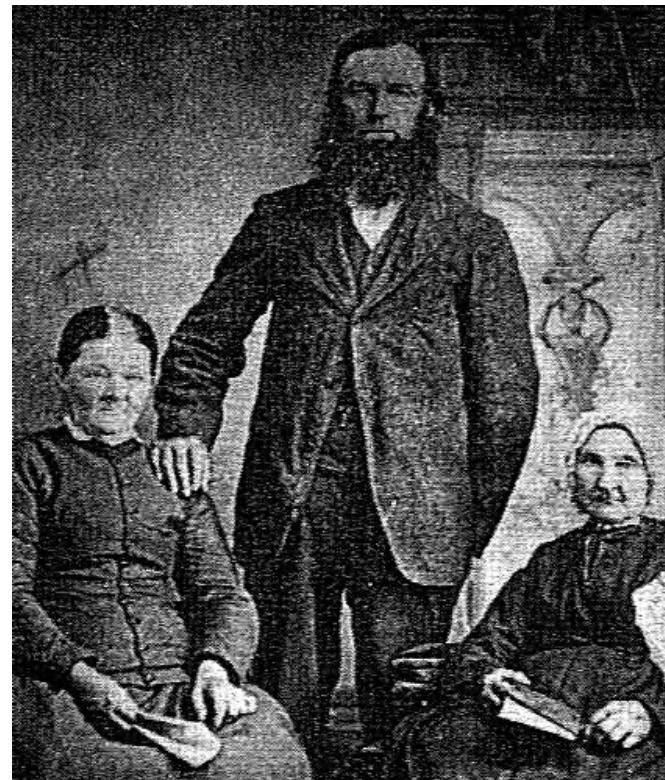


**Ernest and Vetje (Postma) DeWeerd**

Ernest—1836-1906

He married 1st Anniejean Smith

He married 2nd Vetje Postma 25 Feb  
1869



**The Jan Everts DeWeerd Family**

**Left:** Ernest DeWeerd, oldest son of Jans Evert and Weijina Ernest Drenthe, married first Annigen Smit, second, Yetje Postma.

**Center:** Jan Evert DeWeerd, son of Ernest and Annigen Smit. He married Johanna Trompen. Their children were: Ernest, Nicholas, Dora, Andrew and Jacob.

**Right:** Pieter Jans DeWeerd, the second son of Ernest and Annigen Smit. He married Clara P. Hagedoorn. Their children were: Henry, Weigina, John, Nicholas, William, Ernest, Mattie and Herman.

**Bottom Left: Patmos Family**

**Back Row:** Geraldine, Marvin, Jay, Helen

**Front Row:** Grace (DeWeerd), Cornelius, Francine

Grace (DeWeerd) Patmos was the daughter of Henry and Dina (Lutter). Henry was the son of Pieter Jans DeWeerd.





**Henry DeWeerd Family**  
Henry, Clara, Grace, Dena, Peter (seated in front)



**Henry DeWeerd Family**  
Back: Peter, Clara, Albert, Henry; Front: Grace, Dena

#### **Drownings In Houghton Lake**

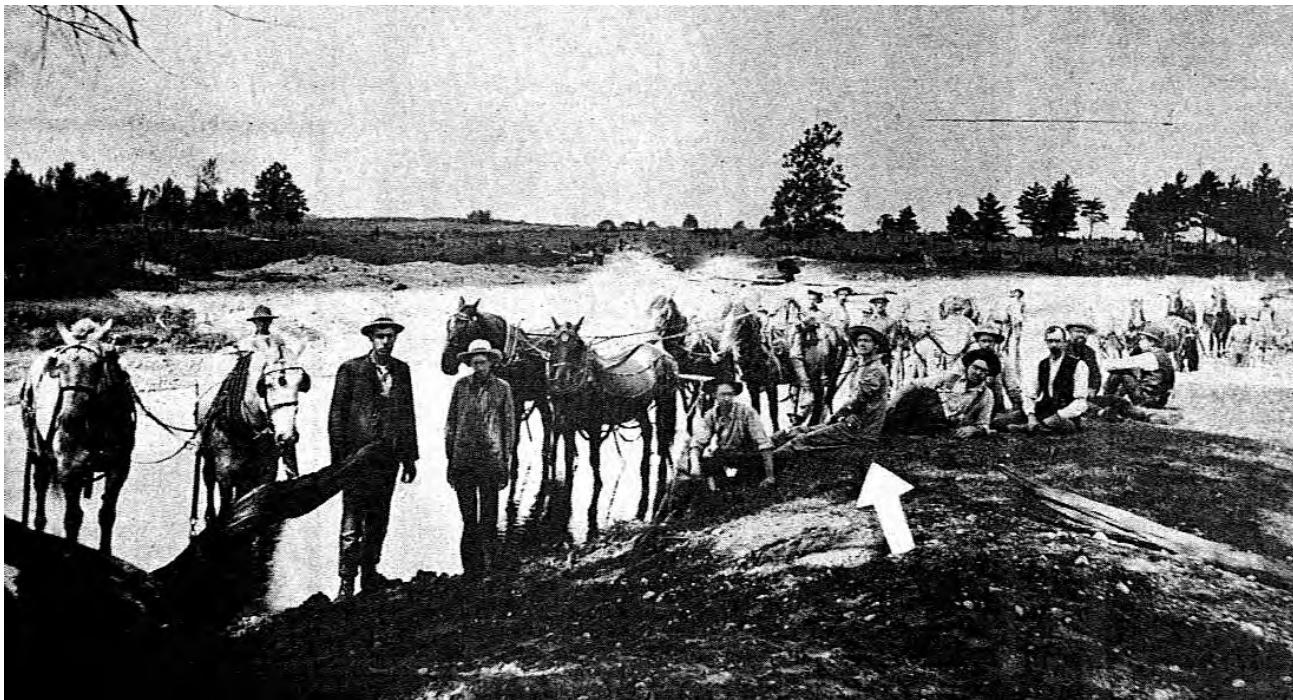
Houghton Lake claimed the lives of three residents of the village of Hudsonville during the Fourth of July weekend, when Henry DeWeerd, his brother, Albert, and Alden the eight year old son of Albert, were drowned when a boat in which they were riding capsized.

Albert DeWeerd was very prominent in this area, being the senior partner in the DeWeerd & Hartman Chevrolet Sales and Service. He was very prominent in Hudsonville and Georgetown politics and a staunch booster for the community. Surviving Albert DeWeerd are his widow, Hazel; three children, Harriet, 11; Rolland, 10, and Melvin, 7, and his mother, Mrs. Dina DeWeerd.

Henry DeWeerd likewise was very prominent in village and township affairs and was a partner in the DeWeerd & VanderWal trucking firm.

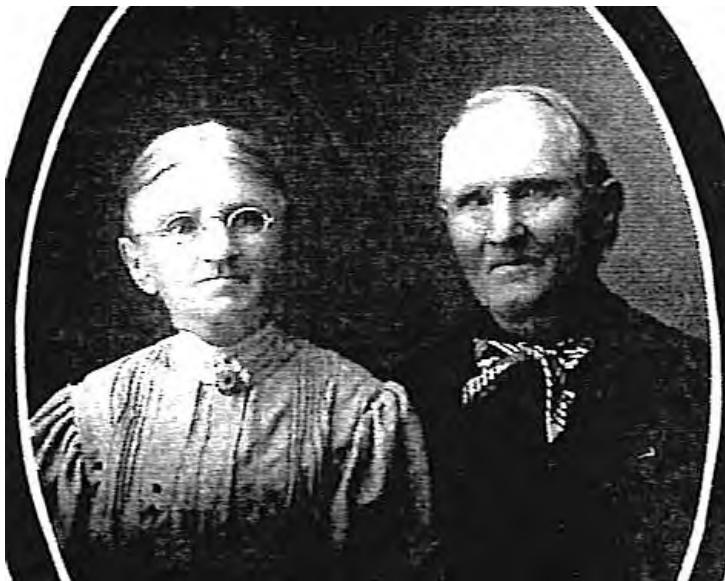
Henry DeWeerd is survived by his widow, Margaret; his mother, and three children, Crystal, 9; Lavina, 7, and Mary Jane, 5.





#### **George Briceland Home at Shackhuddle**

Residence of Mr. & Mrs. George (Harriet Tibbet) Briceland located at the bottom of Kibby Hill, before 16th Street was established. She was half-sister to Lulu Comstock's mother, and Lulu lived with them after the deaths of her parents and grandparents. When rain rushed down Kibby Hill, they would sweep out the water that covered the board floor. Harriet was an aunt of Ross Tibbet. Briceland's only child died and they adopted a son, Leon. Harriet was known for making Indian-type remedies from herbs.



**John and Catharine (VanderPloeg) Haminer**



**Haminer Daughters**  
Standing: Winifred Wicks, Martha DeWent  
Mary Wierenga, Eva Doan, Catherine DeWent



**John DeWent Home on Van Buren Street**  
The Christian Junior High is located on the property



**John DeWent Family**  
Back: LaVern "Mick", Ward, Clare, Wayne, Jake, Roger  
Front: Martha (DeWent) Lynema, Mary (Brandt) DeWent, John, Marvin



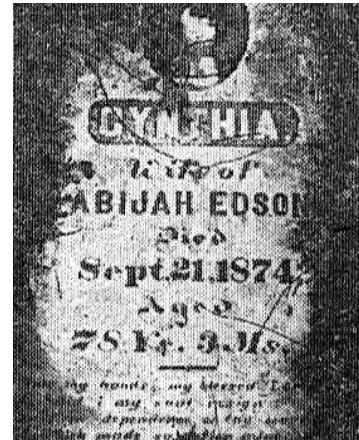
### Doan Family Reunion, 1908

Back Row: Bert Alward with Wayne, Dan Sawyer with Loren, Freeman Doan with Muriel, Grace (Sawyer) Haminger, Eva (Haminger) Doan, Etta Doan, Iva Sawyer  
5th Row: Sarah (Jennings) Doan, Selatha (Doan) Schwinn, Mamie Doan, Laura (Doan) Alward, Mabel (Doan) VanderWarf with Nicholas, Liddie Doan, Jesse Doan  
4th Row: Jim Sawyer, Charles Schwinn, Nick VanderWarf, Jim Doan, Louisa Doan, Mae Doan  
3rd Row: Harden Smith, Anna Bell (Doan) Sawyer, William Doan, Maria (Byer) Doan Smith, Abraham Doan, George Doan and David Israel Doan  
2nd Row: Claude Doan, Lloyd Sawyer, Eva Sawyer, Marguerite (Doan) Lowing, Nathan Smith, Johnny Doan, John Sawyer  
Front Row: Anna Vander Warf, Blanchard Vander Warf, Anna Blanche Doan, Donald Alward, Lyle Doan, Gladys "Glade" Doan, MacKenzie Doan



Top Left Photo: Benjamin Edson, an early settler of Georgetown Township, was the son of Abijah and Cynthia (Herrington). His parents are buried in Shackhuddle Cemetery, which bordered on his property. This photo was taken July 1, 1913 when Ben was 96 years old. Benjamin married first, Ruth Ellis, who was the daughter of Grandmother (MacMillian) Ellis (center photo). Photo on right: Great Grandmother MacMillian, mother of Grandmother (MacMillian) Ellis. Her husband was scalped by Indians at Fort Detroit. Some of the descendants of the Edson family still reside in the Hudsonville area.

Below: The gravestones of Abijah and Cynthia (Herrington) Edson, the parents of Benjamin, are located in the Shackhuddle Cemetery.





Young Orrin Edson

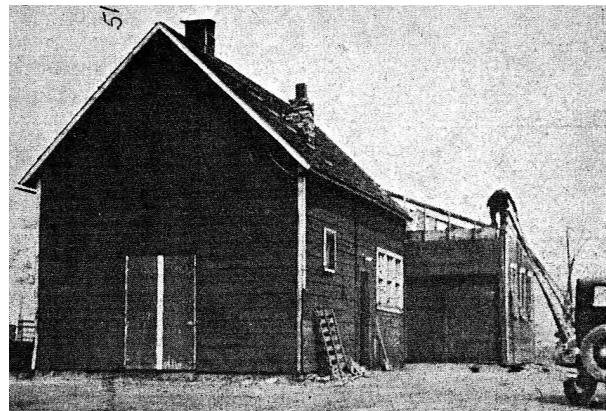


Orrin and Mary Edson Daughters  
Ruth, Idah, Laura, Adah, Maude



Top Right:  
Orrin and Mary (Tillotson)  
Edson. Orrin was the son of  
Benjamin and Alvina  
(Johnson) Edson.

Bottom Right:  
Edson's Meat Packing Plant -  
It was built in 1914 by Orrin  
and his son, Guy, at 3007 Van  
Buren Street.  
In 1918, Lee Edson, son of  
Guy, took over the operations  
of the plant.





**Edson - Nyhuis Family - Five Generations**

Guy Edson, Doris (Edson) Nyhuis, Phillip and Edson Nyhuis, Orrin Edson



**The Guy Edson Home and Swimming Pool**

The Guy Edson home was located on the north side of Van Buren Street, east of 32nd Avenue. The home was later moved across the muck to Barry Street just east of 32nd Avenue where it remains. The Edson slaughter house is located east of here.



**FOUR GRANDMOTHERS**

Left Photo:

Back Row: Grandmother Pearl (Whipple) and Grandmother Bertha (Drew) Hughes

Front Row: Great Grandmother Mary (Tillotson) Edson, Mary Lee Edson and Great Grandmother Whipple.

**FOUR GRANDFATHERS**

Right Photo:

Back Row: Grandfather Guy Edson, Great Grandfather Orrin Edson  
Front Row: Great Grandfather Job Whipple, Grandfather Thomas Hughes, and Thomas Edson.



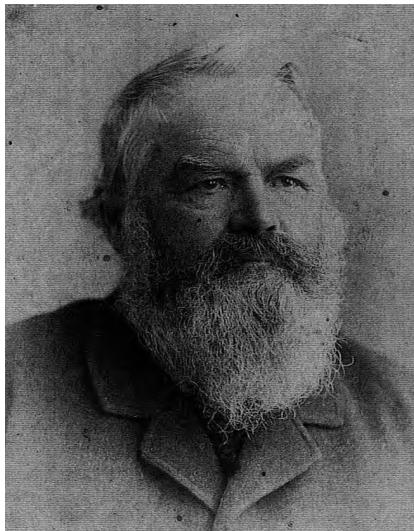


Back: George Bachelor, Linnie Bowen  
Front: Mercy, Elmer, Bertha, Carrie, Myron, Minnie and  
Walter on Hiram's Drew lap.



### Hiram and Mercy (Cobb) Drew Home

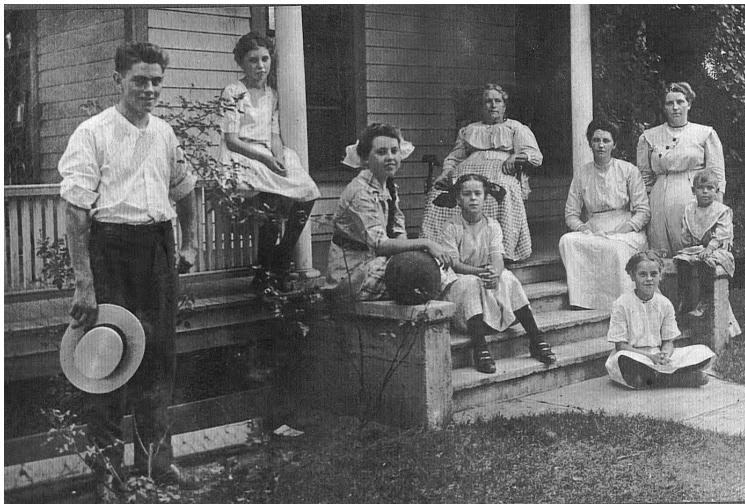
This home was located on the southeast corner of Van Buren and School Streets. Later, it was moved to Madison Street and was torn down when renovations were made for the Hudsonville Freshman Campus. The Protestant Reformed Church and parsonage were built on that corner in the late 1920's. The Byker Memorial Library is also located on some of that property.



### Hiram and Mercy Drew Family (on the right)

Left to right: Warren Drew, Edythe Hughes, Marguerite Hughes, Grandmother Mercy (Cobbs) Drew, Dorothy, Minnie (Drew) Albrecht, Bertha (Drew) Hughes, Marie and Louis

Left: **Henry Dearborn** who was married to Patience Drew. He was the father of Joseph Dearborn who was married to Adelaide Drew. Joseph married second, Emily (Markham) Lowing, who was first married to Stephen Lowing.





Top Left: **Richard Hall Family**  
Standing: Edward Hall, Lydia (Hall) Lehnens  
Front: Richard Hall, Carrie (Hall) Hoffman, Margaret Hall



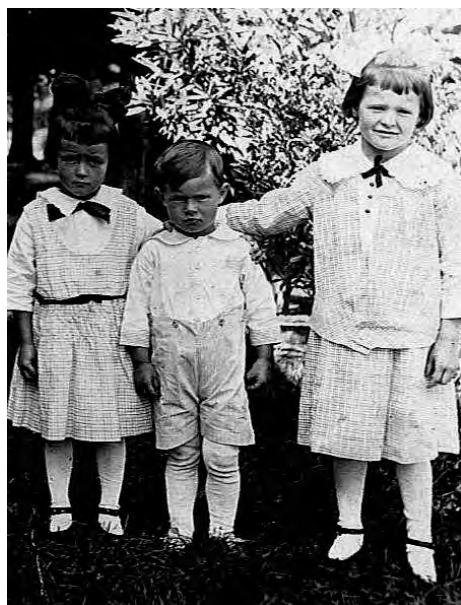
**The Edward Hall Family**

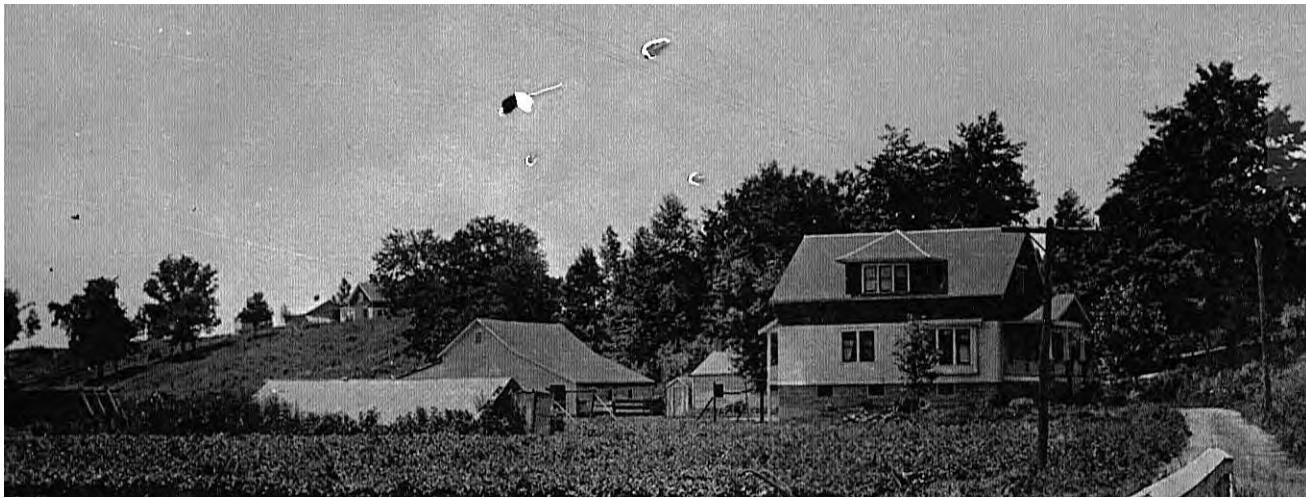
Top Right: Edward and Mable (Pangburn) Hall  
Wedding Picture

Bottom Left: Ida, Gilbert and Eleanore Hall, children of Edward and Mable

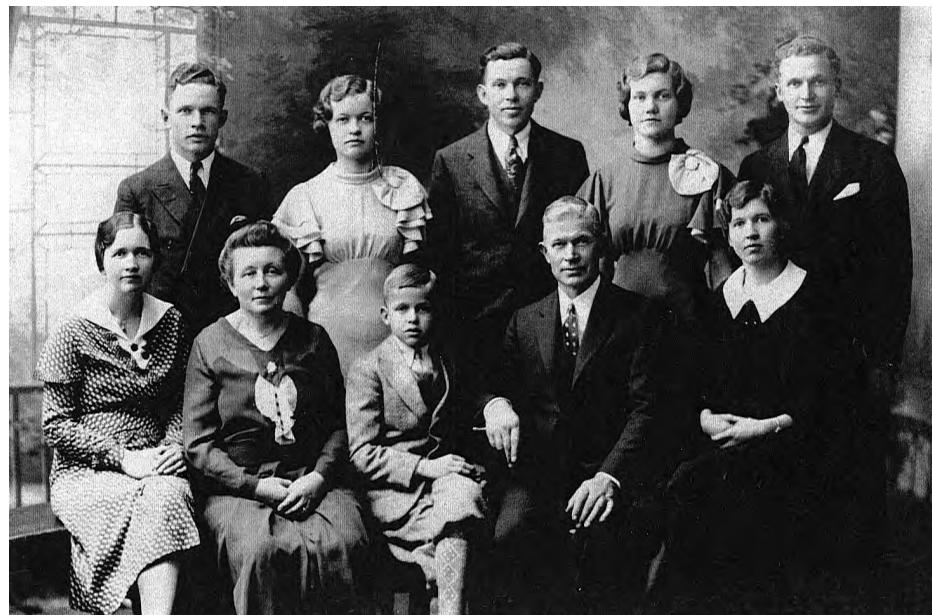
Top Left: **Richard Hall Family**

Standing: Edward Hall, Lydia (Hall) Lehnens  
Front: Richard Hall, Carrie (Hall) Hoffman, Margaret Hall





**Albert Holthof Farm** - on south side of Van Buren just below the hill. The home has been removed.



**Albert Holthof Family**

Back: John, Cornelia, Ed, Bertha, Henry  
Front: Tena, Rolfein "Ruth", Albert, Jr., Albert, Sr., Flora



**Albert Holthof and Children**  
Working in their muck field on Van Buren Street.



### The George Hubbard Family

Top Left: Sketch of the George and Nettie (Lowing) Hubbard home on the Grand River.

Top Center: Luke Hubbard in buggy with dog

Top Right: Emily (Coburn), 2nd wife of Glen

Bottom Left: Glen, Luke Hubbard, 1910

Bottom Center: Eugene Hubbard

Bottom Right: Eugene and Flora (Sweet) Hubbard. Eugene was the postmaster in Hudsonville for thirty-some years.

Flora taught school in the 1910 Hudsonville school building for a number of years.





### Bernard Hughes Home

The home is located on Van Buren Street. The home and the sawmill, on 40th Avenue north of Van Buren, were purchased from Harlow Phelps. Part of the land was donated by Bernard for Hughes Park.



### Thomas Hughes Home

This home is located on the northeast corner of School and Van Buren streets. \_\_\_\_\_? on horseback, Thomas and Bertha standing and Carrie and Minnie Drew, sisters of Bertha, sitting in the carriage.

### B. and T. Hughes

Bernard and Thomas were the sons of James and Mary Hughes.

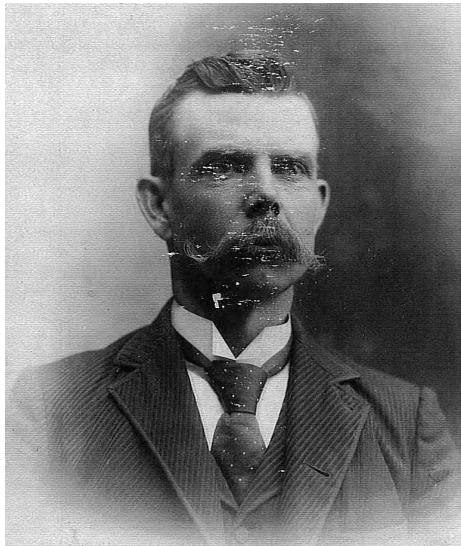
They owned the sawmill on 40th Avenue together and about 1908 they purchased the hardware store from Benton Green and retained ownership until their deaths. They also added an auto repair garage later.

They both enjoyed hunting and fishing.

Bernard married Flora (Walden) Cook who had two children. They had three daughters, Margaret, and twins, Beatrice and Bernice.

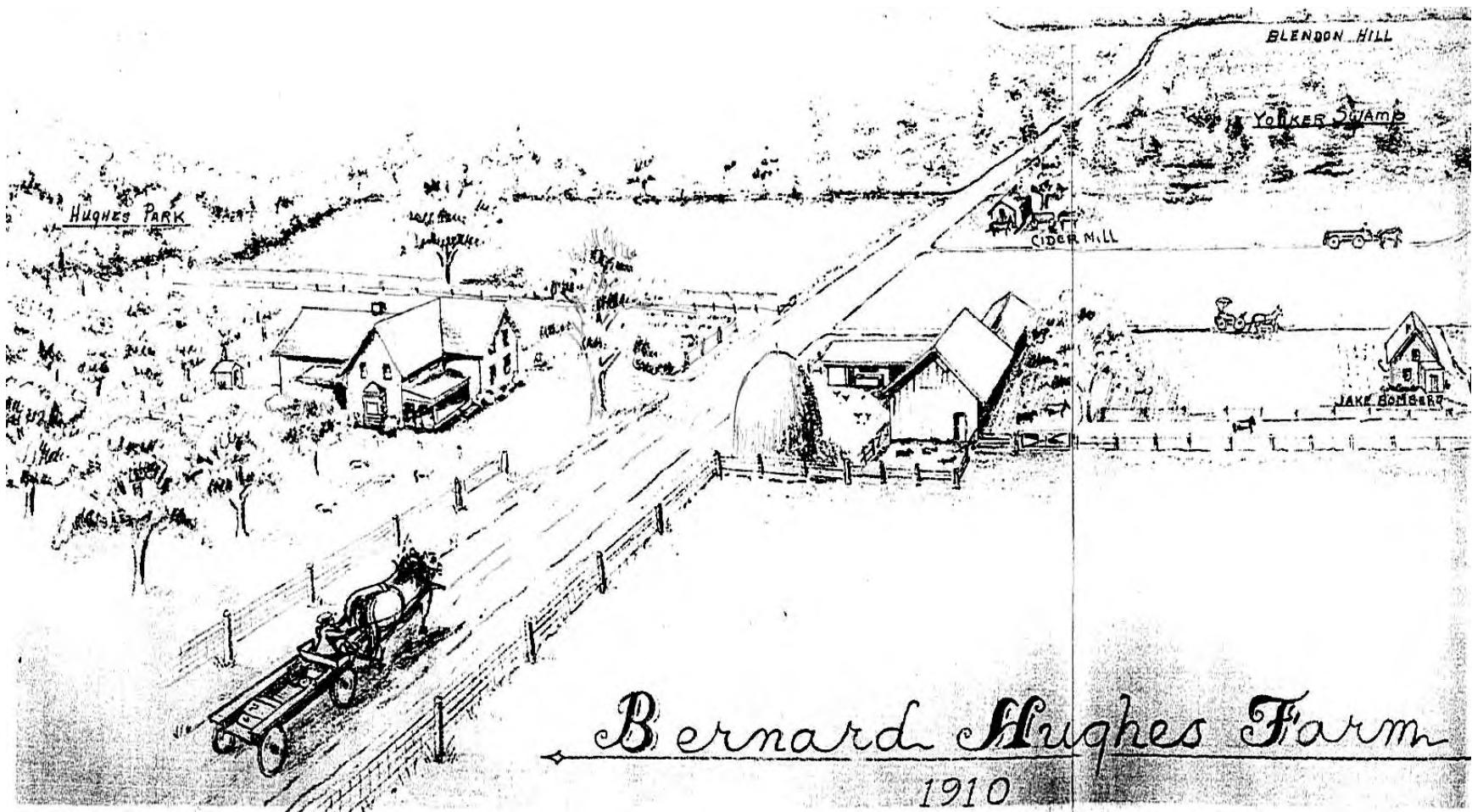
Thomas married Bertha Drew, the daughter of Hiram and Mercy. They had two daughters, Marguerite and **Bernard Hughes Home**

The home is located on Van Buren Street. The home and the sawmill, on 40th Avenue north of Van Buren, were purchased from Harlow Phelps. Part of the land was donated by Bernard for Hughes Park.



d Edythe.





At the far left is Hughes Park, then Hughes Farm house  
The road with the horses and wagon is Van Buren Street.  
To the right of the road is the Hughes barn, then Jake Boneberg's home and Staal's home  
Farther west on the road, to the right is the Cider Mill, then the Saw Mill, Louwneer's Home, and the Gravel Pit  
To the west of the Cider Mill is the Yonker Swamp land  
Then Further to the west is Blendon Hill which is 48th Avenue.



**Bernard Hughes Family**

Top Left:

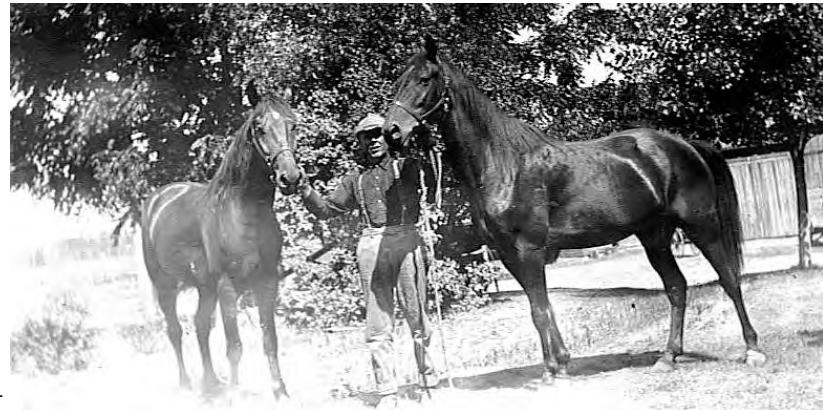
Back: Bernard, his wife Flora (Waldron) Cook Hughes, Bertha Cook, Charles McCoy, Marie (Cook) McCoy;  
Front: Bernice, Beatrice, Margaret

Top Center: Marie (Cook) McCoy and baby

Top Right: Beatrice and Bernice Hughes

Bottom Left: Mildred (Cook) Hessler, \_\_\_\_\_? Marie (Cook) McCoy

Bottom Right: Bernard and his horses





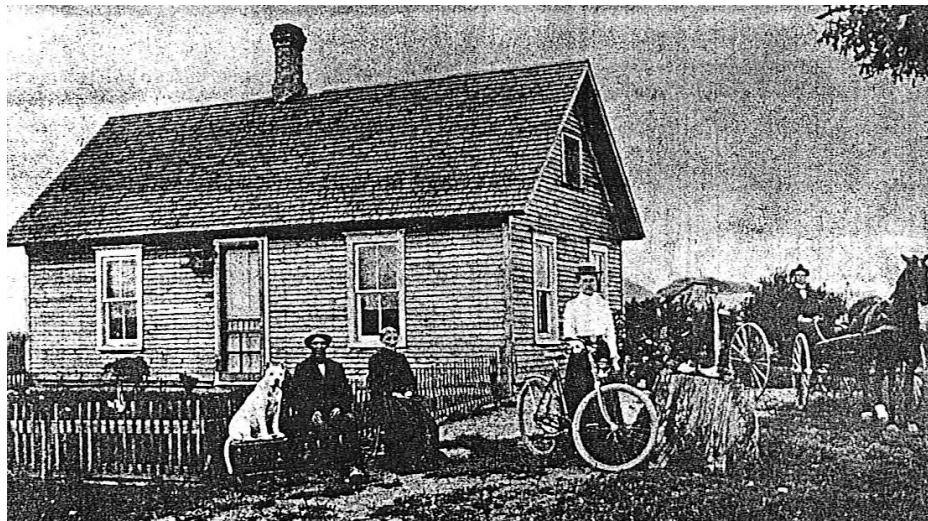
**Evert Klomp Family**

Back: John, Aart, Alice, \*Gerrit

Middle: Henrietta

Front: Aaltje "Alice" (Meyer), \_\_\_\_\_, Evert Klomp

\*Gerrit Klomp, the son of Evert and Alice, purchased the farm on 40th Avenue of William Boldt in 1909.



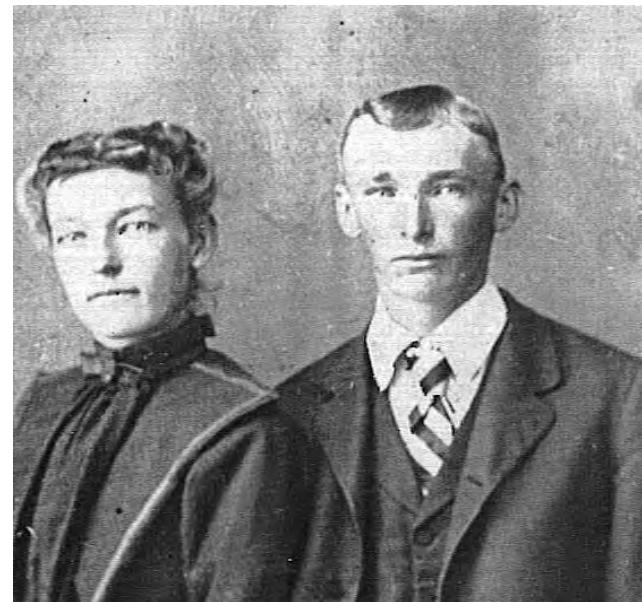
**Gerrit Steen Home -**

Northwest Corner of Rosewood and 28th Avenue  
Gerrit and Johann Steen, Dena (Steen) Koopman and Tony Steen



**Rense Koopman Farm - Rosewood west of 28th Avenue**

Dena (Steen) Koopman, Garrett, Tom, Nellie, Piaternella, Rense Koopman. The farmhouse on Rosewood remained in the family until



**Dena (Steen) Koopman and Tony Steen**



**Tom and Dena (Steen) Koopman Children**  
Gertrude (Koopman) Hop, Tom, Clara (Koopman) Vruggink



**Albert and Medora (Alward) Lowing Home**

Albert was the son of Luke and Amelia (Lowing) Lowing.  
Dora was the daughter of Robert and Alveora (Barton) Alward



**Stephen Lowing**

The first of the family to homestead in  
Georgetown Township.



**Cedar Crest Dairy, Bauer Road**



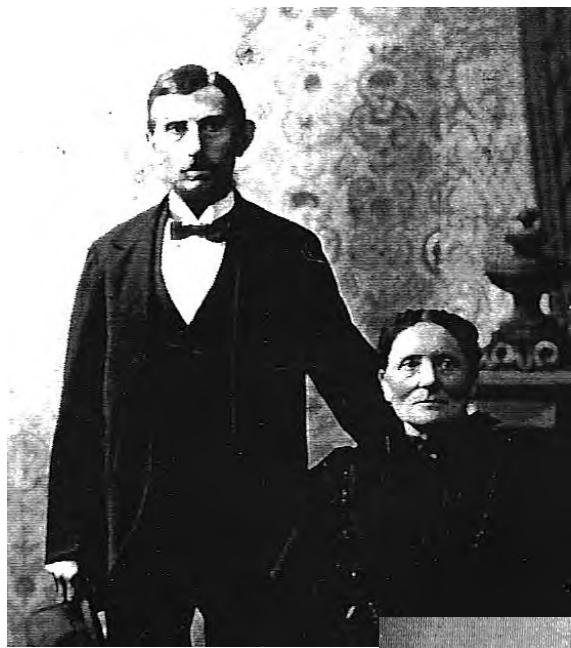
**Otis Lowing Home, Bauer Road**



### **Kornelis Ludema Family**

The Ludema family immigrated to the United States in 1904. In the 1910 Census they are listed as follows:  
Kornelis, 45; Jantje (Bosma), 43; Annie, 19;  
Kornelis, 16; Sieberina, 11; Otto, 6; Alice, 2;  
Alberdina, 1  
Sieberina married Peter Mesbergen





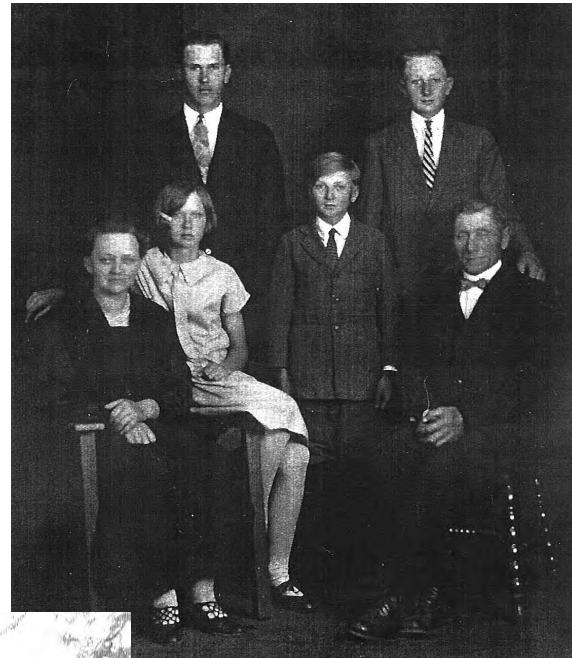
### Lynema Family

Left: Jacob and Cornelia Lynema

Right:

Back Row: Jacob Lynema, Erzo Lynema  
Front Row: Anna (Prins) Lynema, Cor-  
nelia (Lynema) Brandt, Jim and Cor-  
nelius Lynema

Below: The Lynema farm on the north  
side of Port Sheldon Road, east of 36th  
Avenue.



### The McEachron Family

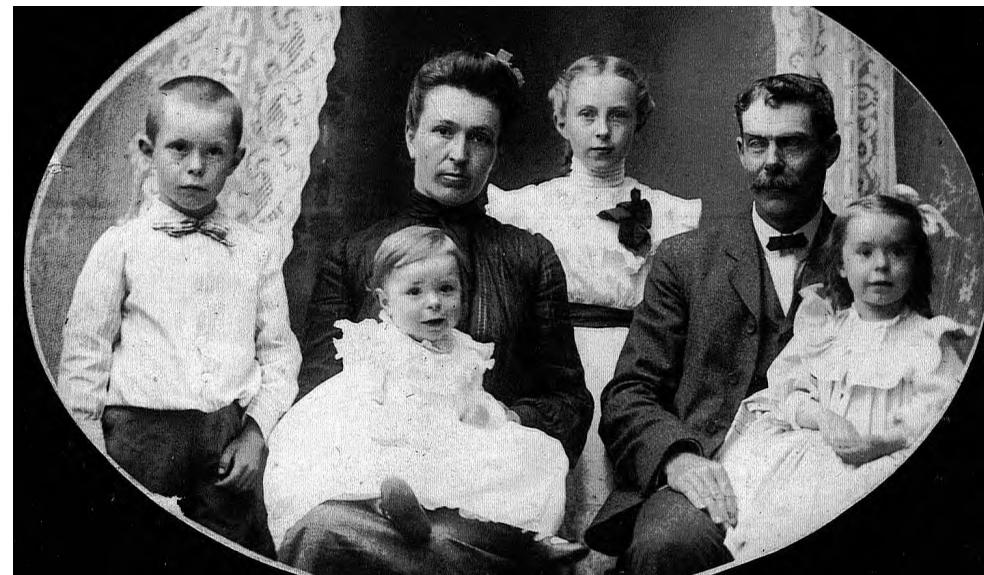
The McEachron and Curtis families lived in the Hanley area and are buried in the Hanley Cemetery.

