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## From the Royal Oak Tribune

### History of Royal Oak

May 1, 1908

When the government surveyors first penetrated the wilderness surrounding Detroit, more than 90 years ago, they did not hesitate to report that in their opinion Michigan territory would never be inhabitable, as the land was irreclaimable on account of the foul marshes.

Governor Cass was one of those men who had to be shown, or had to see the believe, therefore he decided to investigate for himself, and to that end he, with Austin E. Wing, and other friends started forth on a tour of inspection and discovery. After leaving Detroit, which was then little more than a village, they struck due north, encountering marsh and slush for what seemed like miles, but what in reality was only 13 or 11 miles, for at last, after themselves and their horses were exhausted, they struck high, dry ground, at that point later known as the junction of the Niles, Painters Creek and Crooks roads. Here they camped, choosing a large spreading oak tree which was conspicuous for a large H made with a surveyor's ax.

The story goes that as Governor Cass lay under the tree he looked up into the matted foliage of the treetop, he thought of that Royal Oak in Scotland among whose branches Charles the Pretender hid from his pursuing enemies after the bloody battle of Colloden, and it seemed to him that it must have been just such a tree as this, so he christened it the Royal Oak, and it was from the tree that stood near the corner of Crooks and Painters Creek roads, on land now on by David Evens, that Royal Oak township and the village received its name.

The first entries of land in the township were of tracks made in section 33 by L. Luther and D. McKinstry, on July 6, 1820. The first white man to settle and build his cabin in the Township was a Mr. White, who, in 1821, located and what is now the Geo. Stiff farm, on the Mill road, then nothing but a trail.

The next man was Henry Stephens, who, in the spring of 1822, settled in the northeast quarter of section 33, later known as the Parker estate but now divided between the heirs, Mrs. John Cline, Mrs. Wm. Truesdell, Mrs. Eliza Lafferty and Mrs. Erastus Wells.

Thos. Flynn was the next comer, making his appearance the same year, locating on the base line just south of Mr. White's, on what is now John Rich's farm. Alexander Campbell was the next man, settling this same here in section 8 on what is now the A. B. Parker estate and Woodward avenue.

Erastus Ferguson, who, with Dr. Little who accompanied him, were the first men to cut a way through to Saginaw, also settled here, locating in the southeast corner of section 9.

In the fall of this year Henry O. Bronson came and settled with his family near where the royal oak stood, and open the public house, the first in Royal Oak, which became well known to land hunters and explorers, who now began swarming into this new territory, coming round by way of Mt. Clemens. The house was closed as a tavern in 1828.

May 7, 1908 part

... 1823 Sherman Baldwin settled on ... In the northwest corner of section 6 and Josiah Goddard built a log ... on the east side of the Crooks ... , in the north east quarter of section 16, but he abandon it shortly..., And for some time it was used... school house and for holding re- ... meetings.

... October 20 of 1822..., Diodate Hubbard ... Royal Oak, and although only... old, he brought a second wife... he settled in the log house... Northeast corner of section 6... now owned by William Hunt. Af- ... he became one of the best... men in Oakland County, being a... for many years, engaged in... goods between Royal... Pontiac, Birmingham, etc.

... Come to Detroit in the year ... With his parents, who were orig- ... From Connecticut but later... York State. They settled at... Pointe in 1811, and the follow- ... his father died, leaving a ... and eight children. Soon after... Drove them from there... Settlement at Grosse Pointe,... They hurried to Detroit, where... lived in great destitution, but felt... for having escaped with their ...

Young Hubbard entered the ... at the age of 13 years, and... for three months was a substi ... the unexpired term of a draft... from Ohio. He was married... In 1818 and kept the tavern... city for some time until the... of his wife in 1821,... Following year he married Char-... Keyes, from Bloomfield, new... and in the following year moved... York, as we have seen. He [several lines missing] of the erection of their mill at Pontiac to haul supplies and transport their machinery from Detroit, which he had to do by way of Mount Clemens, and up the Clinton River. At that time he knew every inhabitant in Oakland county as extensive as this territory is. He was sergeant-at-armies of the legislature when the capital was in Detroit, and also received the appointment as sergeant-at-arms of the senate in 1851 after it was removed to Lansing.

May 22, 1908 part

The Peck brothers (unmarried) settled on land in the northwest quarter of section [4] on land now owned by Adam Reid. A few years later they sold to Samuel Addis, who moved there with his family. Moses Peck moved to Bloomfield Center where he opened a public tavern. He also held a number of township offices there, among them being treasurer to which he was elected in 1844. His brother Noah, met the dreadful fate of being scalded to death in a distillery in Troy.

Cromwell Goodwin, the first bricklayer in the township settled on the southwest quarter of Section 4 on land now owned by Harvey White.

He brought with him a yoke of oxen and an ox wagon, nearly, if not quite, the first equipment in Royal Oak. Soon after his arrival a bee was made to cut a road from his place to Joshua Alger's

home in Troy. Mr Goodwin had a large family. One of his daughters married Jarvis Phelps, another Harriet, died not long after their arrival, this being the first death of a white person to occur in the township.

Socrates Hopkins located and settled on the northeast quarter of section 5 on land owned by Louis Stauch.

David Williams, then just married, settled on land in the southwest quarter 3, having entered this land in 1821, his deed bearing the signature of John Quincy Adams.

He was born in Wales 1788, came to America about 1795, and settled with his parents in Herkimer County, New York. He started in life for himself when 12 years old and bought the land above designated about 160 acres. He then returned New York and was married to Mrs. Betsy McFarland, the widow of John McFarland, by whom she had one daughter, Ester, who became the wife of James J. Parshall, who is now living at Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Upon coming to Michigan with his wife, Mr. Williams located another 160 acres, and thereby obtaining the southern half of the section. His politics were of the Whig order, and cast his first vote for Grant...died Sept. 8, 1870, and...in Royal Oak Cemetery.

Five boys blessed... union, who were as follows: Sherman who was the oldest, born August 2, 1825: John R., born in February 1827: George, born in 1829: David, born in May 1834, and Addison, born in 1836.

May 29, 1908

### The Williams family

John settled near St. Louis, Mo., and embarked in the railroad business.

George settled near Pontiac.

David worked 80 acres of his father's land for a number of years, but now in old age sold it to Peter Backer, with whom he is making his home.

Addison has been dead a good many years.

Sherman, when he became of age, embarked as a fisherman, and passed three summers on Lake Huron. He then went to farming on the old homestead.

On Oct. 24, 1862, he married Mary Smith, the daughter of Ira and Polly Palmer Smith. Mr. Smith was a farmer in Vermont, where he was born Sept. 18, 1800. In 1823 he came to Michigan and located in Troy Township, but returned to the East and was married in New York in 1825, then return to Troy, Mich. to make his home on his possession there. Their six children were Cyrus, Emily L., Mary, Jane, Ann, Lewis G.

Lewis G is now living at Big Beaver, and Mary became the wife of Sherman Williams, as we have seen. Mr. and Mrs. Williams became parents of four children, one son and three daughters. Nellie, who was born Aug. 10, 1863, and died Jan. 13, 1879; J. S., born Dec. 30,

1864; Emma born Sept. 17, 1867; Grace A., born Oct. 10, 1873, died January 9, 1879. Emma is the wife of Frank Leach, a carpenter living in the village, who for two years was township treasurer.

