

# TWO GENERATIONS UNDER FREEDOM

BY BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

With Photographs by C W Chandler

I HAVE often been asked to what extent the Negro race has the ability for self-direction and government, and the power to initiate and to make continuous progress unaided.

I want to try to answer this question, in part at least, not by abstract argument, but by telling the story of a self-governing community of colored people.

The group of negroes whose story I want to tell reside in Cass County, Michigan. Among the early settlers of that part of the State were several Quakers who had left their former homes in the South because they did not approve of slavery. In Michigan, as elsewhere, these Quakers soon let it be known that not only were they opposed to the institution of human slavery, and that runaway slaves would receive a friendly welcome among them, but that they would also receive physical protection if necessary. In addition to becoming an asylum for escaping slaves, this community of Quakers soon became a station on the "Underground Railroad."

The townships in Cass County in which the Quakers for the most part settled were named Calvin and Porter. It was about the year 1840 that a few colored people, mostly from Kentucky, began to find their way into these townships. Every year after that the number of escaped slaves grew larger, until in the year 1847 a determined effort was made on the part of some slaveholders to recapture their runaway negroes. Quite a number of slave-owners or their representatives appeared in Calvin township in that year, coming in one band, mounted and well armed, and made a bold and determined effort to regain possession of their property and return it to Kentucky. The effort at capture was successfully resisted by the Quakers, the colored people, and other residents of the community.

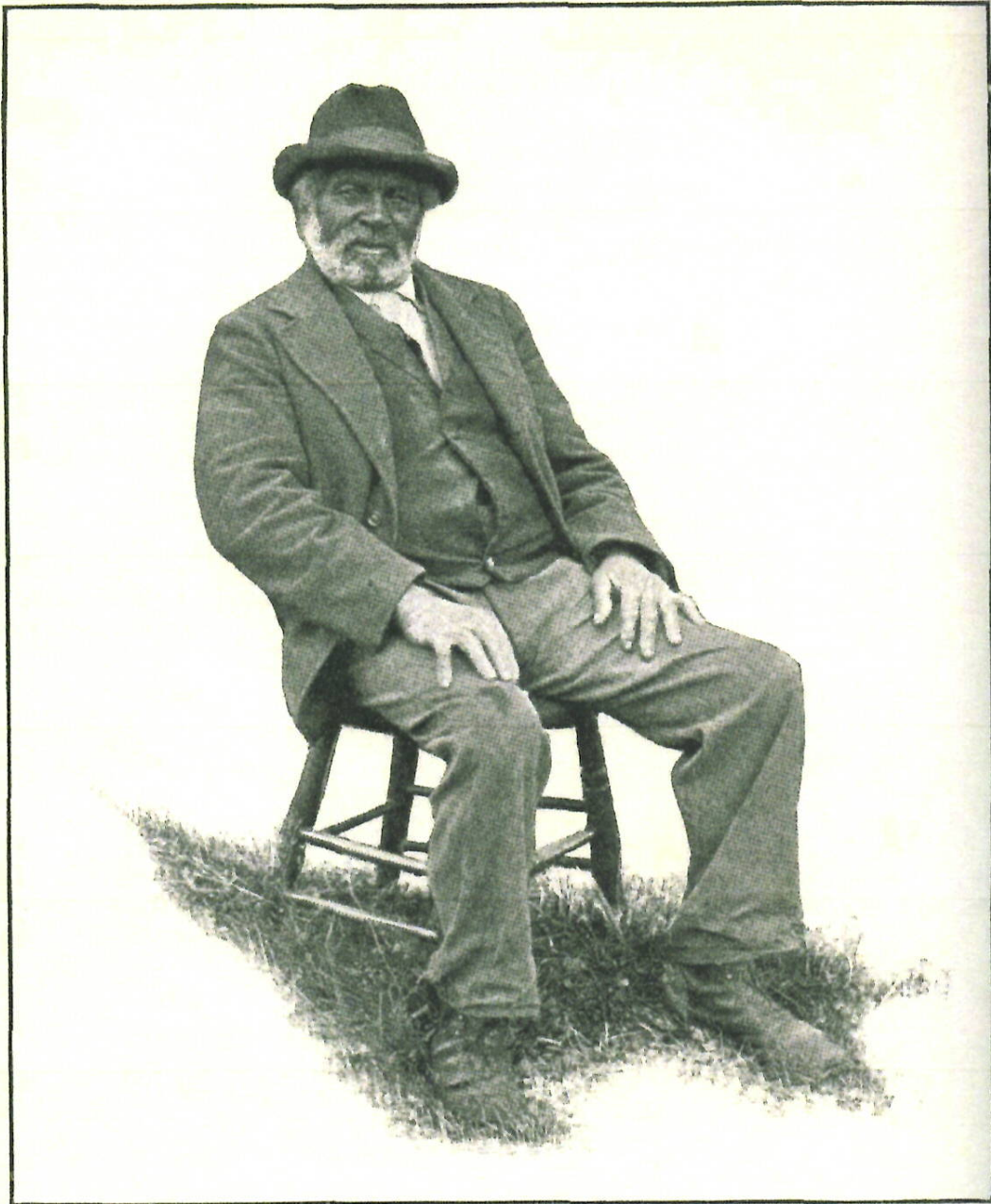
While a few of the colored people, as a result of this raid, became uneasy and fled to Canada, the ultimate result was