Fred McEachron, Belle (McEachron) Curtis and LaMott McEachron were all the children of William Henry and Lucy Ann (Barber) McEachron.

Left: Fred and Jennie (Pellegron) in front of their home on School Street.

Right: Fred was a banker and a leader in business, civic and political affairs. He was born on his parents farm in Jamestown Township, educated in the local school and active in Republican politics for years. He served as Ottawa County clerk for six years and represented the second legislative district of Ottawa county in the House of Representatives from 1920-1930 and was chairman of the Ways and Means committee. He founded the Hudsonville State bank in 1911 and the Grandville Community State bank in 1937.

Below : Theodore and Belle (McEachron) Curtis and their children, Robert, Baby Stuart, Louise and Ada. Their farm was purchased for the new Hudsonville High School which was built in the 1960's.





**Ida Edson and LaMott McEachron's Wedding Picture**



Mott was an agent for the Pere Marquette Railway for many years before owning and operating a drugstore. After that, he became a trucker with Edward Hall.



Ida and LaMott McEachron were married for over 60 years. They had two children: Mrs. Jake (Gertrude) DeWeerd, and F. Grant McEachron.



### William Moes Family

Above:  
William, Dean, Jansien and Henrietta  
Moes

Left: Henrietta and Dean Moes

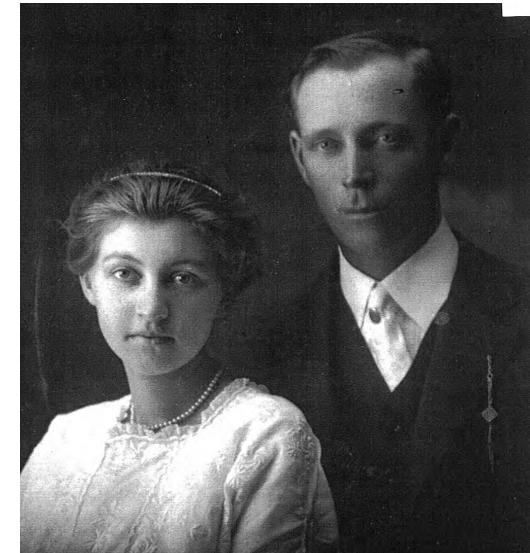
Right:  
Back: Jim and Dean Coeling  
Front: William, Coeling sons, Jansien





**Will Nyhuis Home on Rosewood Street**  
Destroyed by the 1956 Tornado

**William and Ila Nyhuis**  
Right: Will married Ila DeCator., the daughter of Albert  
and Alice (Sly) DeCator



### **The Nyhuis - Edson Families**

Bernard John and William Nyhuis were brothers. Their parents were Henry John Nyhuis and Angeline Vrugink.

#### **Bernard John Nyhuis Family**

Top Left: Doris (Edson), Donald Gene (on lap), Edson (standing), Bernard John, Henry (on lap)

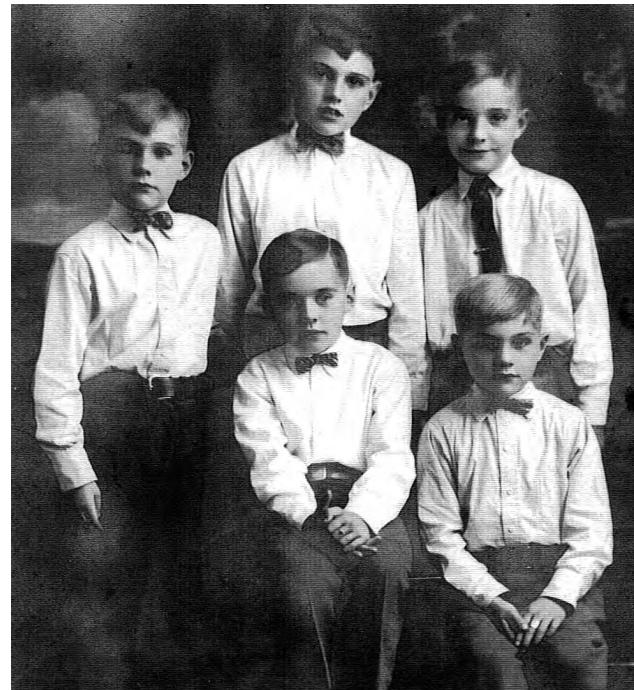
Bottom Left: Bernard Nyhuis home, now owned by their son, Edson.

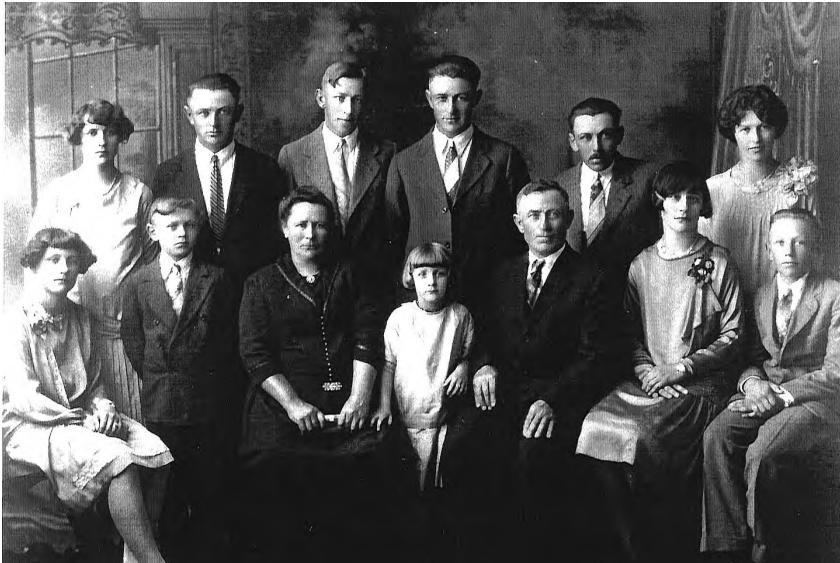
#### **Edson-Nyhuis Cousins and Uncle**

Bottom Right:

Standing: Henry E. Nyhuis, Edson J. Nyhuis, Grant Edson (brother of Doris (Edson) Nyhuis

Sitting: Thomas Orin Edson, Donald Gene Nyhuis





**Lambert Schut Family**

Back Row: Rena (Lubbers), John, Chris, Henry, Jacob, Minnie (Heuvelman)  
Front Row: Henrietta (Lubbers), Gerrit, Gertie (Van Klompenberg), Jennie (Grasman, Burmania), Lambert, Mary (Holstege), Lambert



**Henry Ringerwold Family**

Back Row: Hazel (Veldman), Bertha, Alfred, Raymond, June, Myrtle  
Front Row: Margaret, Helena, Henry, Rosa (Vruggink)



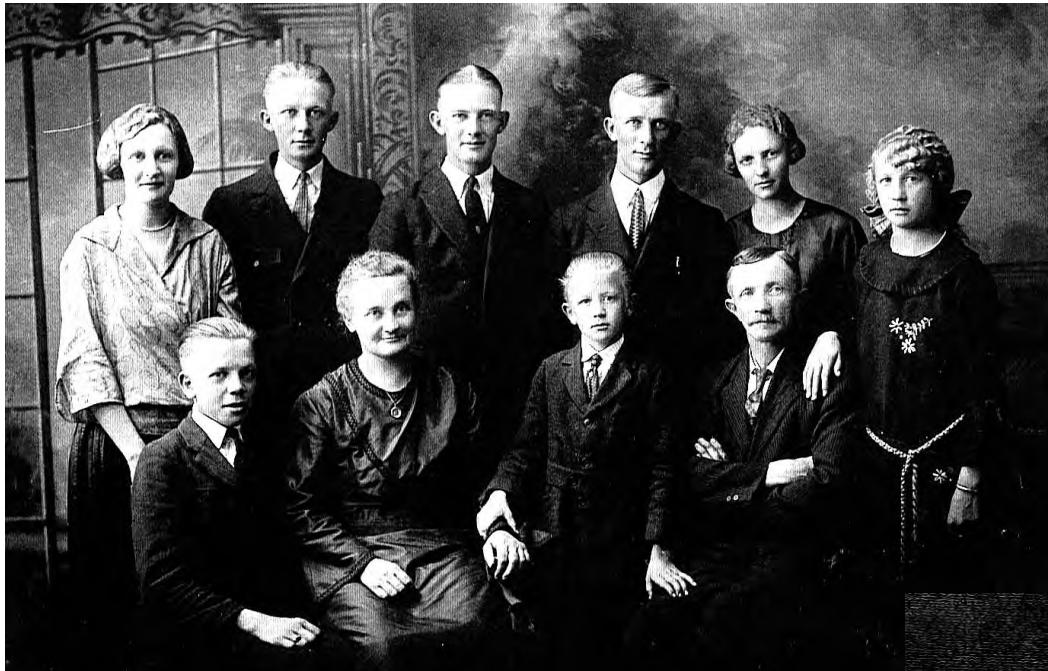
**Albert Schut's Celery Farm**

Albert, Jr., George and Albert Schut, Sr. Albert and his brother Lambert came from the Netherlands in the early 1900's. His farm was located at the northeast corner of New Holland & 48th Avenue.



**Henry Ringerwold Farm**

Around the 1920's, the muck land north of Van Buren between School Street and 36th Avenue, was divided into 10-acre strip farms. Some of the farmers bought the farms but also had lots on Van Buren for their homes including the Klomp, Bytwerk and Ringerwold families.



### **The Martin Van Heukelum Family**

Back Row: Sadie, George, John, Lou, Jeanette, Marguerite

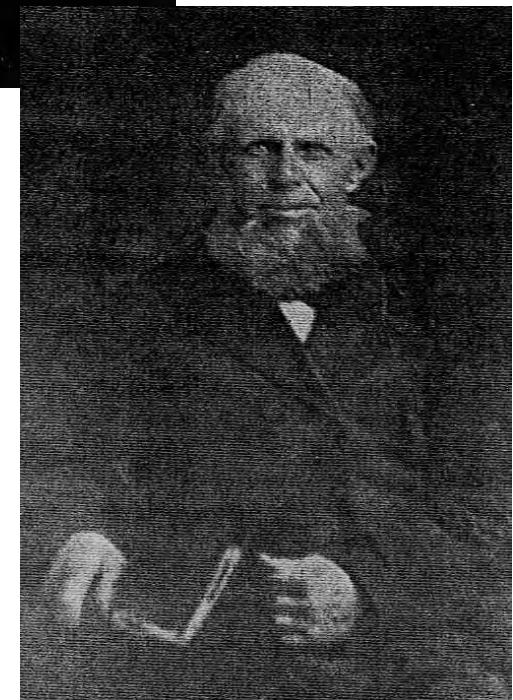
Front Row: William, Maggie, Kenneth, Martin

They first lived in Blendon Township and moved to Hudsonville about 1923.

They resided on the north side of Van Buren, a few houses west of the Hudsonville Reformed Church.

Left: Sadie (Vander Meer) Klamer, mother of Martha

Right: Louis Klamer, father of Martha Van Heukelum

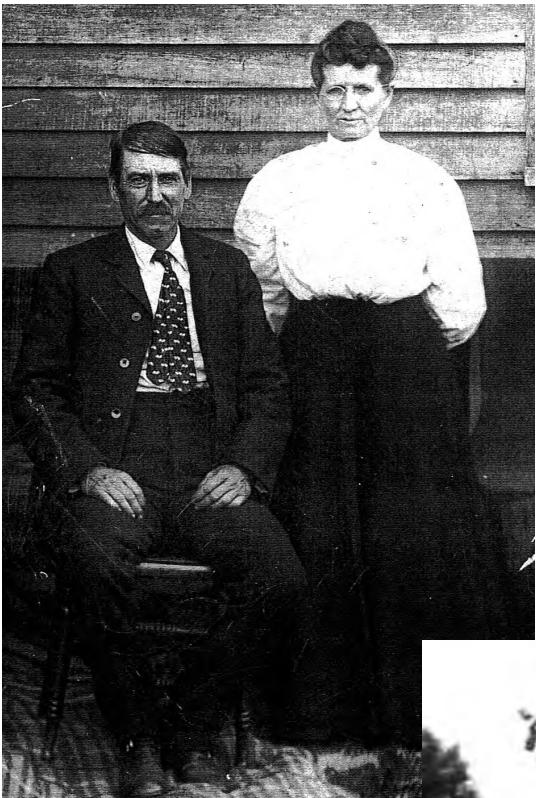




### Daniel Sawyer Family

Top: Etta, Grace, Jim and Eva Sawyer  
Bottom Left: Iva, John, Eva, Anna, Loren, Lloyd  
Bottom Center: John and Marguerite Boldt - engagement  
Bottom Right: Dan and Anna (Doan) Sawyer - 1884 Wedding





### Sawyer - VanderBoegh - Winchester Siblings

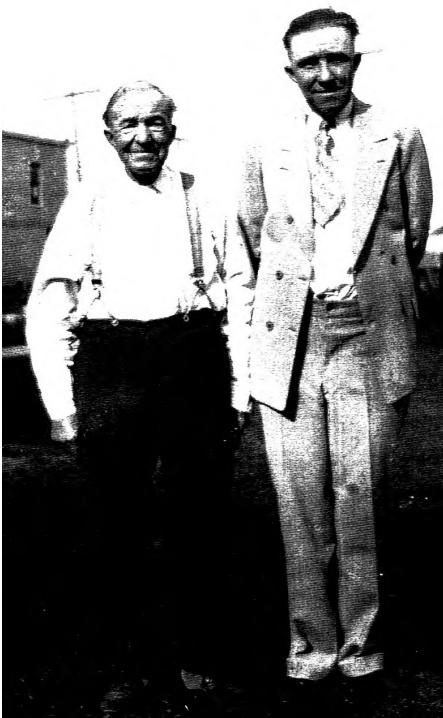
Children of Jonathan Barber  
and Eliza (Rockwood) Sawyer

Left: Daniel and Anna (Doan) Sawyer

Right: Matthew Jacob and Helen (Sawyer)  
Vander Boegh with grandchildren, Maxwell Gryzen  
and Irene Woodruff .

Bottom: Winchester Family  
Standing: Forrest & Mildred (White) Winchester,  
Myrtle (Winchester) & Martin J. Schuiling, Howard  
Sweet, nephew of Amos.  
Sitting: Amos Augustus Winchester, Nellie Sweet,  
sister of Amos, Eva (Sawyer) Winchester, Mildred  
Lucy Winchester & Madge Barber Winchester.





### Gryzen-VanderBoegh-Winchester Family

Top Left: Garrett and Bessie (VanderBoegh) Gryzen wedding picture

Top Right: Standing: Maude (VanderBoegh) Kosten,  
Ila (VanderBoegh) Woodruff,  
Sitting: Bessie (VanderBoegh) Gryzen, Eva (Sawyer)  
Winchester

Bottom Left: Garrett and Maynard Gryzen

Bottom Right: Eva Sawyer, daughter of Jonathan and  
Eliza (Rockwood) Sawyer



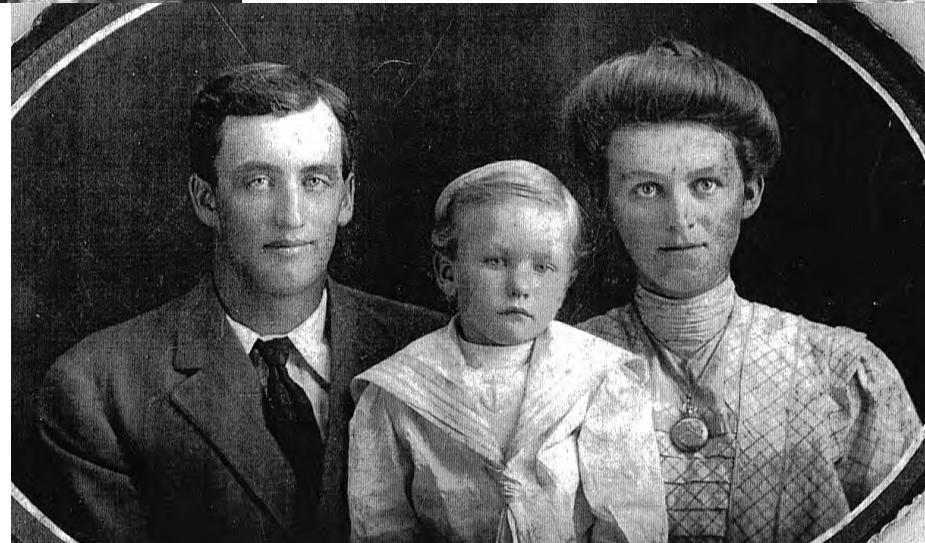


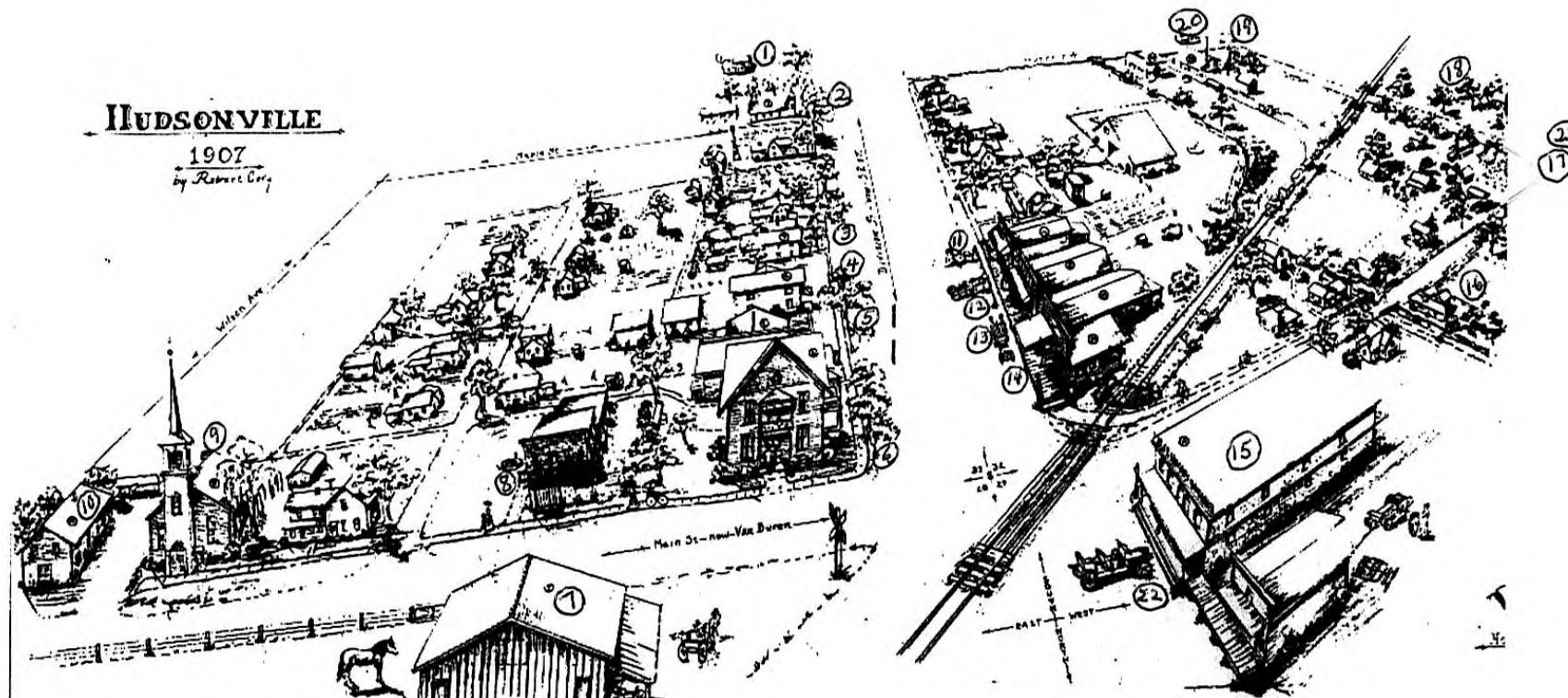
### The Waite - Peasley Families

Left: Ben and Anna Waite. Ben was the son of Allen and Melissa (Edson) Waite

Right: Frank and Thressa (Waite) Bowmaster. Thressa was the daughter of John and Jennie Waite

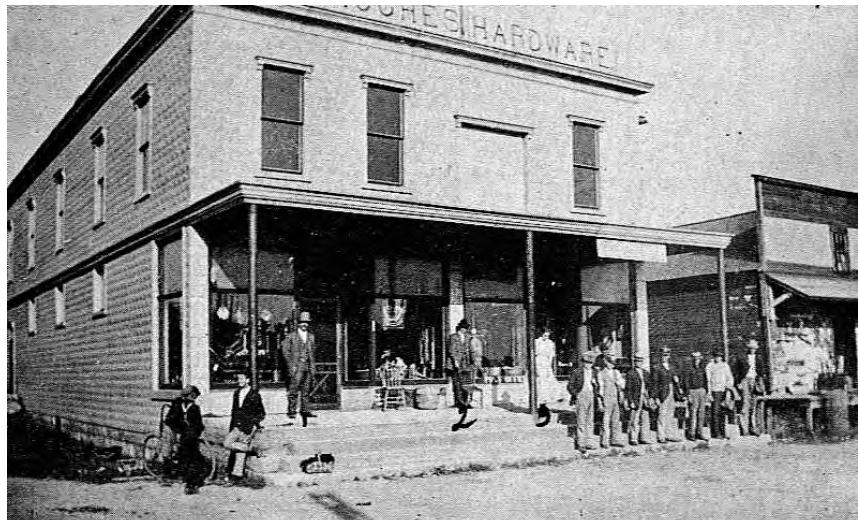
Bottom: Clyde, Allen and Bessie (Spoelman) Peasley. Clyde's parents were Edwin and Addie (Waite) Peasley.





**1907 Drawing of the Village of Hudsonville**

- 1 - Homer Hudson house
- 2 - Christian Reformed Church
- 3 - I. O. O. F. Hall
- 4 - L. S. Vander Laan Grocery
- 5 - Chamberlain General Store
- 6 - Coburn's Hotel
- 7 - Coburn's Livery Stable
- 8 - Ladewig's Blacksmith Shop (later, DeVree's)
- 9 - Congregational Church
- 10 - Grange Hall
- 11 - Waite's Drugs and Notions
- 12 - Luther Wolf's Grocery
- 13 - Luther Wolf's Feed and Grain
- 14 - Stover Barber Shop
- 15 - B & T Hughes Hardware
- 16 - Kliese Shoe Repair (later, Theodore Weyenberg's shop)
- 17 - Disciples Church (later, Hudsonville Reformed Church)
- 18 - Hudsonville Public School
- 19 - Hudsonville Creamery
- 20 - Heinz Pickle Company
- 21 - Dr. Warren Maxfield's residence and office
- 22 - Hudsonville Post Office (Lin Chamberlain, postmaster)



**B & T Hughes Hardware and Post Office (about 1920's)**

Of the 14 residents pictured, nine are identified. Anson Waite, Will Tibbets, Frank Whipple, Bert Alward, Joe Patmos, Neal VanderBoegh, Myrtle Chamberlain, Tom Hughes, Len Chamberlain



**1937 - B & T Hughes Hardware** was built in 1907. The post office shared the north part of the building for several years. In 1940, Joe Meyer and Carl Ohlman purchased it. In 1945, Mr. Meyer sold to Mr. Ohlman. In 1950 the hardware was purchased by Ohlman's sons-in-law, Orrie Aalbers and Marvin Veenstra. They were joint owners for 12 years. Then Orrie and his son, Carl, ran the establishment. After Orrie retired, Carl ran it for a few years and then moved to Arizona.



**B. & T. Hughes Hardware Store**

An inside view of the hardware about 1915. The store was built in 1908. It burned to the ground in a fierce winter storm in 1999. To the left a partial view of Clyde Cory, in the center, Garrett Gryzen, and to the right Tom Hughes



**Hughes Sawmill on 40th Avenue**



**Hotel in Hudsonville**  
(The history is included in the section on fires.)



**Miriam Curry**  
Miriam was the wife of Thomas Curry, who had a sawmill east of Hudsonville and a store on the west side of 32nd Avenue. Thomas died in 1906 and Miriam in 1924. They are buried in Georgetown Township Cemetery.

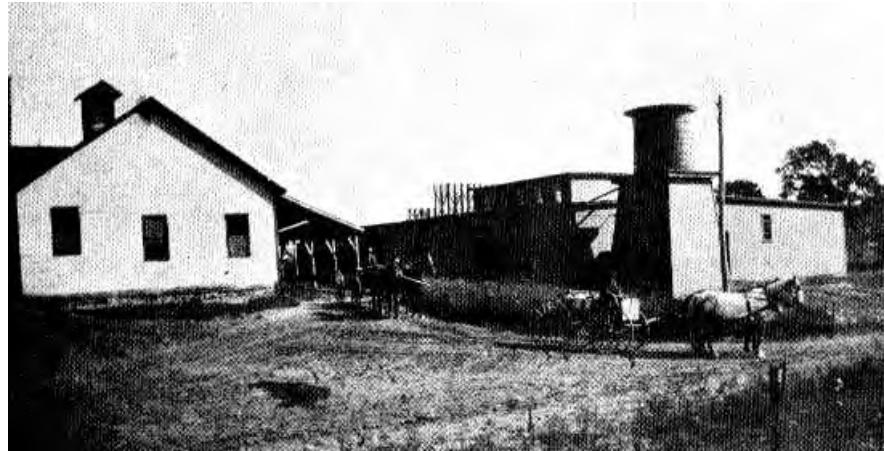
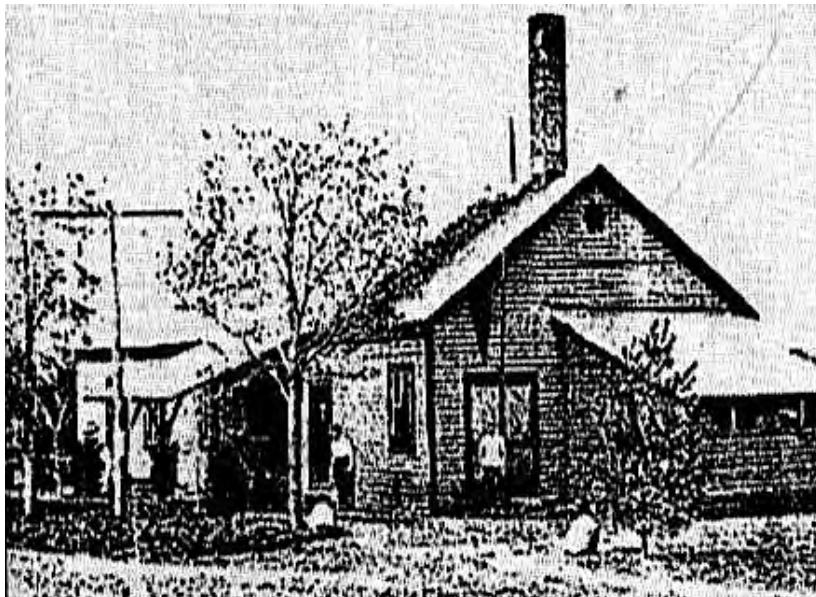
- 55 -



**Harden Smith**  
Harden and his wife, Hattie, ran the hotel.



**Mrs. Seth Coburn**  
remembers the building of the Chicago-Western railroad through Hudsonville. It ran through her father, William Leenhouts farm. Mr. and Mrs. Coburn ran the hotel and livery stable in Hudsonville for a number of years.



### **Hudsonville Creamery History**

The Hudsonville Farmers Creamery opened in the late 1800's. In 1928 Dick Hoezee began working at the creamery. 1932 - The first ice cream truck was purchased. 1838 - Mr. Hoezee became head ice cream and butter maker. 1946 - Dick Hoezee purchases Hudsonville Ice Cream. 1948 - It was moved to Burnips to make way for Chicago Drive. 1973 - Mr. Hoezee sells to his four sons. 2001 - 75th anniversary of Hudsonville Ice Cream



### **Petition to the Village of Hudsonville**

To the Village Board. We the undersigned strongly protest against the smoke nuisance of the Hudsonville Creamery Company. We demand an eight foot raise on their smokestack, or they promise to use a clean grade of coal, or put in electric plate.

NAMES NAMES NAMES NAMES

Herman Telgenhoff	Gerrit Karsten	Mrs. William Roberts	Mrs. Fred F. McEachron
Mrs. H. Telgenhoff	Helen Karsten	Cornelia Zwyghuizen	Mrs. Ben Gryzen
Lorraine Bloomberg	Myron Conklin	Mrs. John Krol	Mrs. Harm Bosgraaf
Mrs. George Westrate	Ella Conklin	Mrs. Henry H. DeWeerd	Mrs. Gerrit Haveman
Mrs. Flora Grit	Ben Conklin	Dick Haan	Thad Haveman
Mrs. William Kole	Jean Conklin	James Haan	L. Bloomberg
Mrs. L. Huyzer	Mrs. E. Nyhuis	John Haan	Henrietta Cory
Mrs. Harry Marlink	Mrs. Bouman	Mrs. James Haan	John Roek
Harry Marlink	H. Ten Harmsel	Mrs. Dick Haan	Bert Hubbard
Nick Bouma	Mrs. Ten Harmsel	Maynard Gryzen	Mrs. Henry Ver Hage
Mrs. Dena H. DeWeerd	Mrs. Helen Talsma	Mrs. Cornelius Nagelkirk	Mrs. Dick Ver Hage
Mrs. Alvin Elders	Mrs. John Vander Molen	Mrs. Arthur Berens	Mrs. Hamming

“Can get 50 more (signatures) if this is not enough.”  
(There was no date on this petition.)

## Hudsonville Drug Co.

H. L. HOLT, H. C. COVE, A. W. BAKERWOOD

**DRUGS, CANDIES, CIGARS**  
**PHARMACY AND TOILET ARTICLES**

Ice Cream Sundae      Phonographs & Membrils  
Bowling Alley      Pool Tables  
Barber Shop

## B. & T. Hughes

### General Hardware and Farm Implements

Cast Iron Pipeless Furnaces

CHEVROLET AND BUICK MOTOR CARS

Cheer Bells and New Idea Buoys

HUDSONVILLE • MICHIGAN

## GOOD ADVICE

Whatever you do, try to do a little better than anyone else has done.

If you are going to raise cattle some and see what I have to offer in Pure Blood Holstein-Friesian Cattle and breed better producers than your neighbors have, and you can sell them for better prices.

**LOUIS T. OHLER**

## N. J. DE WEERD

### GENERAL MERCHANDISE

GROCERIES, DRY GOODS, UNDERWEAR,  
OVERALLS, SHIRTS, PATENT MEDICINES,  
SEEDS, SHOES AND RUBBERS

City, State, Bell Phone 180 112.

HUDSONVILLE • MICHIGAN

## Hudsonville State Bank

Hudsonville,  
Michigan

Combined Assets over \$400,000.

Surplus and Capital \$ 30,000.

10% paid on base savings deposits, compounded semi-annually.

In a wonderful situation, very high political purity, according to the voters, takes its stand on the "front" of its business. Hudsonville, when it comes to business, is a place to be seen.

### Mark 1—Strength and Safety

You have ample capital and resources and abundant reserves. Our funds and investments are safe, our deposits insured. Our Bank is a safe place to do business. We are a safe place to do business. We are a safe place to do business. We are a safe place to do business.

Mark 2—Prompt and Efficient

We wish to assure all business men that we are the bank by following to pay, promptly, funds deposited, absolutely and satisfactorily. A trust which we have in our business, we have in our customers.

### Mark 3—Helpful Cooperation

As we never, we suggest. We wish to cooperate with our customers and to furnish all possible information. Please act as far removed from your business as possible, and it will be well.

### Mark 4—Clean Conditions

The office is always open with full books, all transactions and all information about your business are held in strict confidence.

Mark 5—Community Services

It is our policy to lend active and progressive support to the educational, religious, charitable and all other local and national organizations as well as the advertising of local institutions as well as interesting young men especially.

On little Hudson we have one residence for your business,

John C. Chamberlin, President

Julius M. Schuler, Vice President

Henry S. Chapman, Assistant Cashier

Directors

John C. Chamberlin, President, W. M. Veltman, Vice President, Frank F. Schuler, Secretary, Fred F. Schuler, Cashier, W. H. West and C. E. Veltman.

## We Know

that a satisfied customer is the best advertisement and consequently do our best to please our trade. Our work is absolutely guaranteed. Your trade is appreciated.

## Schulmelater & Alward

Chase 1800-112, Bell 120 18124

Hudsonville • MICHIGAN

## McEachron & Hall

### GENERAL TRUCKING

Long Distance Hauling, Anywhere, Anytime

Milk and Churn Our Specialty

TELEPHONE:

M. McEachron  
Chase 1800-1124

Edward Hall  
Bell 120 18124

## FORD

### Fordson Tractor

### FARM IMPLEMENTS

### FULL LINE OF AUTO ACCESSORIES

Goodyear and United States Tires

GEO. M. HUBBARD      GUY EDSON

## Hudsonville Lumber Co.

LUMBER, LIME, COAL, CEMENT  
BELL PHONE GRAND 18124. CITIZENS 2700-1114

Hudsonville

Michigan

## HENRY MOES, M. D.

HUDSONVILLE • MICH.

PHONE:  
City, 2000-3 Tires  
Bell 120 18124  
Chase 2700-1114

OFFICE HOURS:  
1 to 9 a. m.  
1 to 3 p. m.  
7 to 8 p. m.

## HUDSONVILLE BUSINESSES IN 1921



### Hudsonville Business District, 1920's—1930's

Left Top: 1934 Hudsonville Fair Parade—In the background, Yonker-Boldt Store and Nyhuis Grocery

Right Top: DeVree Auto Repair in the former DeVree Blacksmith Shop on Van Buren east of 32nd Avenue

Left Bottom: A view of the Depot and Flour Mill on the left of the tracks and a warehouse and Guy Edson's home on the right

Right Bottom: Vander Laan's Grocery and Barber Shop and Beauty Salon





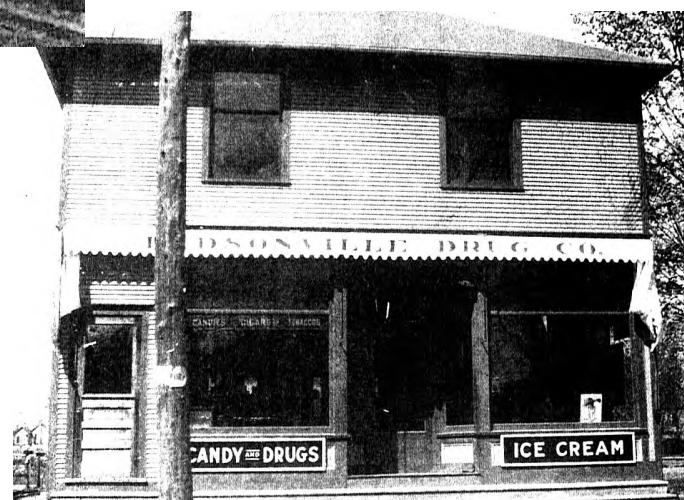
### **Businesses in the 1920's-1930's**

Top Left: B & T Hughes Garage

Top Right: DeVree Garage and Hudsonville Bank  
Center: Henry DeGroot feeding a pig. Notice the  
Oldest DeWeerd Grocery and the hotel in the  
background.

Bottom Left: Yonker's Dry Goods

Bottom Right: Hudsonville Drug Company





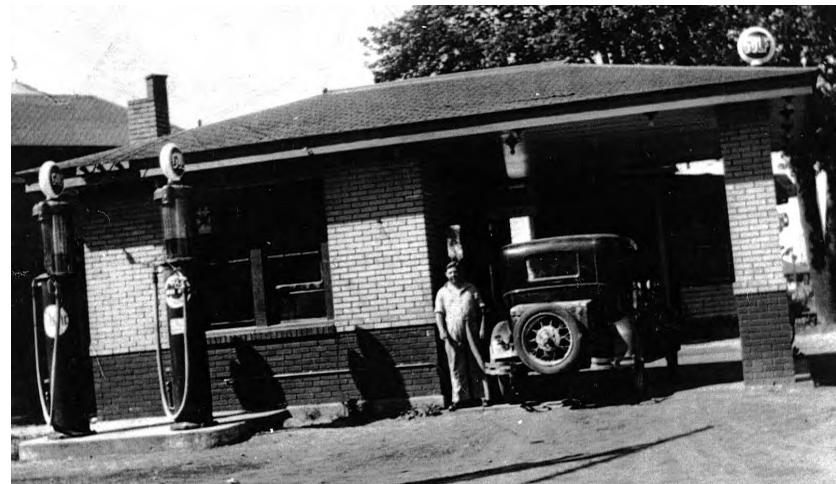
Above: DeWeerd's Grocery on 32nd Avenue, 1930's or 1940's

Below: Left and far right: Interior of store

Center Left: Erwin Marlink and Evert Feenstra

Center Right: Peter Yff with Nestle's display in store.





#### **Businesses That Were Disrupted by the New Divided Highway**

Top Left: Lambert Bloomberg Gas Station on Pike 51. Insert of Lambert. The station caught fire and was not rebuilt as the highway was to go through the lot.

Top Right: The Bert Alward Gas Station was torn down for the new highway.

Bottom Left: The Ren Hoezee Gas Station was torn down and he rebuilt at the corner of School Street and Chicago Drive.

Bottom Right: Visscher's Drugs rented a building that was on the backside of the Nyhuis Grocery and was torn down. Mr. Visscher built a new pharmacy at the southwest corner of School Street and the service road.





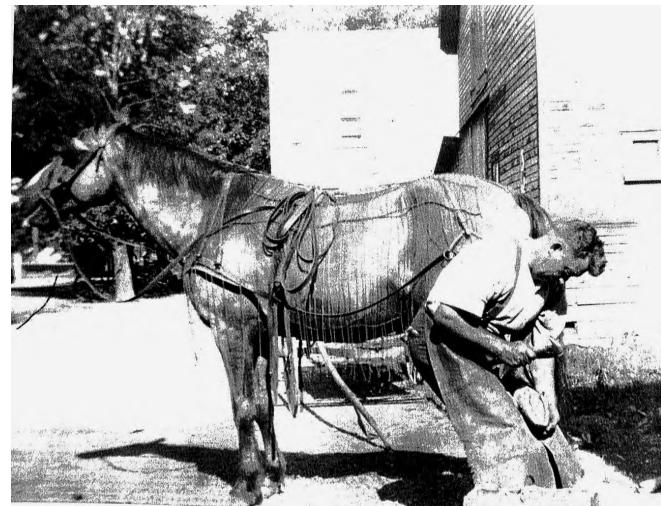
### **A Road Gang on Port Sheldon Road**

This was a way of working off your taxes. Daniel Sawyer is second from the left. He owned property on the north side of Port Sheldon, west of 28th Avenue.



