

How it all began for Otsego County

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county seat was permanently located at Gaylord.

Mr. Fuller then moved his newspaper plant to Gaylord, and hired H.C. McKinley and T.B. Wolloughby to run it for him, as he had his hands full of other important work, being county treasurer, postmaster, real estate dealer, and also interested in getting out lumber on a small scale.

One dismal morning Mr. Fuller woke up and found himself short of \$9,000 of the county money entrusted to his care, which he had dropped in Chicago wheat options, and in order to escape justice he skipped to Canada "to get rid of the draft" so to speak, and as he was owing Mr. McKinley some money at the time, Mack bought the paper from the bondsmen who became responsible for Mr. Fuller's embezzlement.

Mr. McKinley continued the publication of the paper for a period of about 40 years, and then disposed of the plant to Glenn R. Miner. Gaylord, the lovely little county seat, now has a population of about 2,000, but back about 25 years ago it had developed into quite a respectable and flourishing community, surrounded by a very productive farming region, the seat of a number of prosperous industries, the junction of the Michigan Central and Boyne City, Gaylord and Alpena railroads and altogether a neat, thriving and substantial village.

Among its leading manufacturing plants were the Dayton Last Block Works, which turned hardwood timber into last blocks and ten pins; the Gaylord Motor Car Plant, which turned out a utility car for merchants and farmers; the factory of the Gaylord Manufacturing Company, whose product consisted of sleighs and large lumbering wheels for use in the woods; and Jackson, Wylie & Co.'s stove mill, with James Hazzard as manager.

Saw and grist mills, a foundry and machine shop run by Pete Maddock, and other small manufactories must be named before the list is complete. And the Gaylord State Savings Bank, with Sanford W. Buck as head cashier for many years until death called him hence; but the bank still stands a

monument to its promoters, with Norman Glasser installed in the place of Mr. Buck, and is now as then, the chief medium of the city's financial transactions. This bank was organized by Frank A. Kramer, Earl B. Bolton and Sanford W. Buck. Mr. Kramer was acting president of the bank from the time of its inception until the time of his death, a period of 36 years.

The first marriage recorded in the county occurred April 18, 1875, contracting parties being Miss Alinda W. Martin of Elmira township and Samuel H. Livingston of Livingston township. The groom was born in Scotland and was 29 years of age, and the bride was a native of Michigan, and was 17 years of age.

The first birth to be rendered in the county was that of Miss Vievea S. Parmater, daughter of Dr. N.L. and Violetta Parmater, who was born October 14, 1874, in Livingston township.

The first boy born in the county was Lewis Smith, son of William H. and Mary Mead Smith. Lewis is happily married and the fond parent of eight lusty "olive branches," and makes his home in the far western country on the delightful shores of the majestic Pacific Ocean, in the prosperous city of Newport.

There were several children born in the early history of the county very close together, among them being Cora and Gay Fosdick and Fred Cook.

Vievea Parmater, who married Frank J. Shipp about 35 years ago, passed away June 22, 1929.

THE FIRST MILL built in the county was erected at Berryville, by J. Berry in 1879, and the first threshing machine brought into the county in 1878, was owned by E.C. Busset of Elmira township. The first mowing machine was jointly owned by E.C. Woodin, of Elmira, Charles F. Davis and Hiram H. Gilson, in 1886, and the first self-binder used in the county was owned by Andrew Kelso of Elmira township, in 1889.

The first lumber mills were erected at Otsego Lake in 1874, and many millions of feet of lumber were shipped south to Bay City and other markets. For more than forty years lumber was the chief

product of that village.

The first sawmill was erected in Bagley in 1881 by Harvey Mellon, with Bob Briggs as foreman. He was Mrs. Timsman's second husband.

For many years the Henry Stephens Lumber Company did a flourishing business at Waters, operating from 1876 to 1923, and enriched many people.

The Dayton Last Block Works came to Gaylord in 1894 from Dayton, Ohio, and the efficient manager was William H. Kemper, who was succeeded by Frank J. Shipp, the present superintendent. For 36 years that industry has been a prominent feature of the city's business district, and many thousands of dollars have been put into circulation in our community by its wheels of industry which soon are to quit revolving, for with the end of timber in sight its days are numbered, and this will be the last winter of operation.

The Novelty Works plant was erected in 1908, and the building was first used by the Gaylord Automobile Company, and later on the Novelty Works were inaugurated with a Mr. Carr as head pusher and manager, and Mr. Brogger as paymaster. The plant was run quite successfully for a number of years, as something happened to the management that put a monkey wrench in its wheels and they refused to longer turn.

The Hoop Mill was established in 1886, with James Hazzard from Pinconning as manager. It flourished for many years giving employment to about 25 men, and only quit when its raw material was gone — all used up.

Frank Buell's saw mill was erected in 1905 on the west side of the railroad just west of the Humphrey saw and planning mill, and south of Pete Maddock's foundry building. Many millions of feet of lumber were cut and at that time an endless procession of logs from all quarters of the county were continually stringing through the streets of Gaylord bound for the several mills to be converted into the manufactured products that brought the "dough" into the pockets of the people.