to advertise Cass County, Michigan, as being a part of the country where negroes could enjoy a reasonable freedom from the constant fear of being snatched up and returned to their former masters. After the "raid" a still larger number of colored people began to go into the two townships named, and they covered a much wider territory than the first settlers. In addition to those who came directly to Michigan, not a few escaped slaves left Ohio, where they had first located themselves, in order to settle in Cass County, where the good Quakers had so effectually proved their courage and loyalty.

It was not, however, until the year 1849 that one of these townships, Calvin, began to assume the character which invests it with special interest at present. In 1847 a large slaveholder by the name of Saunders, who lived in Cabell County, Virginia—now a part of West Virginia—died. When his will was opened, it was found that provision had been made to the effect that all his slaves must be made free. The will further provided a generous amount of money which was to be used in removing all of the testator's slaves into a free State. In addition, the slave-owner made arrangements for the purchase of a tract of land in some free State to be divided among these people, and the building of a house for each of his former slave families, the will also providing the money to do all this.

The Saunders ex-slaves, forty-one in number, at last were started northward. One who was entitled to accompany them refused to go into a land of freedom, even with all the added advantages of this opportunity, because his wife was a slave and could not go with him. After a long journey, which was attended by many hardships, the members of the party finally reached their Michigan home a few days before Christmas. A large tract of land which was a complete wilderness had been purchased by the executors.





SAMUEL HAWKES, THE LARGEST TAXPAYER IN CALVIN

His tax for 1902 was \$154.36

This tract was divided into parcels of eighteen acres for each individual—men, women, and even infants—the youngest baby getting as much as the oldest man. A small log house of such style as was common for the settlers in that country at that time was erected for each family.

The Saunders families—for each family took the name of the former master of the slaves—found their first winter in the wilds of Michigan in sharp contrast to

the temperate climate they had left behind them in Virginia. They underwent a great deal of suffering. Not only were they unused to the climate, but they had to clear land for the spring planting in soil to which they were not accustomed. Their Quaker friends, as well as the colored people already residing in Calvin township, were most kind to them, but the rigorous climate, as well as the sudden change in methods of living, began to tell



upon these people in rather a discouraging manner before many months in their new home had passed. It soon became evident that there were some things that the mere gift of freedom and the gift of lands and money could not do. Freedom, lands, and money could not give one experience in self-direction and self-dependence. In the words of another, "Freedom is a conquest, not a bequest."

For several years the Saunders families were in a majority in the township, and they prospered in a reasonable degree. But, as time passed, many of them began to let their wants increase faster than their ability to supply these increased wants. In their extravagant ideas and practices they began to demonstrate the truth of the old saying that a man values only what he has had experience in accumulating. Besides this, while these new settlers were in the possession of lands and houses, they were without education. Some of them began to give mortgages on their land, and while their good Quaker neighbors would protect them in their freedom, and help them to get an education, they were not averse at any time to driving a shrewd and safe business bargain. Not many years passed before a good part of the land once owned by the Saunders families began to fall into the hands of the Friends.

I will not recite in more detail the story of the Saunders community, except to say that most of the property owned by these people gradually passed out of their hands in one way and another, some part of it being secured by other shrewd colored men who had settled in Calvin township. I think I make a correct statement in saying that when I visited the township a few weeks ago I found only one of the original Saunders settlers who at the present time owns any of the land bought by the executors of the Saunders estate. The bare mention of "a Saunders family" would quite likely cause a quiet smile to creep over the face of one of the old inhabitants who did not belong to that group. These people not only had not held their own materially, but I found that, a few years after the newcomers began to get planted in their free homes, not a few of the young men began developing habits of idleness, not a few became criminals, while still others made them-

selves offensive to the whites and sensible blacks by becoming "uppish" and in other ways disagreeable. All these things resulted in giving the community something of a bad name for several years.

From the foregoing some may draw the conclusion at once that the whole effort was a failure. Not by any means. What I have stated simply emphasizes the fact that human nature is very much the same, no matter under what color of skin it is found. What I have related of the history of the Saunders community illustrates what I have often tried to say in relation to my race in general in this country—that the first one or two generations of freed people would naturally in many cases mistake freedom for license and would be overcome, in a large measure, by the first temptations of their new life, but that the second or third generations would begin to settle down to hard, sober business. If any one wants to get direct and specific proof of the truth of this statement, he should spend one or two days, as I have done, in making a first-hand investigation of the present condition of the negroes in Calvin township.