Mr. Williams had 160 acres of land given him by his father. Upon this he built new buildings, and in 1863 he built his house, at the cost of \$1500.

He was a successful farmer, and when it is taken into consideration that he was elected as township treasurer for five different terms, you can judge as to the esteem is townspeople had for him. In 1902 he moved to Royal Oak village, having built himself a new brick residence on Williams street. In 1907 he disposed of his farm, selling it to a Mr. Buhl and Peter Backer, who is living on the homestead and doing well on it as the Williams family have done before him. Mr. Williams cast his first vote for Zachary Taylor and his last one for Teddy Roosevelt, and looks hearty enough to be able to cast one for Taft.

June 5, 1908

Geo. Morris, a single man, erected his cabin on land in the northwest corner of section 9, now owned by E. A. Starr & Sons. About two years later he exchanged with Rufus Beach, of Troy, and moved into that township.

Joseph Chase now came from East Bloomfield, New York, arriving late and settling in the northwest quarter of section 9, near where Edwin Starr now lives, and gave those corners the name of Chase's Corners, as they were known for years. He became well known as "Uncle Joe Chase." He was afflicted with a troublesome impediment in his speech, which made him peculiarly popular. With him came a young son, Nathan, who died only a few years after unmarried.

The first carpenter in Royal Oak was Jarvis Phelps, who settled in section X. He was a bachelor when he came, but afterwards married a daughter of Cromwell Goodwin.

Erastus Burt, another carpenter, came in 1825 and settled on the land in section 8 near Alexander Campbell.

Jonathan Chase came in April of that year to live with his father, Joseph Chase, where he remained until 1827, then went back east, and did not return to Royal Oak until 1833, since which time he has been for a great part of the time a property owner in the town, enjoying the confidence of his townsmen, having been elected to such offices as they had in their gift, among them being supervisor in 1854. He was also a delegate to the constitutional convention in 1835. He later moved to Clawson, Troy township, where he lived for a while with John Lawson, a son-in-law. He died at Clawson at a ripe old age.

David Chase, a brother of Jonathan, came later in the year, and early in the year of 1826 open a mercantile business at Chase's Corners, the first store in the township, which he ran until 1854. He was also one of the first supervisors from this township.

James G. Johnson, John F. Keyes, Dennis H. Quick and Abraham Hoagland also came in 1825.

June 12, 1908

James G. Johnson settled in the northeast quarter of section 4 upon a little dry creek, a tributary of the Red Run, and here seven years later he built the only water mill ever put in operation in the township. He lived a quiet life upon the same farm forty-seven years and died there in April, 1872, and was buried in the Royal Oak cemetery, where a substantial monument still marks his grave.

John F. Keyes settled in the northwest corner of section 9. He helped build the Detroit and Pontiac plank road and remained in the employ of this company until he died.

Dennis H. Quick and Abraham S. Hoagland were brothers-in-law, Hoagland having married Quick's sister. These two men came to Michigan together. Quick settled in the southwest quarter of section 5, being at the time a bachelor, but was married here afterwards. He was a native of Hillsborough, New Hampshire, and both he and Hoagland were devout Presbyterians, though it was said that later Hogan changed his tenets. He was a blacksmith, the first of his trade in the town. He purchased and settled on 80 acres adjoining Quick's on the west.

William Worth and Daniel Burrows came in the year 1826, the former settling on the northeast corner of section 10, now owned by Adrian Gibbs, but afterwards moving to Troy, where he died. Burrows had made a halt for a considerable time in Troy before coming to Royal Oak. He settled on the northwest quarter of section 15, just north of the then well-known Bronson Inn. His land covered the entire area of the present Royal Oak cemetery, and it was he who donated the first section of that ground to be used for that purpose. Mr. Burrows was by trade a chairmaker, and although he did not do much in that line in Royal Oak, still a few of the oldest settlers could tell you today of the crude furniture which was the product of his hand.

Also among those who came into the township at that time was Michael Maney, who settled on the east half of the southwest quarter of section 10, and afterwards two came to a painful death from injuries inflicted by an ungovernable bull in his own barn yard. Rufus Beach, who had first settled in Troy, now exchanged his land in that township with George Morse for the farm of the latter in the northwest quarter of section 9.

Check corner vs. quarter

June 19, 1908

Henry Lewless came to Royal Oak in 1826 and settled on lands first occupied by Alexander Campbell and established upon them a potashery, the first and only one ever established in Royal Oak. Afterwards he sold to Asher B. Parker who died here a few years ago. It should be mentioned that Rufus Beach, who was mentioned in this article became a convert to Mormonism and left this region for the purpose of joining this sect of people.

Orson Starr also came this year and purchased lands in the northeast quarter of Section 9, and the northwest quarter of Section 10, but built his dwelling and shop in Section 9. He started there the manufacture of cow bells, and in that line distance all competitors. It has even been said that no one in the United States was famed as he in the production of this useful article. His bells were sent to every part of the western states and were as well-known in California as in Michigan, and from their sale realized a handsome amount during the years he was engaged in it. He died in the year 1873.

In the following year David Carlisle settled in the southwest quarter of Section 11 and in 1828 Jehial Smith settled in the northeast quarter of Section 3 on the townline. Frank Reynolds also came in this year and settled in the northeast corner of Section 16, where he started the first wagon shop in the township. He died in December 1867. His son, Frank, stayed on the old place until a few years ago when he sold out and has since moved to the village and is living on 5th street.

Among those who came in 1830 can you be mentioned John Benjamin who settled in the southwest quarter of section 8 and was the first maker of green cradles in Royal Oak. He died in the year 1878, his widow is still living with a son John, who is running a printing office at his home on Woodward avenue. Next to Mrs. Ester Fay she is considered the oldest woman in the township and it is with delight that she reads of this narrative a persons she knew in active life.

June 26, 1908

Samuel Addis came about 1830 and purchased the land was owned by Noah and Moses Peck, who were spoken of in the beginning of this article. Joel Chapman, who settled on the east line of section 22, the land still being owned by an heir and worked by Henry Ford. Joel Chapman was skillful in the manufacture and repair of cider mills. Abraham Rouse, from Lyons, Wayne county, New York, also settled about this in the northwest quarter of section 11. Nicholas and David Pullen, brothers from Sodus, Wayne county, New York, who both married daughters of Rouse, came with their father-in-law and settled on the northwest quarter of section 12, where school house No. 4 now stands; and a Mr. Ewens, who settled diagonally opposite of the Pullens, in the southeast corner of section 2, also came this year, but shortly afterwards sold to a Mr. Wilbur.

Among those who came in 1831, or about that time, or Luther Schofield, who settled in the northwest quarter of section 10; a Mr. Fox, who purchased land in the northwest quarter of section 3; Cornelius Valentine, in the northwest corner of section 17; Franklin Sanders, in the northeast quarter of the same section; Mr. Parker, the father of A. B. Parker, who purchased the Campbell tract from Henry Lewless. Benjamin Elwood, who purchased the same lands in the northeast quarter of section 17, which Woodford has entered a few years before. These lands are now known as the Vinsetta farm. Benjamin Elwood, was the father of Hiram Elwood and a grandfather of Wm. Elwood, now living in section 18. Hiram Elwood's widow is still alive and living with her son William. Stephen Bennett, who settled in the southwest quarter of section 2 and Lyman Blackman, who purchased and settled on land in the east half of the northeast quarter of section 18. This land is now owned by an heir, George W. Blackman.