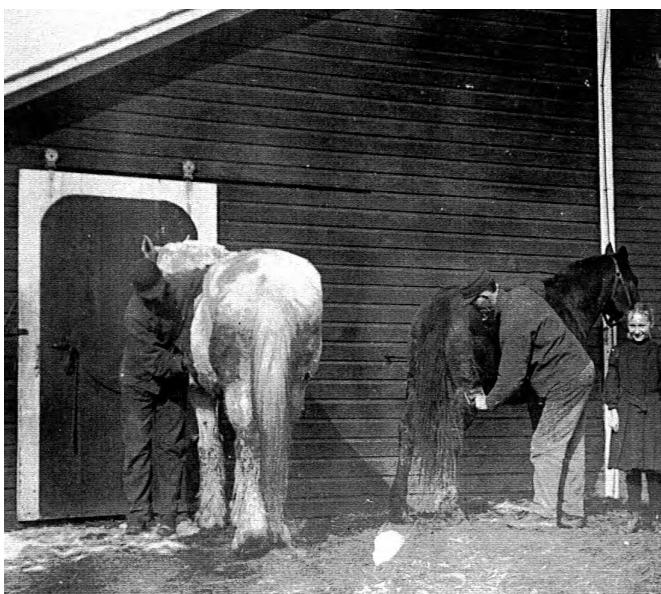
### **The Bee Keeper**

Will Bischoff with a hive of bees at the Fred Boldt farm on 40th Avenue.



### **Herman Telgenhof, Blacksmith**

Located on School Street near the railroad tracks.



### **Brushing the Horses**

Fred Boldt, Harm VanderWall, Marguerite Boldt

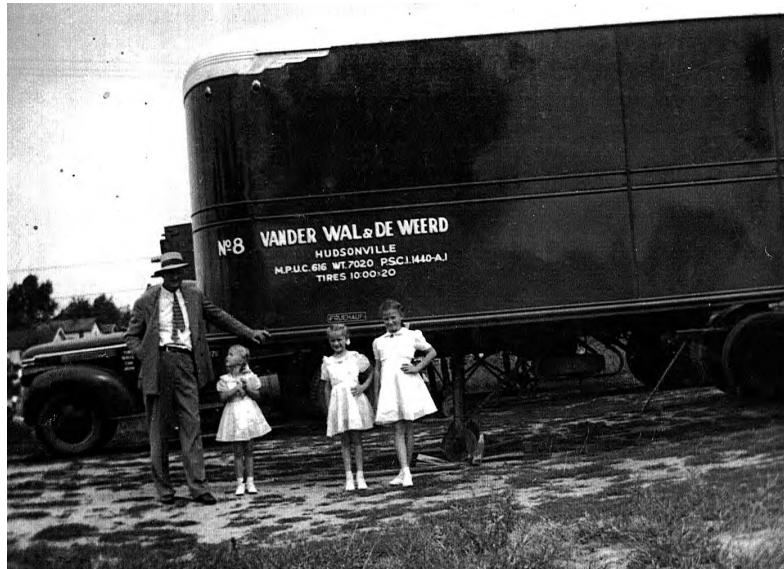


**Top Left:** 1973 Hudsonville Train Depot before it was torn down

**Top Right:** Talsma Furniture, 1948. It burned in 1983 and was rebuilt in 1985.

**Bottom Left:** Henry DeWeerd of VanderWal and DeWeerd Trucking with his three daughters, Mary Jane, Lavina and Crystal. In 1942 while fishing with his brother, Albert, and nephew, Alden, the three drowned in stormy weather.

**Bottom Right:** Gemmen's Hardware at Christmas time





**Vander Laan's Funeral Home**  
32nd Avenue



**Sinclair Car Service**

Located west of B & T Hughes Hardware. It was later Rol and Jerry's and was destroyed by fire during a wind storm in January 2, 1999.

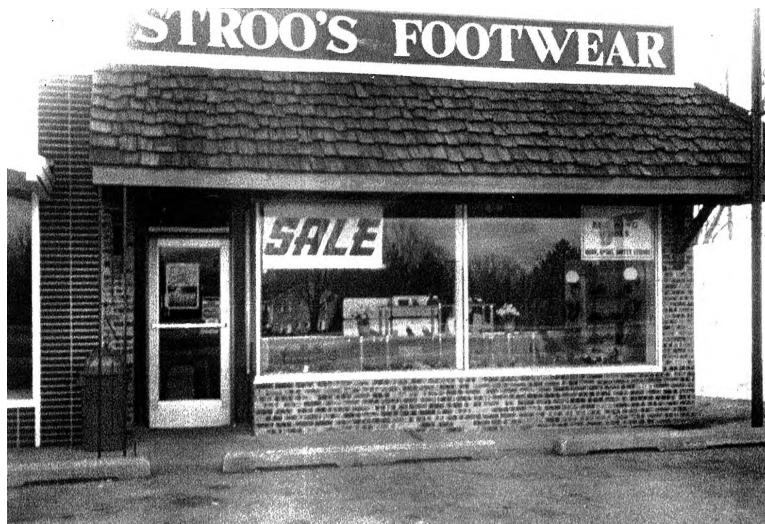


**Goodrich Plant at the southeast corner of 36th Avenue and the service road.**  
It was torn down for a Family Fare store and strip mall.



#### Hudsonville Businesses—1950's and Later

Top Left: 1951 Frens Jewelry—this was located on the service road Plaza and Cherry Streets. Notice that there are no buildings next to it or in back of it.  
Top Right: Spe-D-Gas  
Bottom Left: Stroo's Footwear  
Bottom Right: Rol and Jerry's Service with Barber Shop and Hughes Hardware to the right.



## HUDSONVILLE AND VEGETABLE GROWERS

When the first settlers came to the Hudsonville area, the muck lands had a heavy cover of tamarack, white cedar, and some open marsh covered with coarse grass. The entire area was covered the greater part of the year with stagnant water which was not conducive to good health.

Reclaiming and developing the marshes began in the early 1870's. George Hancock is credited with growing the first celery. A Dr. White grew the first crop of onions in the Vriesland area in 1875. In the same vicinity, Lambert Yonkers and his son, Fred, started celery about 1879. Fred then started working in the Hudsonville area. During the period from 1895 to 1920, several thousand acres of swampland were cleared in the Hudsonville section.

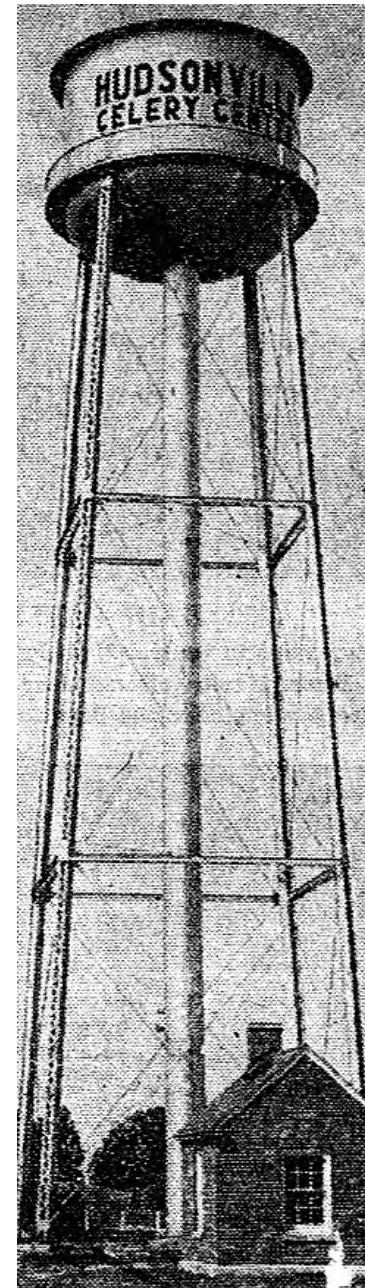
The early settlers had great hardship. The fields were often so soft that it was impossible for a horse to walk without his feet being fitted with "muck shoes". These were large metal plates that were fastened to the horse's shoe.

In the 1890 to 1900 period, undeveloped land sold for about \$20 per acre. Owners of the land, in an effort to clear more, increased their holdings by making contracts with Dutch immigrants to raise celery. The share farmer cleared land and was permitted to raise corn and other fodder as feed for several cows. The animals would provide milk and some meat for the family. When the sharecropper had financially accumulated enough money to invest in a farm, he would buy some uncleared land.

Farming among the Dutch descendants was a family effort and it stayed that way for many years.

In the early years of celery farming, all the acreage was planted and harvested by hand. Marketing was simple and uncomplicated but risky. The Chicago market controlled the prices received and often a shipment would have to be dumped. The Chicago markets, however, were and still are often very profitable for the farmers in this area.

Today, there are only a few vegetable farmers in the Hudsonville area due to the need to own more acreage in order to survive. Some of the muck land is now being used to raise radishes as well as onions and celery. The muck land is also being used for sod farms, and some of the land that no longer holds the nutrients it once did, is being planted with corn.





Top Left: Heinz Pickle Company—was located on the north side of Prospect Street near School Street and was removed when the divided highway came through in 1950.  
Bottom Left: Lawrence Yonker dredging a creek.  
Top Right and Bottom Right: Threshing Time!





**Taking the Celery to the Market.** Leon Gillett on the back of the truck at the Sawyer farm on Barry Street, west of 40th Avenue.



### Onion Fields

Two Photos of harvested onions on Stanley Emelander's field in 1996.



**Celery Farmers**  
Abe Sawyer, Loren Sawyer, John Holthof, John Sawyer, Junior Holthof, Albert Holthof, Jack Sawyer



**Hauling Celery**—Glenn Edson, Elmer Drew, Harm Vander Wall



**Load of Spinach**—Ed Klomp and Lawrence Yonker



**Celery being started  
in the greenhouse**



**Planting Celery**  
Andy Emelander



**Checking the Condition of the Celery**  
Hattie Haminger, Andy Emelander, Jack Sawyer,  
Gerrit Emelander, Jesse Haminger **Packing Celery**



**Packing Celery**  
Jack Sawyer, John Sawyer, Gerrit  
Emelander and Andy Emelander



**Don Emelander**, a long time worker for  
Sawyer Brothers, about 1942



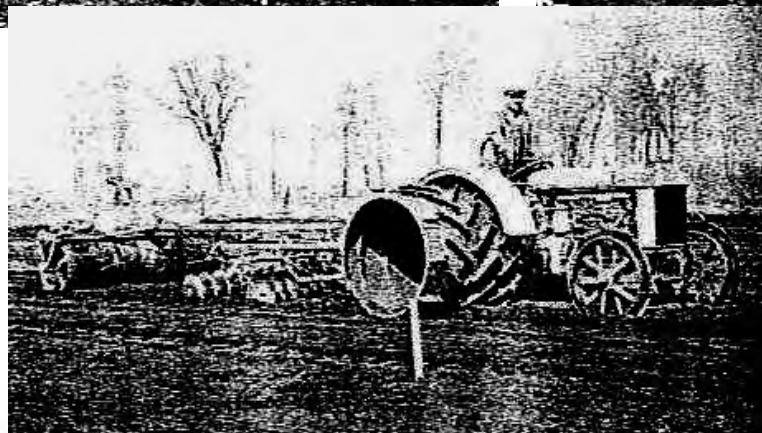
**Packing Celery in Crates**  
Jack Sawyer, Abe Sawyer, Leon Gillett, Clayton Gillett



### Vegetable Farming

Top and Center Left: Storing pig manure for fertilizer in the spring  
Bottom Left: Harvesting vegetables  
Top Right: Harvesting fall vegetables  
Center Right: Preparing the greenhouse for planting  
Bottom Right: Storing onions





### **The Muck Fields of Hudsonville**

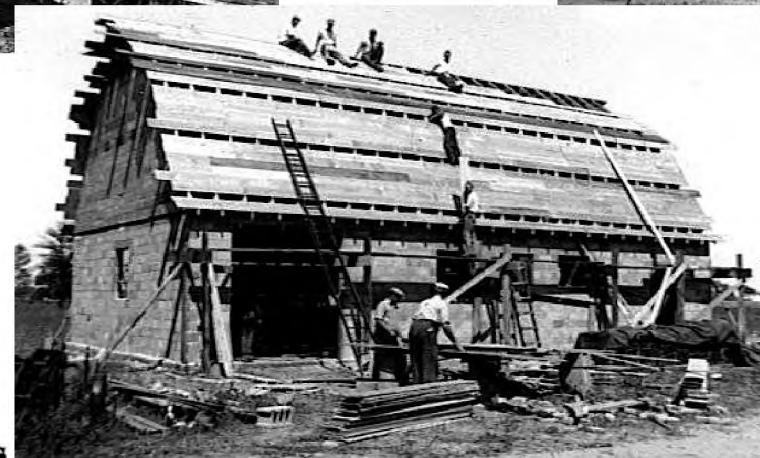
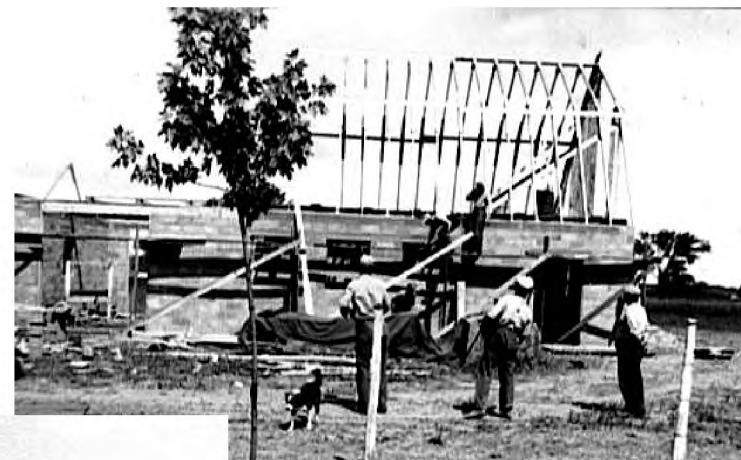
Top Left: The Smit and Steenwyk Families

Top Right: Albert Bytwork Family

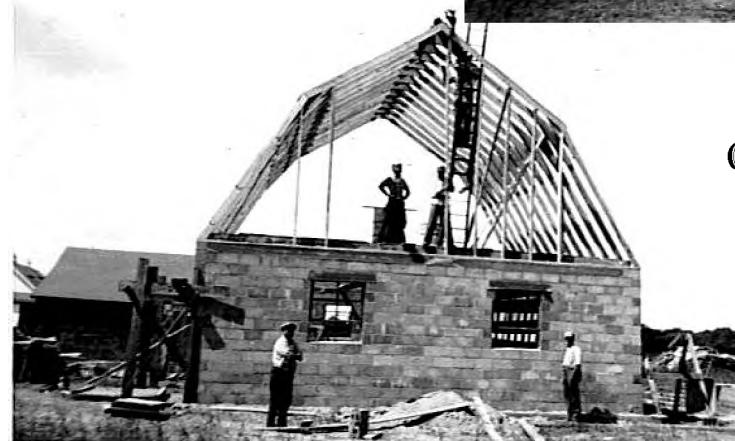
Center: Dragging the fields, get-  
ting ready for planting time.

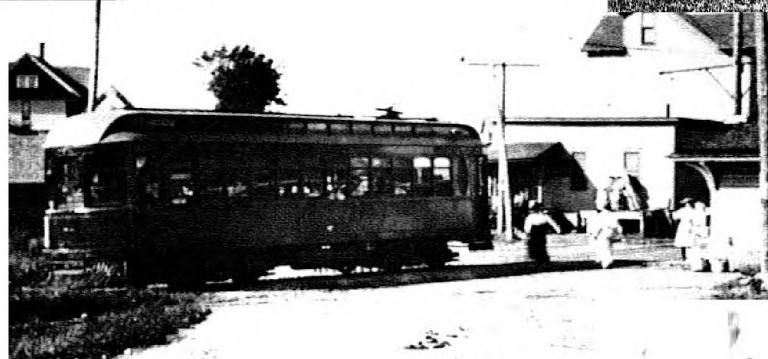
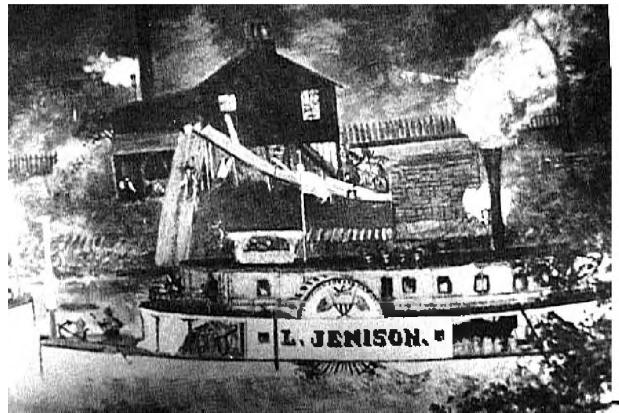
Bottom Left: Drainage ditches  
Bottom Right: Tiling a field.





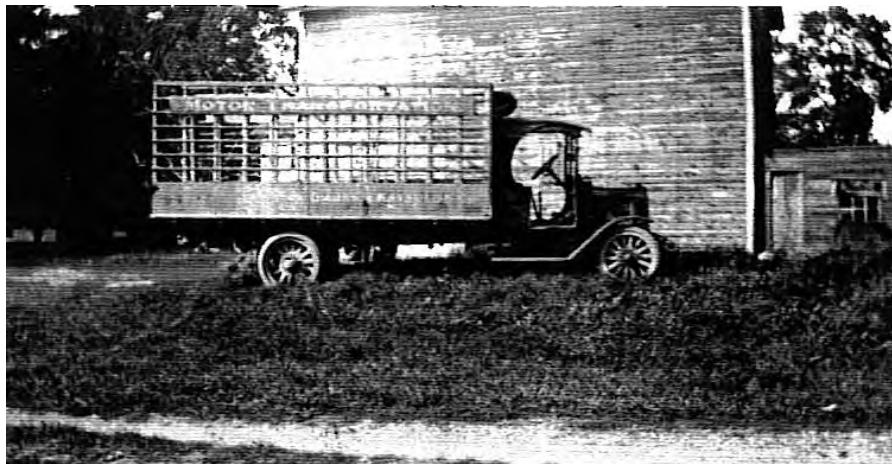
BARN  
CONSTRUCTION  
101





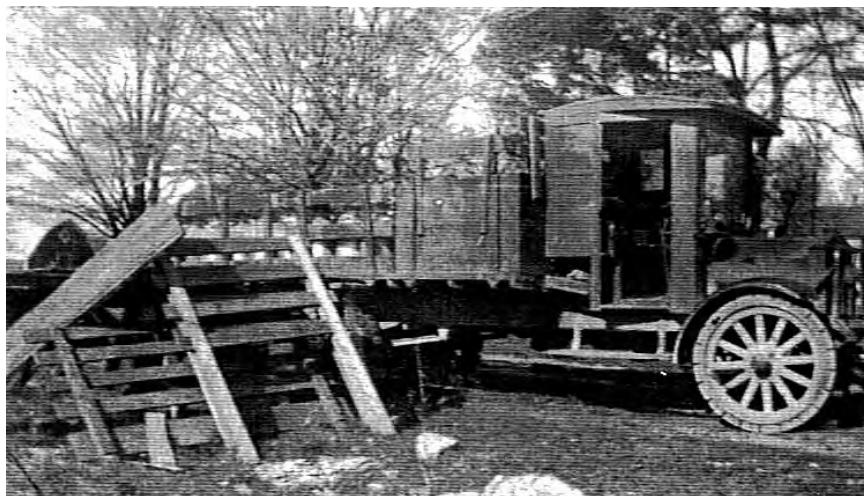
## THE TRANSPORTATION REVOLUTION

From Boats to Buggies to Interurban to Automobiles to Trucks



#### Hall—McEachron Delivery Service

Top Left: One of their trucks in 1921 at the business on Hudson Street by 32nd Avenue.  
Top Right: One of a fleet of McEachron-Hall Trucks  
Below Left: 1917 Milk truck at their yard 5452 32nd Avenue.  
Below Right: Ed Hall and LaMott McEachron with some of their trucks.





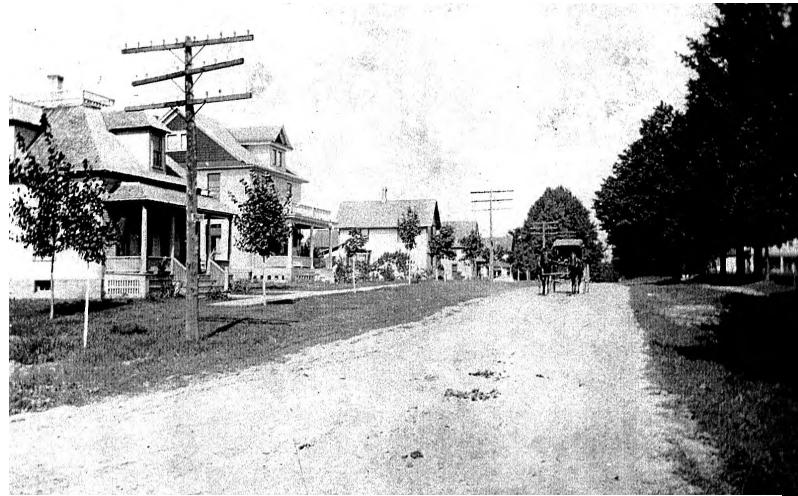
### Trucking and Produce

Top Left: Bosgraaf Produce Company on 40th Avenue  
Top Right: Tom Bosgraaf kneeling with his sons, Bert, John and Ralph  
Center: Bosgraaf Produce hauling vegetables from the railroad cars.  
Bottom Left: Gerber Baby Food Truck picking up produce at Sawyer's farm.





**Homes on the southeast corner of Madison and Van Buren**  
These homes were built from the lumber when the wooden schoolhouse was taken down.



**Above: Looking East on Van Buren Street**  
Toward Madison Street



**Left: Looking West on Van Buren Street**

On the south side: Hudsonville Grange, Congregational Church, Blacksmith shop owned by John DeVree who purchased it in 1909 from Paul Ladewig., and the Coburn Hoel on the corner of 32nd Avenue.  
On the north side: Seth Coburn's livery stable, B & T Hughes Hardware.



**1931 Hudsonville Flood**

It rained so much that the creek overflowed its banks. To the left the home of Garrett Gryzen which was demolished in 2007. Notice the rowboat.

PIKE 51  
CONSTRUCTION



Pike 51

**G. R. Press**—May 13, 1920—Will use Asphalt on Hudsonville road. Surveyors have completed the survey for the new road extending from Hudsonville two miles west to the Blendon town line. It was first intended to be a concrete road.

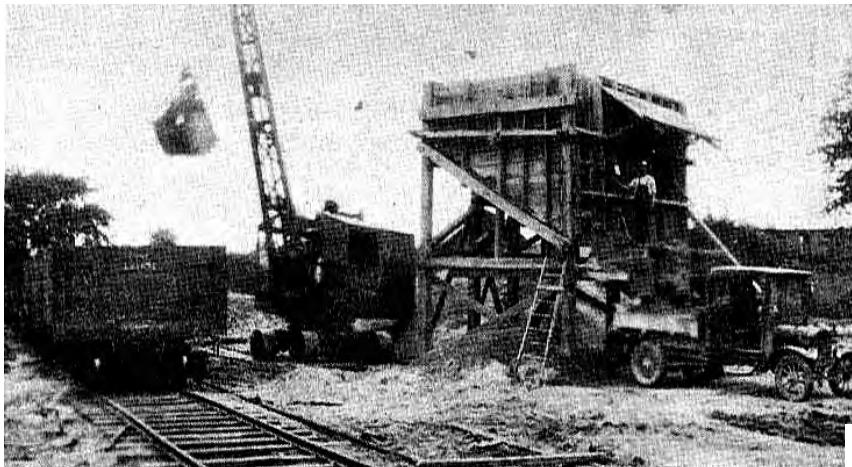
**G. R. Press**—June 11, 1920—N. J. DeWeerd is moving his house that was joined to the south side of his store. He contemplates building a large store where the house stood. Other merchants whose stores have to be moved to make room for the new road are undecided.

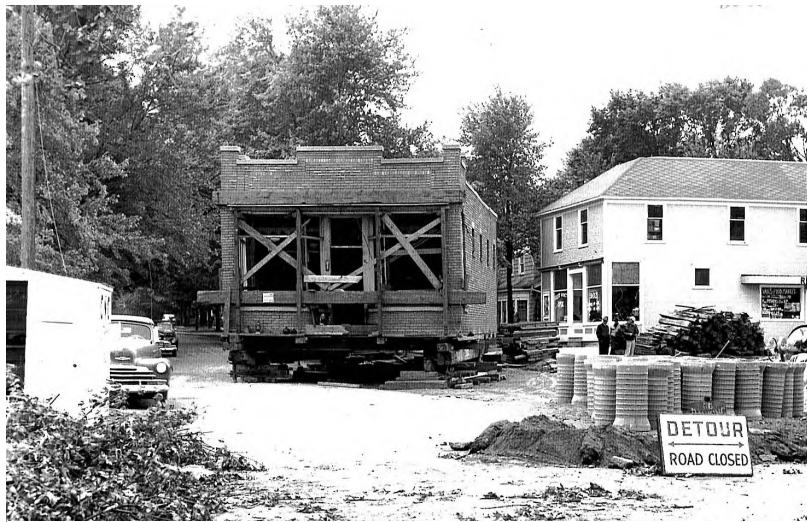
—June 28, 1924—The wrecking of the Edson cement block stores at Hudsonville is now under way. They stand directly in the path of the new road. The bridge just west of the buildings is nearly complete.

**Above:** In the foreground, Edson's Meat Market and Hoezee's Filling Station with the Yonker home in the background.

**Two views of Pike 51 looking west - Upper Right:** 32nd Avenue with the Hotel, Boldt Store and Alward's Garage on the left and B. & T. Hardware on the right of the railroad tracks. **Below right:** A similar view but includes the Hudsonville State Bank on the far left.

**Below Left:** Scene from the construction of Pike 51 (later known as M-21) through Hudsonville in 1923.





### Hudsonville Business District o 32nd Avenue at Pike 51, 1948-1949

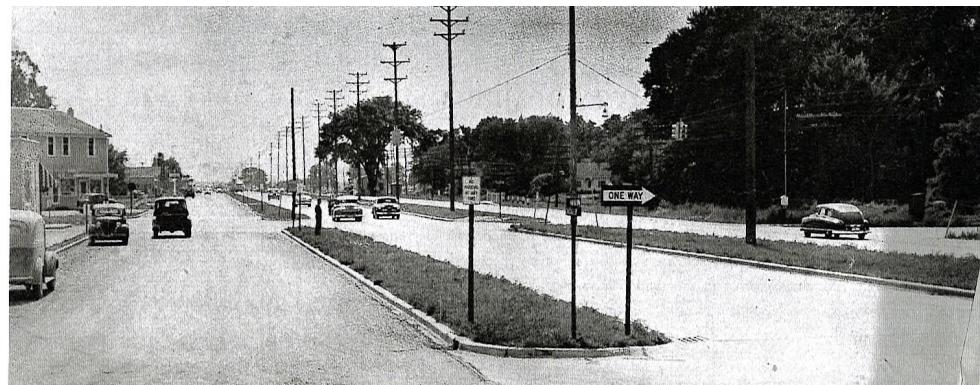
These buildings were either moved or torn down to make way for the divided highway, M-21.

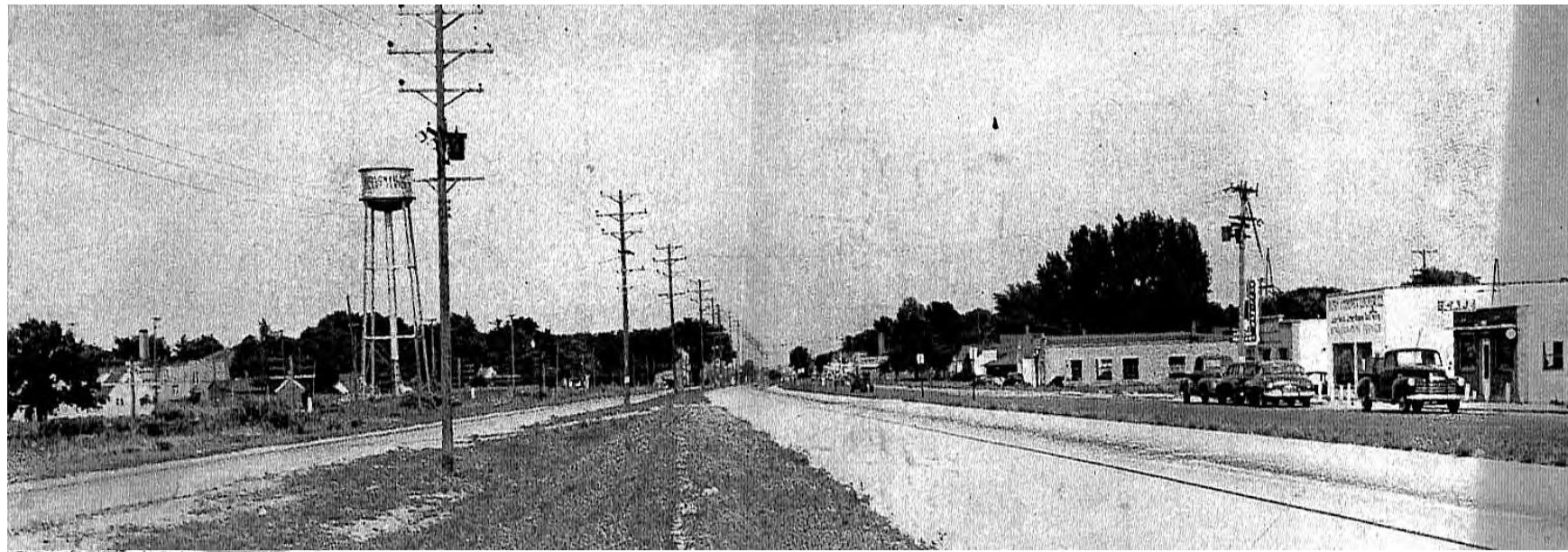
Left: The Nyjhuis store was removed from north of the Yonker-Boldt Store to Van Buren east to DeVree's Electric.

Right: Looking east on what will be the south road of the divided highway.

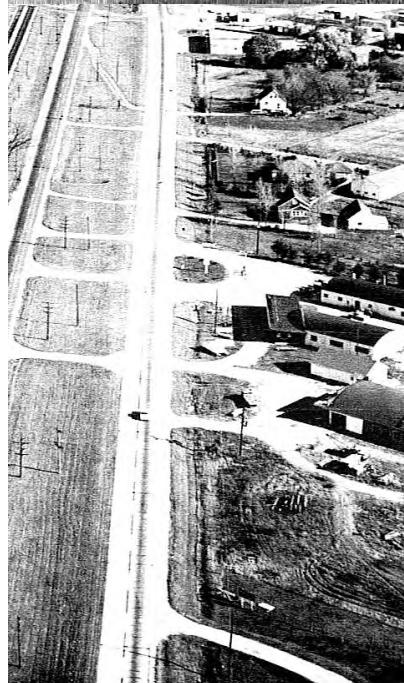
Bottom Left: Preparing the work for the new road across from DeWeerd's Grocery which would be torn down and replaced by a new building on Kelly Street.

Bottom Left: M-21 looking west from the east side of Hudsonville.





Above: Pike 51 looking east between 36th Avenue and School Street.  
Below: M-21 - an aerial view of looking east between 36th Avenue and 40th Avenue





Dr. Maxfield Making The Rounds

## EARLY DOCTORS OF HUDSONVILLE

WYLLYS S. WALKLEY, M. D.—Dr. Walkley is a native of Hillsdale County, Michigan. Born 17 January 1846 to Olliver and Parthenia (Smith) Walkley, both natives of Connecticut. In 1864 he enlisted in Company C, 23rd Army Corps of Ohio and was in numerous engagements. He was discharged 10 June 1866. After leaving the army, he came to Michigan and studied medicine with Dr. Sinsz of Newaygo, while teaching school. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1876 and began practicing in Hudsonville, Michigan and remained there until 1879 when he located in Spring Lake. In 1885 he relocated at Grand Haven and remained there.

BYRON B. GODFREY, M. D.—Dr. Godfrey was born 1 March 1848 in Hannibal, Oswego, NY to Almon Thomas and Lovina (Beardsley) Godfrey. His primary education was received in the schools of Port Washington, Wisconsin and later he conducted his studies at Fond du Lac. He taught school for eight years. His last term was as Principal of Grandville public schools. He began his medical studies at Detroit Medical College, then Rush Medical College at Chicago and graduated in 1878. He opened an office at Lamont, MI where he remained one year. In 1880 he located in Hudsonville, where he resided until 1895 when he relocated in Holland, Michigan. At the time he located in Hudsonville, there were four physicians, but he is now the only one residing in Hudsonville. In 1870 he married Mary Calista Beardsley, the daughter of Liberty Tanner and Maria B. (Scott) Beardsley. Mary was born 7 June 1851 in Georgetown Township. They had four children, of whom two survived: Pearl Cleo and Almon T. Pearl became the wife of Rev. Isaac VanKampen. Almon T. graduated from Hope College and later himself became a physician. Dr. Godfrey, his wife, his parents, his son and wife, are buried in Georgetown Township Cemetery.

WARREN ALBERT MAXFIELD, M. D.—Dr. Maxfield was born 10 November 1871 at Eastmanville, Ottawa County, Michigan to Oren Gregg Maxfield and Elzora Rudd. His early education was in the Eastmanville school and Coopersville High School. He graduated from Michigan

Agricultural College in 1893 and went to Rush College in Chicago where he graduated in 1897. Dr. Maxfield came to Hudsonville on Christmas day, 1897 to practice medicine. He married Flora B. Jones, daughter of William and Ida Jones. They had three children: Gregg, Gladys and Mary Jane. He was well thought of by all. He cared for Bert Elliott, the Superintendent of the Hudsonville schools, who died of rabies last winter and since that time he suffered from a nervous disease. Dr. Warren Maxfield, lived west of the old Reformed church building in Hudsonville. He was the only person in the area in the early 1900's who used two horses with a buggy and one of the horses always held its head slightly sideways. Dr. Maxfield usually had a driver, Freeman Doan, when he went out with his team. Freeman kept the horses moving to keep warm while the doctor made his calls. His life and career was cut short when he contracted rabies from a rabid dog and he died 31 July 1917. Both Dr. and Mrs. Maxfield are buried in Georgetown Township Cemetery.

**HENRY MOES, M. D.** – Dr. Moes arrived in Hudsonville about the time that Dr. Maxfield died. He was born 19 Apr 1891 to William and Alice (Sneller) Moes. He married Hattie, the daughter of Harm Masselink. She was born 29 Mar 1888. They had two sons, Henry, Jr. and Harvey. Dr. Moes served the community for many years and remained living in Hudsonville after his retirement. He died in 1968 and Hattie died in 1977. They are buried in Georgetown Township Cemetery. The family home and office was at 5627 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

**RALPH HAGER, M. D.** - Dr. Ralph Hager, 35, after more than three years in the army medical corps in World War II, Maj. Hager recently was granted terminal leave from Percy Jones hospital where he had been recovering from an illness which caused his return to this country from France.

Dr. Hager is a graduate of Central High school, Grand Rapids; Calvin College and the University of Michigan medical school. Before entering service he practiced in Hudsonville where his wife, the former Kelly Feenstra, and their two children, Terry and Maria live. His father, Ray C. Hager, lives at 1238 Powers Ave., NW, Grand Rapids. After retiring from practice, he lived in Wyoming, MI and died in 1985. He and his wife are buried in Georgetown Township Cemetery

**VER KAIK, PETER, M. D.** – Dr. Ver Kaik began practicing medicine in Hudsonville about 1960. His office was on Kelly Street for many years. Later, when his son, Steve, became a physician and settled in the area, they built a new facility on Port Sheldon, Georgetown Physicians, which now has several doctors serving all areas of medicine. He retired and lived in Hudsonville until his death on 10 May 2005 at the age of 77. He married Edna Mae Puite and has five children: Sherry Cornelisse, Steve, Beth DeJong, Kathy Krikke and Tom VerKaik. He is buried in Georgetown Township Cemetery.

**ZANDSTRA, BENJAMIN, O. D.** – Dr. Ben Zandstra hung out his shingle in 1963. He started practicing medicine in 1956, and was on the staff at Metropolitan Hospital (then called Osteopathic Hospital). In 1963, he opened his office at 3337 Van Buren Street in Hudsonville. An extension was added to the east side of the home where they resided. He joined the Zeeland Hospital staff and continued there until 1988.

For fifteen years, Zandstra was accompanied in his practice by his daughter, Sharon Ondersma, a nurse practitioner. Ondersma assisted in lab procedures and pediatric care. She left the practice in March due to poor health.

Dr. Zandstra said that he and his wife, Marilyn, who also assisted in the practice, will continue to live in the community. He retired in 1997 after over 41 years practicing medicine. He died in 3 June 2000 and is buried in Georgetown Township Cemetery. His wife, Marilyn, sold the home and business but still resides in Hudsonville.



Top Left: Dr. & Mrs. Maxfield  
Top Center: Dr. & Mrs. Henry Moes  
Top Right: Mrs. Henry (Hattie) Moes



Gregg and Gladys Maxfield



Mary Jane Maxfield



Dr. Ralph Hager



## MAIL CARRIERS



**Top Left:** Anson Waite, mail carrier, 1904

**Top Right:** Frank Whipple with Roy Cory.

**Bottom Left:** Frank Whipple, mail carrier, about 1906-1908

**Bottom Center:** Bill Tibbet has been a mail carrier for Hudsonville, R#2, for 40 years beginning when he was 18 years old.

**Bottom Right:** New Post Office Keys, 1957 - given to Eugene Hubbard, post master, by Dick VerHage, with Henrietta Cory, postal clerk looking on.

Other mail carriers in 1910 were Joe Patmos, Jake VanderBoegh, Elmer Drew and Bert Alward.

When Bill Tibbet and Joe Patmos retired, they were replaced by Jack Eden, Ken VanHeukelum and Richard Elzinga.





**Police Chief  
Willard TenHave**



**Above: 1966 New Fire Truck** with Chief Norman Elenbaas and Lt. James Plaggemeyer inspecting it. Hudsonville now has two fire trucks.