W. H. INMAN also conducted a wagon and repair shop on West Main Street for a number of

years, as did also Ed. Borrowman. And W.J. Powers for many years was a noted builder and carpenter of Gaylord, and many of the first homes of the city were put up by him and J. Frederickson.

Walborn & Heinzelman erected the first Peavy Handle Mill in 1882 on the west side of the track north of the Jerome Mills property. This mill also made butter bowls, potato mashers and other novelties, and was later on taken over by Charles W. Lount. George Snow also manufactured butter bowls there.

The Gaylord Water Works were first erected in 1888, where now stands the Dr. Saunders home. The well was a hundred and twelve feet deep, and Charles Wise did the pumping with his threshing machine engine.

The Gaylord High School building was erected in 1888 by A.B. Troup of Lake Odessa, Ionia county, at a first cost of \$8,000. Since then the structure has been enlarged and improved.

John Marlatt came to Otsego county in 1875, from Tonawanda, N.Y. and was employed by the W.H. Louks Lumber Co. at Otsego Lake for a number of years.

Of course we all know John M. Brodie, 1881 — 51 years ago. But do you know what a busy man he has been in our midst for more than half a century? John first branched out in the blacksmith business, which at that time was a good trade, while just now it is "burn". Well, John saw a big light and so got out of a growingly poor business into a better one. For a number of years he was on the roads of the country selling first class buggies for an Ohio firm.

It took him from Michigan to Texas, and from Gaylord east and west for many miles, but he made a little money, got married, settled down, and is now the proprietor of one of Gaylord's leading Hardware stores.

Miss Fustina Towle was Gaylord's first postmaster, coming from the state of Maine. She lived a life of usefulness and cared for a couple of nephews — Wallace and Walter Doore, whom she raised and set up in business.

One of Gaylord's chief business men and pioneer merchants was Frank A. Kramer, who came over here from Cadillac and

embarked in business in the summer of 1882. He was Gaylord's first clothing merchant. He was honesty itself, prospered in business and at the time of his death was universally esteemed and respected for his sterling qualities and uprightness of character.

Fred E. Cook is another man who made good in the battle of life, as fought in the commercial ranks of the town, having been born and raised in the confines of the village, beginning on the lower rung of the ladder and step by step ascending, until he could peek over the top with the assurance that he was safe and secure from the wolves of poverty and had by his industry and business integrity won for him a place in the city's hall of industrial fame.

And there is likewise the Scott brothers — John, William, Edw. and J. Berdine. They gravitated to this county when it was but a wilderness and by dint of industry, mixed with brains, have built up good names and amassed a comfortable competency which will tide them over the rough roads of adversity and steer them into the placid stream of contentment as they paddle down the stream of life.

Then, who of our older folks does not remember the irrepressible Jim Beerman, the man who took the wild ride from the Gaylord hill to Wolverine on a box car that got away from its train?

Jim was on the top of the car and another man whose name we have forgotten was on the inside of the car hollering his head off to make Jim twist the brake and stop the car's mad career as it swayed and sped swiftly over the rails finally coming to a halt when in sight of Wolverine. Jim is also credited with bringing the first piano into Gaylord way back in the '70's.

And do you know that for seven years Gaylord was the terminus of the railroad? The jumping off place for all passengers traveling north? And do you recall those little dinky wood-burning engines on the road in those days? When it took a mixed train of about a dozen cars all day to reach Bay City from Gaylord? They pulled out of Gaylord at seven in the morning, reaching Bay City at 5 p.m. Yes, that was

going some in those slow polky days. Now you can get into an auto and cover the distance in three hours, with comfort and ease.

And do you remember when after a hard rain the streets of Gaylord were a sea of mud, because there were no side-walks, but just cow trails along the stump-filled roads? Just contrast with the conditions of today and imagining those by-gone days never to return.

To Miss Cora Starks belongs the credit of fingering the keys of the first organ brought into the town. She is now the devoted wife of Harry House, the man who has many years picked ferns which in older days were plentiful in the woods, and shipped them by crate to the Chicago markets. That industry is now a dead one in our county by reason of reforestation.

GAYLORD'S GRIST MILL was erected in 1882 by D. Sheldon, of Saginaw, and in 1897 was taken over by Sam H. Mells and George H. Smith, and was conducted for a number of years by them, and was then transferred to M.T. McCormick and David Pielh, who continued to run it for a long time before it gave up the ghost. Fire finally destroyed the property.

Richard and John Hartnell's shingle mill began operations at the north end of Otsego Lake in 1908, and after running two years a boiler explosion cut short its career, killing four men and injuring several others. One heavy piece of the boiler weighing more than 300 pounds was hurled several hundred feet across the railroad track, burying itself in the ground. The mill was rebuilt and operated for a period of five years, completing the shingle cut.

Steve Warren operated a saw mill on McCoy's Lake in 1884, cutting a large quantity of lumber.

Otsego county's court house was built in 1888 and was erected by a contractor from Flint by the name of Ward, who also built Sam Qua's first opera house, which fell flat to the ground as it was nearing completion, being undetermined by a cloudburst that flooded the basement before the cement was set. It made a noise like the crack of doom, and kicked up a cloud of dust that

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