This list, although not complete, embraces the very earliest immigrants as well as a great part of those who settled in the township in the latter years up to the time mentioned. From about 1830 the number of arrivals increase so rapidly and changes of location and sales of land became so frequent as to make it impossible to trace them from this point.

July 2, 1908 part

They could, however, hardly be called roads at all, merely tracks cut through the most convenient places, without regard to shortness of route or any other consideration other than the avoidance of obstacles; but, poor as they were, there were no others than these in Royal Oak when the first cabins were built here.

Six or seven years Detroit and Saginaw commenced in the 1828-29 is in the process of construction. When completed it was almost an immeasurable improvement, on the old route of travel. It was continued as a toll road up until this year, 1908, when the company's franchise expired.

Later on the Rochester plank road was laid and toll charged as far as Rochester on the Paint Creek road. The planks have long since rotted away, the franchise having expired a good many years ago. One of the old toll gates—the only one left on the route—is still standing, although moved back from the road. It is situated just south of the cemetery, between George Weitzel's home and the home of Robert Morton, and is in the first house, although dilapidated, standing in the village limits on the north, now occupied by Web Newton, one of the characters of the village. Stage lines were started and run through the village over both these roads from Detroit to Pontiac and Rochester.

The first railroad track in the State of Michigan was laid from Detroit to Royal Oak, which was composed of wooden stringers laid on ties, with one-half inch strap-iron laid along, to make the track easy running.

The coaches were drawn by horses,...the terminal was at the old depot which burned to the ground about 15 years.

July 9, 1908

Later on the company sold out to the Grand Trunk, which company put down steel rails and put on steam locomotives and built the line on to Pontiac. After the railroad was completed to the Oak the stage lines were continued to Rochester and other remote points.

In 1893 Strathearn Hendrie, of Detroit, obtain a franchise for an electric car line to the Oak. This line was completed in 1894 and has turned out to be the best paying suburban line running into Detroit.

In 1898 a franchise was granted to John Winters and Dr. Lau for an electric line to be run from Fourth street and Washington avenue to Rochester and other points. This line was completed in 1899 and has been run to Romeo and Flint. Thus the facilities for travel have been improved and been followed from the trail in 1820 to the electric line in 1899.

## Public houses

It has already been mentioned that the first road house opened in Royal Oak was the log tavern of Henry O. Bronson about half a mile north of the center of the township, and that this was soon followed by that of Lockwood, near where the electric depot now stands. Lockwood's inn supplanted that of Bronsons, and enjoyed a reign of prosperity until the Detroit & Pontiac plank road was established. When the travel commenced over the new route his business was ruined by the establishing of new hostelries along this road. The first public house open on this road was by Mrs. Mary Ann Chappell, an old or perhaps middle-age woman, who, on account of her conspicuous lack of personal beauty, was called "Mother Handsome." It is said that in her earlier years that she had been an army follower, and it is certain that she was as boisterous and rough in speech as she was plain in person. She had first opened a kind of tavern a little more than five miles out of Detroit on the Military road, then moved a little farther up in Wayne county, and afterwards made still another move, locating herself in Royal Oak in a small log house on the west side of the Pontiac road, a little below where Wilcox's stone house now stands. In this she did a good business, as she also did in her first place in Wayne county. It was not long after the establishing of her new place that a new tavern was started near her by V. M. Rose, which was located in the point of the road where Main street runs into Woodward, now occupied by Mrs. W. O. Wilcox's home. Perhaps she disliked the near proximity of a rival establishment, or whether she moved to get a better location, it is not known, anyway "Mother Handsome" moved again, this time settling near the Nine-mile road.

July 16, 1908

After she left her upper stand near V. M. Rose's tavern, Mr. Henry Stevens erected almost on the spot which she had moved from a frame building, which is open to the public, and which was known for many years as the "Red Tavern." But not withstanding competition, Mother Handsome held her own in trade. Rough and ill favored as she was, she was undeniably popular as a landlady. Immigrants and landlookers who were strangers in the country inquired for the house of Mother Handsome, at which they had beforehand been advised to stop, while those who were acquainted on the road very often passed by other houses to put up at her's, where they said that the liquor and the food were better, and these, in connection with the kind and careful attention which she was always ready to bestow on hungry, cold, drenched and exhausted travelers, give great popularity and fame to Mother Handsome as an innkeeper. But this was her last tavern stand. Years accumulated on her head and routes of travel and tavern methods changed, so that we are told that Mother Handsome passed her last years in poverty, if not actual want.

After Mr. Stevens, the Red Tavern passed into other hands, and was kept by Mr. Cressy, being destroyed by fire during his proprietorship.

There are no roadhouse is left in 1908. Some time after the Rose tavern was establish James Lewless built and started what was known as the Halfway House, because it was nearly halfway between Detroit and Pontiac. Mr. Lewless ran this house until his death in the '70s, after which it was run for a short time by his widow, who, by the way, lived until about 1902. After

Mrs. Lewless, the proprietorship was taken over by David Jenny, who run it only a couple of years, when he sold his interest to his sister-in-law, Mrs. Cronk, who managed the place for the next few years. After Mrs. Cronk the place was taken over by Albert Hupert, who soon built himself a new house across the street, which he called the "Eleven-Mile House." The last proprietor to run the "Old Halfway House," as it soon began to be called, was Frank Macy, who soon realizing the competition was too great, soon gave up the task, after which for a few years the house was run as a rooming house.

A year ago (1907) George Hendrie, the Detroit tractor and horse man, bought the land and house from the heirs and immediately commenced tearing down the structure. Albert Hupert's Eleven-Mile House managed to run until after the advent of the electric car, which removed a great deal of travel from the road, and made patronage so small that Mr. Hupert also sold out his place to George Hendrie, but it was some time before Mr. Hendrie had bought the Old Half-Way House probably in 1906. This building (the Eleven-Mile House) was moved back from the road and divided into two dwellings, one being occupied by Mr. Hendrie's foreman, Thomas McGee, and the other by Leon Freytag.

July 23, 1908

The earliest records of the township, up to and including the year 1856, were either lost or destroyed, therefore it is almost impossible to give any account of the records before that time. It has been ascertained that David Chase was one of the first supervisors of the township, closely followed by Dennis H. Quick in 1837 and 1838, Nathaniel Ormsby in 1842 and 1843, John Davis in 1844, Otis Judson in 1845, Moses Johnson 1846 to 1853 inclusive. Jonathan Chase in 1854, Alonzo Haight in 1855, F. G. C. Jasper in 1856, Lucius S. Roberts in 1857, F. G. C. Jasper again in 1858 and 1859, Edmond R. Post from 1860 to 1866 inclusive; Stephen Cooper in 1867 and 1868, H. A. Reynolds in 1869, Horace H. Osterhout in 1870. Alexander Soultz from 1871 to 1877 inclusive, Amos W. Decker from 1878 to 1880 inclusive, John Benjamin from 1881 to 1883 inclusive, Adolph Granger 1884 and 1885, John Benjamin, again from 1885 to 1890 inclusive; Nelson C. Springsteen in 1891 and 1892, A. C. Campbell in 1893, N. E. Springsteen in 1894, A. C. Campbell in 1895, 1896, 1897 and 1898; Henry Lavery from 1899 to 1905, J. B. Grow from 1904 to 1907, Louis Storz 1907 and 1908.