**1969 Hudsonville Volunteer Fire Department**

15 firemen have completed the First Aide Course sponsored by the American Red Cross. From Left to Right: With white hat, Chief Norman Elenbaas, Gordon VanOverloop, Nathan Hoezee, Lt. Jim Plaggemeyer, Case Feenstra, Rich Dykstra, Ron Isenga, Ed Hoonhorst, Pete Luyk, Cal Feenstra, Joe Prantle, Pete Karsten, Russ Koetje, Larry Brunsting and Hilbert Benit.

## THOSE WHO DIED IN WORLD WAR I

- **Elmer Lyle Barnaby**—born 25 Sep 1896. He died 17 October 1918 in Meuse, France, son of Elmer and Ella (Kline) Barnaby.
- **Horace M. Barnaby**—born 16 Jan 1895. He died 14 October 1918 in Argonne, France, son of Horace and Mary (Ryno) Barnaby
- **George Boneburg**—born 12 Mar 1898. He died 10 Oct 1918 in France, son of Jacob and Hattie (Rozema) Boneburg
- **Bert (Gilbert) J. Hunt**—born 1894. He died 1918 in Russia, son of William and Emma (Skinner) Hunt
- **Edward G. Klomp**—born 15 Aug 1894. He died 12 Oct 1918 in France, son of Gerrit and Reka (Franken-dec'd) Klomp
- **Raymond Rynbrandt**—born 1896. He died 1918 in Russia, son of Thomas P. and Maggie (Tigelaar) Rynbrandt
- **Harry G. Spoelstra**—born 12 Jun 1894. He died 29 Sep 1918 near Bonny, France, son of George and Elizabeth Spoelstra



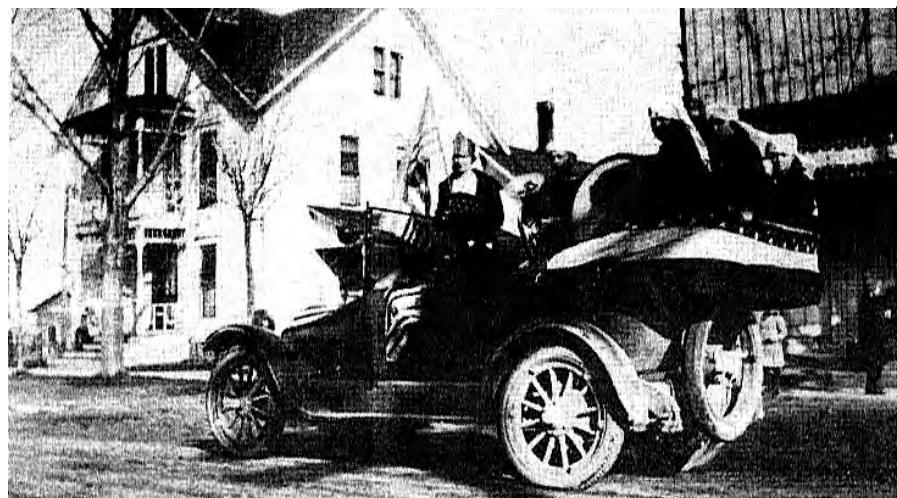
WWI—This photo was taken of Elmer Barnaby and George Boneburg in France just a few weeks before they died. Elmer is the son of Elmer and Ella (Kline). George is the son of Jacob and Hattie (Rosema) Boneburg.



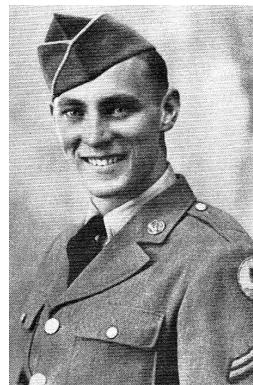
In Memory of  
Pvt. Edward G. Klomp  
Co. D, 18th Infantry  
who died October 12, 1918.



Top left: B. & T. Hughes Hardware and on the right, driving on Division Street with the hotel and grocery store in the background.  
Bottom Left: Peg Boldt, Maella Barnaby, Floyd DeHart, Gregg Maxfield  
Bottom Right: Jake DeWeerd, driver, Dorothy Hubbard, Bob Cory, Glade Doan, Gertrude McEachron and Gladys Cory



## 1918 ARMISTICE CELEBRATION



**Sgt. Edwin S. Albrecht**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Albrecht, was killed in action on Luzon May 23, 1945. He took part in the invasion of Luzon and was wounded on February 11. After a month in the hospital he went back to his unit.

**John W. Douglas**, 19, son of Rev. John W. Douglas was killed in Germany on October 20, 1945.

**S/Sgt. Ernest G. Hall** (no picture), 26, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hall of Jamestown, died October 17, 1942 in Germany. He is survived by his wife, Caroline, a son, Robert Earl, his parents, 5 brothers and 5 sisters.

**Pvt. James Hoezee**, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hoezee, was killed in Italy on June 3, 1945.

**Pfc. Bernard Holstege**, 27, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lambert Holstege, was killed in France on June 9, 1945. He was a paratrooper.

**Pfc. Andrew Johnson**, 21, infantryman, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Johnson, was wounded in Belgium January 6, 1945 and died January 7th.

**Pvt. Arthur Johnson**, 32, was killed in action in Italy June 1, 1944. He is survived by his wife, Ethel, and young son, Glenn Arthur.

**Pfc. Max Lowing**, 24, attached to the 45th infantry division was killed in action on Anzio Beach, February 16, 1944. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Lowing. He was married to Mavis DeGroot and had a young daughter, Sherryl. Also, surviving are three brothers, Keith, Kent and Garth.

**Russel V. Neuman**, son of Mrs. Anna Neuman, was killed in action in Germany February 23, 1945. He had been wounded on February 19th. He is also survived by a brother, PFC Merle A. Neuman.

**Albert Rillema**, 25, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Rillema, was killed in action in Belguim on March 13, 1945. He married Gertrude Zylstra and had two son, Donald and James.

## WORLD WAR II SOLDIERS AND SAILORS WHO DIED



**Lt. Willis A. Smallegan**, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smallegan, was killed when his navy fighter plane crashed at Great South Bay, L. I.

**Pvt. Bernard Steenwyk**, 24, was killed in action on Luzon February 6, 1945. Son of Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Steenwyk, brother of Henry.

**Pvt. Henry Steenwyk**, 29, was killed in action in Belgium. He is survived by his wife, Ethel. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Steenwyk.

**Pvt. Roland Sterken**, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Sterken, was killed January 28, 1945 in Luxembourg.

**Pfc. Gerrit Timmer**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew G. Timmer, was killed in action in France November 27, 1944. He was sent to Italy and later transferred to France. He was married to Minnie DeVree of Zutphen.

**Sgt Roger VanOss**, 29, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bert VanOss, was killed in action in France June 8, 1944. Survived by a sister, Joyce, and brother, Willis.

**S/Sgt. Clayton J. Wilson**, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Wilson, reported missing over France since January 30, 1945. He was a top turret gunner with the 9th air force and had completed 65 mission and was preparing to return home

**LaVern Allen**, no other information

**Ronald Beek**, no other information

**Harry McMullen**, no other information

## WORLD WAR II SOLDIERS AND SAILORS WHO DIED

## Veterans of the Wars from the Hudsonville Area

NAME	WAR
Albrecht, Sgt. Edwin S.	WWII - DIED
Aylworth, Cpl. Milo	WWII
Aylworth, PFC Randal	Vietnam - DIED
Aylworth, Seaman Mervin	WWII
Aylworth, Sgt. Carl	WWII
Barnaby, Elmer Lyle	WWI
Barnaby, Horace Melvin	WWI
Barnaby, Lorraine A.	WWI
Behrens, Roger	Vietnam Conflict
Boldt, Martin	WWI
Boneburg, George	WWI
Branch, Owen	WWII
Bricker, Jerome	Korean
Brintnall, Gale	WWII
Brokaw, Clyde	Between Korean War/Vietnam
Brown, Ray	Korean
Burman, Albert C.	WWII
Burman, Robert L.	WWII
Cory, Clyde	WWI
Cory, Leroy	WWI
Cory, Robert	WWII
Cory, Thomas	WWII
Costen, Jerry	Vietnam Conflict
Courson, Carey	WWII
Damon, Monroe	WWII
DeVree, Beulah (Boston)	WWII
DeVree, Edward N.	WWII
DeVries, PFC Dennis	Vietnam - DIED
DeWeerd, Albert H.	WWI
DeWeerd, Edward	WWII
DeWeerd, Gerald	WWII
DeYoung, Harold Thomas	WWII
DeYoung, Thomas	Vietnam Conflict
Douglas, PFC John Wesley	WWII
Dyk, Sgt. Jacob	WWII

NAME	WAR
Eden, Robert	WWII
Edson, Thomas	WWII
Elders, Cpl. Lewis E.	WWII
Elders, Lewis E.	WWII
Elders, Michael	Vietnam Conflict
Emelander, Edward	Korean
Emelander, Lon	Vietnam Conflict
Emelander, S/Sgt Donald	WWII
Emelander, Stanley	Korean
Emelander, Stanley, Jr.	After Vietnam Conflict
Fleser, Calvin	WWII
Fleser, Cpl Roger	WWII
Fleser, Ensign Ivan	WWII
Frechette, Spec 4 Terry Allen	Vietnam - DIED
Gale, Frank A.	WWII
Gerkin, Roy A.	WWII
Gitchel, David	Civil War
Gould, Todd	After Vietnam Conflict
Groters, Peter	WWII
Gryzen, Spec 4 Gary	Vietnam - DIED
Gurk, Steven	Vietnam Conflict
Hager, Major Ralph	WWII
Hall, Jacob	After Vietnam Conflict
Hawley, Virginia	WWII
Hazebrook, Charles	WWII
Herrema, Sgt 1st Class Richard	Iraq War
Hessel, Hugh	WWII
Hessler, Douglas	Korean
Hessler, Lee	WWI
Hessler, Robert	WWII
Hessler, Russell	WWII
Hoezee, Pvt James	WWII - DIED
Holstege, PFC Bernard	WWII - DIED
Hubbard, Luke	WWII
Hunt, Bert	WWI

## Veterans of Wars from the Hudsonville Area

NAME	WAR
Huyser, Arlen	Between Korean War/Vietnam
Huyser, Carter	Vietnam Conflict
Johnson, PFC Andrew	WWII - DIED
Johnson, PFC Arthur	WWII - DIED
Kahler, Albert "Christy"	Vietnam Conflict
Kiel, Eugene	WWII
Klomp, Edward G.	WWI
Koops, Leon	WWII
Lane, Kenneth	WWII
Lems, Kermit	Vietnam Conflict
Lowing, Garth	Between Korean War/Vietnam
Lowing, Keith	WWII
Lowing, Kent	Between Korean War/Vietnam
Lowing, Max	WWII
Lowing, PFC Max	WWII - DIED
Lowing, Wayne	WWII
Majeski, Leo	Vietnam Conflict
Mannard, Mark	After Vietnam Conflict
Miesen, Sally	After Vietnam Conflict
Miller, Sgt Alvin	WWII
Miller, Sgt Orville	WWII - MISSING
Moored, Lyman	WWII
Mumma, William	WWII
Myers, William O.	WWII
Neuman, Pvt. Russel V.	WWII - DIED
Nyhuis, Donald Gene	WWII
Payne, John	WWII
Peasley, Gary W.	Vietnam Conflict
Peasley, Spec 4 Gary	Vietnam - DIED
Perrin, Howard	Korean
Poelman, Robert	Vietnam Conflict
Rice, ----	WWI
Rillema, Albert	WWII - DIED
Rogalske, Fred	Korean
Root, Spec 4 Roger Dale	Vietnam - DIED

NAME	WAR
Rynbrandt, ----	WWI
Rynbrandt, Thurston J.	WWII
Serum, Ralph	WWII
Sikkema, Clarence J.	WWII
Slootmaker, Adrian	WWI
Smallegan, Lt. Willis A.	WWII - DIED
Smith, Lt. Laurine	WWII
Spoelstra, Harry G.	WWI
Steenwyk, Pvt Bernard	WWII - DIED
Steenwyk, Pvt Henry	WWII - DIED
Stefan, Clarence	Korean
Stephenson, John C.	Between Korean War/Vietnam
Sterken, Pvt Roland S.	WWII - DIED
Stoepker, Richard	WWII
Stone, Capt. Ralph E.	WWII
Timmer, Gerrit Willis	WWII - DIED
VanderBoegh, Lynn A.	
VanDyk, Richard	Vietnam Conflict
VanHattem, PFC James R.	Vietnam - DIED
VanHeukelum, Kenneth	WWII
VanOss, Sgt. Roger	WWII - DIED
Vollink, Lt. Russell M.	WWII
Vruggink, Harley	WWII
Vruggink, Spec 5 Joel	Vietnam - DIED
Wagner, Clare	WWII
Wagner, Rodney	Vietnam Conflict
Walsworth, Gordon	Vietnam Conflict
Wheelock, John	Korean
Wheelock, John Jeffrey	After Vietnam Conflict
Williamson, 2nd Lt. Frances	WWII
Wilson, S/Sgt Clayton J.	WWII - DIED
Wittingen, Tec 5 Harvey	WWII - DIED



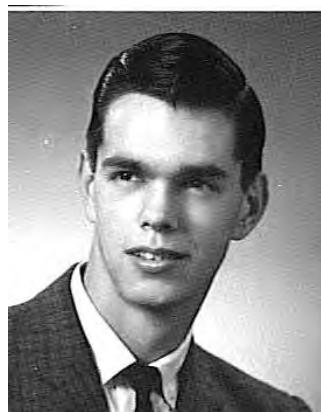
**Hudsonville Men and Women in World War II**

Martin Boldt, Hudsonville village president, points to the signboard erected at the village crossroads. It honors the 41 men and women from Hudsonville and vicinity who are in the armed forces.

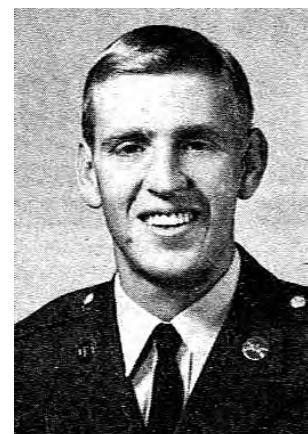
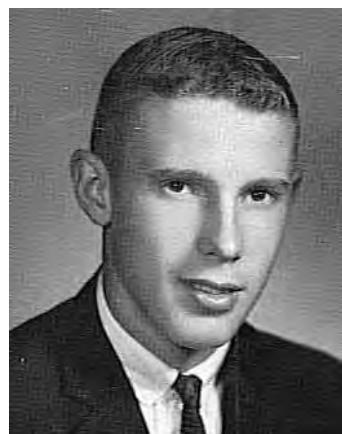
**1942 World War II Inductees From Hudsonville**

Left to Right: Carl Aylworth, Jim Plaggemeyer, Don Emelander, Ed Haveman, Oliver Yonker, Bill Grooters, Bud Hoezee, Tom Edson, Jim Lynema, Harvey VanderVeen





Left to Right: **PFC Randy Aylworth**, 19, killed in Pleiku 22 May 1967.; Wf-Lorna, Parents-Mr. and Mrs. Carl Aylworth  
**Cpl. Dennis DeVries**, 23, died May, 1967 in Seoul, Korea. Killed in truck accident. Parents-Mr. & Mrs. William DeVries  
**Spec 4 Terry Frechette**, 21, died 26 July 1968; Parents-Mr. and Mrs. Willard Frechette and 9 siblings; Burial-St. Mary's Cemetery, Sand Lake, MI  
**Spec 4 Gary M. Gryzen**, 19, died in combat Saturday. Former West Golden Gloves Champ, Parents-Mr. & Mrs. Maynard Gryzen  
Rifleman, 9th Div'n



**Spec 4 Gary W. Peasley**, 22, died 27 Dec 1966 in Vietnam.; Mother-Irene Peasley; Brother-Barry; Enemy overran his machine gun position after he held them back until his fellow soldiers were safe. US 1st Cavalry Div'n  
**Spec 4 Roger Root**, KIA near Tan An 21 Aug 1967; Wife-Susan; Prs-Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Root; Rifleman, Co. A, 1st Battn Airforce, 8th Cavalry  
**PFC James R. Van Hattem**, 20, died 14 November 1969; Parents-Mr. and Mrs. Robert Van Hattem and 3 siblings  
**Spec 5 Joel Vruggink**, died 5 November 1968, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harley Vruggink, 1st Cavalry Div'n

## OUR VIETNAM WAR DEAD

\*\*\*\*\*

# IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO DIED THAT WE MIGHT REMAIN FREE

\*\*\*\*\*

## CIVIL WAR

- David Gitchel

## WORLD WAR I

- Elmer Lyle Barnaby
- George Boneburg
- Bert V. Hunt
- Edward G. Klomp
- Raymond Rynbrandt
- Harry G. Spoelstra
- Horace Barnaby
- 

## VIETNAM WAR

- Randal Aylworth
- Dennis DeVries
- Gary Gryzen
- Gary Peasley
- Roger Root
- Joel Vruggink

## IRAQ WAR

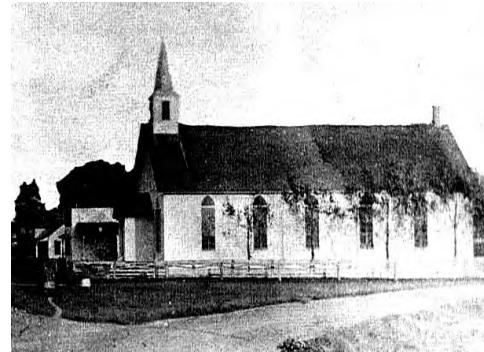
- Rick Herrema



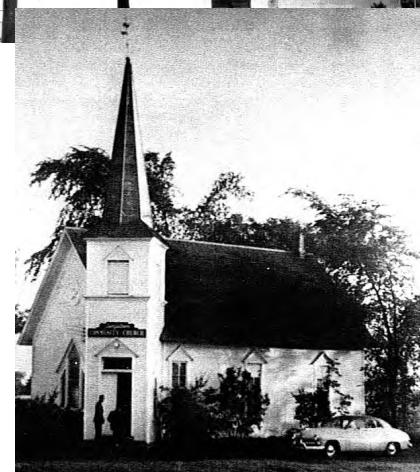
Sgt Rick Herrema

## WORLD WAR II

- Edwin Albrecht
- LaVern Allen
- Ronald Beek
- John Douglas
- Ernest Hall
- James Hoezee
- Bernard Holstege
- Andrew Johnson
- Arthur Johnson
- Max Lowing
- Harry McMullen
- Russell Neuman
- Willis Smallegan
- Andrew Smit
- Bernard Steenwyk
- Henry Steenwyk
- Alfred Timmer
- Gerrit Timmer
- Roger VanOss
- Clayton Wilson



Top Row: Hudsonville Congregational Church, St. John's Lutheran Church-Bauer, Jenison Christian Reformed Church and Hudsonville Protestant Reformed Church  
Center: Hudsonville First Christian Reformed Church, Jamestown Christian Reformed Church  
Bottom: Georgetown Community Church, Disciples Church which became Hudsonville Reformed Church, Jamestown Reformed Church



## 1897 Members of Hudsonville I.O.O.F. #346 (Independent Order of Odd Fellows)



The photo was taken 4 June 1897 on the steps of the Hudsonville Grange Hall on Main Street.

Top Row: Rev. Walter Briggs (Cong'l Minister), Orin Edson, Kiah Green, Worden Barnaby

Center Row: Jim Pitts, \_\_\_\_\_, John Tibbets, Ed Tillotson, Elmer Barnaby, John Waite, William Linacre

Front Row: Henry Notting, Jim Yeomans, Mr. Quigley, Fred Wolf, Allen Waite

History of the I. O. O. F. (Independent Organization of Odd Fellows)

(Article in the Grandville Ave. Record, 12 April 1912, Pg. 4)

The Odd Fellows was introduced into the United States in 1819, and the grand lodge of Maryland and the United States was constituted on 22 February 1821. At first the progress of the order was slow, but the principles spread with great rapidity, and now its lodges are to be found in every city and town in the country, with a membership running over the million mark. During the past decade its membership has largely increased and its influence and importance has grown in volume and value.



**Canada Hills School**

The name of the school is thought to have come from Canadians who settled in the area.



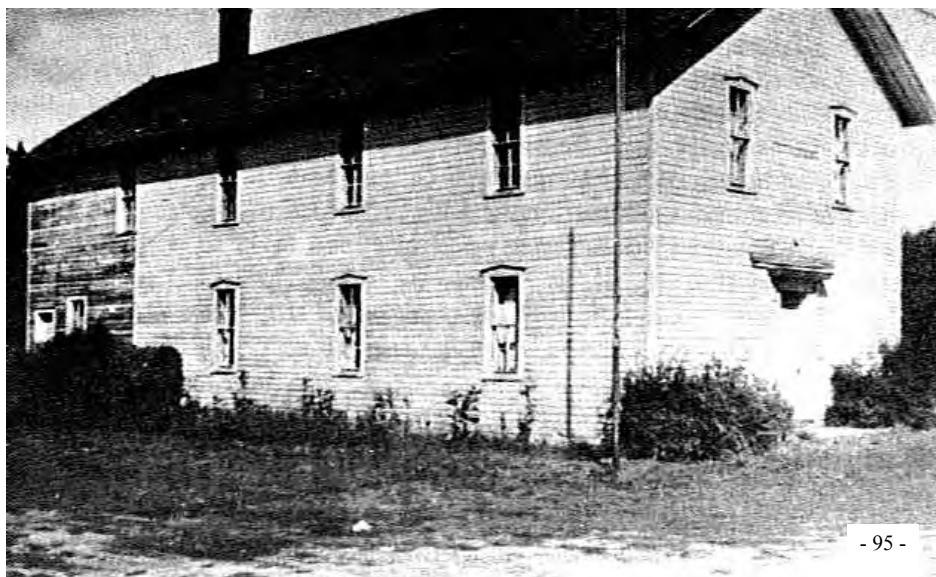
**Georgetown Grange Hall 458**

The Grange movement began just after the Civil War and embodies the nation's rural values. It is rooted in agriculture, is conservative and patriotic. In Michigan, there are still about 130 Granges.

**Left: Georgetown Grange, 1881–1958**

The Georgetown Grange building was located on the southwest corner of 28th Avenue and Baldwin Street. It was razed in 1960. The building was also used as the Georgetown Township Hall.

**Above:** The old Canada Hills School on the southeast corner of Bauer Road and 36th Avenue was purchased by the Grange and they still hold meetings there.





### Bauer Cornet Band ..... 1900

An important part of political meetings and holiday observances in the area for many years is the Bauer Cornet Band. Between 1900-1910 the group grew to 22 members and wives made snappy outfits, including white trousers trimmed in red. Original leader of the group was Dr. John Haas. Later leaders were John Chestock and Albert Balkema. Members pictured are, standing, l-r: Dr. Woolston, a veterinarian in Bauer, Alfred Ladewig, William Lowing, George VanWaggoner, Carl Hubert, Paul Ladewig, and "Muldoon" Ladewig. Roy Lowing is the drummer and kneeling, left to right, Saul Emmert, Morris Atwood, Roy Sweet, John Lowing and Martin Lehland.



### Hudsonville Cornet Band

The Hudsonville Cornet Band at  
Macatawa Park in 1886.

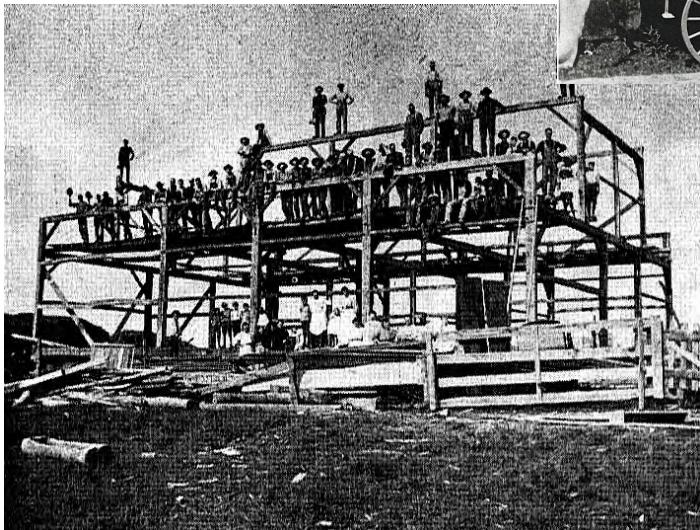


**Frog Hunting - 1920's**  
John Sawyer and Don Alward on their father-in-law, Fred Boldt's ponds.

### Georgetown Old Settlers

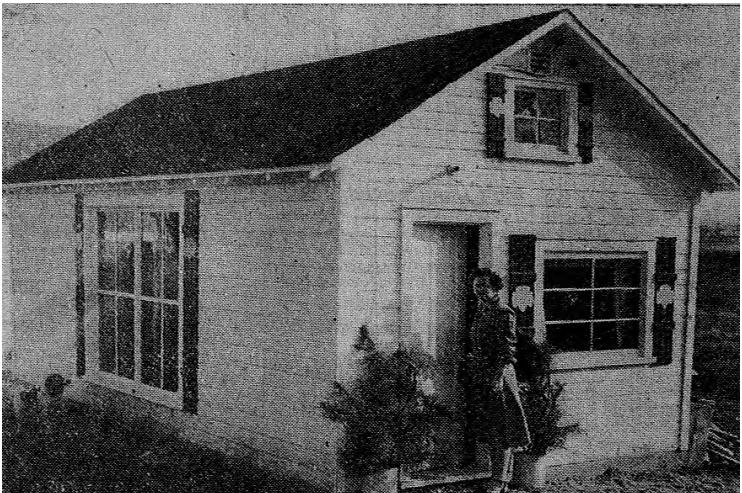
#### **Picnic in 1916**

Mrs. John VanDuinen and daughter, Jessie; Mr. and Mrs. Martin Kautenberg, Cassie Wilson (missionary who died in Saudi Arabia); Mr. and Mrs. Earl Wilson and baby son, Carl; Roy Wilson; Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson, and daughter, Florence.



**Gypsies Camped on 40th**  
near Bosgraaf's Produce about 1910. They stayed for a few days as the mother was due to have a baby. The baby was baptized by the Congregational minister.

**Left: 1907 Barn Raising**  
Paul Nederveld farm southwest of Hudsonville  
**Right: Mrs. Flora Maxfield with her Sunday School class on a picnic at Ranney's Woods**



**Hudsonville Girl Scouts Building** - For years the building was a PTA canteen in Hughes Grove. Then it was moved to the school grounds to serve as an ice skaters' shanty. It was recently donated to the Girl Scouts and moved near the Congregational Church. The older girl Scouts and their leader, Eileen Cory, have painted, installed ceiling beams, woodwork and a door casing and assisted in building a fire place. Those girls are: Bonny and Marjorie DeWeerd, Marguerite Edson, Arlene Nyenhuis and Celeste Tigelaar. The Junior Scouts are: Junis Kunkel, Marjorie Deters, Lorraine Douglas, Sandra Jagers, Lou Rena Ringerwole, Joyce Schipper, Eva Mae Vander Veen, Joyce Bosgraaf and Phyllis Gryzen.



#### **Girls Doing Crafts**

Left to Right: \_\_\_\_\_ Whipple, Gladys Cory, Mae Ella Barnaby, Edythe Hughes, Evelyn Coburn, Gladys Maxfield, Gladys Doan, Emily Chamberlain



#### **1897 Ladies Ball Game at Fred Boldt Farm**

Known names beginning with the batter going to the right are:

Batter: Bessie (Snyder) Boldt, Fred Boldt, Henry Steenman, Mary (Boldt) Steenman, Willie Boldt, Beatrice Miller, Ella (Steenman) Bryant, Bertha Boldt

Second from right—Mary (Albrecht) Boldt



### Everyday Activities

Top Leftt: Bea Edson, Clara Boldt, Mildred & Minnie (Boldt) Edson, Freda Boldt

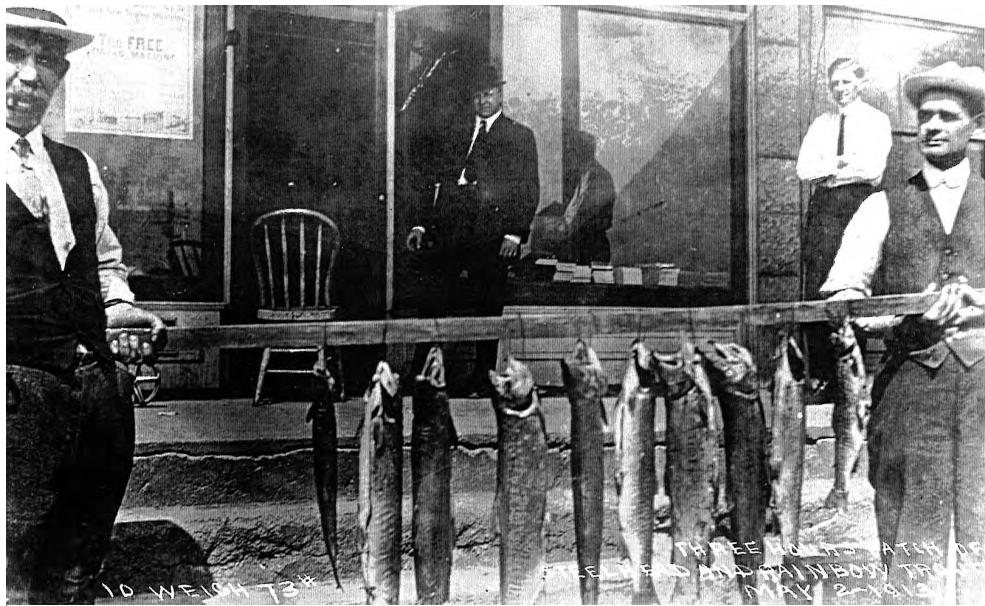
Top Right: Hauling water from the well-Freda and Peg Boldt

Bottom Left: Building a silo at Fred Boldt's—Fred Boldt, ?\_\_\_\_\_, Harm VanderWal

Bottom Left: Building a silo.

Bottom Right: Maple Sugar Camp at Fred Boldt's





**May 2, 1913—Bernard Hughes and Frank Chamberlain**  
10 steelhead and rainbow trout caught within three hours and weighing in at 73 lbs.



**Rabbit Hunting**  
LaVern Huyser, Lou Huyser, Johnny Sawyer



**Garrett Gryzen and nephew, Dan Gryzen,  
rabbit hunting**

# **A LIST OF NAMES OF THE BOOSTERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY FAIR — SEPT. 12, 13, 14, 1935**

## Hudsonville Fair

The Hudsonville Fair began in 1933. The first year it was held in Forest Grove. The following year it was held at the Hudsonville Public School and continued there for a number of years. The fair is now held at the Hudsonville Fair Grounds and celebrated its 75th anniversary this year.





**1921 Hudsonville Sophomore Class**

Top: Beatrice Edson, Ruth Morrill, Ortha Mosher, Lucille Drew, Grace Heslinga  
Bottom: Melvin Gerrits, Bernard Patmos, Grant McEachron, Maynard Bowmaster, Jake DeWeerd



**1921 Hudsonville Freshmen Class**

Back: T. VanderLaan, Gladys Seydel, P. DeWeerd  
Third: L. Eisenhof, E. VanSickle, D. McEachron, M. Schut  
Second: R. VanBronkhorst, S. Curtis, C. Dykema, H. Victory  
Front: L. Hubbard, G. Hubbard, A. Peasley, L. Kunzi, W. Alward

## HUDSONVILLE SCHOOL HISTORY

In 1855, the few settlers within two miles of where Hudsonville stands built a log school on the southeast corner of Main (VanBuren) and Division (32nd Avenue) streets. In what was then called District 7 on the old Penasay trail that went from Port Sheldon to Grand Rapids. There were ten to twelve pupils and the teacher was Miss Ellen Bronson. The school had two doors—one for the girls to enter and the other for the boys. There were wooden benches to sit on. Those children living east of the village, would have a difficult time coming to school in the spring due to the swampland that surrounded the village on the north and east. Instead of walking on Main Street, they would take a circuitous journey around the swamp on what is now Barry Street.

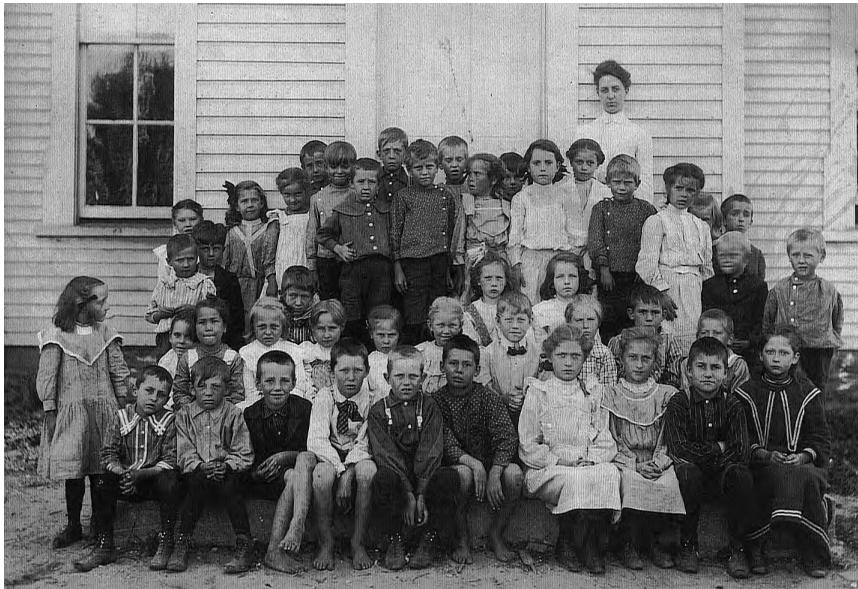
In 1879 a new 4-room school was built on School Street and a hotel was built on the site of the 1855 school building. A short time later, and there was an addition to the wooden school. In 1908 a red brick building was erected and this school rapidly advanced from eight to twelve grades making it necessary to use the basement for some of the classes.

There have been tragedies as well as good times. In January of 1917, Superintendent Bert Elliot passed away. The school experienced a setback after the death of Mr. Elliot, and seemingly did not recover until the year 1919. In that year the Board of Education succeeded in securing the able and competent Mr. Floyd E. Van Sickle. Sadly, In December, 1920, Mr. Van Sickle was taken ill and died but a few months afterward. The Board of Education was fortunate in securing the able and efficient work of Mr. Laug, Mr. Brink and Mr. Louwsma, as substitutes in his place.

In 1921 the Board of Education consisted of: William Boldt, President; Bert L. Alward, Secretary, Fred F. McEachron, Treasurer, Joseph Patmos, Trustee and Nick Rynbrandt, Trustee.

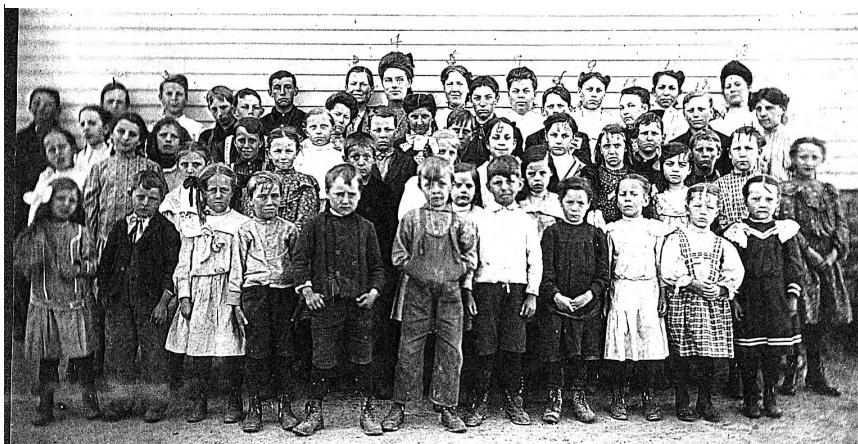
Hudsonville High School was a tuition school, for many years, approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. A diploma from the high school admits the holder without examination to the State Normals and all denominational colleges in the state.

Members of the faculty have life certificates, and are specially trained to instruct in the subjects they are teaching.



### Hudsonville Public School

A 1903 photo of the school with Miss Prebble, the teacher, and her students. Marguerite (Hughes) Edson is the 5th from the right in the top row. Lee Edson is the second from the right in the second row from the bottom. They were both born in 1898 and later married and lived in Hudsonville. Marguerite was the daughter of Tom and Bertha (Drew) Hughes. Lee was the son of Guy and Pearl (Whipple) Edson.



### 1906 Hudsonville Grade School



**Pearl Elsey**



**Bert A. Elliot**



**Jeanne Stroeve**

### Hudsonville, January 12, 1917

Death came Thursday afternoon to Bert A. Elliot, Hudsonville superintendent of schools, who was stricken with rabies Sunday. Three months ago Elliot helped attend a sick dog owned by a friend and it afterward developed the dog had rabies. Elliot was 23 years old. Mr. Elliot was a graduate of Zeeland High School and Western State Normal School. He had taught school four years. He sang in a church choir and played in a band. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Elliot. His relatives reside at Jamestown. Funeral services at the family home and at Second Reformed church at Jamestown.



**1907 Sandy Hill School Students**

Back: Jane VanderVeen, Frances Rillema, Isabel Hunt, Bert Mensink, Martin Osterink

2nd Row: Jennie Wiersum, Katherine Isenga (died of scarlet fever, 18 years old), Lila Hunt, Joe Bush, Fred Wagner

3rd Row: John VanderVeen, John Ohlman, Carl Ohlman, Charles Dood, Anna Isenga Johnson, \_\_\_\_\_, Julia Dood, Elizabeth Isenga, Bert Hunt (who died in WWI in Siberia)

Front: \_\_\_\_\_, George Isenga (who worked at Peninsular Club many years), Tim DeWindt, \_\_\_\_\_, Gilbert Ohlman, Robert Hunt, Henry Ohlman, \_\_\_\_\_ DeWindt, Aart DeWindt

**Bauer School, 1904**

Among the students were: Tom Wilson, former Georgetown Township Clerk, Lee and Euphemia Wilson.