My visit of inspection, however, before I had been in the township two hours, taught me that the weak points exhibited by the people of the earlier generations had wrought a most beneficial work. It is often said that a thing that is bad has to get worse before it gets better. This I found to be true of Calvin township. At about the time when matters had gone down to their lowest ebb, industrially and morally, the more level-headed of the colored people began to realize the situation and to resolve that by strong and earnest effort they would bring about a reform. At about this time there began coming into the township a different class of people. These came mainly from Ohio, North Carolina, and Virginia. As a rule, they or their parents represented a class of people who had been set free—the class which in North Carolina were termed "free niggers," a designation which, strange to say, was used as a term of contempt by negro slaves as well as by their masters. The main point that I want to bring out here, though, is that these later settlers, either in Ohio or in some of the Southern States, had got over the first flush of freedom, and so were ready to





THE BARNYARD OF BILL ALLEN'S FARM

settle down to business when they reached Calvin township. The money and the experience that these people brought with them to Calvin had been dearly earned by themselves. This new element joined itself with the better representatives of the earlier settlers, and very soon Calvin township began to acquire a new atmosphere. The real solid growth of the township began from this time.

My attention was first attracted to this settlement some years ago when I was in South Bend, Indiana, the site of the Studebaker wagon factories. I noticed that the colored people of South Bend seemed to be an unusually prosperous and solid lot of people, far above the average of those generally found in large cities, or anywhere in the North. I asked one of the Studebakers the reason for this difference, and he said that he thought it grew out of the fact that from the first the Studebaker firm had never permitted any color line to be drawn in any department of their works—that a negro was not made to feel that on account of his race he was assigned

to a certain minor place in the factory, and could not hope to rise above that place, no matter how well he did his work. Mr Studebaker said that they had held out to their negro workmen the same hope of reward in the way of promotion or increase of pay that the white workmen had held before them. There is a lesson in this treatment of the negro workmen by the Studebakers that has in it a solution for many of the problems connected with the negro. Take away from any race or individual the hope of reward, and you help destroy the race or individual.

From this discussion of the condition of the colored people in South Bend, Mr Studebaker called my attention to the large community of colored people in Calvin township, Michigan, which is not very far from South Bend, since Cass County, in which Calvin is situated, is on the southern boundary of Michigan. When I asked Mr. Studebaker about these people he said in substance that for a number of years his firm had sold them wagons and other farm machinery, and had often sold





BILL ALLEN AMONG HIS CATTLE

on credit, and that in all their business relations of recent years they had proved themselves just as reliable and prompt as the white people in the same county, or anywhere in the State. This statement so interested me that I resolved to see this community for myself at the very first possible opportunity, because I had always been anxious to see just what progress in self-government any large number of people of my race could make when left absolutely to themselves and given the advantage of the climate and location that the average white man in America possesses.

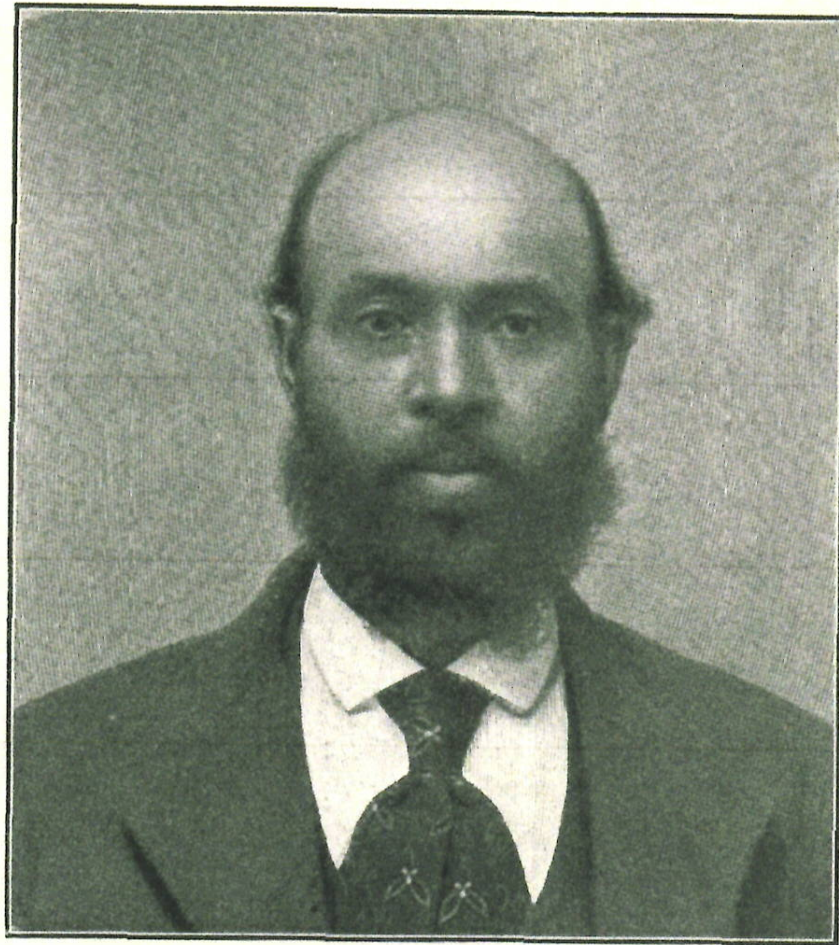
In connection with what I am going to say it should be kept in mind that the unit of government in Michigan, as in Massachusetts, is the township—that is, each township has practically complete self-government. Besides this it is entitled to at least one representative on the Board of County Commissioners which controls the affairs of the county.