The first township clerk was Socrates Hopkins; the next one we find is Jonathan Chase; James B. Johnson from 1851 to 1861 inclusive; Dr. Carlos Glazier in 1858 and 1865; Ruben Russell in 1862; Martin H. Hammond in 1863 and 1864; Levon taught till in 1866 to 1868; John G. Hutchinson's in 1869-1871; J. W. Riley in 1872; Newel H. Roberts in 1873; Joseph B. Grow in 1874-75-76, and Charles M. Fay in 1877. Herman Bartels, A. W. Wilson, Josiah Heavener and Chas. A. Crane. The following men were elected and held the office of Justice of the peace: Jonathan Chase, Daniel Burroughs, Sheila Smith, Nicholas Poland, Jay. Be. Simpson. William Betts, John partial, W. M. Cory, Charles money, George M. Cooper, D. A. Dennison, A. B. Parker, Moses Johnson, Fleming Drake, Silas Everest, Norman Castle, S. S. Mathews, N. S. Schuyler, L. S. Roberts, M. H. Hammond, Reuben Russell, Orson Starr, Levi Tootill, F. G. C. Jasper, L. S. Roberts, Stephen Cooper, Andrew McPherson, Corydon E. Fay, Dennis H. Quick, H. A. Reynolds, Alexander Soultz, John R. Wells, James B. Johnson, Thomas Reading, John

Robinson, R. A. Parker, John Bainbridge, A. C. porter, H. S. Hitchcock, Dewitt C. Willber, J. O. Schuyler, D. L. Campbell, Edmund Ferguson, Matthew McBride, H. B. Puck, Voliney H. Lee, James B. Gray, F. L. Knowles, Henry Wheeler, Wm. Hilzinger, Geo. T. Baker, S. L. Robbins, W. A. Anger and Richard H. Rose.

July 30, 1908 part

Royal Oak village and the railroad station is the only one in the township. The original village plat was laid out in the year 1836 by Sherman Stevens who had purchased the land from John Parshall, the plat covering about 80 acres in the northeast quarter of section 21 and about 40 acres in the northwest quarter of section 22. This plat was laid out by Stevens in anticipation of the completion of the Detroit and Pontiac railroad (now the D. & M.), and at that time the plat was surveyed nearly, if not quite, the only building which stood in the village was the old Block house, which had been kept by Lockwood and also by Talbot as a Tavern, and the frame barn which belonged to it. They stood just west of where the electric station now stands, on a trail which is now known as Lafayette ave.

The first business enterprises inaugurated in the village where the building of a sawmill by the railroad company in 1836, and the erection of the old Eagle hotel in the same year by Daniel Hunter. While engaged in his construction Mr. Hunter lived with his family in the old Talbert Lockwood block house. The hotel was completed and opened by him in the . . . ing house for men employed in the mill and on the railroads construction. Mr. Hunter remained in this house for two years, when it was overtaken by Mr. Cook, who conducted it as a hotel for quite a number of years. The next occupant of the hotel was a man by the name of Castle, who sold the place to Mr. Fay, whose widow is yet alive, at the age of 90 years, and who is known as Royal Oak's grand old lady on account of her activity at such an advanced age. Mr. Fay was born in the year 1813, his wife in 1818, they were married in Ohio in 1837, Mrs. Fay's maiden name being Esther Laming.

They came to Michigan in 1838 by way of Monroe, Ypsilanti and settled in Genesee county. Mr. Fay was postmaster in that region under President Tyler. He had a box nailed up in one corner of the log house, and into this he threw the mail having to sort over all the mail whenever any pioneer would come after it. Mr. Fay was also a Royal Oak postmaster for a few years. Mrs. Fay was born in Maumee City, Ohio, and is one of the oldest, if not the oldest woman in Oakland county, is a most remarkable woman for her age. In her younger days she was not considered rugged but always busied herself in the hotel, in which there were always enough hotel guests to keep the landlady and help very busy.

In those days Royal Oak was a good hotel town, being a stopover place, and the terminal of two stage lines, one going to Rochester and Oxford, a four horse stage driven by Joe Bostrick, and the other a two horse stage, going to Utica, Romeo and Disco, being driven by a man named Pearsall. These stage drivers made their headquarters at Fay's hotel, placing their horses in the two large feed barns conducted in connection with the hotel. These barns stood directly across the street, one of them stood squarely in Main street. With the advent of the railroads throughout Michigan, the stage lines quit running and the hotel business also dwindled so that upon the death of Mr. Fay, his widow did not feel like having the responsibility on her shoulders, with the

decreased profits, so she relinquished control to her daughter and son-in-law, James Roley, who conducted it for a few years after which a man by the name of Butters, who enjoyed the proprietorship only about a year.

Charles M. Fay was the next proprietor and remained the same until Mrs. Fay sold it to Julius Herring, whose widow conducted it until it burned to the ground in September in 1905. Mrs. Fay, after her husband's death moved into the house which is now her home, where she makes her garden and does all the out-door work although 90 years old. She even split up kindling wood, the sidewalk which was torn up in front of her house last year to make way for a concrete sidewalk. She is up every morning at 5 o'clock and can remember events which happened years ago, much better than many people 25 years her junior.

August 5, 1908

The next hotel to be built in the village was built by James B. Simonson in 1839. It was called the Railroad Exchange, and the first of its landlords was a Mr. Balch. It was located at the corner of Main and Fifth streets, opposite of Serenson's blacksmith shop, and across Fifth street from St. Mary's Church. A. W. Decker was once a landlord, but the last landlord was Gilbert Newton, who was conducting it as a boarding house at the time when it burned to the ground. There were two large barn standing where the Catholic Church now stands, which were conducted in connection with the hotel, but these were torn down after the burning of the hotel. The next hotel was built by Julius Braun in 1890 where the hotel royale now stands. The first proprietor was Adolf Granger, who conducted a hotel and bar in it for about five years. The next proprietor of this hotel was Gustav Dondero's, who conducted it for another period of five years, when Mr. Braun went in as proprietor himself. Mr. Braun remain in the hotel about three years when Mr. Closs bought the furniture and bar fixtures and started a summer hotel. About this time Mr. Braun sold the building to A. W. Decker, who owned it when it burned down in 1904, while still occupied by Mr. Closs. Mr. Decker then built the hotel now known as the Hotel Royal on the same spot. Mr. Decker went in as proprietor for about a year and then closed it up for a period of probably six months when Wm. McCavy rented it and became proprietor, as he is at present.

in 1903 Frank Ferrell constructed what is now known as the transfer hotel, and became proprietor for a period of about three years, when he sold to George mall, who is still proprietor.