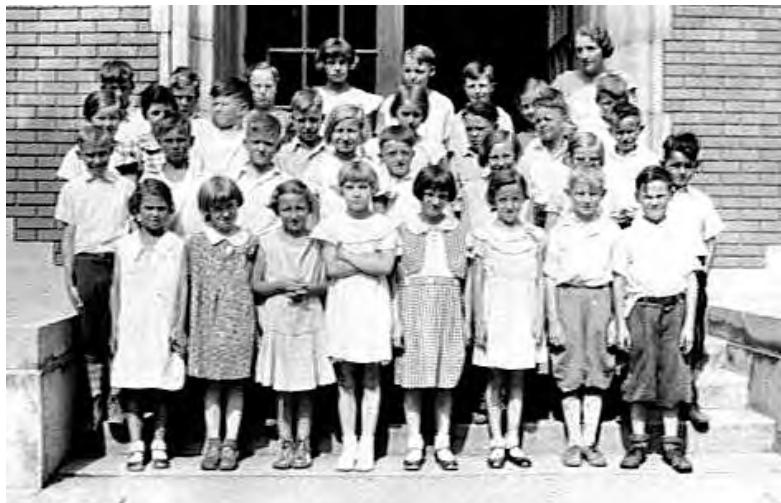


#### **About 1932 Hudsonville Grade School**

Back Row: Florine Roek, Lewis Vande Bunte, Darl DeCator, Martin Meyer, Gene Kiel, Arthur Meyer, Lucille Dykstra, Shirley Emelander, Arlene DeWeerd  
Middle Row: Angeline Vollink, Polly Alward, Joan DeWeerd, Joan Drew, Vera Kole, Laverne DeZwaan, Frances Hiddema  
Front Row: Robert Curtis, Edward Wieringa, Vernon Meyaard, Marion Nederveld, Donald Curtis, Robert DeVree, Albert Bytwork, John Prince



#### **1921 Hudsonville High Junior Class**



#### **Hudsonville Public Grade School About 1930**

Back Row: Raymond J. \_\_\_\_\_, Lewis VandeBunte, Clarissa Dykstra, Betty Zylema, Nelson Vollink, Wayne Nederveld, Lucille Dykstra, Keith Lowing  
Third Row: Florence Roek, Lolabelle Edson, Ward Huyser, Benny Meyer, Norman Kole, Darl DeCator, Edward Wieringa  
Second Row: Theodore Feenstra, Martin Meyer, Arthur Meyer, Shirley Emelander, Gene Kiel, Marion Grit, Ada Stegeman, Kenneth Koorndyk  
Front Row: Vera Kole, Joan Drew, LaVerne DeZwaan, Carol Cory, Eileen Grit, Angeline Vollink, Vernon Meyaard, John Prince





### 1928 Hudsonville First and Second Grade Students

Back: Flora (Sweet) Hubbard, teacher, Vernon Meyaard, Henry? VanderMolen, John Victory, Pete Stegeman, Tom Edson, Gene Nyhuis, Anson? Vredeveld, \_\_\_\_\_, Alvin Roek, Wayne DeWent

Third: Martin Meyer, Oliver Yonker, Edward DeWeerd, Gene Cory, Keith Yonker, Dorothy Emelander, Delia Haveman, Bob Harlow, Harry Meyer, Nelson Vollink

Second: Marjorie Curtis, Winifred \_\_\_\_\_, Mamie Jean Cory, Annie Talsma, Bernice Klomp, Hazel Ringerwole, Margaret Grit, Lillian Slotman, Leona Kole

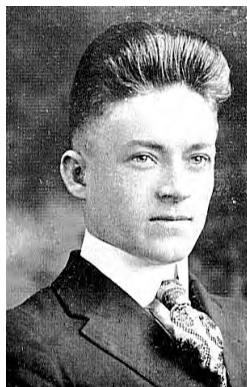
Front: Billy Kole, Gerald DeWeerd, Donald Emelander, Bobby VanderMolen, Duane Alward, Keith Lowing



**GEORGE  
LAUG, A. B.**  
Hope College  
Substitute  
Superintendent



**WILLIAM  
BRINK, A. B.**  
Hope College  
Substitute  
Superintendent



**HENRY  
LOUWSMA**  
Western State Nor-  
mal, Hope College  
Superintendent after  
February 18, 1921  
Science and  
Mathematics



**Superintendent Floyd E. VanSickle**,  
who for five years was a leader of tireless ener-  
gy and enthusiasm and meant so much to Hud-  
sonville, whose character was an inspiration to  
every student, to him who was taken from  
among us, "The 1921 Blue and Maize" is re-  
spectfully dedicated.

**JOANNA J. DEWITT**  
Western State Normal  
University of Michigan,  
Principal  
History and English





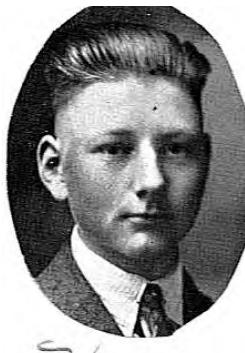
Left to Right:

Freda V. Boldt, Senior Class President

Gladys T. Cory, Senior Class Vice President, Mixed and Girls' Quartettes

Marion E. Gillette, Captain of Baseball Team, Track

Frederick E. Kunzi, Dramatics



Left to Right:

Irene Morrill, School Pianist, Senior Class Treasurer

Frances Patmos, Dramatics

Gertrude Spoelman (Deceased, daughter of Cornelius and Gertrude (Glas) Spoelman)

Henry Walkotten, Baseball Team, Debate Team

Henry Wiersma, Baseball Team, Debate Team

## 1921 HUDSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



**1921 Hudsonville Junior Class**

Back: G. Yonker, Muriel Doan, M. Rynbrandt, M. Hughes, Grant McEachron  
 Front: M. DeWeerd, Robert Cory, Henry Walkotten, J. Brink, M. VanderWal

**1921 Hudsonville Debate Team**

Back: Grace Heslinga, Henry Wiersma, Grant McEachron  
 Front: Henry Walkotten, Beatrice Edson, Maynard Bowmaster



**COMMENCEMENT**

Hudsonville High School

Thursday Evening -- May 25, 1922

---

**--PROGRAM--**

Processional.....	Ella Merrill
Invocation.....	Rev. Moody
Salutatory.....	Gertrude Yonker
Violin Solo—"Simple Aveau".....	Margaret Hughes Marjorie Rynbrandt, Accompanist
Class Poem.....	Muriel Doan
Class Prophecy.....	Gertrude McEachron Marion De Weerd
Piano Solo—"Rustle of Spring".....	Marjorie Rynbrandt
Class Motto.....	John Brink
Class Will.....	Robert Cory
Violin Solo—"Traumeri".....	Margaret Hughes Marjorie Rynbrandt, Accompanist
Valedictory.....	Maynard Vander Wal
Presentation of Diplomas.....	Sup't. Wm. G. Brink
Commencement Address.....	Rev. Paul E. Hinkamp
Benediction.....	Rev. Moody

**Left:**  
**1922 Hudsonville High School Commencement Program**

**Below: 1921 Hudsonville Baseball Team**

Back: H. Louwsma, M. DeWeerd, M. Bowmaster, J. DeWeerd  
 Middle: M. Gerrits, H. Raterink, G. McEachron  
 Front: M. Gillette, H. Walkotten, H. Wierma, E. Klomp





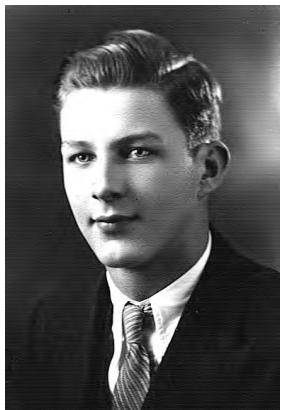
### 1923 Hudsonville 8th Grade Graduates

Back: Henrietta DeWeerd, E. L. DeCator, Max Gryzen, Dick Haan, Calvin Peasley, Mary Vredeveld  
Front: Adelaide Telgenhof, CoraDell Morrill, Lois Kiel, Mrs. Smith, teacher, Bertha Haan, \_\_\_\_\_, Tina Bytwork



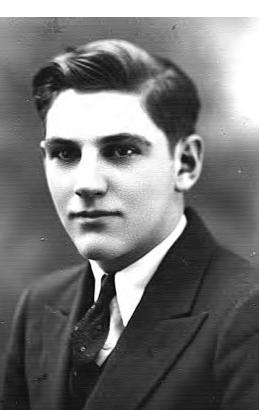
### 1925 Hudsonville High School Students

Back: Howard Sweet, John Tigelaar, Gerrit Brandt, Dan Gryzen, Lester Elderkin, Gerrit Schut  
Fourth: Harvey Brink, Herman Heslinga, \_\_\_\_\_, Wilmarth Kiel, H. B. Wilson, Don Emelander, \_\_\_\_\_, Howard Vollink, Harold Yonker, Web Haan  
Third: Irene Haan, \_\_\_\_\_, Gertrude Smith, Bea Hughes, Mary Zwagerman, Elizabeth DeVree, \_\_\_\_\_, Sylvia Kunzi, Margaret Heuvelhorst Holstege, \_\_\_\_\_, Henrietta DeWeerd, Bernice Hughes, Adelaide Telgenhof, Margurite Wilson, Delia Bekius, Coradell Morrill, Janet Spoelman, Lois Kiel?, Jennie Kort, \_\_\_\_\_, Rip Raterink, Elsie Krohne, Margaret VanHeukelum, Hardy Seydel, Ella Morrill, Chris DeJonge, Mildred Tibbets  
Second: Johanna DeWeerd, Wilma Abel, Ursula Kunzi, Mildred Edson, Julia VanDam, Henrietta Brink, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Josephine DeVree  
Front: Henry Meinema, Marvin DeWeerd, Ray DeWent, Claus VanderLaan



Left to Right: **Floy Alward** (came from Alward School)  
**Edward DeVree** (from public school, football, 1934)  
**Warren "Lefty" DeWeerd** (baseball hurler, nicknames—Speed, Cornie, Lefty)

**Avis Dykstra** (entered H.S. 1930, band, football, basketball, baseball, "grand ole gal")  
**Versile Elliott** (from Jamestown as Junior), baseball, football, Basketball)  
**Rosena Heyboer** (from Zutphen)

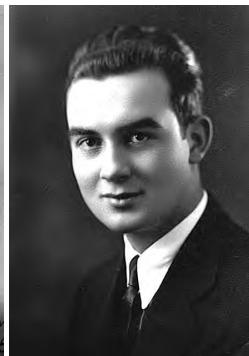
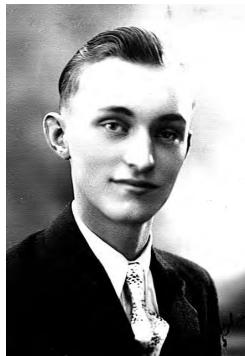


**Donald Hoezee** (from public school, baseball, football, basketball)  
**Beulah E. Loew**  
**Donna Lowing**

**Ken Myaard**  
**Alberta Nederveld**  
**Edson Nyhuis** (baseball, basketball, football, vice-president of Junior and Senior class)

## 1935 Hudsonville High School Graduating Class

(The photos were donated by Debra Yonker-Hecht, the daughter of Kenneth F. and Irena A. (Abel) Yonker.)



**Kenneth Nyhuis** (from Alward School)

**Marvin Poskey** (from South Blendon, baseball, football)

**Marjorie L. Sneden**

**Eudora Mae Vande Bunte** (from Gitchell School, Pres. freshman class, baseball, basketball)

**Johanna Vander Molen** (from Alward School, in operetta)

**Russell Vollink** (from public school, Sec'y-Treas. Senior Class, Sec'y Junior Class)

**Bernard Vugteveen** (as freshman from Christian School, basketball, football, played trombone )



**Myrtle Weber**

**Henrietta Yntema** (from Forest Grove)



### **Superintendent D. H. Vande Bunte**

Graduated from Hope Preparatory School, Hope College and Western State Teachers College with A.B. degree.

Presently working on A.M. degree with the University of Mich.

For the past 18 years I have served as teacher and administrator in the public schools of this county.

During the World War, I saw active service in France and am a member of the American Legion.

Active leader of youth, for three years I was State President of the Michigan Christian Endeavor Union. The summer of 1922, I toured several countries of Western and Central Europe for further study and observation. For the past five years I have been Superintendent of the Hudsonville Public Schools, active in social, civic and religious life of the community.

I seek the office of Commissioner of Schools of Ottawa County on the Republican ticket in the Primary Election, March 4, 1935.



**Irena A. Abel**   **Kenneth F. Yonker**  
(Irena Abel married Kenneth Yonker. )

## **1935 Hudsonville High School Graduating Class**

(The photos were donated by Debra Yonker-Hecht, the daughter of Kenneth F. and Irena A. (Abel) Yonker.)



**1938 Hudsonville 8th Grade Graduates**

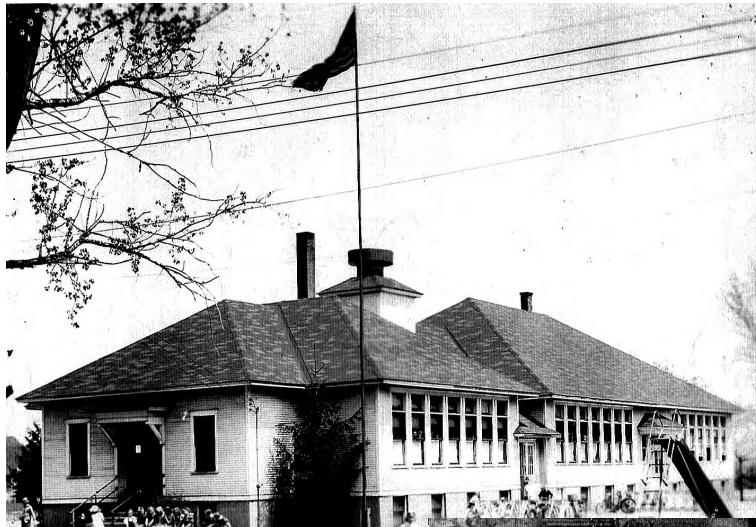
Back: Norman Kole, Keith Lowing, Wayne Nederveld, Ward Huyser, Nelson Vollink, Ted Feenstra, Oliver Yonker, William Kole

Front: Ada Stegeman, Charlene DeVree, Chris Dykstra, Faith Fleser, teacher; Mavis "Toots" Emelander, Carol Cory, Eileen Grit, Lola Belle Edson



**Hudsonville Schools**  
Top Row and Center Left: Tearing down  
the old Red Brick High School  
Center Center and Right: The yellow brick  
school being torn down.  
Bottom left: Hudsonville High School,  
1968  
Bottom Right: Junior High School





### **Hudsonville Christian Grade School**

The Christian School was organized in 1917. The original school was built in 1919. Due to the number of children who were enrolled, there was an addition made in 1921.



**Hudsonville Christian 8th Grade Graduates, 1928?**  
Back: Jake Dyke, John Roelofs, Albert Roelofs, Dick VerHage, Ben Cooper  
Middle: Alvin Ringerwole, Mr. Van Amstel, Casey Schuitema, Tressa VanderWall, Harm Bosgraaf, Bert Maring  
Front: Bertha Schut, Wilamenia \_\_\_, Rena Koopman, Ann Bolhuis, Cornelia Dyke, Cornelia Lynema, Grace Veenstra



### **1925 Hudsonville Christian 8th Grade Graduates**

Back: Gerrit Koopman, John Hoezee, John VanderMolen  
Third: Nick Cooper, Gerrit Karsten, Edward DeVries, Erzo Lynema, Dick Hoezee, Ray Schaap  
Second: Ann (Maring) Quackenbush, Evelyn (Bloemberg) Haan, Principal Mr. J. Arens, Alice (Klomp) Sjaarda, Thressa (Schut) Wiersum, Johanna Besteman, Tena (Woodwyk) Maring  
Front: Lean (VanderMolen) Hoeksema, Tena (Hamming) Maring, Rose (Tanis) VanderWall



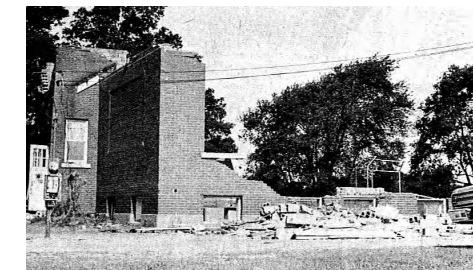
**Haire School**



**Shackhuddle School**



**Bursley School**



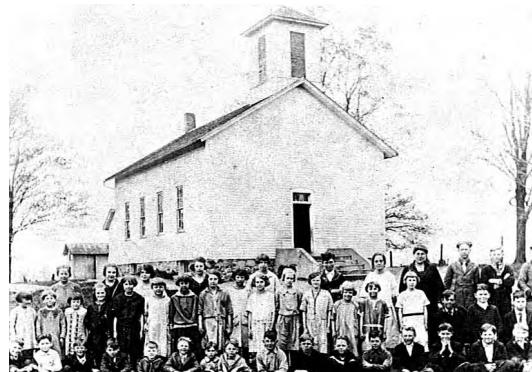
**1910 Alward School being razed.**



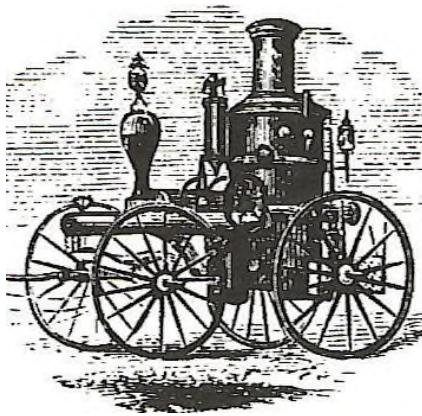
**Chrysler School**



**Canada Hills School**



**District School No. 6, Cottonwood Dr.**



## **FIRES IN HUDSONVILLE**

### **Confession Solves Hudsonville Fires**

**Admits Arson in Four Major Blazes There**

**Russell Zwagerman Makes Confession After A Night's Grilling**

The confession of a Hudsonville man early Wednesday morning came after an all-night grilling by officers of the state fire marshall's office. The baffling series of major fires that have struck four large business places in Hudsonville in the past 21 months.

Police reported Wednesday that they had obtained a written confession from Russell Zwagerman, a Hudsonville bachelor who lives close to the scene of two of the fires. Three of the blazes leveled large business places in the community while one was discovered in time to prevent total destruction. Zwagerman had been under suspicion for some time.

The case was broken by Sgt. Quentin Dean and Detective John Girocco of the fire marshall's office, working in cooperation with Chief Al Hillebrand of the Hudsonville police and Deputy Clayton Forry of Holland.

Fires which Zwagerman admitted setting have cleared up all the unsolved blazes in the community. All occurred at about the same time, between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m.

### **Hudsonville Box and Basket**

In the early morning hours of January 13, 1951, the Hudsonville Box and Basket Company plant was totally destroyed by a series of hand-set blazes. Early in 1951 a mystery fire swept through the Hudsonville Box and Basket Company across town from the two other fires. Loss was estimated at \$50,000.

The fire was started with matches and paper in shavings in the plant.

This was the first in a series of fires set by an arsonist.

### **Van Noord & Sons Elevator**

The second blaze was the Van Noord Elevator adjoining the railroad depot but this blaze was discovered by a passing motorist in time to prevent total destruction. The roof was burned off part of the mill in this fire, which was set early in the morning of January 9, 1952.

In January, fire struck the VanNoord and Sons Elevator directly across the street from the lumber company. Loss was estimated at \$25,000. The time was 3:45 a.m. The fire was started by lighting a pile of papers under the steps.

The firm founded by Sybrant VanNoord, now retired, is currently operated by his sons, Henry N. and Robert. The Van Noord Elevator was never rebuilt.

### **Hudsonville Lumber Company Fire Loss Is \$110,000 Fail to Find Firebug Trail in Holocaust**

March 22, 1952

#### **‘FIRE BUG’ IS CHARGED**

In Hudsonville Lumber Blaze – Warehouse Loss Set at \$100,000  
State Officials Enter Probe in Third Suspected Arson Incident

Hudsonville – March 23, 1952 – **No Arson Evidence**

Despite widespread belief that the fire was the work of an arsonist, no evidence to support the belief has been uncovered, according to Fire Chief John Brink.

The third suspected firebug-set fire within 12 months destroyed a Hudsonville Lumber Company warehouse early Saturday morning and brought State Fire Marshal aides onto the trail of a will-o-wisp arsonist.

Brink and other Hudsonville firemen reported that the building interior was completely ablaze when they arrived on the scene in response to the alarm shortly before 3 a.m., a time schedule set in other fires). Less than an hour later the huge structure was leveled and firemen played their hose lines on the flaming debris to keep the fire from spreading due to the stiff northeast wind.

It is believed by the firemen that the blaze started in the center of the building as it was the most completely burned out spot in the building. It started in a sawdust bin.

Firemen from Hudsonville and four surrounding towns fought the \$100,000 blaze throughout the night and into the morning.

An officer from the State Fire Marshal's office and Hudsonville Fire Chief John H. Brink blamed the fire on an arsonist suspected of two other fires in the town of Hudsonville within the last 12 months. John Girocco of the state fire marshal's office was in Hudsonville several days following the fire and has questioned two suspects but both have been cleared.

The suspected firebug's latest victim was the Hudsonville Lumber Company. According to State Police Detective John V. Girocco, special investigator from the State Fire Marshal's office, the center of the 3,800 –square-foot warehouse adjoining the office building of the lumber company. The wind-whipped flames gained rapid headway but fire fighters were able to save the company office and other nearby homes and buildings after a two-hour battle to bring the fire under control.

Occupants of nearby homes were evacuated until the danger was past.

Some 450,000 feet of lumber stored in the warehouse was a total loss, plus machinery and a truck.

The lumber company is a corporation with the largest block of stock held by Guy Edson, president. Albert M. Hubbard is vice-president. There are about six other stockholders.

The firm is continuing to do business and expects to remain in the Hudsonville area business picture. It was unclear whether the mill and warehouse would be rebuilt or whether the company would make some alterations to their operations.

Jamestown, Grandville and Zeeland fire departments aided Hudsonville in fighting the fire.

The actual loss incurred with the destruction by fire of the big mill and warehouse of the Hudsonville Lumber Company early Saturday has been set at \$110,000, it was announced today by Alfred De Weerd, secretary and Treasurer. The loss was entirely covered by insurance since the company carried policies totaling \$120,000.

Saturday's fire was discovered by a passing motorist. The flames were already out of control when Hudsonville firemen arrived at the scene. They were joined within an hour by equipment from Grandville, Wyoming Park, Jamestown and Zeeland.

The manner in which the fire started was not immediately determined.

In the meantime investigators in Grand Rapids pressed their search for the mystery man suspected with setting the \$20,000 Turner School fire last Wednesday. Prior to the fire, the suspect attempted to obtain a combustible material from the school's laboratory and later from a downtown salesroom. Officers investigating the Hudsonville fires, however, were doubtful of any connection.

Following this blaze the suspect was picked up for questioning but stoutly denied any part in their setting.

### **Hudsonville Farmers Co-op 16 October 1952**

*Early Friday on 16 October 1952, James Heuvelhorst, Manager of the Hudsonville Co-op, along with John Vander Molen, Manager of the Zeeland Co-op, were attending a meeting in Lansing. At 3:00 a.m. the phone rang and my wife told me the mill in Hudsonville was burning. I went across the hall to wake up John, who also lived in Hudsonville and we started for home. When we got to Hudsonville, we noticed the wind was very strong from the northeast and embers were blowing toward John's house which was behind the Hartman Chevrolet garage. It was started by lighting papers in a coal bin.*

*When I drove up to the Co-op, an Ottawa County Deputy asked who I was and when I responded, he wanted to know where I was at 2:00 a.m. that morning. As owner of the business I was a prime suspect.*

*The next person I met was State Police Fire Marshall, Detective Sergeant, Johnny Girocco. As there had been several fires in Hudsonville, he had met with the firemen and asked that one or two of them look at the crowd and try to remember who was at the fire when they arrived. A fire bug likes to watch the fire after it is set. When Sergeant Girocco received the call about this fire, he drove to Hudsonville from Rockford in 15 minutes.*

*We talked about the fire and it was discovered that it had begun in the coal bin behind the elevator. I told him there was no electricity in that area and that the fire had to have been set. The police had two or three people under questioning. Bud Zwagerman was one of them. He had taken a lie detector test earlier and they felt it was incomplete because of his poor ability to talk and communicate.*

*Sergeant Girocco said he was stumped and suggested that when I call the insurance company to ask them to send an investigator to Hudsonville. An investigator was sent who had investigated big fires in towns like Chicago. He was a large man and could look a hole through*

*you. The investigator asked me questions and who I thought could have set the fire and I thought of Bud as he had been in my office a few days before. I had received a wooden box with some machinery parts in it and they were packed in excelsior. Bud couldn't take his eyes off the box.*

*The investigator went to Grand Rapids and talked with Bud. They gave him another lie detector test. After the test and further questioning, Bud broke down and admitted to setting fires at the Hudsonville Lumber Company, VerHage Motor Sales, the VanNoord Feed Mill and Hudsonville Box and Basket Company. All of these buildings were within a two block area. Bud was sent to prison where he spent many years. He died in Jackson Prison.*

*NOTE: A small frame garage owned by Gerrit Haveman, who lives near the elevator, also was destroyed. Mr. Haveman managed to save his car, but oil stored in the garage for the co-op service station was destroyed.*

(submitted by James Heuvelhorst, November 21, 1996)

(NOTE: The loss was listed at \$80,000 but because of old buildings the total will be considerably higher. They will rebuild immediately. This plant was the headquarters for the four-plant organization which also had elevators in Bauer, Jamestown and Vriesland.

Officers of the Co-op are: A. H. Lanning of Drenthe, president; Alex Klooster, Jamestown, secretary; Gerrit Beyer and Bernard Schreur of Drenthe, Hilbert Holleman of Jamestown, Joe Grit and Peter DeWeerd of Hudsonville, Gerrit Elzinga and Herman H. Vruggink of Bauer, directors.

Firemen from Hudsonville, Zeeland, Jamestown, Grandville and Wyoming Park fought the blaze which destroyed a railroad car and ignited coal in a railroad car on the siding.

The fire which leveled four buildings at the Farmers' Co-op fire early last Friday intensified the work of police in trying to solve the crimes and the confession taken from the suspect writes an end to the spectacular blazes which have stirred the entire population of the village.)

### **Ver Hage Tractor Sales November 2, 1951**

**November 2, 1951** – The damage resulting from a blaze which nearly destroyed the Ver Hage Tractor Sales in Hudsonville Friday noon was about \$25,00 to \$30,000, it was reported Wednesday by a member of the Ver Hage family, Henry Ver Hage, owner of the firm, could not be reached for comment.

Replacing the sprawling structure, with a modern one, may cost more. Only a small amount of insurance was carried.

Harold Ver Hage, Hudsonville village clerk and son of the owner, said the fire apparently started from an explosion in the southwest part of the building which faced on Division Street about a block south of the highway running through the village. The exact cause has not been determined because the severe snowfall and stormy weather set in immediately after the disaster preventing a thorough examination of the premises.

It is thought that the blaze may have been touched off by the explosion of an oil heater which occupied a position about where the fire started. It occurred about 12:30 noon and with the aid of volunteers a number of tractors were removed before the flames drove them out.

The Hudsonville fire department with Jamestown and Burnips along side fought the blaze and had it under control in about an hour.

Weather has held back Mr. Ver Hage's plans for restoration of the building. The firm will continue operating in the basement of the Ver Hage Motor Sales, a firm owned by Henry VerHage's sons, Dick and Harold, and located a block from the scene of the fire.

### **Vander Laan Roofing**

On 24 September 1981, the roofing company was completely destroyed by fire.

### **Fire Rips Through Furniture Store**

**January 2, 1999**

The Factory Direct Furniture Outlet was completely destroyed by a fire that was fed by blizzard winds gusting to 50 mph along with snow and sleet.

The furniture store and four apartments above the business along with a card shop and an auto shop were destroyed.

The building was old originally housing the B & T Hughes Hardware from about 1900. There was a connecting hall, no longer used, to the auto shop. The fire entered the hall and then the business was in flames so quickly and with the wind there was no controlling it.

**Hudsonville Co-Op** – In May, 2001 the Hudsonville Co-Op was completely destroyed by fire.

The first building was erected in 1921. It was set on fire in 1952 by an arsonist and was rebuilt.

Since the fire of 2001, the Co-Op has built a new modern facility.

**Old Time Diner** – was completely destroyed by fire on 4 August 2003. It was built as a grocery store in the 1920's. After it was moved because of the highway, M-21 (Chicago Drive), going through Hudsonville, it became a restaurant, Ed's Grille. Edson being the son of the original owners and it has remained a restaurant for many years. It will be rebuilt.

**Hudsonville Hotel** – was burned to the ground on 18 December 2004. The cause was thought to be faulty wiring. The building had stood for over a century having been built in the 1890's and served the community for many years as a hotel and then, later, as apartments. It was no rebuilt.



**Hudsonville Reformed Church Fire**  
**May 24. 1948**

Hudsonville—The Reformed church of Hudsonville was damaged extensively Monday afternoon by fire which started on the east side of the wooden shingle roof. Rev Harold Colenbrander said the loss was from \$7,000 to \$8,000.

Firemen were summoned by workmen on a construction project nearby who saw flames rising from the roof. All the pews, the new electric organ, and furniture in the church were undamaged, according to firemen who reported the fire was confined to the roof and upper portion of the frame structure although there was water damage.

The cause of the fire was not determined. No one was in the church when the fire started, according to the pastor.

Firemen said the fire could have been caused by sparks blown from a pile of burning trash near the church. The consistory will be meeting to decide whether to repair the structure or build a new church edifice.



**Bloemberg Garage**

The Lambert Bloemberg garage was located on the south side of Pike 51 between School Street and 32nd Avenue. It caught fire not too long before it was going to have to be moved due to the divided highway going through the property so it was never rebuilt.

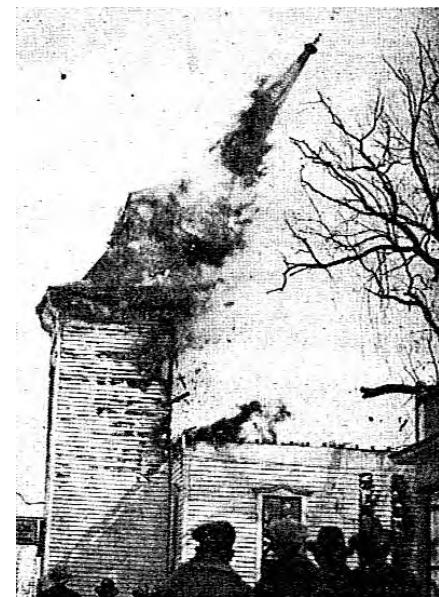
**Hudsonville Congregational Church**  
**Hudsonville Steeple Totters**

Fall of 1937 - One of the oldest landmarks of Hudsonville vicinity was destroyed late Thursday when fire consumed the 60-year old Hudsonville Congregational church. Members of the Ladies Union were in the church preparing a banquet when the fire was discovered.

The flames were first seen breaking out near the belfry and it is believed the fire originated either because of defective electric wiring or defects in the chimney. All the benches, two pianos, the pulpit and other interior supplies were saved.

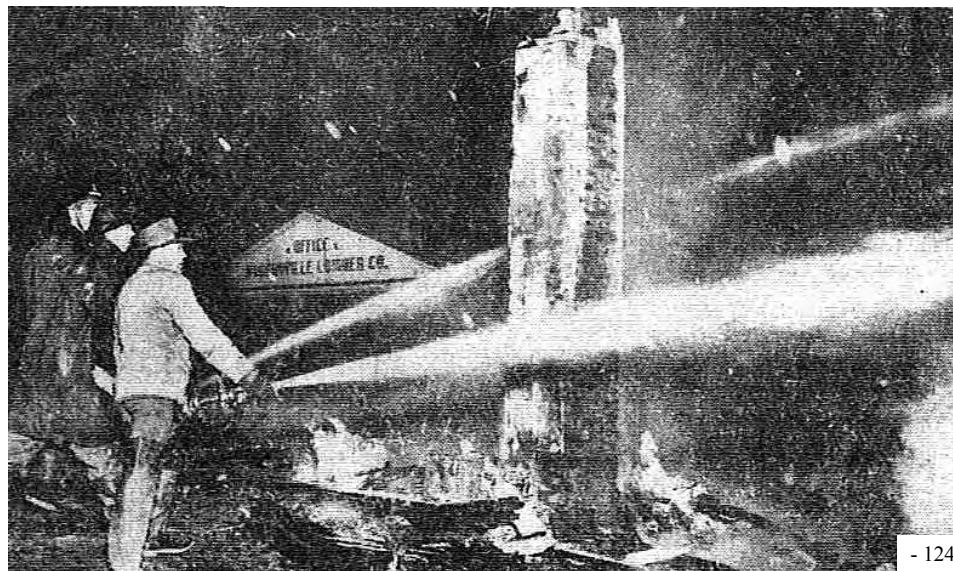
The church was built in 1879 and the Grange was connected to it with an addition in 1917.

Present indications are that they will rebuild.





## **Hudsonville Lumber Company Fire—22 March 1952**





#### **Hudsonville Farmers' Co-operative Elevator**

Plenty of Heat Here - Two burning coal piles and a blazing truck full of coal was only a part of the picture when the Farmers' Co-op was destroyed by fire early Friday morning. The fire also destroyed a railroad car, four buildings, and a large amount of grain, and farmers' supplies. This was the fourth blaze in a series of mysterious conflagrations that wiped out large businesses in the community.



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#### **Russell "Bud" Zwagerman**

The burning of the Hudsonville Co-op located on the south side of Prospect Street.

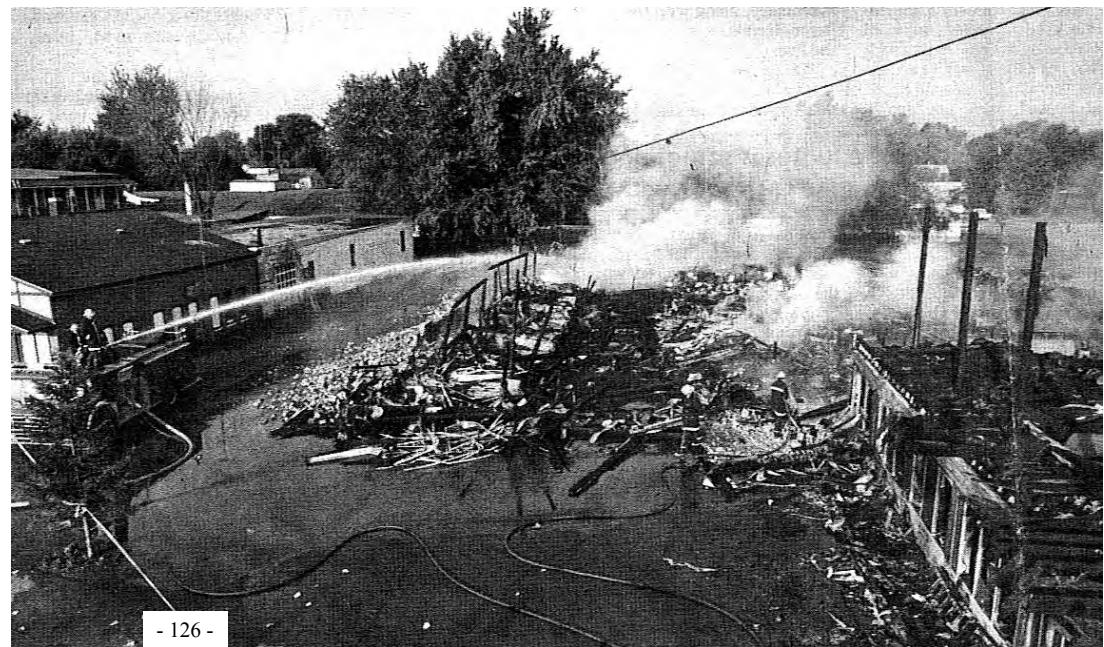
Russell (Bud) Zwagerman, 41, of Hudsonville, who Wednesday reportedly admitted setting four big fires in Hudsonville during the last two years, was undecided when arraigned in Municipal Court here on a charge of arson of a building. He requested permission to consult counsel, and this morning still was undecided as to what course to follow. Meanwhile, Deputy Clayton Forry - who broke the case along with Hudsonville Deputy Al Hildebrand and state police, took Zwagerman to the county jail in Grand Haven. Judge Cornelius Vander Meulen explained that if the accused does not waive examination, the law makes it mandatory for the judge to set an examination, which will be held at 10 a.m., Friday. Bond of \$5,000 was not furnished.



## **VanderLaan Roofing Company**

September 24, 1981 -

The Vander Laan Roofing company burned to the ground. It rebuilt and is still in business.





### Blizzard on January 2, 1999 Destroys Three Businesses

Three businesses—Factory Direct Furniture, Jay's Baseball Card Shop and NuLook Auto Sales—were destroyed by a wind and snow storm. The furniture outlet was in one of the oldest buildings in Hudsonville, the former B & T Hughes Hardware store. The buildings had a connecting stairway which helped the fire to move faster through the buildings. The NuLook Auto Sales was formerly Rol and Jerry's Auto Service and the baseball card shop was formerly a barber shop. There were also four apartments above the furniture store which were destroyed. The total loss was estimated to be more than \$800,000. The cause of the fire may remain a mystery.



### Hudsonville Co-Op Fire

The Co-Op fire  
occurred in May,  
2001.





### History of the Nyhuis Grocery Store

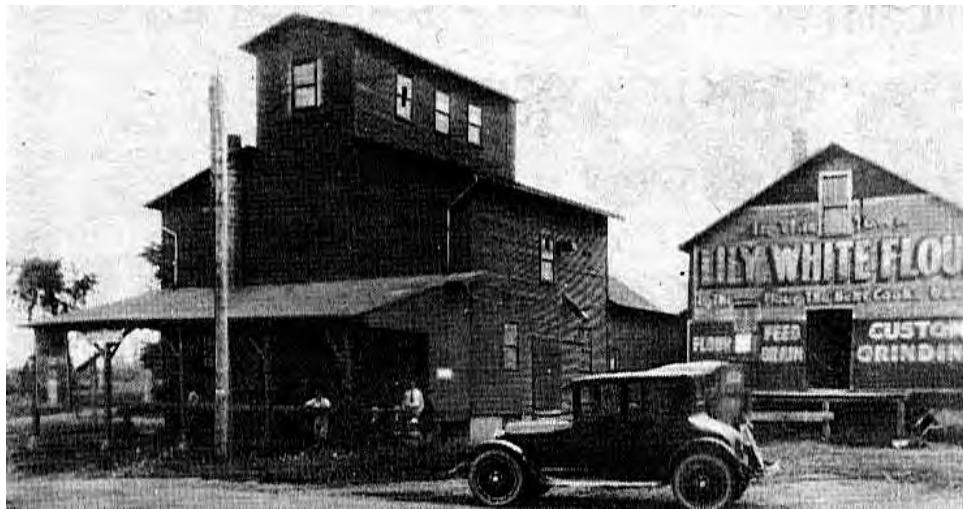
The Nyhuis Grocery was built probably in the 1920's after Pike 51 was finished in 1922. It was originally located on the southwest corner of 32nd Avenue and VanBuren Street. It was owned by Bernard John Nyhuis. After his death in 1936, his wife, Doris (Edson), continued the business for sometime. Then Neal Visscher had his drug store there until the building was moved when the divided highway was constructed in 1948. Mr. Visscher then built a new drug store on the service road west of School Street. The Nyhuis building was moved to the service road just east of 32nd Avenue and Edson Nyhuis, the son of John and Doris, operated a restaurant, Ed's Grille and Soda Bar, there until 1979.