When I visited Calvin township recently I found that it contained a population of

759 negroes and 512 whites. In addition to these, a large negro population had overflowed into the adjoining township of Porter, and to some extent into all but two of the towns in the county. The county seat of Cass County is Cassopolis. The nearest boundary line of Calvin township is about six miles from Cassopolis.

As I drove, in company with the Hon. L. B. Des Voignes, the probate judge of the county, Mr. Max Bennett Thrasher, a newspaper writer, and Mr. Jesse W. Madrey, the latter one of the most prosperous colored farmers in the county, from Cassopolis in the direction of Calvin township, we soon began going through well-cultivated farms and past comfortable-looking farm-houses. The farms, for the most part, in their general appearance compared favorably with the average farms we saw in Michigan. Many of the houses were large, attractive, and well built. The yards were made beautiful with grass, shrubbery, and flowers. The barns, stock, poultry, and other





CORNELIUS LAWSON

Supervisor of the township of Calvin.

farm attachments were in keeping with everything else that we saw. In our drive of nearly ten hours, in which we covered thirty miles of territory, through Calvin township and a part of Porter, the adjoining township, we saw little to indicate that we were in a negro town except the color of the faces of the people.

They were up to the average of their white neighbors. There are perhaps few townships in the South among the agricultural classes that would compare favorably with this one.

In a few cases it was interesting to see standing on the same premises the small cabin in which the people began life years ago, and then to see near it a modern frame cottage containing six or seven rooms. To me it was interesting and encouraging to note to what an extent these people "lived at home," that is, produced what they consumed. My visit

took me through the community during the harvesting season, and at that time most of the farmers were engaged in threshing wheat and oats. On one farm we saw a large, modern steam thresher at work. Around it were employed some twenty men. This complicated piece of machinery was being operated wholly by negroes, and, what was more interesting, was owned by a negro by the name of Henry L. Archer. Mr Archer not only threshed grain for the negro farmers in his township, but for the white farmers as well.

In speaking of the extent to which these people "keep themselves," I want to say that their home-raised and home-cured pork was, without any reservation, the best I ever tasted. I was particularly struck with this when visiting the home of Mr. Allen, of Porter township, the negro stock-raiser and stock-trader "Bill" Allen has as



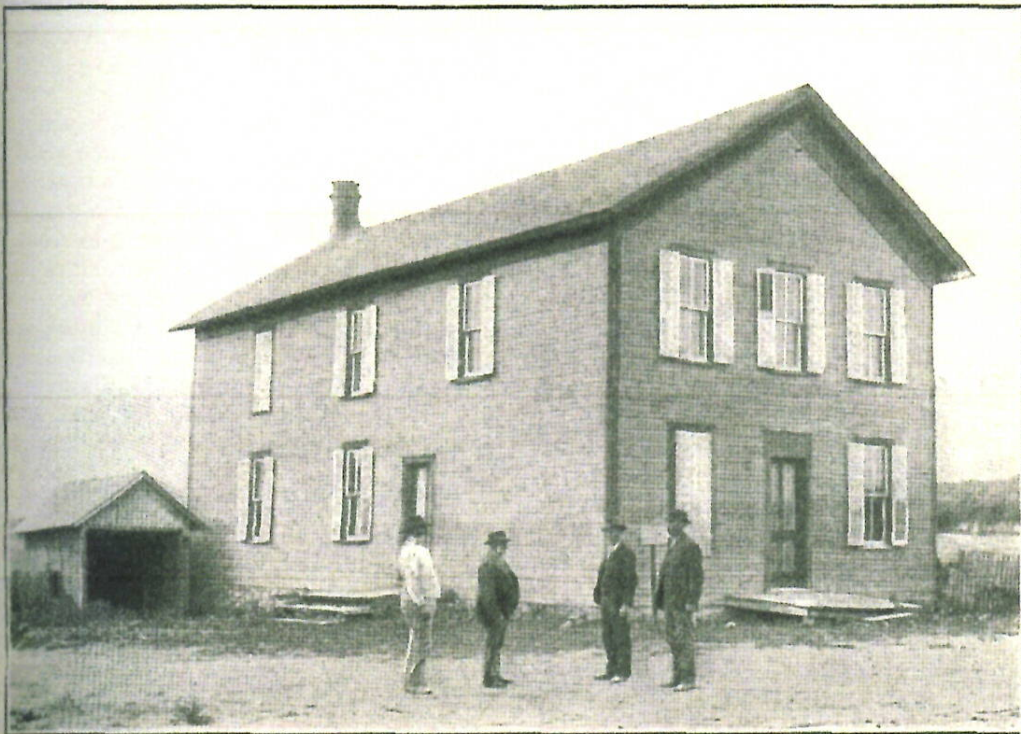
high standing for probity and shrewdness among the people in the Chicago stockyards as the average white man. His many well-filled barns and the large number of valuable horses, cows, pigs, and sheep he owns were among the most interesting sights that I saw.