The village cannot boast of the first mercantile establishment in the Township nor the first post office of Royal Oak. Both of these were first located at chases corners in 1826, the first postmaster be in Joseph Chase, who held it twelve years when the opening of the railroad made it necessary that it should be located in the new Village, the existence of which was never dream November when "Uncle Joe" first receive his appointment. The store at the corners was a frame structure built by Jarvis Phelps, for David Chase in 1826. It's still on the west side of the crooks Road near were Edwin stars brick home now stands. In here David Chase open with a good stock of merchandise for those days, and in it was also the post office. David acting as a deputy under his father. He continued in this place of business until 1854, when he moved to Detroit.

Upon the removal of the post office in 1838 to the village Moses Johnson was appointed postmaster, to succeed Mr. Chase. After him came Dr. L. C. Rose, and Chester Stoddard. Then Dr. A. E. Brewster was appointed, and he had the post office in the house now occupied by Alex. Lewless. Then Mr. Faye was appointed and he moved it to one corner of the Eagle Hotel. After Mr. Fay, Dr. Fleming Drake became postmaster, and he held forth in the store which stood where Peter Serenson's blacksmith shop now stands, then J. B. Johnson, being appointed, moved into the store, now known as Storz's drug store. Deacon M. H. Hammond, Edward Ferguson, J. G. Hutchins and John Felker, all of whom have the office in the building where Dr. Drake had it a few years before. After John Felker, J. R. Mells [Wells?] was appointed and he moved it into his store, which has recently been turned into the department house, at the corner of Center street and Third street. After J. R. Wells, Jacob Erb became postmaster in 1881, when it was removed into the store where it is now and where it has been ever since with the exception of a years that Louis Storz had it in the store which he conducts as a general store.

August 20 1908

W. R. Wells after buying the store on Center street, built another story on the building, and it remains like this until last year when it was remodeled into an apartment flat. Mr. Wells sold out to a Mr. Marshall, who conducted it for a number of years. He later close down his business when it remained vacant for some years. The Rose Estate acquired it soon after Mr. Marshall died, and Edward Loring and R. J.. Kenny started a saloon known as the "prop? Place." This was not a paying venture and was soon and this store was conducted as a closed up, will it remain closed for a few years, then Wm. McCavy and Wm. Smith again started a saloon in the building, remaining in partnership for a year, then dissolving itself into Wm. McCavy's saloon. Mr. McCavy remained here until 1906, then he moved into the Hotel Royal, where he is now located.

The next store to be built in the village was built by George Erb, father of Jacob Erb, who is now postmaster of the Oak. He started the shoe store shoe store until Jacob Erb was appointed postmaster in 1880, when he went into the partnership with his father. Jacob running the postoffice and selling groceries with his father repairing shoes and selling them. Later Jacob took over the store alone, and his father opened a shoe repair department in one room of his home across the street, where he remained until he died. Jacob has remain in the general store business ever since, and about the year 1900 build his new store, which he now occupes.

Mr. Robertson next started a hardware store on the corner of Main and Fourth streets, which he conducted for a few years. This was later occupied is the saloon by James Lockman, then James McKibbin started a grocery store in the building. A Mr. Kendal was the next occupant, conducting a candy and lunch room in the same. Mr. Hub Hall next occupied the building, conducting a boarding house until his death, and his widow conducted it for years afterward.

Mrs. Hub Hall later sold out her business and rented the buildings to Mrs. Anna Ayris, who later moved into a building she built on Main street, between First and Second streets, where she is still in the dry goods business.

After Mrs. Ayris left the Hub Hall store John Baum conducted an eating room and candy store here, remaining until the building was sold to Gustave Dondero and Albert Hupert. Dondero and Hupert ran a saloon in partnership until Dondero bought him out, when it was known as the Dondero saloon, until he sold out to John Yelp who now occupies it as a soft drink emporium.

After J. O. Allen left the store at the corner of Main and Fifth streets he built himself a store at the corner of Main and Third streets, where he started a hardware store, and conducted it until he sold out to R. J. Kinney, who put in groceries, and meats. Mr. Kenney done a good business here for a number of years. He later went out of business.

Clack Brothers were the next proprietors, doing an exclusive meat business, but remained here only a few years. Quick and Carter later tried the exclusive meat business in this same building, but also quit after a year's trial. Then Charles Quick started a general store and meats and remained here until he sold out to a young man named Thomson, who remained here only one summer. E. P. Newton then occupied the building until he burned out in 1901.

August 27, 1908

The next door to commence business with Charles F. Quick's, at the corner of Main and First Street, which by the way with nothing more than the Marcellous this blacksmith shop remodeled into a store building. Mr. Quick conducted this for a number of years, later adding a meat department. He later moved to the R. J. Kenny store at the corner of Main and Third streets. The store now remained empty, until after E. P. Newton, burned out at the corner of Main and Third streets, rented it, starting new, in the grocery and meat business. Later he closed out the business, after which it remained vacant again until a club of boys rented it for a club room, and later the Royal Oak Club, using it later for the purpose. then it was vacant again until M. As a good start of the variety store. He is still producing there.

The next place of business was a market built on the spot were Barabowski's blacksmith shop now stands. This meat market was built by Herman Bartels, and he did a good business here for a number of years. Later he moved the building onto the north half of lot 3 in block 2 on Main street, here he added a stock of groceries. He remained here until he sold out the stock to E. P. Newton, who later moved to the R. J. Kenny store. This shop now remained vacant until the firm of the Ford and Hupert started a market, which will later dissolved itself into A. Hupert we & Sons. Hupert later sold out to Harry Ford, who conducted it for a number of years. He sold out in 1906 and it remained vacant until 1907, when Mrs. Hub Hall started a candy store, she later closing out. It is now occupied as a harness shop.

George Tapert, thinking that there was an opening here for a meat market, he bought the old Wilson barn and moved it to the corner of Main and Sixth streets which he reconstructed into a dwelling and a meat market. He later sold out to William Rolfe, who conducted a dry goods store up until a year ago.

September 3, 1908

The next store to be built was built on Centre Street, next to the Grand Trunk depot, by Joseph Conrad, for his father, who conducted a candy store, until it was purchased by Eugene Clement, who build an addition and started a bakery and grocery store. Mr. Clement has done a successful business here ever since.

[The next door what is built on Main Street by Gus Dondero in 1888, at once occupied by a bowl in Houston, neither by EJ you and Company, then in 1907] ?

Edward Roy next bought the lot at corner Main and Third streets, built himself a double store, himself starting in the meat business and C. A. Crane starting in the furniture business in the other store. They are both in business at the present time. The next business was the bakery built on Main street, occupied at first by a Mr. Green and later by Levanseler & Warner, and now by L. J. Levanseler. R. J. Kenney next moved his barn onto a lot on Main street and remodeled it into a meat market. Himself occupying it for a short time, then John Lawson & Son started in the same building, later selling out to George Dondero, who is soon tiring of the meat business, sold out to Clarence Hupert, who ran it for quite a while, later closing out. William Ford next started a market in this building, selling out to Lee Halsey, until last fall when Lee and his brother bought out E. J. Hough & Co, moving their meat business into the new building, thus closing up the old stand. Then Clarence Hupert again started in the meat business in the old Kenney building, but remained only a few weeks. Ed Roy next added a large store to his double store, which Mrs. J. Lochbihler now occupes as a dry goods store.