It continued as a restaurant with several different owners over the years, and was called the Old Time Diner. On 4 August 2003 it burned to the ground and was rebuilt and operates as a restaurant today.

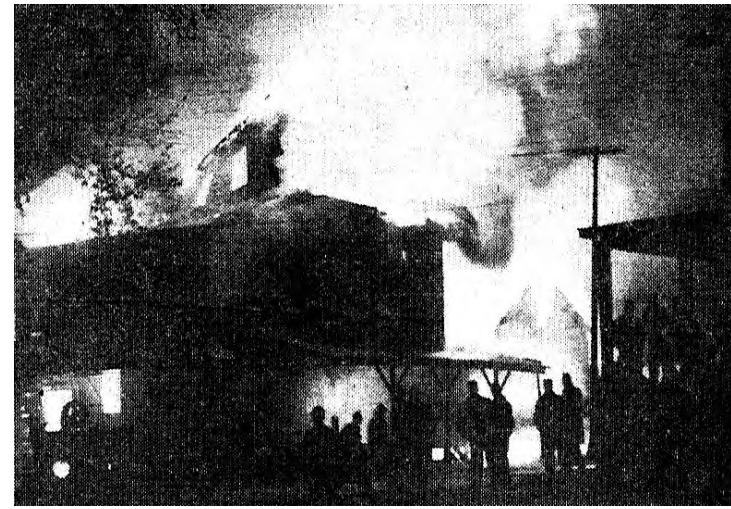
Top Left: Shown during the 1934 Hudsonville Fair with the Boldt-Yonker store on the left and Alward's Garage on the right.  
Top Right: Shown when it was moved to Van Buren Street due to the divided highway which was opened in 1950. (Notice the Boldt Store on the right which remains in the same location today.)

**Bottom Photos show the destruction of the Old Time Diner by fire**





Top Left: Farmers Co-op Elevator built in 1917  
Top Right: Farmers Co-op burning in 1952 - an arsonist  
Bottom Left: Farmers Co-op rebuilt  
Bottom Right: Farmers Co-op replaced after it had burned in 2001.





### **The History of the Hotel in Hudsonville**

This is a picture of the hotel in the 1950's located on Van Buren Street. It was originally built on 32nd Avenue but was moved due to the construction of the divided highway (M-21) in 1950. It burned to the ground in August 4, 2003.

The lot at the corner of 32nd Avenue and Van Buren Street was originally the location of the 1855 school. When the second school was built in 1879 on School Street, Homer Hudson purchased the lot from the school and owned it until about 1896 when he sold it to Joseph Dearborn. Joseph built the hotel and also had a livery stable across Van Buren Street. In 1903 the hotel and livery were sold to Seth Coburn and he owned it until about 1919 when he sold the properties to Henry VerHage. There were two or three that ran the hotel for short periods of time. Then it was closed for a year and in January, 1921, Matthew Metternich purchased the hotel from Fred McEachron and ran it for a year or so. He also provided transportation to and from Grand Rapids, for the salesman who came to the area. In 1924 Harden Smith and his wife, Hattie, purchased the hotel. Harden died in 1926 and Hattie continued to run the hotel with her three children for many years.



## CRIMES

### State Bank at Hudsonville Is Robbed of \$4,150

Tuesday – Two robbers, leaving their car running, entered and took cash at the point of a revolver. They entered the bank with pistols drawn and held up assistant cashier, Henry P. Stegeman, of \$4,150, overlooking \$3,000 in the til.

Mr. Stegeman and Miss Gladys Cory, teller, were alone in the bank. Miss Cory was in the back getting a drink of water and Mr. Stegeman was working on a ledger with his back to the bank entrance. They were both ordered to the vault where Mr. Stegeman handed over the money to the bandits. The robbers wanted to know if that was all the money there was, and Miss Cory replied, "That's all there is here." The men made Miss Cory and Mr. Stegeman stay in the vault with the door almost closed. They stayed in there until they heard the screen door open and close.

After the robbers had left the bank, Mr. Stegeman went next door to the home of Marshal John DeVree notifying him of the robbery. Miss Cory pick up the telephone and when the operator answered, shouted, "We've been robbed." The operator notified Sheriff Kelley. Marshal DeVree gave chase on old M-50, for about four miles, until the tire tracks were obliterated by a road scraper. Sheriff Kelley chartered an airplane and scoured the area around Hudsonville, Zeeland and Holland without seeing a trace of the car.

Donald Broersma was standing at the corner of Main Street and Division, trying to hitch a ride, when he saw the auto pull away and got a partial license plate number. The thieves were last seen driving fast through Overisel into Allegan County.

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### Georgetown Triple Murder – 10 September 1898

On Saturday in the "pinery" of Georgetown Township, locally known as Shackhuddle, stand unrivaled in Ottawa County history, the murder of two sisters and suicide of another.

Jesse Badgerow killed his wife, Mamie, his wife's sister, Lucy, and then himself.

He was a small tenant farmer of about 40 years of age and had been married about six years. He was married to Mamie Aylworth and they had two children born to them with one 2-year old son surviving.

The little boy witnessed his mother's and aunt's death. Mamie and Lucy were the daughters of John Aylworth, a well-known Blendon Township farmer. Mamie was 26 years old and Lucy was 20 years old.

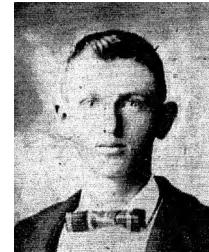
The couple seem to get along well until Mamie discovered that Jesse had been married before and had never obtained a divorce. They quarreled over this and Mamie returned with her little son to her family home. Jesse came to the house and Mr. Aylworth said that Mamie did not want to be married to Jesse anymore and that they could resolve it by dividing what material goods they had.

Mamie went with her sister, Lucy, and the young boy to the home to get her belongings. When a quarrel began between Jesse and Mamie, Mamie returned to the buggy and Jesse grabbed her plunging a knife into her heart. Lucy tried to intervene when her sister asked for help and he turned the knife on her. The child was in the buggy all this time. Then Jesse went to a neighbor and told him what had happened, then he went and settled a threshing bill that he owed and that night he went to his brother's barn. When he was found by officers of the law, seeing them approach, he thrust the knife in his own heart.

The sisters were taken home to Blendon for burial.

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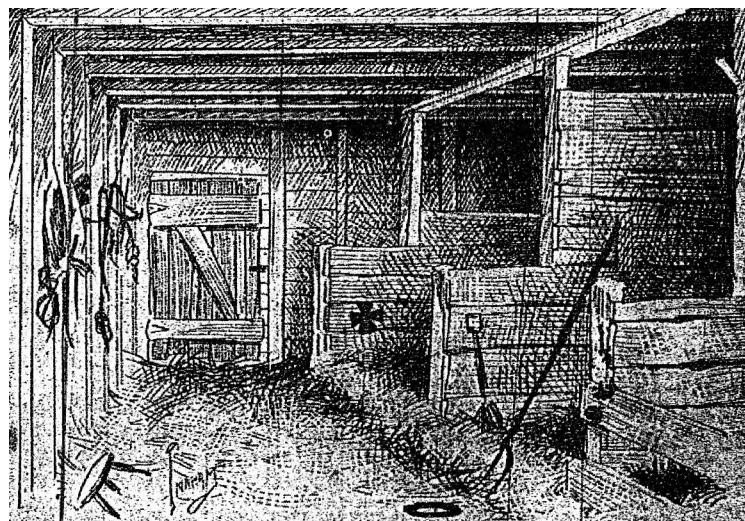
### **Murder of Humphrey Jackman – December 31, 1900**



Bert Tibbetts



States McCoy



31 December 1900 – On the  
Jackman was killed by the wound's to  
horse had stomped on the victim.

Mr. Jackman was hired help at States McCoy's farm. He came early to milk the cows and feed the animals. He had considerable money on him and the money was not found after his death.

John McCoy, brother of States, lived across the road from him and saw Bert Tibbetts leaving the barn on that early morning.  
Dr. Warren Maxfield was called to the home and described the condition of the body.

early morning of December 31st, Hugh  
the skull. It was first thought that a

Later, Bert Tibbetts was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison at Jackson Prison. A large monkey wrench in the barn was found to be the weapon used in killing Humphrey Jackman and Bert Tibbetts admitted to hitting Mr. Jackman several times with it. He accused States McCoy of being involved in the murder.

States McCoy was put on trial. Many witnesses were brought forth to testify of Mr. McCoy's good reputation. Bert Tibbets was brought back from prison to testify. He changed his story with every telling of it. Eventually, State McCoy was found not guilty and released.

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### **Hudsonville Murder - 1912**

Morris and Frank Atwood of Ottawa County, farmers, charged with manslaughter in the death of Zelma Hammond Atwood, secret wife of Morris. They were let out on bail until the trial. Morris and Zelma were married in Kent County on 13 April 1912 a few weeks after a baby had been born. The baby was adopted in June, 1912 to a couple from Kent County. Morris admits that he was the father of the baby.

Zelma had been married once before in 1901 to a Tom Hammond, who disappeared immediately after the wedding and was never seen again. She was the daughter of Eliza (Cheyne) Lowing, sister of Herbert, Ralph and Elgie Lowing and her uncle was Robert Cheyne. In testimony by Dr. Warren Maxfield, he stated that Zelma was below average mentally.

Zelma left home on the night of Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, telling her mother that Morris was going to marry her and make it public this time. It was a stormy night and her mother tried to stop her. When Zelma was not heard from again, her mother contacted Morris wanting to know where she was.

A search party was out looking for Zelma when her body was found hanging in a tree on Friday by her Uncle Robert Cheyne.

Dr. Maxfield was the first to exam her, and Dr. A. S. Warthin of Ann Arbor performed the autopsy. Through their expert testimony, it was found that Zelma had been pregnant and an abortion had been performed on her in which she bled to death. To try and cover this criminal operation, a man and a woman dragged the body to a tree and hung her there intending that it should look as though Zelma took her own life. The knots that were used on the noose and around the tree were not ones that were normally used. They were knots that had been taught to the Atwood boys by their father, who had been a sailor.

At the trial Morris was convicted of manslaughter which carried the sentence of up to 15 years incarceration. Frank was not charged. It was never found out who the person was that did the abortion.

Morris was going to appeal his conviction and many friends and neighbors did not believe that he had committed the crime.

# *The Hudsonville Tornado - April 3, 1956*

It was a warm and windy day when suddenly the atmosphere became turbulent, and the sky black that Tuesday the tornado struck Hudsonville and the Jenison area.

"It was like rolling smoke moving in on you. It looked like a big, black spinning top." "Like the sound of a freight train." These were some of the impressions of those who were in or near the devastation.

It happened so quickly. Suddenly there were over 200 injured, many others homeless, and thirteen individuals dead. Homes lay in heaps, trees uprooted, and vehicles completely destroyed.

The Christian School opened its facilities to aid those in need of clothing, bedding, etc. The Red Cross helped with finding places for people to stay and money where needed as well as providing physical help.

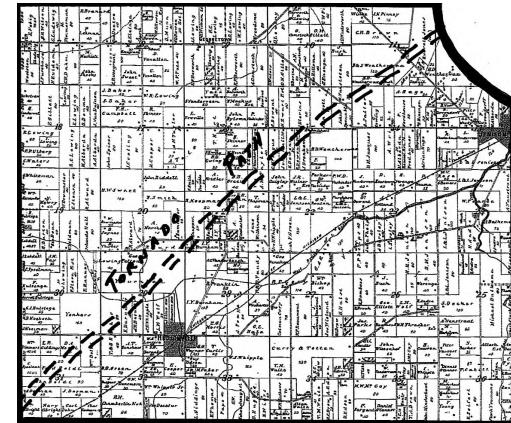
No one was allowed in the area to prevent looting and there was no electricity for two days. The community came together and contributed generously to help those in need.

Albert Dykstra, his wife and five children huddled in the basement of their home and escaped injury while their 2 1/2 story home was turned into rubble. Nearby, William Oostendorp, a teacher at Unity Christian High School, and his young son, Stephen, lay dead, his wife and other son suffered severe injuries.

## *Hudsonville and Jenison Tornado Victims*

The thirteen people who lost their lives from the Hudsonville area ranged in age from 17 months to 84 years.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Jerry Berghorst</b></li><li>• <b>Louise Brower</b></li><li>• <b>Frances DeKleine</b></li><li>• <b>Lavonne DeKleine</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Shirley DeWindt</b></li><li>• <b>Greg Ensing</b></li><li>• <b>Haven Hamming</b></li><li>• <b>Douwe Leegstra</b></li><li>• <b>Lena Miedema</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Bert Morsink</b></li><li>• <b>Stephen Oostendorp</b></li><li>• <b>William Oostendorp</b></li><li>• <b>Martha VanDyke</b></li></ul>
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April 3, 1956 Tornado





**April 3, 1956 Tornado in the muck East of Hudsonville**

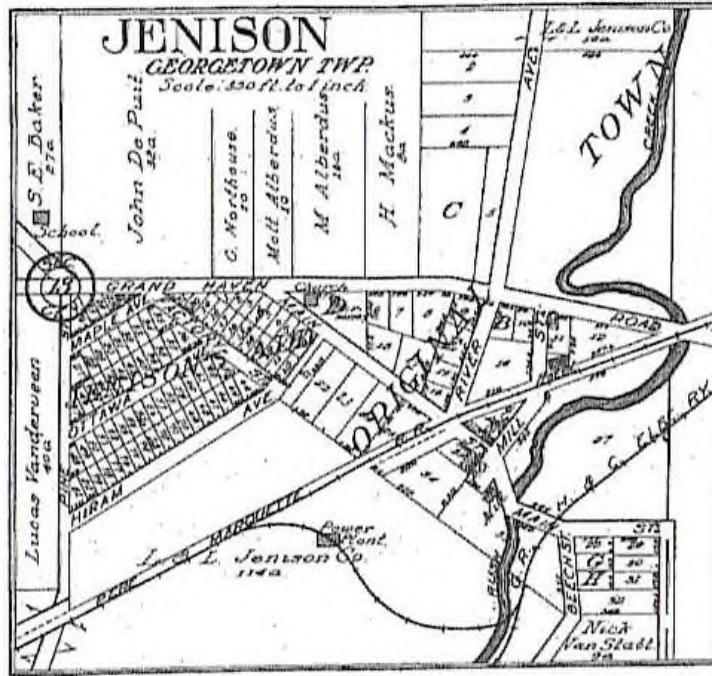
**Bottom Left: The Howard Gillett Home**



# **JENISON**

- **History** **PAGES 138–139**
- **Luman and Lucius Jenison** **PAGES 139–140**
- Families, homes and farms** **PAGE 141**

# Jenison



Jenisonville is a village of about 150 inhabitants on section 13, on the Kent County line where the Grand Rapids and Holland Branch of C. & W. M. Railway crosses the Grand River. Business interests - L. & L. Jenison own and operate a large grist mill which was built in 1864. It has three sets of 4 feet buhr stones, is run by water power, and has a capacity of fifty barrels of flour in twelve hours running. J. F. Hardy is head miller. There are also two stores, a blacksmith shop and a wagon shop. It has a Dutch Reformed Church. The post office was established in 1871 with G. Weatherwax as the first post master and O. S. Drake as assistant. The postmaster in 1881 is J. W. Closterhouse.

In 1843 there were but two homes in Jenisonville, Seymour Cunningham's and Francis Spear's. Booth Perry, Jonathan Scott and Andrew Rowles came soon after.

The first school was number 1, on section eight and it was called the Haire School. It was organized in 1845. The building was a frame one and cost \$112.

The Masonic Jenison Lodge, No. 322, was inaugurated 27 January 1875 with ten charter members. The first officers were Thomas Lowe, W. M.; Cyrus Freeman, S. W.; H. C. Lowing, J. W.. The present officers are: Lewis Peck, W. M.; L. Day, S. W.; G. D. Lam, J. W.; W. Thrasher, S. D.; L. Jenison, Treasurer; J. C. Daily, Secretary. Present membership is 56. The size of the lodge room is, 22 x 30, with furniture valued at \$200.

Other early families near the village were: Closterhouse, Bush, Weatherwax and VanderVeen.

### **Jenison Claims Origin From Noted Family by Same Name: Landmarks Still Stand (Jenison Mills torn down in 1963)**

One of the oldest landmarks in Jenison is the Jenison Mill, built in 1864. The original stone rollers in the mill are still used for grinding certain types of flour. There are other landmarks, but none stands out like the "Old Mill" which has identified the Jenison community as people travel along M-21.

Lucius and Luman Jenison were born 25 April 1823 to Lemuel Jenison, a farmer in Canton, St. Lawrence County, New York. After losing much of his modes fortune there because he endorsed notes for friends and lost, he sold his farm. In 1835, the family made up of the father and mother, their three sons and four daughters started for the Territory of Michigan. At that time Michigan's total population was about 90,000. The trip from Buffalo to Detroit was made by water and emigrants traveled westward through the woods for Grand Rapids. Lemuel Jenison purchased "a tract of land in Georgetown township, Ottawa County, six or seven miles from Grand Rapids and set about carving out a home for his family.

The first venture was when Lemuel and his son, Hiram, fulfilled a contract to stock with logs and operate a saw mill on Buck Creek. This mill cut the lumber that was the first cargo of lumber that entered the city of Chicago on the "White Pigeon" in 1835. In 1837, Lemuel, was struck by a tree limb and killed. Four years later the mother died. This left the responsibility of the children to Hiram and the twins, Luman and Lucius.

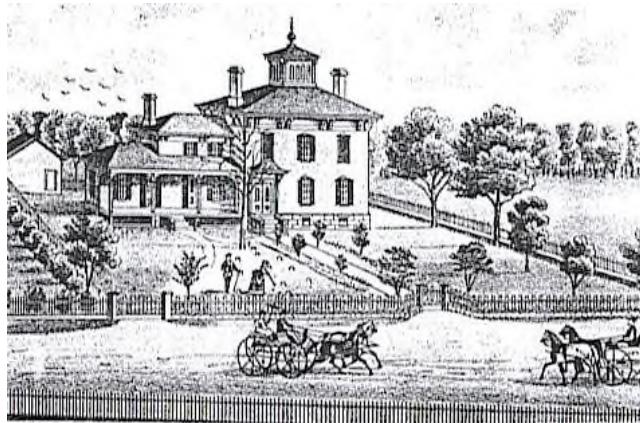
They purchased a 1600-acre tract of white pine located on Rush Creek, paying \$1.50 an acre. Lucius and Luman became operators of the two mills at the mouth of the creek – one was a 24-gang mill which was changed to a siding mill and the other a muley. The logs were floated on Rush Creek to the mills and rafted to Grand Haven. Until 1863 the twins confined themselves to operating these two saw mills. Luman was the business man while Lucius superintended the work in the woods and mills. They bought many other tracts of timber land along the Grand River and after stripping it of its timber, they converted the land into farms, either selling it to settlers, or working it themselves.

In 1863 they tore down the smaller of the lumber mills and built the flour mill which stood until 1963. This mill was run by water power from Rush Creek which was dammed. Sometimes the water level was too low and the farmers would have to leave their grain until the power increased. Later there was steam power fueled by wood and then coal. Then an oil diesel plant was built. D. A. Ostema of Grandville was employed by the Jenisons for 32 years. Other employees were Tony Elenbaas, Guy Northouse and Garret Koopman. Luman and Lucius also had several buildings in the village of Jenisonville including a general store which housed the post office, a hotel, a saloon, and a machine shop. Peter Japinga was a clerk in the store for many years, Mrs. Bessie Hanchett was manager and Benjamin Hartger a clerk.

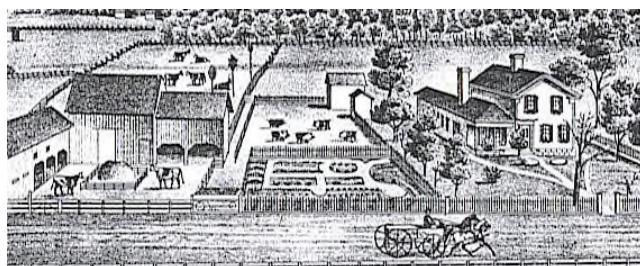
The first B. & O. Railroad was built from Grand Haven to Grand Rapids going through Jenison in 1873. This company failed and the Chicago and West Michigan Railroad took over.

The twins both died in 1899. They are buried in a mausoleum, built with marble from the Barre, Vermont quarries, in the Jenison private cemetery ground. It is located on Port Sheldon Drive and has an iron fence surrounding it.

Mr. and Mrs. Levi Husband were bookkeepers for the twins for many years and inherited much of their wealth. They built a beautiful home as a memorial to Luman and Lucius. Bessie Husband inherited the property. She married Benjamin S. Hanchett, a nephew of the twins. After she died, the property was sold to the Clarence W. Tiffany family. Mrs. Tiffany lived there 18 years and did much interior restoration before she sold it to the state. In 1973 the State Highway Department, which had been using the home as an office while they built the I-196 expressway through the area, gave the home to Georgetown Township, if they would move it. Due to the efforts of the Jenison Historical Association, the home was saved and has been slowly restored by the continued work of the association.



**Hiram and Mary (Beardsley) Jenison and Their Home**



**Home of Luman and Lucius Jenison**

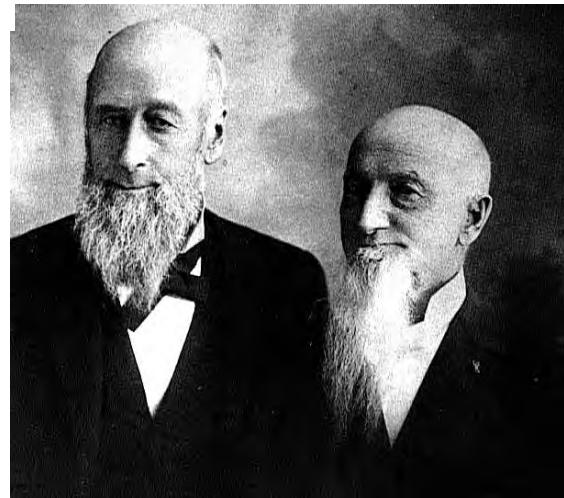
### **The Jenison Family**

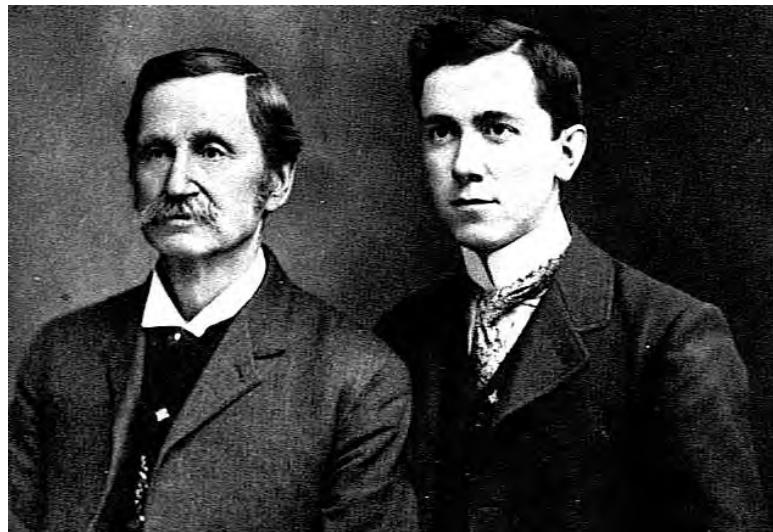
The Lemuel Jenison family came to Georgetown Township in 1837. Lemuel died three years later when a tree fell on him, and his wife died in 1840.

Hiram, and his twin brothers, Luman and Lucius, were very important in the development of the community.

Luman was the founder of the Village of Jenisonville.

Their family has a private cemetery which is located on Port Sheldon Road near the intersection of 8th Avenue.



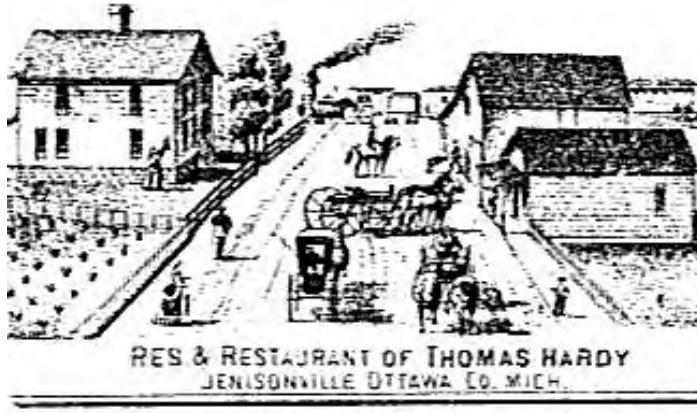


## JENISONVILLE

Top Left: Weatherwax Home with artesian well in the front yard. Top Right: Henry and Harry Weatherwax whose family settled near the village on the Grand River.

Bottom Left: The restaurant and home of Thomas Hardy shown in the 1876 Ottawa County Atlas.

Bottom Right: The Tiffany House was built with the inheritance that Mr. and Mrs. Husband received from Luman and Lucius Jenison. They were their bookkeeper for many years. Their daughter Bessie (Husband) Hanchett lived there and then sold to the Clarence Tiffany family who lived there 18 years before selling to the State Highway which was building I-196. Later, the Jenison Historical Assn was given the property and it has been historically preserved.



## **BLENDON TOWNSHIP**

- **HISTORY**  
**Early Township Officers** **PAGES 142 - 145**
- **FAMILIES, HOMES AND FARMS** **PAGE 146**
- **BUSINESSES** **PAGE 147**
- **SCHOOLS** **PAGES 148 - 150**

## Blendon Township

Blendon Township is located in the middle of Ottawa County. In fact, the geographical center of the county is on its west boundary. On November 5, 1836, John Ball, who was a timber cruiser, announced through a newspaper that he had located "2,500 acres of good pine almost in a body on a part of which there was also some good white oak." John Ball laid claim to 41 eighty-acre parcels for logging purposes. Blendon Township is located south of Allendale, north of Zeeland, west of Georgetown and east of Olive townships. Although the township was surveyed in 1833, it was not developed very early for various reasons, including the fact that it lay so far from the earliest and most important highway, the Grand River.

Blendon Township was organized in 1854. A township hall was built in 1889 at the intersection of 72nd Avenue and Tyler Street. This hall served the township until 1975, when a new hall was built with offices and a meeting room. The old building was auctioned off and moved east of the current township hall. It now serves as a storage barn at 7000 Tyler Street.

Blendon had swampy areas where huckleberries were plentiful and higher places where blackberries and wintergreen berries thrived. Judging from stone knives and arrowheads that have been discovered, the Ottawa and Potawatomi Indians used the area to hunt.

The Ottawas formerly lived along the lakes and woods of the northern lower Michigan. They were active in fur trading with the French. The Ottawas who moved to this area continued to be traders. The name Ottawa was synonymous with trader. Older residents remember seeing their parents purchase high quality baskets and flower stands from Indian house-to-house peddlers in the early 1900s. Some of these products are still in use.

The Potawatomi were southern Michigan people but were of the same Algonquin language group. They were noted for making furnishings of vegetable fiber and pottery.

The Old Stage Road from Grand Rapids to Holland passed through the southeast corner of Blendon. It was laid out in the late 1840s entirely at the expense of Grand Rapids merchants for the benefit of the newly established Dutch settlement in the Holland-Zeeland area. A rest area called The Halfway House was built near 48th Avenue on Barry Street. The stage coach passengers and other travelers could receive refreshments; shelters were also provided for horses. With the coming of a railroad in the 1870s, it became obsolete. Halfway House continued to be occupied by the De Regt family, who operated this place for many years. Following their deaths, it remained vacant and is now demolished.

Its principal early production was timber, the Blendon Lumber Company owned most of the land, and ran their logs and lumber to the Blendon Landing on the Grand River by railroad, and tramway. A mill was located at Blendon Landing as well as a shipyard. The following schooners were built at Blendon: Wright, Eveline, Lumberman, George W. Wescott. There were two or three "strap-iron" railroads extending from the river ten or twelve miles into the pineries. By 1874 the lumber interest was declining and there was only one saw mill within the township limits. It is claimed that the first locomotive used up the D. & M. R. R. was retired to the "strap-iron" road in Blendon and Allendale Townships. Blendon Township was not set off from Allendale Township until 1854.

Some effort has since been made in farming and about 2500 acres of improved land has produced grain and hay, as well as 100 acres in orchards.

There are two post offices, one being Blendon in the northeast, but no business centers in the township.

The first town meeting was held April 3, 1854, with the following chosen officers; A. H. Vredenburg, Supervisor; J. R. Hall, Clerk; and W. S. Woodruff, Treasurer.

Among the early families were: DeRegt, Abel, Timmer, Everse, Hall, Huyser, Steffens, Sherburne, Seydel, Ernzer, Avink and Nibbelink.

An 1864 map indicates that most of the township was owned by Blendon Lumber Company. Two early sawmills were the Ohio Mill, located at 5800 Port Sheldon Road, and the Bugsville Mill, on Baldwin Street near 64th Avenue. Each mill had a narrow gauge railroad running approximately seven miles northeast to docks on the Grand River. The railroad serving Ohio Mill was called Ohio Landing; the other was called Blendon Landing.

Blendon Landing was organized in 1854 and named for the Blendon Lumber Company. Logging trains hauled timber seven miles from the pine forest to the landing for shipping. White pine and hardwoods were transported from here and used to manufacture ships, railroad cars and guns. Blendon's sawmill, logging operations and shipyard sustained a community of about 200 people in the early 1860's. The sawmill burned in 1864 and by 1870 the railroad was abandoned. By 1912, Blendon Landing was deserted. Blendon Landing was located near the site of what is now Grand Valley State College. Grand Valley State College began excavating the landing as part of the university's archeology program. It is now owned by the Grand Valley State University Club. There is a state historical sign commemorating this era in Blendon Township's history. Pieces of strap metal rails are still being plowed up on Baldwin Street. Oak trees growing here were tall enough to be used for ships' masts, and they were floated to Chicago. As a second growth of timber became marketable, two sawmills were built, one and two miles east of Borculo respectively. William Timmer also had a sawmill near 48th Avenue and Van Buren Street.

Before Rural Free Mail Delivery was established in 1900, the township was served by three local post offices. The first was established in 1860 at 5458 Bauer Road and was called Blendon. It was located in a separate building razed years ago. A second, which contained a lending library, was located in the residence of the Robert Johnson family, 6304 56th Avenue; it was called South Blendon. A third was established in 1876 in the residence of Kasper La Huis, 7034 Blair Street, and for some unknown reason was named Heath. This modernized dwelling is now occupied by the Thomas Vredeveld family.

As lumber was harvested, the land was used for agriculture. As a market for milk, the Phoenix Cheese Company of Zeeland established a branch at 6887 72nd Avenue. The manager's house is still in use. A butter-producing creamery in Borculo and a milk-receiving station in North Blendon on Taylor Street no longer exist.

For many years, seven general stores were located within township boundaries. A store owned by C. L. Storre at Port Sheldon Road and 56th Avenue was established before 1864. Formerly a church, a second store in South Blendon at Port Sheldon Road and 48th Avenue was moved across the road in 1890. This was owned by John Van Farowe. This store and attached dwelling burned in 1929. Another store was built and it has been used for various businesses.

The VanderMolen store on Taylor Street has been replaced by a one-family dwelling. The Vollink store in Borculo is now owned by the Borculo Christian Reformed Church and is used for church activities. The present Borculo General Store is located at 6210 96th Avenue.

## **CENTENNIAL FARMS**

Records show that some farms have been in the same family over 100 years and have become centennial farms. There are five of them. The present owners and locations are: Larry Atwood, 5267 Baldwin Street; Rhine Lubbers, 5301 Barry Street; Bernard Schafer, 9481 48th Avenue; Chester Top, 4868 64th Avenue; and Larry Vander Schuur, 7304 Bingham Street.

## **CEMETERIES**

Blendon Township has two cemeteries. One is owned by the Township at 5000 Tyler Street. Mr. Woodruff, an early settler in the Bauer area, was the first recorded burial in 1862. The other cemetery is owned by the Christian Reformed Church of Borculo at 6200 96th Avenue.

## CHURCHES

Nine active churches serve the area's needs: Bauer Wesleyan, 4844 Bauer Road, organized in the 1860s; St. John Lutheran, 48th Avenue at Fillmore Street, vacant, which was later torn down, (a new church was built across the street in Georgetown Township), organized 1882; Beaverdam Christian Reformed, Barry Street at 64th Avenue, organized 1882; Borculo Christian Reformed, 6464 96th Avenue, organized 1883; South Blendon Reformed, Port Sheldon Road at 48th Avenue, organized 1883; Bauer Seventh Day Adventist, 4881 Bauer Road, organized 1885; Bauer Christian Reformed, 4921 Bauer Road, organized 1902; North Blendon Reformed, 7224 Taylor Street, organized 1903; North Blendon Christian Reformed, 7284 Taylor Street, organized 1910.

## SCHOOLS

Blendon Township's first school is located at 9441 56th Avenue. It was organized in 1854 and was rebuilt into a storage facility. Blendon No. 2, located at 5755 Port Sheldon Road and Corsin School No. 3, located at 6984 72nd Avenue, are now used for storage. Sherburne School No. 4, located at New Holland Street and 64th Avenue, is now a two-family dwelling.

NAME	YEAR	OFFICE HELD
BENHAM, S. E.	1857, 1859-1860	CLERK
CULVER, N.	1860-1861	TREASURER
FAHRNOW, A.	1878-1879	TREASURER
FORBES, A.	1872	SUPERVISOR
FORBES, A.	1871	TREASURER
GILBERT, S. S.	1865	SUPERVISOR
GRAVIS, W. G.	1857, 1868	SUPERVISOR
GRAVIS, W. G.	1862-1867	TREASURER
HALL, J. P. R.	1870-1872, 1874	CLERK
HALL, J. R.	1855-1856	CLERK
HALL, JESSE P. R.	1876-1881	SUPERVISOR
HAVIKHORST, HENRY	1880-1881	TREASURER
JEWETT, P. L.	1873, 1875-1876	CLERK
KEYES, W. E.	1867-1869	CLERK
OHLMAN, G.	1876-1877	TREASURER
PAYNE, M. B.	1869	TREASURER

SCOTT, W. C.	1875	TREASURER
SCOTT, W. C.	1866-67, 1869-1871, 1873-1874	SUPERVISOR
SCOTT, W. C.	1861-1863	CLERK
SHERBURN, C.	1864	CLERK
SHERBURN, O. W.	1877-1881	CLERK
SHERBURN, S. W.	1858, 1865	CLERK
SLEFFERS, R.	1870	TREASURER
STORRS, C. E.	1866	CLERK
STORRS, C. E.	1875	SUPERVISOR
STORRS, C. L.	1859-1864	SUPERVISOR
STORRS, C. S.	1857	TREASURER
SULLIVAN, JAMES	1868	TREASURER
THAYER, E.	1862	CLERK
TUCKBURY, A.	1872-1874	TREASURER
VREDENBURG	1855-1856	SUPERVISOR
WOODRUFF, W. S.	1855-1856, 1858-1859	TREASURER

The Blendon Township supervisor for Ottawa County for 1882 is Jesse P. R. Hall (Republican).

By 1881 there were five school districts; teachers' wages average for a male, \$35 per month; and a female, \$24 per month. The scholars numbered 322. There are four churches within the township – Wesleyan, Dutch Reformed, True Dutch Reformed, and German Dutch Reformed.

One of the first to penetrate the wilds of Blendon Township, before any crop had been raised in Kent or Ottawa counties, was John Ball of Grand Rapids in 1836, a year of speculation. At this time most everything had to be transported from Buffalo, NY or Cleveland, Ohio. This is Mr. Ball's description of his journey into Blendon Township: *In company with a Mr. Anderson, John Ball rode to Grandville before breakfast, which he obtained at Charles Oaks, and secured some more provisions from a Mr. Ketchum, who was building a mill near where the Jenison's planning mill stands. All they got was some flour and beef, and after waiting until a loaf was baked, they took their course in a vague quest of pine lands, and at dark they arrived at what is now the south of Blendon, and camped on a branch of the Black River. During the night they heard the tramping of deer and the howling of wolves.*

*In the morning, not finding what they were looking for, they were about to start for home, when they came upon fine pine, and in the excitement forgot about their food and lay down at night supperless, so as to have something for breakfast. On waking in the morning they found their blankets cover with snow, and being still in the pines they continued their explorations. They finally struck the river, expecting some road out but found none. Some Indians whom they met declined their offer of three dollars to guide them to Grandville. So, trudging wearily over bluffs and through swamps until dark, they lay down by a fire kindled by their last match, next morning at 9 o'clock they arrived in Grandville.*

A short time later he explored the lands more minutely and entered forty-one eighty acre lots in his own name, on which the Blendon Company, year after, lumbered. But the speculation proved a worthless one for Mr. Ball.

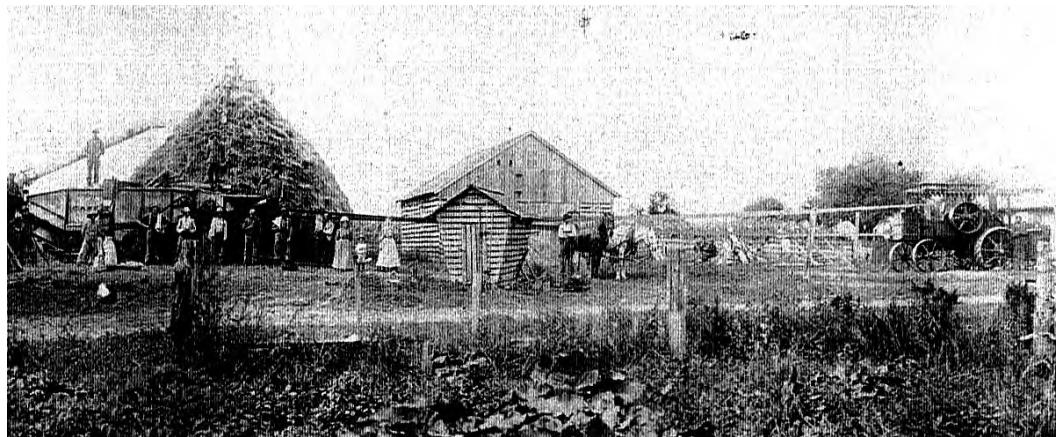


**Top Left: Seydel Farm—6304 Polk Street**—Ernest Seydel burned wood to make charcoal which he sold to the Pantlind Hotel and Macatawa Hotel in Holland about 1898. Seen in the picture are: Henry Maas, Erwin, Bernard and Ernest Seydel.  
**Maas Farm in Blendon Tp:** Erwin & Ernest Seydel, Wilhelmina (Eikelberg) Maas, Louise (Maas) Seydel, Frederick Maas, Anna (Maas) Ernzer, Henry Maas  
**Maas—Ernzer—Seydel Families—Back Row:** Caroline (Maas) Sonke, George Sonke, Anna (Maas) Ernzer, John Ernzer, Henry Maas, Gladys (Seydel) Hubbard, Ernest Seydel  
**Middle Row:** Wiley Sonke, Mildred (Sonke) Holmes, Erwin Seydel  
**Front Row:** Mrs. Ernzer, Mr. Ernzer (John's parents), Frederick Maas, Lila (Seydel) Irvine, Louise (Maas)



**Henry Maas' Log Cabin**

This cabin was located on 66th Avenue just south of Polk Street.  
When Mr. Maas first came to the area, he had a log cabin on the west side of Balsam Drive, north of Van Buren next to the creek. Then he moved to Blendon Township.