William Allen was born in Logan County, Ohio, but his parents were free colored people from North Carolina. To speak in more detail about Mr. Allen, I found that he owns seven hundred acres of land, and that the taxes which he paid last year in the two townships of Calvin and Porter amounted to \$191. When I visited his farm, he had fifty head of cattle, ten horses, three hundred sheep, and twenty-five hogs. All of his property is paid for. Mr. Allen is one of the few men I have heard of as resigning a political office. He was a Justice of the Peace for eighteen years, and resigned because it took too much of his time away from his farm.

It was rather remarkable to learn that Samuel Hawkes, a fine specimen of the race, pays the largest tax of any one, white or black, in the township of Calvin. His tax this year was \$154.36. In addition to this, Mr. Hawkes paid over \$50

taxes on property which is in his charge as an administrator. He owns about five hundred acres of land, free of encumbrance. He is highly spoken of by every one whom I saw, of both races, including the county officials and the cashier of the bank at Cassopolis, who said his credit was good at that institution. I was told on good authority that Mr. Hawkes is worth \$50,000. He has perhaps learned the lesson that not a few white people have learned—not to give in all of their property for the purpose of taxation.

Samuel Hawkes was born in Nottaway County, Virginia, in 1828. In 1837 he moved to Jackson County, Ohio, and remained there until he came to Calvin in 1853. He is entirely a self-made man, beginning work for himself at the age of sixteen, cutting cordwood. He had saved up enough money so that when he came to Calvin in 1853 he was able to buy the eighty acres of land on which he still lives, paying for it \$800 in, as he expresses it, "gold and silver." He then went back to Ohio and worked there six years longer before he came to Calvin to live permanently on his farm. For the last quarter of a century Mr. Hawkes has devoted himself to the general manage-



THE TOWN HALL IN CALVIN, WITH THE SUPERVISOR, TOWN CLERK, AND TWO OTHERS



ment of his property, loaning money, and dealing in real estate.

Cornelius Lawson, the Supervisor for Calvin, is a native of North Carolina, whose parents moved to Cass County after an intermediate residence of some years in Indiana. He has lived in Calvin since 1853. He was elected a Justice of the Peace in 1878, and retained the office until the present year. In 1899 he was elected Supervisor, and has been re-elected every year since. Mr Lawson is a farmer, and lives about a mile from "The Corner"—the official center of Calvin. He is the first colored man to be elected to the County Board of Supervisors.

It would be difficult for me to give a better idea of the industry and prosperity of these people than can be obtained from reading the following extract from a letter which I received not long after my visit to Cass County. The letter is from one of the most reliable colored men in the county, and, I ought to add, was written with no thought that it was to be published

Cassopolis, Michigan, November 3, 1902.

*Mr Booker T Washington*

Dear Friend—I will impose upon your precious time only long enough for you to read this, as no answer is necessary

I wanted to tell you that I thrashed those stacks of grain that you saw when at our place. Mr Archer did the thrashing in one day—944 bushels of oats and 884 bushels of wheat. I paid him \$41.44. On the 29th I shipped a carload of hogs and sheep of my own raising to Chicago. I received \$707.30 for the same. I have 167 sheep left and about 80 head of hogs, this includes all sizes.

Your humble servant.

J. W. MADREY

I found that there was another colored man in the township, Mr. C. W Bunn, who owns two sawmills and much other real estate. He is said to be worth \$50,000.

In several cases I noticed that the carpets on the floors of the homes of the people were of the home-made kind, but they were handsome and substantial. A considerable number of the colored people in Calvin township own their homes, and many of those who are renting are doing so from negro landowners. In a few cases white people in the county are renting property owned by negroes.