Robert Barkeley on the next built a store at the corner of Washington avenue and Eighth street, where he started in the grocery business, selling out to Freeman Robbins in 1907, who still conducted it as a grocery store. In the fall of 1907 Freeman took in his father, the firm being known as S. L. Robbins & Son, as it still remains.

The Mason Sisters build a candy and notion store across from the High School in 1906 and occupied it themselves until 1907 when they sold out to Leon Freytag, who started a drug and music store. He burned to the ground in the spring of 1908.

Dewey & Lawson built a hardware store near their lumber yard on Main street about 1896, this they conducted for a number of years, when J. M. Lawson bought out Dewey's interest conducting a hardware here until 1907, when he built himself a new hardware store, renting the old building to William Folling, who is using it as a plumber's shop.

Gus Dondero next built a drugstore (summer of 1908), which is occupied by Smith & Blair.

W. G. Burke next built the store at the corner of Fourth and Center streets (spring 1908).

William Wilson bought a small shoe store from Joseph Mow and moved it to where Burke's hardware store and now is, later moving it across the street, where he is conducting a candy, lunch and ice cream parlor.

September 10, 1908

A small paper was established in the Village by Rev. George W. Owen of the M. E. church, and edited by his wife. The paper was published every second and fourth Saturday of the month and was called the Royal Oak experiment. The first issue came forth on Saturday, August 24, 1876. The following item was clipped from the issue of December 22, 1877.

The following are the names of the pupils of our school who have been in regular attendance this past week: Annie Dennen , Lettie Russell, Dollie Schuyler, Willie Burhans, Levi Burhans, George Ford, Frank Ford, Arthur Campbell, Clarence Owen, James Rennie, Jennie Rennie, Mary Wilson, Hattie Wheeler, Lillie Hensbeck, James Donnely, Charles Wilson, George Dawson, Freddie Marshall, Ira Burlaws, Willie Robinson, Ernest Rasty, Rosie Hutchins, Mary Wheeler, Alice Campbell, Annie Ford, Mertie Hutchins, Gertrude Sike, Julia Russell, Maggie Bachmeier, and Willie Salyer.

The issue of February 24, 1877, contained in the following advertisement:

LOUIS STORZ  
Will Sell For  
THIRTY DAYS  
FOR CASH

A. Coffee sugar....11 cts. per pound  
C. Coffee sugar....10 cts. per pound  
Three pounds good Japan Tea.....\$  
Four pounds Crackers.....[?]5 cts.  
Seven Bars Soap.....[?]5 cts.  
Kerosene Oil, per gal.....[?]2 cts.

And all other goods in his line in the same proportion.  
January, 1877 Royal Oak, Mich.

Mr. Owen was called to Wyandotte, sold his printing office to Finn & Soult, who started the Royal Oak Midget, the first issue being published Friday, June 27, 1879. Finn & Souts published the paper for about three years when they dissolved partnership, Mr. Finn taking the printing office to Detroit, where he has been connected with the Journal Christian Herald, and many more of the large papers of the city. There was no paper published in the village between 1881 and 1902, when Mr. Brown started the Royal Oak Tribune, later selling out to M. T. Woodruff, who managed to keep it going until the present publisher purchased it from him in December, 1907.

September 17, 1908

The first and only water mill in Royal Oak Township was a saw mill erected in the year 1832 by James G. Johnson, and his farm in the northeast quarter of section 4, and about one-half mile south of the Troy line. The stream on which was built [unintelligible word] north fork of the Red Run, which, on account of improvements made up on it was called the "Lawson Ditch." Looking at the ditch now, it is hard to understand how it could ever have propelled a mill, for not only is its bed baked hard and dry even in times of ordinary dry weather, but there seems to be scarcely any fall in it at that point, or in that vicinity. Notwithstanding which, it is stated as a fact that in its best days the mill actually cut 2000 feet of lumber in 12 hours, and this may be true, incomprehensible as it may seem.

Six years after its erection it was sold to Michael Christopher and Joshua Fay for \$600, with the right to plow from September 10 to May 20. From this time until 1847 it was in the hands of several owners, and the last name year, being then in the possession of Peter Brewster, it was by him fitted up with an auxiliary steam power, soon after which it met the usual fate of similar establishments, viz., destruction by fire. There was at one time a small manufactory of rakes and grain cradles carried on in connection with this mill.

The first mill built in the township with the intention of using steam as a propelling power was built in the summer and fall of 1836 by the Detroit and Pontiac Railroad Company, the machinery being constructed and put in under the supervision of Horace Heth, of Syracuse, New York, machinist and millwright. The side of the mill was within the present bounds of Royal Oak village. It started in January, 1837, its work being the sawing of 5 by 7 inch timber, to be laid on the railroad bed, as stringers, on which to spike strap iron which formed the first track of this road, a construction known in England as trainway.

September 24, 1908

The present steam saw mill in the village may be said to be the successor of the old Detroit and Pontiac Railroad mill which was first built in the fall of 1868, and was put in operation by J. B. Bangle, of Detroit, who afterwards sold it to J. M. Jones, of Detroit, who later, about 1875, sold it to C. N. Marshall. In 1875 or 1876 Mr. Marshall added a pair of stones to the mill for the grinding of feed, being the first feed mill in Royal Oak. The mill was again sold, this time into the hands of Candler Brothers, who sold the stones and only attended to the lumbering business. The mill burned to the ground in 1902, but was immediately rebuilt under the superintendency of Adolphus Granger. The mill has remained idle the past year for want of logs, as timber is getting very scarce in this section.

Adolphus Granger built in the early 60's a stream saw mill on Woodward avenue, between the 8 and 9-mile road. It was destroyed by fire in the spring of 1876, but was rebuilt by him and kept in operation until the year 1890, when Mr. Granger moved into the village and went into the hotel business.

There is a factory for making tiles and bricks on the Crooks road, conducted by Edwin Starr, who succeeded his father, Almon Starr, who was a son of Orson Starr, the noted Royal Oak cowbell maker. Mr. Starr is now conducting in connection with the brick business, a large seed farm and has under his employ at some times of the year as many as 40 or 50 men and boys.

About 1889 Mr. Julius Braun and Joseph Conrad established a lumberyard in Royal Oak on Center street. This did not pay so Mr. Braun closed out his share to Mr. Conrad, who gradually closed out everything he had.

In 1892 Mr. Braun again formed a partnership, this time with Louis Storz, and purchased Block No. 35, which was then vacant property, had a sidetrack laid into it and started another lumber yard. This was again a failure, so they sold out to Clayton, a Detroit lumber man, who had a man by the name of Wilcox manage it for him, but could not make it a successful venture,

so he again sold out, this time Dewey & Lawson, who put the business on its feet. Later on Mr. Lawson bought out the interests of Mr. Dewey and has conducted it alone since.

The next lumber yard was established by W. C. Burke in the spring of 1908, and Block No. 15, which bids fair to be a successful venture.

