

Vanderbilt A Progressive Otsego County Village

Vanderbilt, second largest village in point of population and business enterprise in Otsego County, is located in Corwith township, north from Gaylord nearly nine miles. The village is incorporated, has a population of 500, good graded school, M. E. and Congregational church societies with good church buildings, and a full compliment of the mercantile establishments that are necessary to supply the wants of a thriving community. Two manufacturing plants – the J. A. Hixson broom handle factory and the saw and shingle mill of Parks and Kelley – give employment to a number of people and furnish a good market for the timber of the surrounding country. This is an important shipping point for forest products and an excellent hay and potato market. The business men are enterprising and progressive and the town has a substantial, thrifty appearance. Two banks furnish excellent financial accommodation. The adjacent country is being rapidly developed into highly cultivated farms.

John G. Berry

No sketch of Vanderbilt, or in fact Otsego County, would be complete without mention of John G. Berry. This gentleman is a pioneer of this section and the owner of the largest store here. His stock comprises nearly everything needed to supply family wants and his business has grown to enormous proportions. Although Mr. Berry is a very busy man he finds time to take an occasional vacation and gets much enjoyment out of life. He is now planning a trip to New Zealand and expects to leave some time in October.

A. Glazer

Five years ago Mr. A. Glazer decided that Vanderbilt looked pretty good to him, and established a clothing and dry goods store here. Under his excellent management the business prospered amazingly; new departments have been added until the store really became metropolitan and now does a fine business. Mr. Glazer was united in marriage last spring to an estimable lady of Bay City, and there is every reason to believe that the future holds for him happiness and success in a large measure.

Geo Long

Geo Long conducts a general store stocked with a fine assortment of goods and enjoying a gratifying business. It is fortunate when a village possesses enterprising business men of the stamp of Mr. Long. He is ever ready and willing to co-operate in any movement to advance the material welfare of the community.

D. M. Sly

D. M. Sly carries an assortment of hardware, stoves, farm implements, tools and buggies. His trade is very satisfactory and the people in this vicinity have come to know that their faction than when buying from catalogue houses. I Mr. Sly's establishment Vanderbilt has a progressive hardware store.

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Vanderbilt Exchange Bank

The Vanderbilt Exchange Bank is in charge of Geo C. Hooper, cashier, who has demonstrated his ability by successfully building up for this bank an excellent business. Mr. Hooper is deeply interested in the future of Vanderbilt and is at present building a fine residence here.

M. Karlake

The furniture needs of the village are supplied by M. Karlake, who carries all the necessary articles required to make a home comfortable. He also does funeral directing and has all the necessary accessories for work.

Yuill Bros.

Yuill Bros. (John and Thomas) buy and ship large quantities of logs, also carry on logging camps of their own. These gentlemen do an extensive business in their line and give employment to a large number of men.

Bank of Vanderbilt

H. T. Glezen, cashier of the Bank of Vanderbilt, is a gentlemen well versed in the banking business, who enjoys the confidence of the public. The Bank of Vanderbilt has a fine patronage which is increasing at a gratifying rate.

Higgins House

Vanderbilt has an excellent hotel in the Higgins house, which does a good business. Messrs. Higgins and son are hotel men of experience and thoroughly understand catering to the wants of the public.

A. Gariepy

This gentleman is proprietor of the Vanderbilt pharmacy, which is modern in every respect. All the latest and necessary drugs and chemicals used in compounding prescriptions are carried in stock, together with a full line of articles found in every first class drug store.

J. A. Hixson

In J. A. Hixson's broom handle factory Vanderbilt has an enterprise that ranks with the largest of its kind in the world. The process of manufacturing a drag broom handle is interesting to witness. The timber used for handles is delivered to the mill in saw logs. These logs are cut handle length by a drag saw, then passed on to a circle saw, then slabbed and cut into the required thickness for turning. These are passed through a gang of saws and come out in squares ready for turning. The turning lathes are automatic feed, and a stream of handles come in rapid succession. After leaving the lathes they pass on to a finisher, which rounds one end at the same time bores a hole in the other for the wire. From here the handles go to the dry kiln and from there are placed in a

huge cylinder and polished by friction to a perfect smoothness; then they are dumped into the finishing room, graded, counted and tied in bundles. The capacity of the mill is about 20,000 handles per day. All the machinery is of the latest improved pattern and many unique devices for saving labor are used. Shipments of the finished product go to nearly every broom factory in the country, their superior excellence finding for them a ready market.

Rev. C. Scott

Rev. C. Scott, pastor of the M. E. church, came to this charge last year. He has proven himself a worker and during his pastorate many improvements in and around the church have been made. He leaves for the annual conference in a few days, and doubtless will be returned for another year.

Churches and Societies

Rev. Clement Upham, pastor of the Congregational church is a zealous worker for the betterment of mankind. The church under his ministry is prospering as never before. They have a fine edifice nicely furnished and pleasantly situated. Both church societies have the usual aids and leagues necessary for carrying on progressive church work, and also fine Sunday schools. Vanderbilt has a full quota of secret and fraternal societies – Masons, Odd Fellows, K. O. T. M. N., Daughters of Rebekah, O. E. S. and others, all in a flourishing condition. The Masonic Lodge is the oldest in Otsego County, has a fine home over Berry's store and enjoys a fine membership. The D. of R. have a fine membership, although organized only three months. [pg 12 B]