There are, I believe, eight schools in Calvin, four of them taught by colored teachers. Not only are the teachers colored, but the schools are controlled by negro school officials for the most part.

As we drove through the township I found a copy of the following notice posted

#### ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING

State of Michigan

NOTICE is hereby given to the qualified Voters of School District No. 8 of the Township of Calvin that the Annual Meeting of said District will be held at the Schoolhouse on Monday evening, the 1st day of September, A D 1902, at 8 o'clock, for the Election of School District Officers, and for the transaction of such other business as shall lawfully come before it.

Dated this 25th day of August, 1902

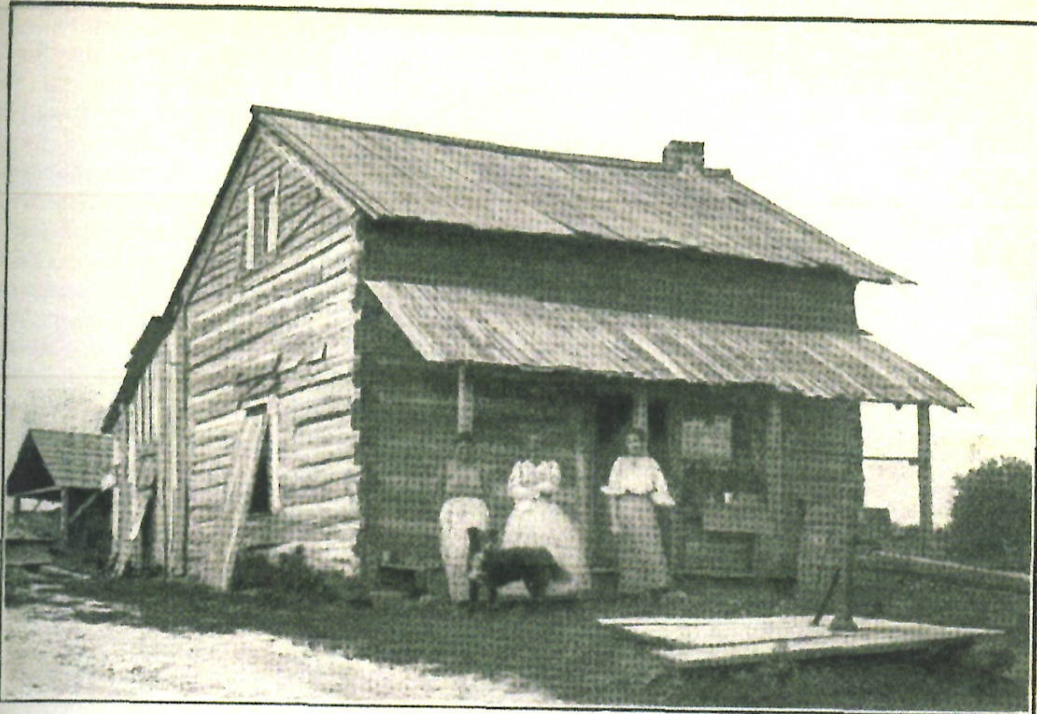
C. F NORTHROP, Director

Mr C. F Northrop is a negro. So far as I could judge by the appearance of the teachers and the school buildings, they compared favorably with others in that part of the State. In addition to the negro teachers and ministers, there are two negro physicians in the township.

One question that is often debated is as to the ability of the negro for self-government from a political point of view, and I was extremely anxious to get information on this. In Calvin township in 1900 there were 759 negroes and 512 whites. I made diligent inquiry to ascertain if there was any friction between the two races, and could find no evidence that there was. Judge Des Voignes and other county officers informed me that there were no reports of cheating at the ballot-boxes, and that the affairs of the township were conducted as well politically as any in the county. For some years, the Judge said, it had been the boast of the negro tax collector of Calvin that he was one of the first collectors to secure and pay into the county treasury all of the township taxes. On one recent occasion it was said that when another town was trying to beat Calvin in this, and the Calvin tax-gatherer's report was delayed, largely through the tardiness of one negro taxpayer, whose tax was only three dollars, rather than have Calvin lose its reputation for promptness a number of the public-spirited negroes "chipped in" and paid the tax of the delinquent.