October 1, 1908

The first barbershop was commenced by a Birmingham man by the name of Toms, in the building on Fifth street first built for a drug store. The next shop was started by Frank McDowell, commonly known as "Tid" in a small addition building to Mrs. Hall's restaurant, now John Yelp's place. Upon Mr. McDowell's death, Mr. J. J. Axtell started in the same shop and he was bought out by William Beltz, who later built himself a shop further up the street, and still continues it as a shop.

Mr. Des Rockwell then started the shop in the Merrill building, now occupied as a shoe repair shop, but closed out and left for Detroit. John Gursky started the barber shop in a place on Fourth street, fixed up for same by Frank Freda. Mr. Gursky sold his business to John Black, who is still conducting the business, but in a building in W. G. Burke's block.

The first shoe repair shop was started by a German named Storz in the building now occupied by his son-in-law, William Hilsinger. The next was started by George Erb, father of the postmaster, in the house directly across Main street from the postoffice. Mr. Julius Neugebauer next commenced a shop in the building at the corner of Main and Fourth streets, later moving into the old building formerly occupied by Warren Barnum. Later Mr. Neugebauer built the place where he now lives, still doing shoe repairing in one wing of his house. The next shoe shop was commenced in the Merrill building by George Hall, who moved from there into the Dr. Kidder place, and from there to Peter Serenson's shop on Main street.

The last place was started by the German who is still conducting it in the Merrill building.

Charles Hulbert started the first harness shop in the town. An old colored man named Duncan also conducted a harness shop here.

Maro Robinson once conducted a feed mill on his place next to the Grand Trunk track. This building was later reconstructed into the house now owned by William Wilson.

The present feed mill was built by Lawson & McKinney, later selling to John Groves, who closed out to John McClelland. Mr. McClelland's interests were purchased by a man named Kent, who still owns it.

October 8, 1908

The first schoolhouse in the township was taught in the little log house with Josiah Goddard had built on the west side of the Crooks road, in the northeast quarter of section 16, and

a short time later abandoned, after which it was used as a schoolhouse and as a place of meeting for religious worshipers of whatever denomination.

The next was a frame schoolhouse only a few rods from the site of the present school in District No. 1. Then there was one built at Chase's Corners and others followed in other parts of the township not very much later.

At that time school houses were built and schools taught in them, under the simple old plan, which was just the same in Royal Oak as everywhere else in the new country--the universal method of a day of meeting of the male inhabitants to rear the school building by co-operation of labor, and afterward a subscription, per capita of pupils, to raise the \$15 per month which was required as the remuneration of the superior teacher for the winter term. Many are the tales, both ludicrous and pathetic, told by the old settlers concerning their experiences on the slab or puncheon seats of those rude temples of learning, but all look back with a feeling of tender regret to the school days and scenes which they can never see again.

October 14, 1908

The first school house in the village stood near where William Fisher's blacksmith shop now stands or may be further east, but the exact spot cannot be ascertained. The next school building was the same in which Dr. Anderson now lives. A good many of the Oak's older citizens can remember going to this building as a school house. Miss Helen Weir taught school in this building. While Dr. Lathrop was director of this district a new frame building with two large rooms was built: this building is now known as San Sara Hall. Miss Helen Weir also taught in this building, probably longer at a time and than any other teacher before or since her time. This building serviced as a school until the year 1902, when the fine new brick building which we now have was built. The instructors and principals of this district were as follows: Miss Weir, Miss Joanna Dennen, Miss Anne Dennen, Mrs. Gardner, Miss Welch, Miss Clara Erb, Miss Leroy, Miss Mabel Baldwin, Miss Smith, Miss Mary Stauch, Miss Gertrude Jackson, Miss Matilda Storz, Miss Jennings, Miss Buchanan, Miss Curtis, Miss Mageehan, Miss Richard, Miss Hilzinger, Miss Stark, Miss Bell, Miss Paxton, Miss Armstrong, and Miss Cora Storz. Mr. Snook, Mr. Wallace, Mr. Walters, Mr Dale, Mr. Hagel, Mr. Traphagen, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Goodfellow and Mr. Stevens.

There are in the township at present nine schools and every one well attended. Royal Oak Township having the distinction of drawing more primary money than any other township in the state.

October 22, 1908

Our town hall, situated on Main street, corner of Fourth street, was built in the year 1870 by B. M. Knowles, contractor, and accepted by the town on the 10th day of September of the same year. The contractor received \$1664 for the building.

The Baptist Church was organized under the charge of Elder Stephen Goodman, of Troy, in January, 1839, the original members of being Henry Stephens and wife, William Betts and

Wife, Dr. L. C. Rose and wife, Chester Morgan and wife and Amelia Nichols. For some time before the organization these and a few other devout ones had been accustomed to meet in the school houses, and sometimes at dwellings and there hold religious services under the preachings of Elders Goodman, Buttolph, Keys and such other preachers as from time to time chanced to come among them.

Mr. Goodman continued to labor with them for several years. after him came Reverend Avery Dennison, and Reverend Samuel Jones, of Grand Blanc (who was with them about 1844). Then Mr. Goodman returned, and he was followed by the second pastorate of Mr. Dennison.

Other preachers who came later were Revs. Isaiah Fay, James Ward, O. T. Clark, then Mr. Goodman and Mr. Dennison, for the third time for each one: Henry Pearsal, of Avon: Mr. Church, of Fentonville: Mr. Chenowith, Mr. Mendel and Silas Finn, who came in 1871 and stayed until his death.

October 29, 1908

The first church edifice was commenced immediately after the organization upon lots donated by Sherman Stephens, at the corner of Third and Main streets, in the village. It was built by a Henry Stephens, as contractor, and he contributed liberally towards the costs of the building, of which the total was about \$700. It was dedicated in August, 1839. 26 years later a new and later building having been decided upon, the old one of 1839 was sold to the German Lutherans, and the new edifice, the present Baptist house of worship, was erected on the west side of Main street, at the north end of the village.

For a time after the sale of the old church the congregation, by an arrangement with the purchasers, continue to use it as their place of meeting until their own building was roofed in, and they were able to occupy its basement for that purpose.

The church was dedicated in August, 1876. It was a handsome building and standing on the ground in the form of a Greek cross, 70 feet in extent either way.

In its erection the Rev. Silas Finn, the pastor, bore a very large part (fully one-half) of the burden, financially, which was by no means insignificant, the whole cost being about \$4000.

In connection with the church was also a Sunday school, which was organized under the pastorate of Mr. Pearsall, and of which he was also superintendent. Its existence, however, was very irregular, as was also the church which stood idle for years. It has lately taken a new life, with the growth of the village, its pastor being supplied from Birmingham. It has a fine Sabbath school and shows every evidence of becoming a solid institution.

November 5, 1908

The first organization of the Methodists in Royal Oak took place a short time before that of the Baptists, in the year 1838. The first meetings were held in the school house that stood in the eastern part of the village, near Williams and Sixth street. The congregation was quite numerous, and among the first preachers who serve them was Rev. J. M. Arnold. Their first

house of worship was commenced in 1842, and on land donated by Sherman Stevens, and completed in the spring of 1843 at a cost of \$1500. The present pastor of the church is Rev. O. W. Willits.