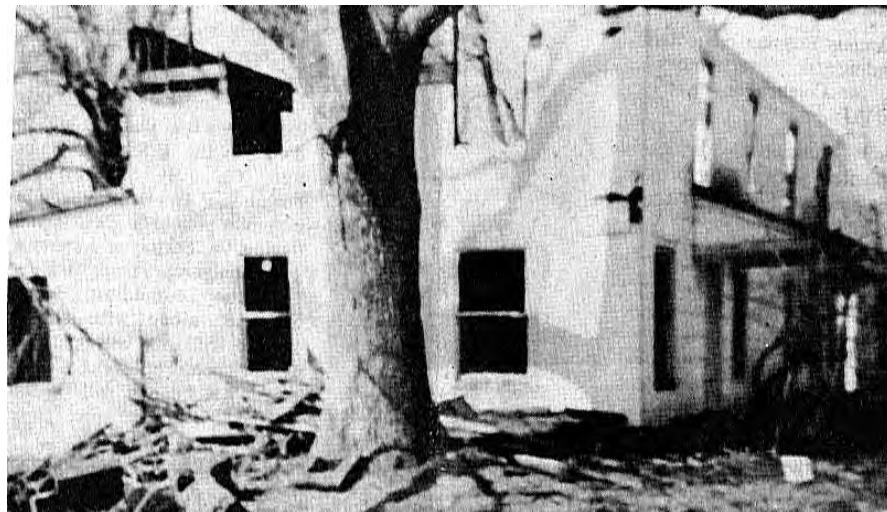


**Top Left:** A farm in the South Blendon area.

**Top Right:** Photo taken in 1948 at the former Blendon Landing by the Grand River near the current GVSU.

**Bottom Left:** Blendon Landing Hotel—The hotel was once located at Blendon Landing and was later moved to Bauer. The picture shows the former hotel after it burned about 1976. Soon after the fire, it was torn down.

**Bottom Right:** The Timmer Sawmill on 48th Avenue north of Barry Street, Blendon Township





**Left: South Blendon  
School No. 2**

Ken VanHeukelum (second from right standing) and classmates.

**Right: South Blendon 1921 8th  
Grade Graduates**

Back, Henrietta Vruggink, Jennie Kort, Lena Wierenga, Elizabeth TerHaar, Jessie Kort, Henry VanderWall  
Front: Marguerite VanHeukelum, Hazel Kunzi, Theresa Grandstra, George Vruggink, Gerrit Wierenga



**North Blendon School, No. 1, 1912-1913**

Back: Matilda Abel, teacher, Reka Veldhouse, Thora MacDonald, Mildred Dingeman, Ida Miedema, Oda Nibbelink, Catherine Behrens, Vesta Smedley, Marian Parady, Clara MacDonald, Johanna Jonekrijg, Earl Nibbelink, Darl Kautenberg, Bernard Engle  
Third: Grace Dineman, Clara Dekker, Frank Kautenberg, Harvey Behrens, Arthur Tambke, Henry Snoeyink, John Dekker, \_\_\_\_ Blue, Hazel Nibellink, Henrietta Borgerding, John Snoeyink, Russell Haskins, Dorothy Tambke  
Second: Charles Smedley, Nelson Dekker, Legar Dingeman, Arthur MacDonald, Walter Behrens, Gail Mosher, John Borgerding, Zwier Snoeyink, Helen Behrens, Ortha Mosher, Lila Seydel, Marie Borgerding, Leah Kautenberg  
Front: Raymond Leestma, Clayton Blue, Julia Topp, Clara Butler, Gladys Seydel, Laura Nibbelink, Fred Snoeyink, Peter Borgerding, William Behrens, Floyd Lehnhan, Henry \_\_\_\_\_. Missing some names

**History of North Blendon's  
Only Business**

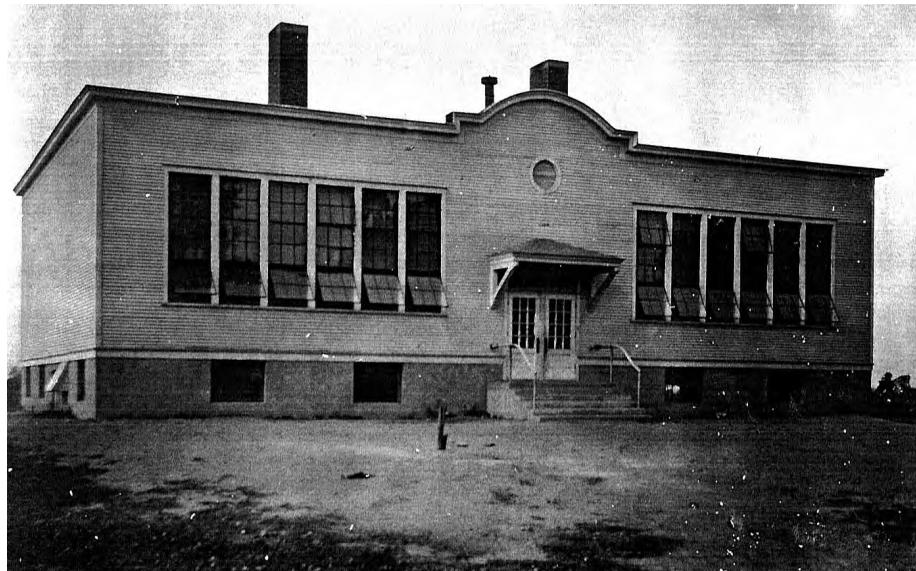
Hama Vander Molen, son of Anna, started out with a peddler wagon from which he sold goods and wares. He and his wife, Mary, had only one daughter, Doris.

They had the only store in North Blendon and their living quarters was in the back of the store. It was a place where the community came for their social times outside of the church where they all worshipped.



**1917 Sherburne School 8th Grade Graduates**

Back: Dina Wittingen, John Avink, \_\_\_\_ Zwagerman  
Front: Winnie Zoet, Minnie Beld, teacher, Lawrence Klynstra



**Beaverdam Christian School Founded in 1909**

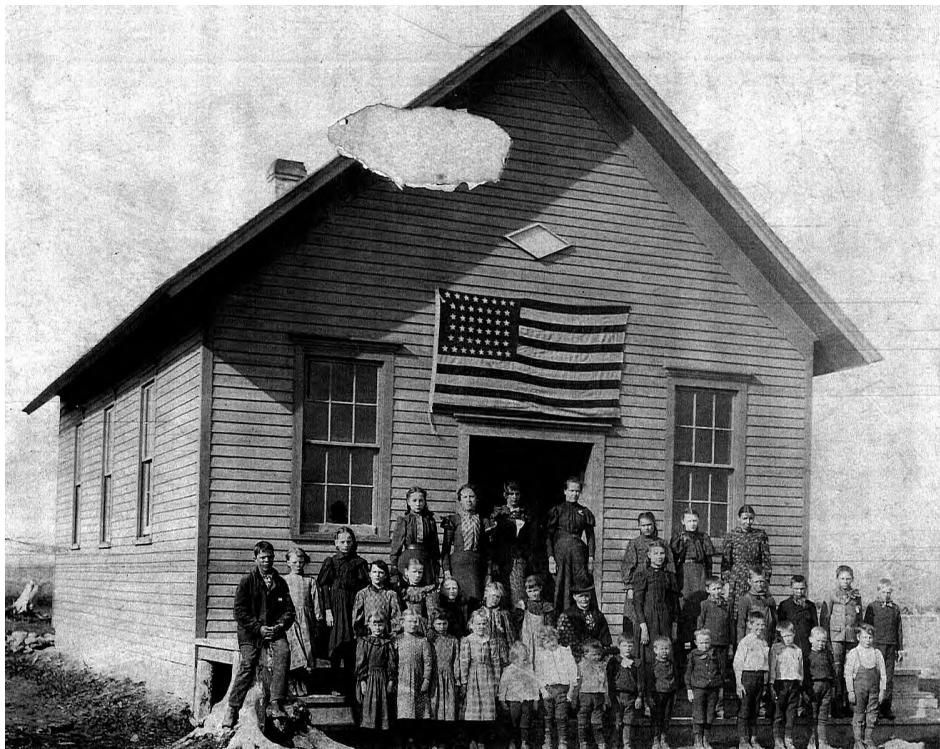


**Beaverdam Christian School Students, 1912-1913**

Back: Otto Kerkstra, Principal Herman Lankheet, Cor. Morren, John Kroll, Anna Wittengen, Minnie Kerkstra, Cobie Hop, Jennie VanLangevelde, Minnie Smit (Keizer), teacher, Gertie Smit Steenwyk, Dora Kerkstra

Second: Simon Grasman, John DeKraker, Ben Heuvelman, Jacob Grasman, Bertha Steenwyk, Hilda Steenwyk, Johanna Van Langevelde, Maggie Kroll, Gertie Steenwyk Kerkstra

Front: \_\_\_\_ DeKraker, Albert Schut, Ralph Heuvelman, Gerrit Schreur, Ben Karsten, Henry Heuvelman, Ed Heuvelman, Fred Heuvelman, Lou Steenwyk, Dick Schreur



**Above: North Blendon School, Early 1900's**

**Right: Corwin School, About 1904-1908**

The Corwin School contained eight grades in one room.



# JAMESTOWN TOWNSHIP

- **HISTORY**

**Early Officers**

**Early map of Jamestown**

**Biographical sketches**

**Hamlet of Hanley**

**PAGES 151 - 157**

- **FAMILIES, HOMES AND FARMS**

**PAGES 158 - 167**

- **BUSINESSES**

**PAGE 168**

- **SCHOOLS**

**Jamestown High School**

**District No. 2 School**

**map of jamestown school districts**

**Photos of Jamestown Schools**

**PAGES 169 - 174**

## JAMESTOWN TOWNSHIP

Interest in Jamestown Township began when Grandville on the east and Holland on the west were being settled. Rix Robinson persuaded people to come, because the area was covered with a fine forest. Grandville was the central point of settlement, and the land office was established there. In 1831, the area was surveyed. Jamestown is the most southeasterly township of Ottawa county.

James Cronkright and his wife were the first settlers in the township. They settled in 1843 and built a 16 x 22 foot house in section 11 and commenced clearing. The closest neighbors were four miles away, and there were no roads. S. L. Gitchel first settled in 1845. He became a specialist in making small bridges and corduroy roads. Mr. and Mrs. Mansur Brown (the parents of Mrs. Gitchel) followed in 1846, settling near their son, James M. Brown, who was married three years later. Soon after Charles Richardson, James Donnelly, Andrew Friz, Fitch Hill and others settled in the township. The first birth which occurred was Josiah F. Richardson, 27 Sep 1848. Among the early marriages may be mentioned Jarvis Lane to Mary Densmore, Orzina Clark to Delia Ann Cronkright, Van Buren Smith to Ella Bender, James M. Cronkright to Adelia Bender. Mr. Stephen L. Lowing was an early settler, residing in this township while it was a portion of Georgetown.

Until 1849, Georgetown and Jamestown were under the same jurisdiction. Twelve voters were required in what is now Jamestown before the townships could be separated. In 1849, the number was reached, and steps were taken to divide. The meeting took place at the James Cronkright Jr. home. Twelve men attended and were elected to office. Of the thirteen men present, four were named James, so this new township was named Jamestown. Six men living in the township were not at the meeting. It is believed that four men from the western part of the township could not yet speak English.

There were fifteen residents on the first 1849 tax roll covering seventeen parcels of land. These seventeen parcels were found in only nine of the thirty-six sections of the township. Six of those sections were in the western one-third of the township.

The 1850 town meeting was held at the Cronkright home again, but the 1851 and 1852 meetings were held at the first log school house. In 1853 it was held at the school house in Jamestown Center, the second school house in the township. The Forest Grove log school was built in 1853 by the third district. On 15 March 1849, the town was set off from Georgetown and was described as being Town 5 North, and of Range 13 West. The first meeting was held at the house of James Cronkright in April and there were only thirteen voters in the township when it was organized. They were Messrs. Brown, his son, James M. Brown, Nathan W. Charles, David Richardson, James and James M. Cronkright, James Skeels, George D. and August Donnelly, S. L. Gitchell, Andrew Frieze and Andrew Frieze, Jr.

The first officers were: James Skeels, Supervisor; James M. Brown, Clerk; James M. Cronkright, Treasurer; G. G. Donnelly, Charles Richardson, James Cronkright, and Nathan W. Richardson, justices. They raised \$125.

In 1873-74 the treasurer of the town, C. C. Pratt, disappeared. The mystery has not been cleared up, whether he was murdered or ran away. The following were officers from 1849 - 1881

NAME	YEARS	POSITION
ARNOLD, R. S.	1856-1858	SUPERVISOR
ARNOLD, RICHARD S.	1859	TREASURER
ARNOLD, WILLIAM	1855	SUPERVISOR
AVERY, GARDNER	1879-1881	SUPERVISOR

BOICE, JUDSON A.	1860-1862	TREASURER
BROWN, JAMES M.	1850, 1853	CLERK
BROWN, JOSEPH T.	1858	TREASURER
CHAMBERLAIN, HENRY H.	1879-1880	TREASURER
CHAMBERLAIN, NORMAN	1863-1865	TREASURER
CHAMBERLAIN, S. S.	1866-1868	TREASURER
CRONKRIGHT, JAMES M.	1850, 1852-1855	TREASURER
CROZIER, OWEN R. L.	1868-1869	SUPERVISOR
CURTIS, WILLIAM H.	1870-1872, 1875-1877	SUPERVISOR
DE FRIES, NICHOLUS	1874-1878	TREASURER
DEAN, DATUS	1857	TREASURER
FRIZ, ANDREW, JR.	1851	CLERK
GITCHEL, S. L.	1850-1851, 1854, 1860	SUPERVISOR
JACKSON, JOHN, SR.	1869-1880	CLERK
KIRBY, WILLIAM D.	1866	CLERK
KIRBY, WILLIAM D.	1861-1864, 1867	SUPERVISOR
LOVEJOY, HIRAM R.	1862-1865	CLERK
PEET, FRANKLIN H.	1875	CLERK
PEET, FRANKLIN H.	1881	TREASURER
PRATT, CHARLES C.	1871-1873	TREASURER
RICHARDSON, GEORGE F.	1881	CLERK
RICHARDSON, N. W.	1852	CLERK
SANDFORD, BENJAMIN F.	1867	CLERK
SEIZE, SIDNEY M.	1878	SUPERVISOR
SKEELS, JAMES	1849, 1852-1853	SUPERVISOR
SKEELS, THADDEUS	1854-1861	CLERK
SPENCER, DAVID S.	1868	CLERK
STILWELL, F. P.	1856	TREASURER
STILWELL, F. P.	1859	SUPERVISOR
WHITNEY, ALBERT	1869-1870	TREASURER
WILKINSON, ROBERT R.	1865-1866, 1873-1874	SUPERVISOR
WILKINSON, ROBERT R.	1877	TREASURER
YEMMENS, CLARK	1851	TREASURER

The early settlers of Jamestown had to either carry their provisions in from Grandville on their backs or pull them through the woods on sledges.

Three years later at an election for Governor only 27 votes were cast. When the last census (1870) was taken the town contained 1,806 inhabitants. In 1881 there are about 2,100 inhabitants.

Jamestown ranks among the foremost towns for general farming purposes and leads in the raising of wheat. The timber is mainly hard woods with a small proportion of pine.

The township has no village of consequence, but maintains its present rank simply by its natural attractiveness and fertility. There are about 450 acres of orchard. It has but one manufacturing establishment and a saw mill in its limits. The first school was established in the township in 1851 and the teacher was Elizabeth Bates.

The first post office was established in 1857 with S. L. Gitchel, Post Master, and Thaddeus Skeels, Deputy. There are three post offices, Hanley, in the northeast, Jamestown Center, and Forest Grove in the southeast. In the early days people received their mail from Grandville.

Thomas A. Garfield, brother of President James Garfield, lives in the township on a small farm. The money to build a house was sent from the White House in 1877 when the log residence burned to the ground. Thomas sold the Ohio farm in 1854 and moved to Michigan.

### **Churches**

The pioneer preacher was Elder A. B. Toms, a Free Will Baptist. There is a church building for the Dutch Reformed, and organizations of Baptists, Methodists and Disciples.

The Reformed Church of Jamestown has sprung up among the settlers who came into the township from Holland in the year 1867 and afterward, the country then being still, the greater part, covered with the original forest. These Holland settlers were at first members of the Reformed Church of Drenthe, but the distance being too great for them regularly to attend religious services there. The President of Hope College, Dr. P. Phelps, and the Theological students, offered to visit them and preach for them from time to time, both in the English and Holland languages to accommodate both Hollanders and Americans living in the neighborhood. This proposal was accepted and acted upon, and on intervening Sundays, when there was no preaching, some one appointed by the people read to them a sermon.

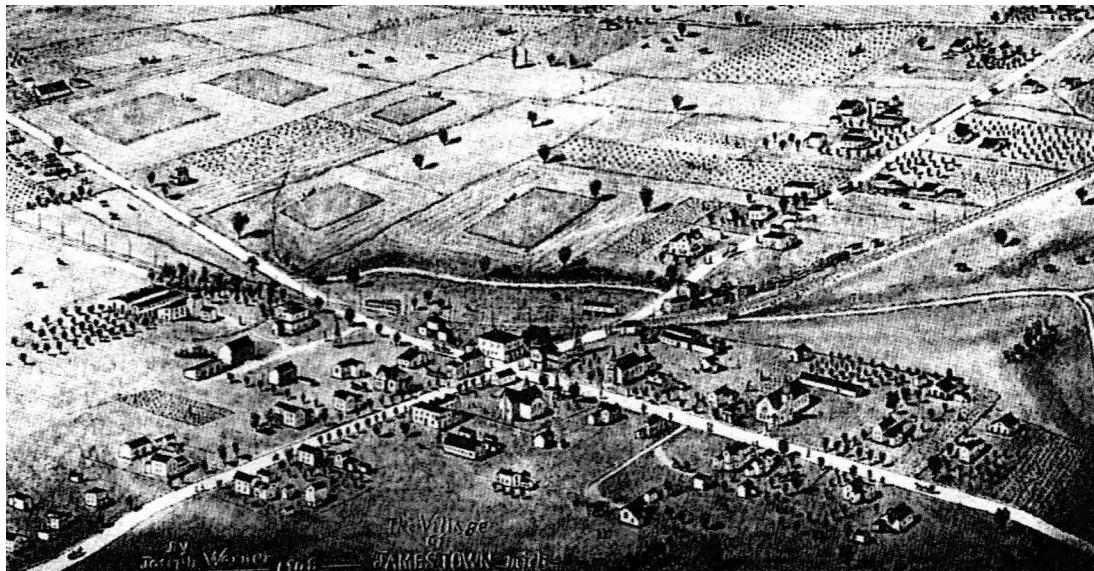
In 1869 the congregation was organized under the jurisdiction of the Classis of Holland, there being originally sixteen members, the first Elders elected being Hendrik Vande Bunte and William Veenboer, under whose supervision the congregation grew till the year 1872, when the present church edifice was erected, with a seating capacity for about 200 persons. About two years afterwards the church sustained a severe blow in the deaths of two of their Elders and prominent men, W. Veenboer and D. DeKleine, who, together with the still living Elder H. Van de Bunte, had done much by their aid and counsel for the up-building of the church. Nevertheless the congregation took courage to build a parsonage and to call a minister, the Rev. John Vander Meuler, who was installed as pastor on 30 May 1875, and who still officiates in that capacity. The church has grown from an original membership of sixteen to the present number of one hundred and four members in full communion, and has before it a large field of labor, being the first, and with one exception, the only religious organization in the township, and the only one at present owning a church edifice.

### **New Moon Lodge, I. O. O. F., No. 284**

The I.O.O.F. lodge located at Jamestown Center was established 13 July 1876, Grand Master Ingersoll presiding. The charter members and first officers were: A. J. Clark, N.G.; L. B. Brown, V.G.; B. S. Gitchel, Secretary; Miles Woolman, Treasurer; S. L. Gitchel, O.G.; Orlando Wells, I.G., H. A. Hudson, Warden; D. Cunningham, Conductor; J. W. Shearer, R.S.N.G.

The Charter Initiates were: George Hammond, Henry Hooper, William Kridler, George M. Pember, William H. H. Wells, Albert Mott, L. M. Wolf and F. H. Peet.

The present officers are: H. Hooper, N.G.; J. Hefner, V.G.; S. Standish, Rec. Sec'y; Levi Yemmens, Per.Sec'y; R. Avery, Treasurer; William Kridler, O.G.; O. Wells, I.G.; Orin Crofoot, Warden; Herbert Green, Conductor; Eliot Yemmens, R.S.N.G.; Nathan Saddler, L.S.N.G.; James Tibbits, R.S.V.G.; S. J. Kellogg, L.S.V.G.; E. J. Kellogg and B. Fouch, Scene Supporters; W. H. Taylor, Chaplain.



**Layout of Village of Jamestown, late 1800's**

### **Early History of Jamestown Township**

**FOREST GROVE STATION**, BYRON ROAD NEAR 48th AVENUE. The old creamery of the Jamestown Creamery Company still stands. Built in 1893-94, it is believed to be the first in this part of the state. It was in use until about 1940 when the business and the name went to Jamestown, where a more modern plant was operating.

On the northeast corner was a power house for the electric cars, Brower's ice house and pond for storing and making ice in winter, a blacksmith shop, and two homes. On the northwest corner was the railroad station used in the early 1900s and the buildings of John Brower, all of which remain standing. Before 1902, John Brower bought the property, built a store and house combined and later built an elevator and livery barn. This may have been the ninth grocery store in the township. At least four did butchering and/or took butchered animals to Grand Rapids.

**E.H. BOK**, Blacksmith, 32th AVENUE NEAR PERRY STREET. Mr. Bok and his sons, John and Henry, did a good business in their large barn repairing and selling buggies and wagons. Later they sold international equipment and built an all-metal shop behind the house. They did arc, gas, and forge welding. There was an underground tunnel between the house and shop, which still stands. Before Bok built this building, the shop was across the street.

**FIRST CHURCH**, 32th AVENUE NEAR PERRY STREET. The first church in Jamestown Township was built in 1873. Parts of the original structure remain. It was sold to the Christian Reformed Church when the Reformed Church built a new building.

**THE MAPLE GROVE SCHOOL AND POST OFFICE**, 32nd AVENUE. Built in 1853, it was the third school in the township. In 1865, it burned and was rebuilt in a beautiful maple grove, thus it was named Maple Grove School. When the post office was established in the village, it could not be called Maple Grove, because there was another Maple Grove Post Office in the state. Therefore they called it Forest Grove.

**PERRY STREET** was probably the first road used to get to Holland by some of the Jamestown settlers. A group of men, including James Cronkright, first walked it according to an account recorded by Pauline Hall Gitchel in her book, "The Early History of Jamestown Township, 1843-1870."

**JAMESTOWN CENTER, 24th AVENUE**. The area was first known as the Center. On the southeast corner was a blacksmith shop. A large cistern stood behind it for village fire protection. It was last owned by R.B. Stilwill and has since been moved to the Blandford Nature Center in Grand Rapids. On the larger lot is the township Hall, and nearby is the second log school house of the township. Finally, a large brick school building was constructed in 1922; it housed kindergarten through tenth grades. South of this lot stood the Interurban Hotel with an ice house and livery barn. Over the years, this building included a barber shop, pool hall, saloon, and cobbler shop. Farther south was, at one time, another blacksmith shop, which was later moved. At the end of this row of buildings was a slaughterhouse operated by John Buwalda. The old butcher wheel used for pulling cattle is still in existence.

On the southwest corner stands the grocery store built by Hendrik De Kleine, who operated it until about 1910. Just west, the De Kleine farm covered sixty acres but did not include the lots along 24th Avenue. Nick and Louis De Kleine raised ferrets to be sold all over the U.S. They were needed for killing rats. Disease and a state law prohibiting ferrets put them out of business before 1913.

On the northwest corner, the Zager brothers operated a hardware store in the building now housing the Post Office. Just west was an elevator for buying and selling wheat. It was built by the De Kleines to help with the ferret business. A large pickle-processing building was on the north side of the Interurban tracks with about thirty-five large salting tanks and dilling equipment. In 1965, with most of the business consolidated and most of the tanks in Bentheim, the firm was sold. It was later known as Pilgrim Farms and is one of the largest pickle processing companies in the U.S. A.

## Cemeteries

There are four cemeteries in Jamestown Township -

**Jamestown Cemetery** – located on the east side of 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue, south of Riley Street

**Forest Grove Cemetery** – located on the north side of Gordon Street, west of 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

**Zutphen Cemetery** – located on the east side of 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue, north of Byron Road

**Star Cemetery (formerly Kridler Cemetery)** – located on the southwest corner of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Perry Street. At one time arrowheads were found frequently in this area.

## 1882 Biographical Sketches of Jamestown Township

**GARDNER AVERY** – was born in Madison County, NY, 17 Feb 1844. Thrown upon his own resources at the age of 10, he labored in different occupations until 1862 when he enlisted in Company B, 157th New York Volunteers, rank, Sergeant. Served one year in the army of the Potomac, when he was transferred to the army of the South, and remained until the close of the war. He was married 3 May 1866, to Helen Kern, who was born in Madison County, NY, 2 Nov 1842, when he settled in Jamestown, Ottawa County, in section 12, but now resides on section 17, of which township he is now serving his third term as Supervisor. He has six children whose names are: Irvette E., Aggie V., Clara J., Blanche A., Arde--- and Earle.

**GEORGE A. BROWN** – was born in Greece, Monroe County, NY, 16 Dec 1845. At the age of majority he settled in Grand Haven, Michigan, engaged as an engineer, and remained with different parties until 1877 when he settled in Jamestown, on section 10, where he now resides. He married 23 Nov 1865, Sophia Hoffkoutz, who was born in Prussia, near Dantsic, 4 Nov 1856. He has two children, Joseph K. and Mary L. His father, Joseph T. Brown, originally purchased the entire half of section 10, and settled on it in 1857, where he lived until his death, 1 Jan 1861.

**LUCIUS B. BROWN** – born in Chautauqua County, NY, 23 Jan 1822, settled in Crawford County, PA, in 1837, and in Georgetown, Ottawa County, Michigan, in 1856, on section 25, removed to section 1, Jamestown, where he now resides, in 1865. He married 18 Oct 1842, Caroline E. Hamlin, who was born in Saratoga county, NY, 14 Jul 1823. He has two children, Annie L., born 29 Jul 1843 and married to George D. Lane, Oct, 1859; Annes R., born 26 Jun 1850, married William H. Thresher 31 Dec 1876.

**THOMAS GARFIELD** – brother of the late President, was born in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, 16 October 1822. On account of the indigent circumstances of his parents he never received what might be called a common school education, but spent his whole energy in laboring on the farm “to keep the wolf away from the door”. The late President, James A. Garfield, was largely indebted to him for the advantages which he received for obtaining his education. Thomas labored incessantly that his brother might improve himself educationally, and not unfrequently carried him, when young, on his back through the snow drifts.

Mr. Thomas Garfield remained in the town of his birth till 1853 when he settled in Byron, Kent county, Michigan, but after a stay of three years returned to Ohio, and settled in Solon Township, where he remained till April, 1867, when he made Jamestown, Ottawa County, Michigan, his home, settling on section 11, where he still resides. He never made a success of life financially, which, perhaps, is partly owing to the fact that in youth he toiled so hard as to occasion fits, which have troubled him more or less during his whole life. He was married 18 Oct 1849 to Miss Mary J. Harper, who was born in Oxford County, Maine, 25 Nov 1828. Two children, James A. Garfield, who was born 26 Aug 1850, and Florence E., born 26 Apr 1855.

James A. was married 26 Sep 1876 to Miss Amelia Cramer, born in Madison County, NY, 31 May 1848. Florence E. was married 1 Sep 1878 to Charles A. Odell.

**S. L. GITCHEL** – was born in Erie County, PA, 11 Feb 1811. While very young he became an orphan and engaged in general farm work until July 1846, when he settled in Jamestown, Ottawa County, Michigan, being the second settler in the township, also built the second house in the township, on section 1. He now resides on section 33, and spends his time mostly in his farm employments. He has enjoyed the confidence of his townsmen to a large extent, having been Supervisor four times, Justice, Commissioner, etc., was also the first to receive the appointment of Postmaster, which was in 1857. He married 19 Dec 1838 to Louisa C. Brown, who was born in Windham County, Connecticut, 5 May 1818. He has six living children and lost four by death. One son, David M., enlisted in Company I, 3<sup>rd</sup> Michigan Infantry, May 1861, and died July 12<sup>th</sup> following from disease contracted in the service. Another son, George W., who remains at home, was born 13 May 1857, married 23 Sep 1879 to Paulina L. Hall, who was born in Kent County, Michigan, 19 Nov 1856.

**LAMBERT LUTEN** – was born in the Netherlands, 5 Oct 1837, settled in Holland, Michigan in 1847, thence to Grand Rapids in 1848. He enlisted 12 Sep 1861 in Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Engineers and Mechanics, being a mason by trade. He served in the department of the

Cumberland until the close of the war, was with Sherman on his march to the sea, etc. He married 6 May 1866, Minnie Hagens, who was born in the Netherlands 11 Jan 1844. The same year of their marriage they settled in Jamestown on section 10 where he now resides. He has five children: Betell, Daniel B., Grace C., John H., and Alice J.

**CHARLES H. RICHARDSON** – was born in Lenawee County, Michigan on 28 Feb 1838, settled in Jamestown in 1847, and resides on section 21, being a farmer. He enlisted in Company F, 15<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry, in 1865. He married 24 Feb 1860 to Mrs. Mary E. Bowen, whose maiden name was Stevens, who was born in Wayne Co., NY, 22 Mar 1833, and settled in St. Joseph County, Michigan in 1838. He has two children, Minerva Bowen and Cora E. Richardson.

**THADDEUS SKEELS** – was born in Onondaga County, NY, 21 Jul 1815, settled in Jamestown on section 16, in 1851. Has been township clerk about ten years, and postmaster eight years. He married 27 Aug 1840 Mary Arnold, who was born in Ontario County, NY 20 Mar 1820. He has one living child, Richard. His oldest son, William, enlisted in 1863 and died 15 Apr 1865, from disease contracted in the service.

**RILEY STANDISH** – was born in Livingston County, NY, 16 Nov 1834, settled in Jamestown in 1852, now lives on section 15; a farmer. He enlisted 4 Sep 1861, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Michigan Cavalry. Served in the army of the Cumberland, rank of Sergeant, was wounded in the leg while skirmishing in Tennessee, 27 Jan 1864, and never returned to the front. He married 2 Aug 1856, Lucy Church, who was born in Lorain County, Ohio, 29 Nov 1840. He has three children, Carrie, Luther and Martha.

**JAN TIESINGA** – was born in the Netherlands 9 Aug 1844, settled in Holland, Michigan in 1868, and in Jamestown Apr, 1869. Followed farming until 1878, when he established a general store at Forest Grove, where he still does business, also is the Postmaster there. He married 20 Mar 1868, to Maggie Veenboer, who was born in the Netherlands 25 Feb 1849, and settled in Ottawa County in 1868. Her father, Wilhelm, was born 20 Oct 1823 and died 21 Sep 1871. Her mother, Jantje (Clooster), was born 16 Jun 1825, is still living.

**JOHN N. WAITE** – was born in Summit County, Ohio, 10 Sep 1840, settled in Macomb County, Michigan, in 1854, and in Georgetown, Ottawa County, in 1856. He engaged in general business until 10 Jun 1861, when he enlisted in Company I., 3<sup>rd</sup> Michigan Infantry. Served in the army of the Potomac until 27 Sep 1862, when he was discharged for disability. In 1870, he engaged in the mercantile business at Hanley, a hamlet in Jamestown, where he still transacts business. He has been postmaster and Justice of the Peace. He married 14 Dec 1862 to Jennie L. Johnson, who was born in Orleans County, NY, 1 Jun 1846. He has five children: Eva R., Louis R., John J., Carrie L. and Glenn H.

**ATHERON C. WHIPPLE** – was born in Erie County, NY, 20 Aug 1852, settled in Kent County, Michigan in 1855, and in Jamestown, Ottawa County, in 1865, follows farming and coal burning, and resides on section 1. His father, Inman, was born in Oneida County, NY, 9 Sep 1816, died 27 May 1871, and married Harriet N. Olds, 15 Mar 1840, who was born in Onondaga County, NY, 27 Apr 1822.

## Hamlet of Hanley

Hanley in the mid to late 1800's was a busy place of trade. At one time within a mile from the geographical center, there were four school houses, a carpenter's shop, three blacksmith shops, one of them operated by Tubal Cains who made anything of iron or steel that was needed at that time. There was a pottery where earthenware was made, a church, a brick yard was started, and there were two retail stores. In the community there were ten residences but many of the houses are gone and five stand empty. Wood was plentiful and land was cheap. Today the land is \$100 per acre and most of the community burns coal. The schoolhouse and cemetery are on the north side of Jackson Street, which is in Georgetown Township, while the church and most other buildings were located on the south side and are in Jamestown Township.

There is only a Methodist Church, a white school house, a white store and three or four houses left. (1903)

Today, Hanley consists of the Hanley Cemetery, formerly known as the Olmstead Cemetery as it is located on what once was Olmstead property, and a church, Hanley Christian Reformed Church, which once was housed in the old white church but now has a brick edifice which sits back from the old church building. (2008)



### **Skeels - Arnold - Whitney Families of Jamestown**

Left Top:  
Thaddeus Skeels, Rex and Rana Skeels

Top Right: Arnold Siblings  
Back: Hannah Syers Whitney, Abraham,  
Mae Dean  
Front: Frank, Dwight, James  
was first postmaster of Jamestown

Bottom: Home of Albert and Hannah  
(Arnold) Whitney, 24th Avenue, Jame-  
stown

Spencer Stacy Arnold was born in this  
house. Hannah was his aunt.





**Nicholas DeGroot Family**

Top Left: Standing-Henry, Martin, Ella, Hattie  
Sitting-Nicholas, Clara, Henrietta (Bowman), Jeanette (Janet)



**Henry Bowman Barn in Jamestown Township, Section 10**

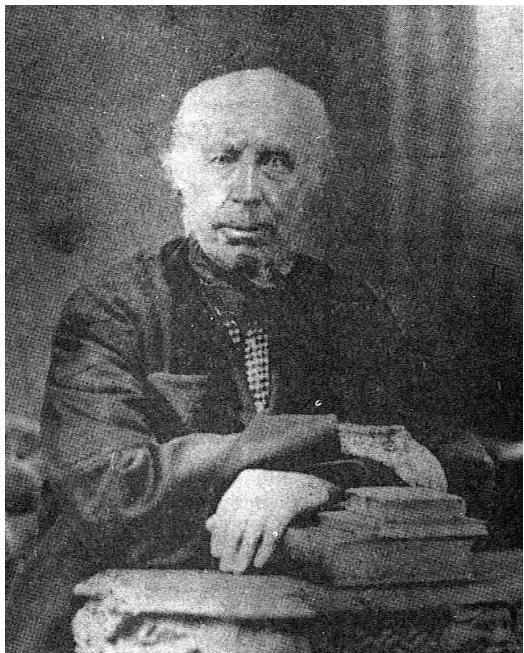
**Nicholas DeGroot Family at the Bowman Reunion**

Back: Nick DeWeerd, Ella (DeGroot) DeWeerd, Mart VanderMolen, Hattie (DeGroot) VanderMolen, Mart, Margaret, Clara, Henrika (Bowman) and Nick DeGroot

Middle: Henrietta & Johanna DeWeerd, Janet DeGroot

Front: Henry DeGroot, Harriet DeGroot, Warren DeWeerd, Karl VanderMolen, Julia DeWeerd, Laura VanderMolen, Ruth VanderMolen, Clarence DeWeerd





Derk DeKleine, 1798-1874



Grietje (DeKleine) and Hendrick Kamer



Lukas and Grietje (Riddering) DeKleine



Jan & Dena DeKleine

### Derk DeKleine Family

Derk and Margje (Oostindie) DeKleine left their home in Ruinerwold, Drenthe, Netherlands and came to America in 1848. They first went to Holland, Michigan where VanRaalte gave them advice and also sold them land. They settled in Drenthe, Michigan where Margje died five years later. Derk's children all settled either in the Drenthe area or Jamestown Township.

They had seven children all born in the Netherlands. The youngest being 3 months old when they left there. Their children's names are: Derk who married Geesje Heins, Lukas married Geertje Riddering, Grietje married Hendrick Kamer, Jacobje married Jan Nyenhuis, Jan married Dena Riddering, Hendrick who married Fannie Boer (They had a grocery store in Jamestown), and Hilbert who married Alice Kremers. They lived in Forest Grove, Michigan.



Jan Nyenhuis, husband of Jacobje (DeKleine) Nyenhuis



Hendrick DeKleine Home



Hilbert and Alice (Kremers) DeKleine



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Hendrick and Fannie (Boer) DeKleine

**Left: Gerrit Willis Timmer** was born 5 Feb 1922 in Forest Grove, Michigan. The 8th of ten children born to Andrew G. and Jennie (Nyenhuis) Timmer. He attended Forest Grove Elementary School and was a member of Forest Grove Reformed Church. He worked at H. J. Heinz Co. Gerrit entered the service 7 Dec 1942. After his basic training and later, army maneuvers. He came home the last of November, 1943 and married Minnie (DeVree) 7 Dec 1943. They had one son, Kenneth G. Timmer, born 25 Feb 1945. In July he arrived in Italy. He took part in the southern invasion of France 17 Aug 1944, was wounded 27 Aug 1944, and hospitalized until October. He returned to battle and was killed 27 Nov 1944 in the Italian invasion in southern France and was buried in US Military Cemetery at Epinal, France. His body was brought to US on 22 May 1948 and buried at Forest Grove Cemetery.



**Mrs. Thomas (Jane)  
Morrill**



**Irene Morrill**

**The Thomas Morrill Family**

Thomas and Jane Morrill resided in Dorr Township, Allegan County where most of their children were born.