Each township in the county is entitled to one representative on the County Board of Commissioners which has the control of the affairs of the entire county. The representative of Calvin is a black man, and I was told by several white people of the county that the negro Commissioner



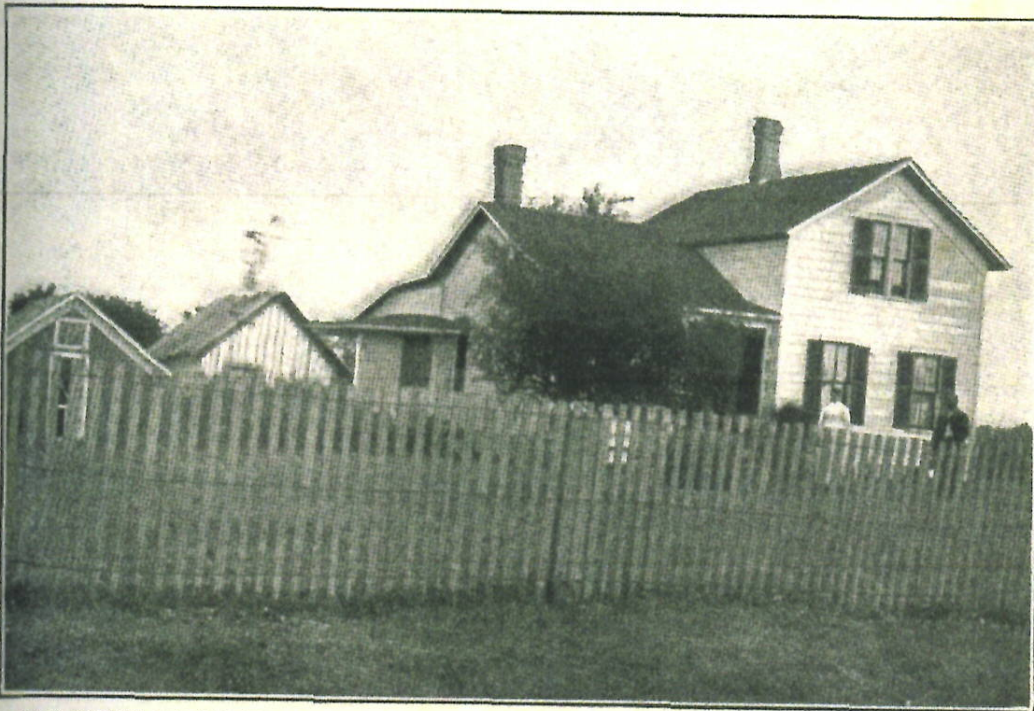


THE HOUSE IN WHICH MATTHEW ARTIS LIVED FORTY YEARS AGO

voted intelligently and conservatively So far as I could find evidence, there had never been in the township any "scandal" growing out of the misuse of money by public officials, notwithstanding, as I

have said, that each township levies and collects its own taxes for schools and other public enterprises.

I was a little curious to see to what extent the colored people took interest in



THE HOUSE OF MATTHEW ARTIS, JR., WHO HAS KEPT WHAT HIS FATHER LEFT HIM AND HAS ADDED TO IT



the large National questions. I asked a good many of them how they stood on the question of reducing the tariff on Cuban sugar. In spite of the fact that Michigan is producing much beet sugar, I found that most of the colored people in this township were in favor of helping Cuba, and they were not slow to give their reasons. Later I found out from the rural free delivery mail-carrier that forty daily papers were taken in the township.

Some years ago a certain Congressman who represented that district in Congress got into the habit of coming to Calvin whenever an election was pending, to speak to his colored constituents, but instead of discussing the broad National questions of the day he would "jolly" the colored people. They stood it for a while, and then they let him know, in no uncertain way, that if he wanted to speak to them he must discuss public questions in the same manner that he did in other portions of his district.

The seat of government for the township is the town hall, which is located near the center of the township. It is here that the town officials have their offices. The principal business of the town is transacted through the town meeting, very much after the manner in New England.

I was informed by several reliable white men of the county that there had never been any trouble worth mentioning growing out of political differences. When the war between the States broke out, as soon as colored soldiers were permitted to enlist, practically every negro man in the township

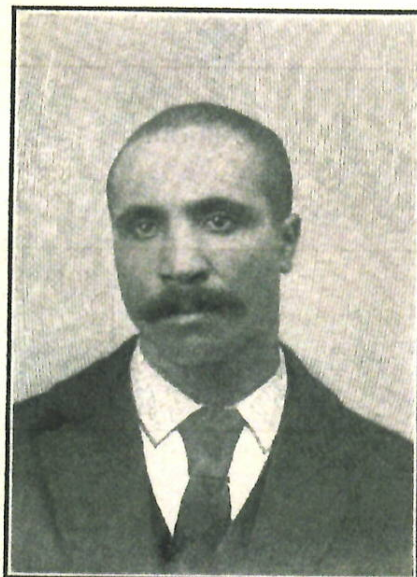


ABNER R. BYRD  
Town Clerk of Calvin.

who was eligible enlisted and went to the front. As a result, there is a Grand Army Post in Calvin named Matthew Artis Post, in honor of one of the old settlers and soldiers. The Grand Army Post meets in a hall on the second floor of the town house. The present commander of the Post is Bishop Curtis, who was a member of the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Regiment. It is said that he was wounded by the same shell that killed Robert Gould Shaw.<sup>1</sup> The post has been established twelve years, and is in a flourishing condition.