About the time of the church organization, a Sabbath school, the first in the township, was commenced by the Methodist and the Congregationalists, though it was prior to the latter denomination. Chiefly instrumental in the commencement of this early Sabbath school were David Cowan, Methodist, and Levi Tootill, Congregationalist. Mr. Cowan with made the superintendent and Mr. Tootill was his assistant. The school was held in the school house where the Methodist worshipped, and its sessions were continued there until the completion of the Methodist Church, in 1843. The attendance was quite large. Soon after the organization of the Congregational church this union Sabbath school was dissolved, and two schools formed from it, the Congregationalist and the Methodists. The first superintendent of the last named denomination was Edward Ferguson. In 1893, during the pastorate of Rev. Smith, plans were formed by the Methodists for the erection of a new building, but were not completed until 1894, when Rev. Mr. Wood took up the task and built the fine brick building now belonging to the Methodists at the corner of Washington avenue and Sixth street.

November 12, 1908

The congregational church organization was affected on the 13th of August, 1842, by Rev. Ebenezer McDowell, in the Baptist church, Royal Oak village. The original members numbered only five, namely: Peter Merritt and wife, Levi Tootill and wife and George Scougel.

Immediately after there were several additions to it from the Presbyterian church at Birmingham, among these being Ezra Blackman, Lyman Blackman and Joseph Quick.

Rev. Mr. McDowell labored with the church for about a year and a half, then came Rev. Charles Fairchild, who remained for about three years, then Rev. Mr. Steele, who remained for about a year, and during whose ministry occurred the most notable revival known in the history of the church--a revival which brought large accessions to the numbers of the church. After Mr. Steele came Rev. Ezekiel Lucas, who remained two years: Rev. S. N. Hill, three or four years: Rev. O. C. Thomson, one year: Rev. James Nall, six years: Rev. Pettigrew, one year: Rev. Mr. Marvin, two years. Rev. Samuel Porter, two years, and Rev. O. C. Thomas for four years, after which an indefinite number of preachers were engaged at different times.

November 25, 1908

The committee were successful in their mission of buying the church house at Troy Corners, and the price of \$300 and it was moved to the Oak piece by piece, even the old pulpit being used, although it was somewhat remodeled. There was no addition to the size of the building, or any change in its outward form. It was dedicated August 28, 1867, Rev. Dr. Ballard officiating. Its entire cost when completed was \$1800 in money, besides a considerable amount of donated labor. At the division of the Union Sunday school mentioned in preceding issues, the first superintendent of the new Sunday school commenced by the Congregationalists was James Bowen Johnson, and under his charge became very flourishing. The church had a very varied

career, at times being closed for a period of four or five years, then to be reopened and take a new lease of life. The following pastors were builders after a latent period: Rev. Sheppard, Rev. Oakley, Reverend Aldrich and Dr. St. John, under whose pastorate energetic workers procured a new bell, new windows, electric lights, and are at the present time decorating the church, so that it will be as fine a looking building on the inside as any in town.

December 3, 1908

### The United Presbyterian Church

This church was organized nearly 61 years ago as the "United Presbyterian church of Troy," their church organization being affected and their first meeting being held in the Marvin school House of that township.

In the year 1853 it was decided to remove their place of worship to the township of Royal Oak, as being a more convenient point for a majority of the members, and a site was selected on the northeast corner of section 8, then known as "Chase's Corners," but now known by every one as "Starr's Corners," where a lot containing a third of an acre of land was donated by David Chase.

Upon this lot an edifice, their present house of worship, was built in the year named, and dedicated in 1854. The cost of the building was about \$2000, and William Bailey, Sr., was the carpenter in charge of the construction. It was found [unknown words] enlarge the lot and for that purposes an additional half acre was purchased from Mr. Chase making an area of five-sixths of an acre for the entire lot.

The first pastor of the congregation in Royal Oak was Rev. James M Smallie, who remained until March 4, 1860, and was succeeded by Rev. William Robertson in March, 1861. He remained until April 21, 1868, and was succeeded by Rev. Richard M Patterson in the succeeding October. He resigned in November, 1870. The next pastor was Rev. J. P. Gibson, who was installed April 22, 1874. The church has health services continually, and the last few years has been supplied from pastor.

December 10, 1908

### The Catholic Church

Saint Mary's Catholic Church was first organized in 1868. The church was built under the direction of Rev. George Nivels, on land donated by Edmund Longhman, in section 15. The church grew rapidly and in 1890 a fine new church was built at the corner of Main and Fifth streets, on two lots donated by Julius Brann. This building is now one of the finest churches in the village. At first Mass was held only once a month, by a priest supplied from the Center Line church. Now the parish is supplied from the Capucian convent in Detroit, with services held every Sunday morning. The parish is made up mostly of Polish and German worshippers, and composes nearly 150 families.

December 17, 1908

The German Lutheran Church was organized in 1874 in the village and in the spring of 1875 the society bought the old Baptist Church building, at the corner of Main and Third streets. There was a split in the year 1888 and the church was divided into 2 factions, one known as the Lutheran Evangelical Church and the other as St Paul's Lutheran Church. Rev. Mr Speckhard was the first preacher of this church. The Saint Paul's church built themselves a building at the corner of Williams and Fifth streets in the fall of 1889. These churches are now running in prosperous condition, the Lutherans being supplied from Pontiac, and the pastor of the evangelical being Rev. Otto Keller, who has been their pastor for the past 20 years. In 1874 the Lutherans of Detroit established an orphan asylum on land purchased from Mark Hall, known as the Owen Johnson Estate. This is now owned by Polk and Charles Wentland is living on the premises.

Reverend Speckhard was the principal of this institute. The asylum was later moved to Norristown, on account of it being given a free gift of land. Most of the orphans of this asylum were deaf and dumb.

The building burned to the ground shortly after the institute was transferred.

December 24, 1908

#### History of Royal Oak Cemeteries.

The first place of burial in Royal Oak was a spot on the lots now owned by North Wilcox, but formerly known as the Russell estate, this then being considered the logical place, partly on account of the nature of the ground, but more particularly on the account of its location being within a few yards of the center of the township and near the main road. For some reason or other it was abandoned and another burial ground started where the present one now is.

The first burial on the old lot was that of the daughter of Cromwell Goodwin, in 1825, and a few others followed: there may have been four or five in all, but probably not so many, and they were afterwards move to the Burrows ground.

December31, 1908

The location of the new cemetery (at that time) was about one mile north of the village, and it occupies along with the Catholic cemetery, the whole of the long, narrow triangle which is formed by paint Creek and Niles roads on the east and west and the section line between 10 and 15 on the north.

At the north end of this, embraced with his present, was the spot mentioned in another installment of this article, which was donated by David Burroughs as a place for graves, not far from 1826, during which year the first burial was made there—that of a baby daughter of David Chase. The second internment on the ground was that of Mrs. Antwerp, whose family lived in the southwest quarter of section 11.

During the succeeding 30 years it was occupied and used a graveyard without much rule, restrictions of feeling other than general proprietorship until the year 1857, when it was taken in control by the township board of health as a township cemetery and an addition was made to its area by the purchase of two acres from William Dunham.

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