The sons, Delmar, Sherman and Sheridan lived in Jamestown Township for some years. Sherman and Sheridan remained in the area and are buried in Georgetown Township Cemetery. They lived on 40th Avenue north of New Holland Street.

Doris and Blanch are the daughters of Sherman and Mary (Dorman) Morrill.

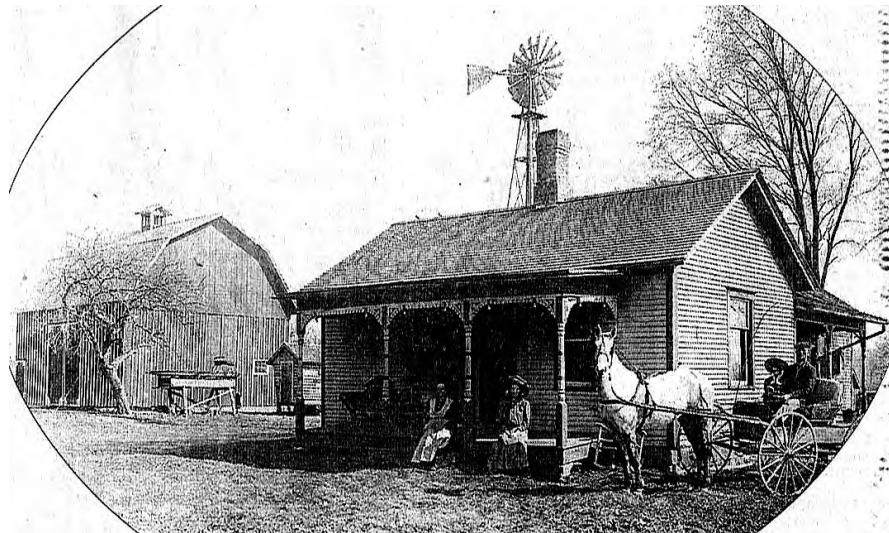


**Brower House**

Above: The brick Brower home on Ransom Street

Below: This home replaced the brick home and the picture is from 1928. The porch was later removed.





**Albert Elliott Home**

Home of Albert and Elsie Elliott which was located at 1544 Greenly Street, Jamestown Township



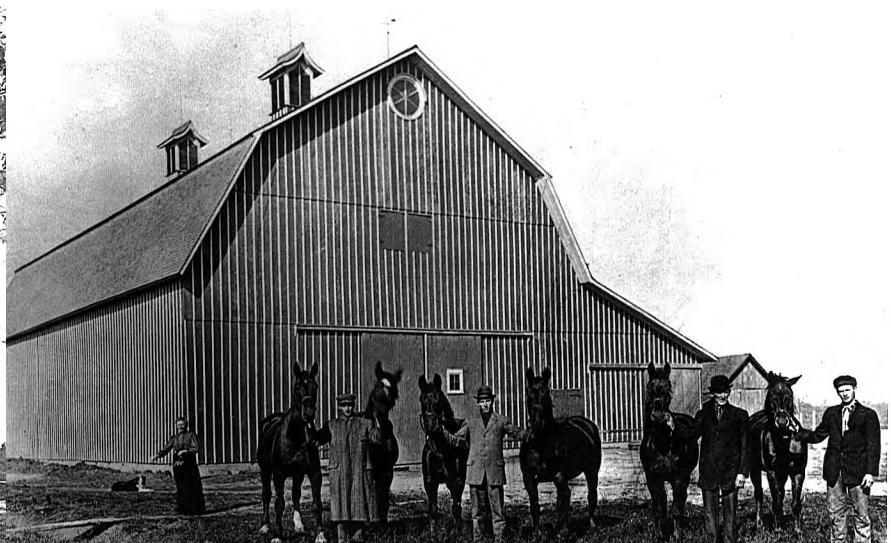
**Van Noord Home**

24th Avenue in the Village of Jamestown



**The Albert Ensink Farm**

Left: Trudie, Bert, Fred, Jennie, Gezina, Albert, Nick—This farm was located on the northwest corner of Quincy Street and 32nd Avenue. The home and buildings are gone. Meijer Supermarkets plans to build a new store on this property in the near future (2008).  
 Right: The Ensink barn with Gezina, Nick, Fred, Albert, Bert and their horses.





### Roswell Boice Stilwill Family

Top Left: 1897 picture of Roswell Boice I, Nellie Germain Stilwill, Roswell B. II, Mana (Shober) Stilwill, wife of RBI, Abigail Rozena Stilwill, Gracie Melvina Stilwill

Top Right: Roswell Boice II, Roswell Boice III, and Clarine (TerHarr) Stilwill, RB II's wife

Bottom Left: Brothers, Iran Max and Roswell Boice III Stilwill (17 years apart in age)  
Bottom Center:

Back: Roswell B. III, Roswell B. II, Clarine, Ruth, wife of Iran and Iran Stilwill

Front: Myra, wife of RB III, their daughters, Mary, Becky  
Bottom Right: Rocky (RB IV), Myra, Rex (RB V) Stilwill at Blandford Nature Center.

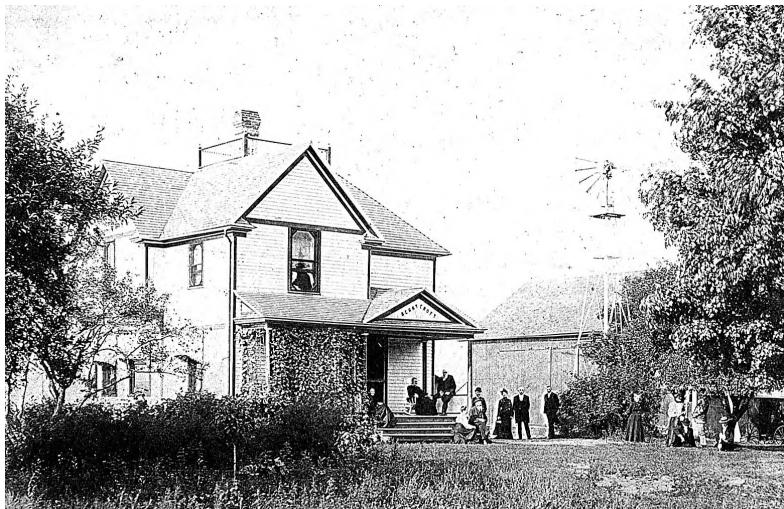




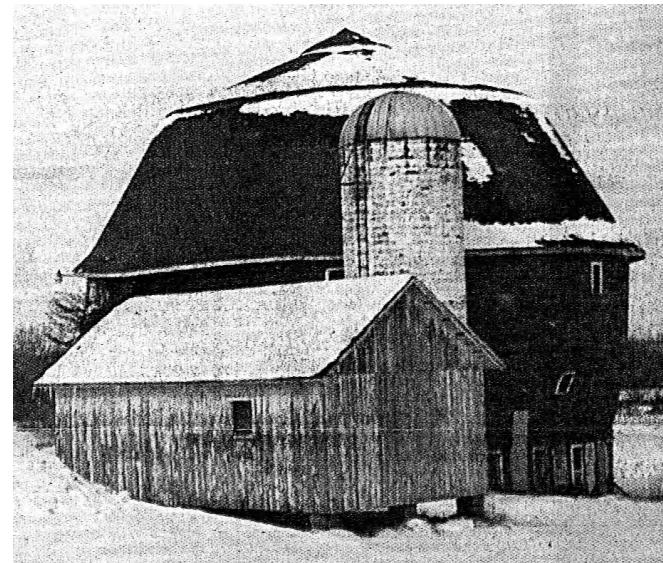
**R. B. Stilwill Blacksmith Shop - Jamestown, Michigan**

Photo on the left is the original blacksmith shop. Note in the left side you can see a small portion of the Jamestown High School. The photo on the right is the last blacksmith shop which was given to Blandford Nature Center. The photo below is of Roswell Boice II working on a job. It was located on the southeast corner of the village of Jamestown. The township office is in that location now.





**The Richardson Farm, Section 11**



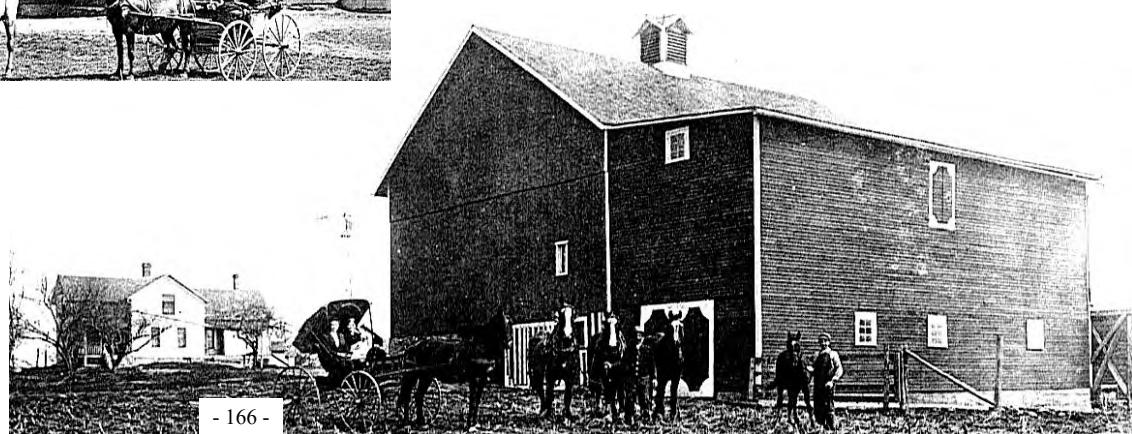
**Jamestown Farms**

**Top:** Round Barn in Section 10 on Riley Street. It was built in 1917 by the Harvey Arnold family. Mr. Arnold also built a stone silo which stands just across the road. The barn was restored once around the 1960's. In the beginning it was a free-standing barn but beams were added later. In 1997, the building is in poor condition and the owners are going to allow it to collapse as the foundation



**Above:** Lucas Van Rhee Farm, Riley Street, in Section 9, just west of the Village of Jamestown.

**Right:** Thomas Rynbrandt Homestead, Byron Road, in Section 22.





**Hiram Chandler Tillottson Home—Hanley, Michigan**

Hiram was a brother of Mary Tillottson who married Orrin Edson. Hiram and his wife had no children.



### Jamestown's Early Days

Top Left: North on 24th Avenue.

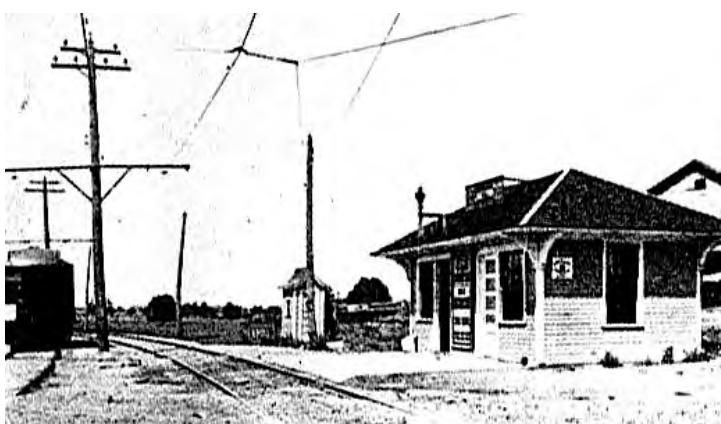
Top Right: Takken's Delivery Wagon, 24th Avenue  
Center Left: Riley and 24th Avenue.

Center: Riley looking west.

Center Right: West of 24th Avenue.

Bottom Left: Interurban Depot on 24th Avenue.

Bottom Right: looking east on Riley Street.





## **(JAMESTOWN HIGH SCHOOL - Spring, 1919**

**Jamestown High School was located on 24th Avenue just south of  
R. B. Stilwill's blacksmith shop which was located at the  
southeast corner of 24th Avenue and Riley Street.)**

by Virginia Avery Meeth

When word reached us that there was to be a High School at Jamestown I made haste to enroll. Most of the first ninth grade was made up of children who had been out of school for two years or more.

Eighth grade had been rather sketchy. A new school was to be built in the spring of 1919 and the old school was dismantled. The new school wasn't ready until November and three precious months had been lost.

Now in our eighth year we had draw-backs. Our teacher, Jacob Van Dyke, decided, after teaching a few weeks, to leave. We had Mrs. Dick Smallegan for a few months. She gave up Bell School to come to teach at Maple Grove (Forest Grove). Before the term was over her certificate ran out. For the last weeks of school Mrs. Fanny Plasman Van Dyke came. She was a fine teacher but we were rebellious at having our teacher uprooted.

At that time children had to write their exams at Holland. It was going to be particularly tough that year because we had to crowd into seven months what

most had nine to accomplish. We all went to Holland. No teacher came to give us last minute coaching. Mr. VandeBunte was there with his students and he came over and gave us a briefing. I think we all passed in spite of the fact that Nelson R. Stanton stood over us with a forbidding look.

With only seven months of eighth grade and two terms at home, High School, although welcome, gave us some doubts as to our ability to handle it. The summer of twenty-two finally ended and to school we went. The first ninth grade was an assortment of children of all ages. Some came fresh from the eighth but most of us would have felt ourselves a bit rusty.

Just Dick Vande Bunte taught that first year. He had planned to teach the eighth too but the ninth was such a big class that he had to abandon his plans to teach that class. We had no separate class room that year. We studied at our desks and gave our assignments from it. We had no extra curriculum. It was all work and we loved it. As I remember, a Glee Club was formed but I didn't take part. It was after school hours and the walk home was long. (Nate) She lived  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile east of the Forest Grove School.

I can't recall any electric lights. Dark days were just something we took in our stride. Those days were extremely happy ones. We felt we had the very best of teachers. Many years later I received a letter from Mr. Vande Bunte in answer to a Christmas card I sent him. He said "I was so poorly qualified to teach High School at that time, I had to really work to keep ahead of that class." They were there because they wanted to learn. Most had a taste of just staying home with little to occupy them, so the prospect of once again being able to go to school was a great privilege.

Some of the class took Latin, but Botany and Zoology was offered for those who didn't. The ninth did give a play that first year. I can't recall what it was, but a success never-the-less.

The next year our tenth grade had Jeanette Hoffman who came to assist Mr. Vande Bunte. That year we had a class-room and it seemed more like the real thing. We had devotions out in the large room where the primary kids were. It all seemed such fun. We met and selected blue and gold for our class colors. Motto: "Be not simply good; Be good for something."

Graduation Day came all too soon for me. I loved it so. We searched the fields for wild mustard and violets and spent the day arranging them.

Baccalaureate services were held at one of the churches. Myrtle Klooster was our Valedictorian. Raymond Brummel was the Salutatorian. We met once more the next day and had our class picture taken at Zeeland.

With great feeling we disbanded. Some went on to other schools. I to Byron. But the days of Jamestown High will always live in my memory as one of the happiest episodes of my life.

**Jamestown School, District No. 2  
Located in Jamestown Center  
Jamestown Township, Ottawa Co., Michigan**

The history of the School District No. 2 at Jamestown Center is described in old records as: "The four corners of sections 9, 10, 15, and 16 was a swampy place with many fallen trees with Canadian thistles amidst the standing timber. A schoolhouse was built near this pond."

This was in 1852-1853. The school house was located on the northwest corner of the NW 1/4 NW 1/4 of Section 15. There was a desk around the room on three sides, against the wall, with a seat in front. If one wanted a back to the seat, they only had to turn around and lean against the desk. The stove was in the center. The teacher's table was on the north side and near the door. Some of the early teachers were Anise Brown, Elizabeth Friz, Maria Gitchel, Dexter Stilwell, Naomi Norton, Millard Styles, Horace Keyes, Emma Abbott and there were others, for this schoolhouse was used thirteen years. No records are in existence.

All religious and township meetings, and funerals were held in this log schoolhouse, besides exhibitions and spelling contests.

When the new schoolhouse was built in 1865, the old log building was moved across the road on section 16. When in readiness, Mrs. Skeels (Aunt Kitty), widow of Spencer Skeels, moved in and lived there a number of years. She did weaving for a living.

The first teacher in the new schoolhouse was Charles Christle. Others who followed were Mattie Kimball, O. R. L. Crosier, Libbie Cilley, Byron Sweet, Melissa Utter, John Woodward, Rodinthy Stranahan, Frank Carpenter and Alice Hess?. This list is incomplete. Today the present generation, riding by this school lot, now improved, can have no idea that this pond of water ever existed. All that goes in the making of good roads has been done here. Through its progressive people, now living here, the old frame school building has been replaced by a new structure.

Present member of the school board are: President, Dr. William Reus, Secretary, Albert Zagers, Treasurer, George VanRhee, and Trustees, Horace Hall and Henry Van Noord. The present building was erected in 1886 and a library later was added to it. CWA work in the winter of 1934-35 completed the basement. The school is the center of activities of many kinds for the community. The school's capable band and orchestra are under the direction of Bert Brandt.

Otto Yntema was the principal, Esther Holleman and Miss \_\_\_\_\_ Kloster were the teachers. The pupils of the school are as follows:

**Tenth graders:** Lewis DeVries, Julia Grit, Hobard Hall, Raymond Huizenga, Norman Kellogg, Merlin Klooster, Harry Lanting, Benjamin Raterink, Kenneth Richardson, Justin Schipper, Dick VandeBunte, Gerard VanKoevering, Lillian VanNoord, Gordon VanRhee, Skiney Venema and Alice Wiers.

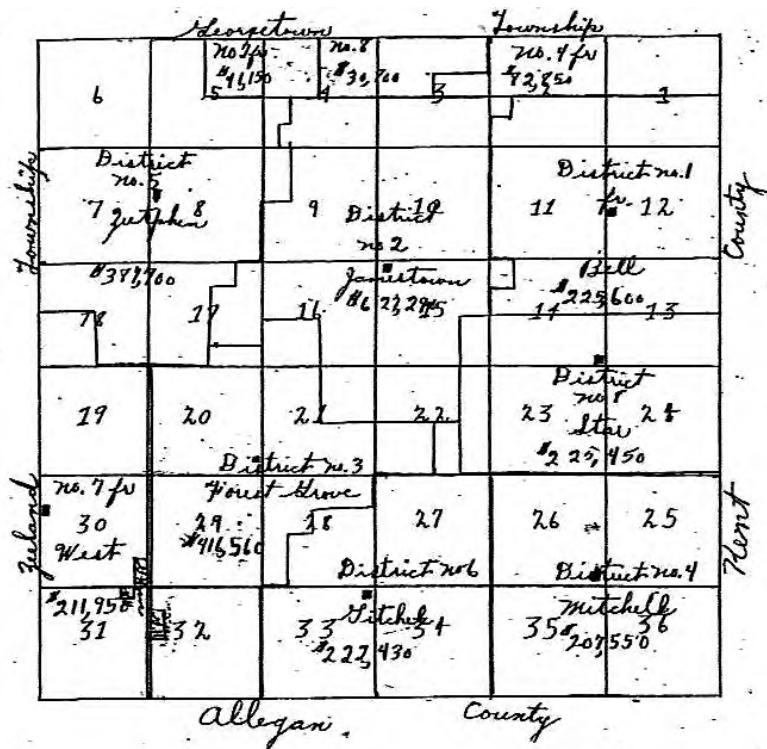
**Ninth graders:** Theodore Bowman, Lorraine Brouwer, Alma DeVries, Ernest Ensing, Junior Meengs, Jay Ocoback, Leonard Reus, Sarella VanOss, Elizabeth VanRhee, John Venema and Julius Zagers.

**Eighth graders:** Fannie DeKleine, Arnold Holleman, Hermina Kunnen, Florence Redder, Ivan Sneden, Eugene Tacoma, Gerald VanNoord, Lewis VanRhee, Robert Zagers.

**Elementary** pupils taught by Miss Holleman are: Grace Petroelje, Leona Wiers, Howard VandeBunte, Evelyn VanNoord, Beatrice, VanNoord, Mavis DeGroot, George VanRhee, Curtis Lamers, Myra Sneden, Jane Reus, Evelyn Reus, Priscilla Petroelje, Frederick Tacoma, Nelson Ensing, Joyce Lamers, Creighton DeGroot, Jeanette Dyersen?, Leona VanOss, Gladys Meyer, Dick Kuiper, Howard VanKlompenberg, Marvin Holleman, Muriel Hall, Marian Reus, Robert VanNoord, Roswell Stilwill, Jeanette DeKleine, Ruth VanNoord, Donald DeWitt, Florence \_\_\_\_\_? And Edmund Sneden.

**Lower elementary** pupils teacher was Miss Koster: Arlene Beek, Loretta \_\_\_, Arlene Bowman, Lois De\_\_\_, Jason DeKock, Robert De\_\_\_, Delia DeWitt, Joyce DeWitt, Cornie Doezena, Evelyn Doezena, Kenneth Heu\_\_\_\_\_, Patricia Hollis, Jay H\_\_\_\_\_, Mary Jean Kruis, Paul \_\_\_, Shirley Lanting, James Lanting, Reuben and Willard Meyers, \_\_\_ Ocobock, Anna Mae Petroelje, Gerald Petroelje, Helen Kro\_\_\_\_\_, William Reus, Lorraine\_\_\_\_\_, Margaret Struik, Walter Struik, Bernice Vander Kooi, Carol Vander Velde, Wallace Vander Velde, Dorothea VanDyke, Willis V\_\_\_\_\_, Dale VanHoven, John VanHoven, Roger VanKlompenberg, Martha VanRegenmorter, Adeline Van Rhee, Gladys Van Noord, Helen and Irwin Van Noord, Edwin Wiers and Julius Zagers.

**Jamestown Township Public Schools and Map**  
There are eight public schools in the township.



- Bell – District No. 1, Fr – Section 12 – one room
- Jamestown – District No. 2 – Section 15 – 3 rooms through 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- Forest Grove – District No. 3, Fr – Section 20 – two rooms
- Mitchell – District No. 4 – Section 26 – one room
- Zutphen – District No. 5 – Section 8 – two rooms
- Gitchel – District No. 6 – Section 33 – one room
- West Grove – District No. 7, Fr – Section 20 – two rooms
- Star – District No. 8 – Section 14 – one room



### Jamestown Township Schools

#### Bell School

Located on 8th Avenue  
North of Riley Street

**Left:** First log School

**Right:** A later building



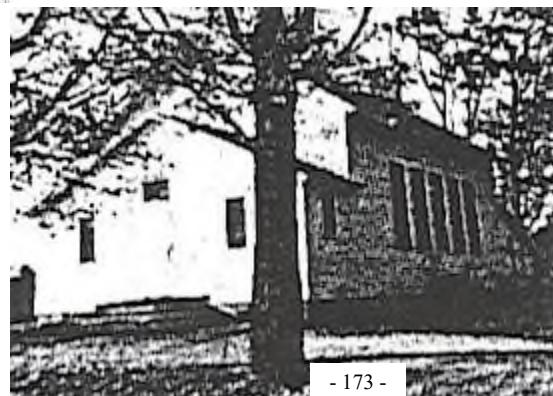
**Left Center:** Gitchel School at 32nd Avenue and 100th Avenue.

**Right Center:** Mitchel School, located on Adams Street

**Left Bottom:** West Grove School located on 48th Avenue.

**Bottom Center:** Star School, corner of 8th Avenue and Byron Road.

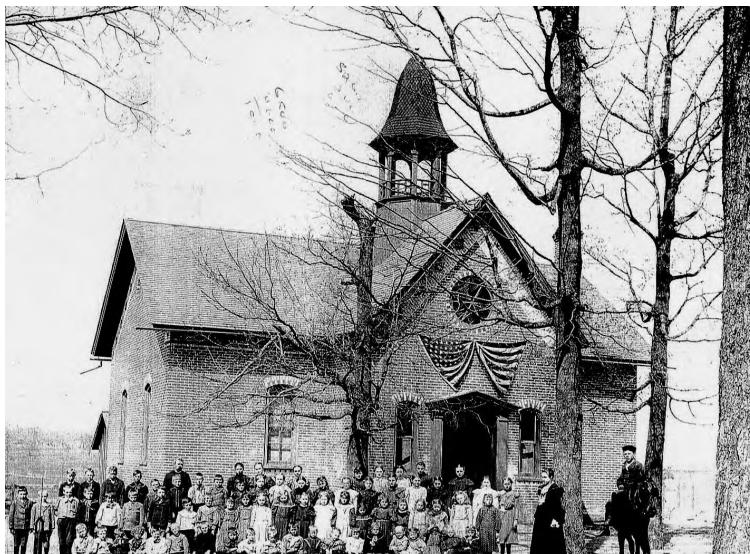
**Right Bottom:** Zutphen School located at the corner of 40th Avenue and Greenly Street.





**The Jamestown High School**

The school was constructed in 1919 on 24th Avenue.



**Forest Grove School—32nd Avenue and Adams Street**



**The Zutphen School**

Nicholas DeWeerd (born 1886) is the 7th from the right in the back row. Andrew DeWeerd (born 1890) is the 12th from the left in the front row. Nicholas and Andrew were the sons of John and Johanna DeWeerd. The hamlet of Zutphen was located at the corners of Riley Street and 40th Avenue. The Zutphen Christian Reformed Church is still located there on the northwest corner.



**Zutphen Singers 1900**

Herman Telgenhof was from the Jamestown area and had a beautiful voice. John Vander Heide on left and Herman Telgenhof on right.

## Did you know that .....

- Until 1922 there was no road going directly through Hudsonville to Grandville or Zeeland.
- The earliest settlers were of English and German descent. They came mainly from New York, Ohio and Canada. Some of the earliest settlers – the Cory's, the Jenison's, and the Lowing's, who came in the 1840's, still have descendants in Hudsonville and Georgetown Township.
- The business district of Hudsonville was originally located on Division Street (32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue) and Main Street (Van Buren Street). When Pike 51 went through some of the businesses near the railroad tracks were moved or razed. When the divided highway, M-21 (Chicago Drive) was completed in 1950, very few businesses were left in that area.
- The earliest merchants were – Horace Hudson, John Waite, Charles Hoyt, Gerrit Mulder, Lubbertus Vander Laan, Orrin Edson, Henry Yonker, Rensler Cory, Nicholas DeWeerd, John Poskey, Harlow Phelps, Sheridan Morrell, and Bernard and Thomas Hughes. The first store was built by Horace Hudson, son of Homer Hudson. It burned and was later replaced by the first bank in Hudsonville.
- Other early occupations: LaMott McEachron, railroad agent; Harry Green, railroad telegrapher; John Peuscher, railroad section boss; William Wolf, harness maker; Dudley Cunningham and Paul Ladewig, blacksmiths; and Abraham Arendsen, wagon maker.
- The waterworks was completed in the village of Hudsonville in 1913 and electricity came in 1924.
- In the early years, there were seven sawmills including Curry & Totten, Cunningham's, Phelps and Roberts, Herman Boldt, and B. & T. Hughes.
- The first funeral home in Hudsonville was located in the house on the northeast corner of Van Buren and School Streets, the former home of Thomas Hughes.
- In 1914 LaMott McEachron opened a movie house using the Grange Hall. As there was no electricity, a threshing machine was placed near the back of the Grange. About 3 o'clock Myron Conklin would come and put corn there to get it running for the silent movies. One of the Cory boys played the piano for the movie.
- Jamestown Public Cemetery began 1863 – 2 acres, SW1/4 NW1/4 section 15 was bought from William Rodley. It was sometimes called the Rodley Cemetery.

## Hudsonville Time Line

- First Public School – corner of Division and Main, 1855
- Hudsonville, originally known as South Georgetown – 30 Apr 1868
- Hudsonville named after first postmaster, Homer E. Hudson – 22 Jan 1872
- 1872 Chicago and West Michigan Railroad
- Hudson Plat – Between Main & Hudson, and Division and Wilson – 20 Feb 1873
- Railroad Station, Horace A. Hudson, first agent – 1874
- Hudsonville Congregational Church organized – 27 Feb 1877
- Hudsonville Congregational Church building erected – 31 Mar 1879
- Wilbur's Addition – Main and Oak/Spring, and Division and School – 14 Apr 1880
- Disciples Church organized in about 1890, later disbanded. Later became the Hudsonville Reformed Church.
- Second Public School – School Street, 1891, with an addition to the building about 1893
- First Christian Reformed Church organized, 23 Apr 1902
- First Christian Reformed Church building erected, 1904
- First Christian Reformed Church parsonage built, 1905
- Hudsonville Reformed Church organized, Nov, 1912. They rented the former Disciples Church from Rev. Loren Drew and the Reformed congregation was to be given the church when Rev. Drew died. The church building was destroyed by fire May, 1948. Groundbreaking for new church, 16 Jun 1949 and dedication Mar, 1950.
- First Public High School – School Street, 1910
- LaMott McEachron – movies in the Grange Hall, 1914
- Pike 51 – two-lane highway through Hudsonville – 1923
- Village of Hudsonville incorporated 1926
- Hudsonville Protestant Reformed Church organized, 26 Jul 1926, church building completed April, 1927
- Henrietta Cory, village treasurer, 1928-1933
- First Christian School organized in 1917. Built – School and Oak Streets, 1919
- Ohlman's Addition – 17 Jan 1935
- Hudsonville Flood - 1937
- Hudsonville Congregational Church burned, 1937, rebuilt 1938
- Hudsonville – street lighting – 12/15/1939
- Haan's Addition – 15 Jan 1941
- 1948 Hudsonville High School yearbook – this was the first year it was named “Pioneer”.
- M-21 enlarged divided highway, 1950
- First Christian Reformed Church new brick church dedicated – July, 1950
- Fire at Hudsonville Box and Basket – 13 Jan 1951
- Fire at Van Noord's Mill – 19 Jan 1952
- Fire at Hudsonville Lumber Company – 22 Mar 1952

- Fire at Farmer's Coop Elevator – 17 Oct 1952
- Unity Christian High School built, 1953
- Tornado – 3 April 1956
- City of Hudsonville incorporated, 12 Nov 1957
- New high school – 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, former Theodore Curtis Farm, 1963
- First Christian Reformed Church education wing added, 1970
- Hudsonville Mayors – Norman Unema, 1973-1975; Jacob Kooistra, 1975-1983; Joan M. Edson, 1983-1987; Jim Holtrop, 1987-\_\_\_\_; Donald VanDoeselaar, 200\_ – 2008
- Hudsonville Centennial Library dedicated – 3 Dec 1977
- Hudsonville Protestant Reformed Church's new building, 1976
- Hudsonville Methodist Church purchased the former Protestant Reformed Church building about 1977. They disbanded. The City of Hudsonville purchased the building. They have drama classes during the week and they rent the building to a new developing church.
- Freedom Baptist Academy opened, Sep 1981
- Heritage Christian School opened, Sep, 1985
- New Hudsonville City Hall dedicated – 7 May 1994

**Early Georgetown Settlers** – Robert Alward; Harm Andre; Samuel and Charles Barnaby; Leonard and Albert Barton; John, Fred and William Boldt; E. Franklin Bosworth; Jeremiah Boynton (1835); Joseph Brown; Liberty Tanner Beardsley; Freeman Burton (1834); Hiland Chamberlain; Andrew Cheyne; George Chrysler; Wolbert Closterhouse; Charles Cory; Dudley Cunningham; Thomas Curry; James DeCator; George and Lorenzo Densmore; Israel Doan; Abijah and Benjamin Edson; George Elliott; Orlando Gillett; Benton, Kiah and Martin Green; John, Robert and William Haire; Isaac Hall; John and Boele Haminger; Richard Hammond; George Hubbard; Homer Hudson; James, Bernard and Thomas Hughes; Hiram (1834), Lucius, and Luman Jenison; Independence Day Knappen; Albertus Kronemeyer; Isaac, Stephen (1836), Holden (1844), Luke (1844), and William Lowing; William McEachron; John Minderhout; Aldert and Peter Northouse; William Olmstead; Benjamin Robinson; Jonathan Sawyer; Jonathan and John Scott; Harvey Surdam; Harm, Henry and Steven Sweet; John Tate; Isaac, Joseph and Samuel Taylor; Andrew and John Tibbett; Piebe Ulberg; Abram and Martin VanStrate; Cornelius, Jacob and Matheus VanderBoegh; William and Koys VanderVeen; Jacob and Phineas Vasbinder; Elisha, Henry and Almon Wadsworth; Allen, Isaac and Thomas Wait; George, Jacob and H. D. Weatherwax; Stephen and William Whipple; William and Augustus Winchester; Luther Wolf; and Sylvanus, Erastus and Clark Yeomans.

**The Hudsonville Cemetery** was located west of Wilson and South of Van Buren by the Congregational Church grounds. After 1878 the early graves were moved to the Georgetown Township Cemetery.

(NOTE: It might be that some of the graves were moved in 1878, but some of the burials were later than that. A Mr. Wilbur was the last known gave left in the cemetery. Tradition says that the children loved him so that they brought flowers to his grave. It is possible that this Mr. Wilbur is the husband of Mrs. Bessie Wilbur who had the land platted on Section 29 as the Wilbur Addition in 1880.)

1. Leon Alward, son of R. & A., died 8 May 1866, 3 yrs. 1mo.  
(Georgetown Cemetery record – 28 Mar 1883 – 8 May 1886)
2. Louis Barnaby (or Barney), first husband of Emily S. died 22 Jan 1871 (21 yrs., 1880)
3. Maria O. Barnaby, 15 Jun 1836 – 15 Jun 1886
4. Delia Beattie – 9 Dec 1803 – 21 Sep 1873
5. William Blevins – 1868 – 1878
6. Darwin E. Fisher – 16 Aug 1820 – 24 Feb 1853

1. Cora L. Gillet – 3 Aug 1875 – 16 Feb 1876
2. Hall, Frances E. – 2 mos. - 4 Sep 1877 – child of John & Julia Hall
3. Hall, Frank E. – 2 Mos – 5 Sep 1877 – child of John & Julia Hall (These two were moved from Shackhuddle Cemetery)
4. Mattheus, VanderBoegh – 47 yrs., - 14 Oct 1877
5. George Whipple – 16y 11m 25d – 10 Jan 1863, son of S. H. & M. N.
6. Louise Whipple – 16 May 1863 – 21 Nov 1875
7. Lydia Whipple – died 11 May 1876, wife of William
8. Jefferson S. Wilbur – 49 yrs. – died 26 January 1871
9. Aron Winchester – 1y 5m 10d – 9 Dec 1868, son of A. & L. M. V.

**Hudsonville Post Office** - Per Henrietta Cory – the post office probably moved into the front of the Odd Fellows Hall about 1918 when George Hubbard became postmaster and stayed there until the Odd Fellows Hall was demolished for the new divided highway. Where was post office located until 1956 when Dick Ver Hage built a new building and leased it to the government for a post office. Postmasters:

1. Homer Hudson, 1872-1881
2. John Green, 1881-1882
3. James L. Hardy, 1882-1883
4. Luther M. Wolf, 1883-1886
5. John N. Waite, 1886-1889
6. Charles K. Hoyt, 1889-1892
7. Esther Hoyt, 1892-1893
8. Frank Chamberlain, 1897-1915
9. George Hubbard, 1915-1922
10. Eugene Hubbard, 1922-1959
11. Jacob Dyk, 1959-1961
12. Ken Van Heukelum, 1961-1965
13. Gerald "Lee" Veldman, 1965-1999

A new post office is located on the northeast corner of Central Blvd. and School Street.

**B. & T. Hughes Hardware** – It was built in 1882 by Benton E. Green. Bernard and Tom Hughes purchased the building and by 1908 they owned it. After their deaths, Carl Ohlman had the building for a number of years. He died suddenly of a heart attack on the train. Then his son-in-law, Orrie Aalbers took over the business and ran it for many years with his son who sold it and moved west. The building was last owned by a maker of oak furniture and January, 1999, there was a terrible windstorm and the building caught fire and burned to the ground along with another building which had a connecting hallway from many years ago.

### **Smith Hotel**

The hotel and livery were built by Joseph Dearborn about 1896. In 1903, he sold the property to Seth Coburn. Mr. Coburn operated the hotel and livery until 1918 when he sold it to Henry Ver Hage. In 1920 no one was running the hotel. In 1921, Matthew Metternich purchased the hotel and had a bus service to Grand Rapids. Harden and Harriet Smith purchased the hotel building from the Hudsonville State Bank in 1923. Harden died in 1928. Harriet continued running the business until her death in 1947. Then Dale Curtis, a realtor, sold the hotel to a Mrs. Ohlman. When the highway, Pike 51, was built through Hudsonville, the hotel was moved east on Van Buren Street. This was about 1920 or 1921 as the highway was completed in 1923. The livery stable would have been razed by that time.

The hotel had many different patrons – business men, teachers, tourists, traveling salesman, gangs of bridge road builders, Consumers Power workers, and oil drillers. In the fall and winter commission men bought celery and onions and shipped them to Chicago. In the summer traveling evangelists held tent meetings. This was before the highway, M-21, came through.

(This information is from Marie (Smith) DeJonge, daughter of Harden and Harriet.)

**Nyhuis General Store** -What is called the Nyhuis Store was purchased in 1924 by Bernard John Nyhuis and his wife, Doris (Edson) Nyhuis. They ran the store until John died in 1936. She continued running the store until 1942 when she married Robert Curtis. Then Neil Visscher rented the building for a pharmacy until 1949 when the building was moved to Van Buren, between 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Pleasant Street, due to the new divided highway that was built through Hudsonville. Edson Nyhuis, the son of John and Doris, had a restaurant in the building for many years called Ed's Grill. It is still a restaurant today and is called the Old Time Diner.

**Neil Visscher's drug store** - was in Vander Laan's Store first in the mid 1930's, then in the Nyhuis Building. He rented that until 1950 after the new highway was in. Then he built a pharmacy near the southwest corner of School Street and the service road.

**Gemmen's Hardware –**

Al Gemmen owned a grocery store in Overisel from about 1947 to 1954.

In September, 1954, leased Joe Meyer's Hardware building on Prospect Street and remained there until September 1960 when the new building on Kelly Street was completed. Joe Meyer sold the building on Prospect Street to L. & L. Produce.

The building burned and was rebuilt. Since 1960 to 1997, Gemmen's has added to the building nine times. In 1986 they purchased DeWeerd's Grocery, which earlier on was an IGA store.

**VanderLaan's 5 and 10 cent store** - was first one in the new mall on the north side of Kelly Street in 1960.

**History of the Library Lot –** 1) Hiram Drew home, which was moved to the east side of Madison Street 2) Mrs. (Spoelman) Grasman, the house was moved back 3) Les Ohlman grocery store 4) Nyeholt Grocery 5) Shop-Rite Grocery, burned in the 1970's, 6) Hudsonville Bi-Centennial Library built in 1977. 7) An addition was added to the library in 1998 and a substantial gift was given toward this addition with the stipulation that there be a history room and that the name of the library would be the Gary Byker Memorial Library of Hudsonville.

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