There are three churches in the township, two of which I saw—one an African Methodist and the other a Baptist. One of these was established in 1853 and the other in 1854. Both of these congregations have neat and attractive buildings. Although I had caused word to be sent ahead of me that I did not want to make any address to the people, but simply wanted to be permitted to visit them on their farms and in their homes, and thus see them when they were not on

dress parade, I found that when our party reached the Methodist church rather late in the evening we were welcomed by a brass band composed of young men living in the community, and it seemed to me that the whole township had assembled. Nothing but a short address would satisfy them. The most general complaint that I heard at this meeting, and from several individual farmers with whom I talked, was to the effect that the young men were too



MATTHEW ARTIS  
Treasurer of Calvin Township.

<sup>1</sup> To whose memory the very beautiful and famous monument by the American sculptor St. Gaudens has been erected on Boston Common.



much inclined to leave the township and go to the large cities.

In my inspection of their church houses there were two things that specially pleased me. One was the fine and neat appearing parsonage which stood near the Chain Lake Baptist Church, the other was the appearance of the graveyard near the same building. The church house, the parsonage, and the graveyard gave one a picture which made him feel that he was in a Massachusetts village. The graveyard was laid out in family plots, and most of the graves had marble slabs

How does it compare with that of their white neighbors?

How do the moral conditions compare?

What is the nature of the relations between the two races?

Do many of the colored people move away, and if so, why, and where?

Have they contributed as much towards the prosperity of the county as the other residents?

Do you know of any other colored community so prosperous?

In criminal offenses in the township



HOUSE OF J. C. EARLY IN CALVIN

or headstones. There were evidences that the burial-place received systematic care.

I thought that it would prove of interest and value to get the opinions of some of the prominent white people of Cass County as to what they thought of the members of my race in Calvin. With this end in view several of the leading men in Cassopolis, the county seat—a beautiful, substantial town of several thousand inhabitants—were consulted, and the following questions were at some point in the conversation asked of each one of five men interviewed

How does the material condition of the colored people of Calvin compare with that of twenty years ago?

do the colored people assist the officers willingly? In other words, does civic pride outbalance race sympathy?

Judge L. B. Des Voignes, who has been Judge of Probate of Cass County for six and a half years, and previous to that was Prosecuting Attorney, said

“The material condition of the people has greatly improved in the last twenty years. They have more wealth, better farms and homes—they live better. Their conditions have kept parallel with the whites. Considering their opportunities, they have advanced. Their moral condition has improved very much. There has been a great decrease in criminal conditions during the last twenty years.



Calvin does not give us—the courts—as much trouble now as some of our white communities. There is increased membership in churches, and increased attendance at schools. There is more desire for education. There are six schools in Calvin in which white and black go together. The relations of the two races are mutually pleasant.

"I do not recall any instance where white residents of the township have objected to colored people buying land there. I do not think there is any depreciation in the price of land. To a stranger buying land the colored residents might be an objection, but I do not think it would be to those who know the colored people of Calvin. A slightly larger proportion of the young people go away to the cities of South Bend, Elkhart, Dowagiac, Niles, etc. They go because they can earn more money.

"The colored residents have helped to contribute to the prosperity of the county, considering the opportunities they have had and the length of time they have had to earn money. There is a prosperous colored community in Volunia which is frugal, etc. This is small, though, not more than one hundred persons, and might, perhaps, be called a part of this. There are colored residents in several of the townships in Cass County. The treasurer of Calvin was one of the first to report the payment of every tax in the town. The better element, the property-owning class, are quick to assist in the conviction of criminals."

Mr Charles O. Harmon, clerk of the county, was born in Porter township, and grew up among these people. He taught his first term of school in the Mount Zion school-house. Mr Harmon said

"There is practically no difference in the material condition of the people of the two races in Calvin. They are more prosperous than twenty years ago, particularly in having better farms and better houses. The moral condition is equal or nearly equal to that of the whites. There is a low and illiterate class, but not large considering the opportunities of the people. They take advantage of their opportunities as much as the whites. They are quick to take advantage of improvements, such as the telephone and improved machinery. There has been

great improvement morally in the last twenty years.

"Some of the best people of the county live in Calvin and mingle with these people in a business way with no distinction. I do not think that the fact of the colored settlers being there is considered any detriment to the community, although white people from communities which have no colored settlers might be averse to buying land there. Certainly land does not sell for any less there. The land in Calvin is among the best in the county. The merchants of Cassopolis find these people extra good customers. That may be one criticism to make—that they buy too freely for their own good. As a general thing, though, they are good pay, and take a pride in meeting their obligations.

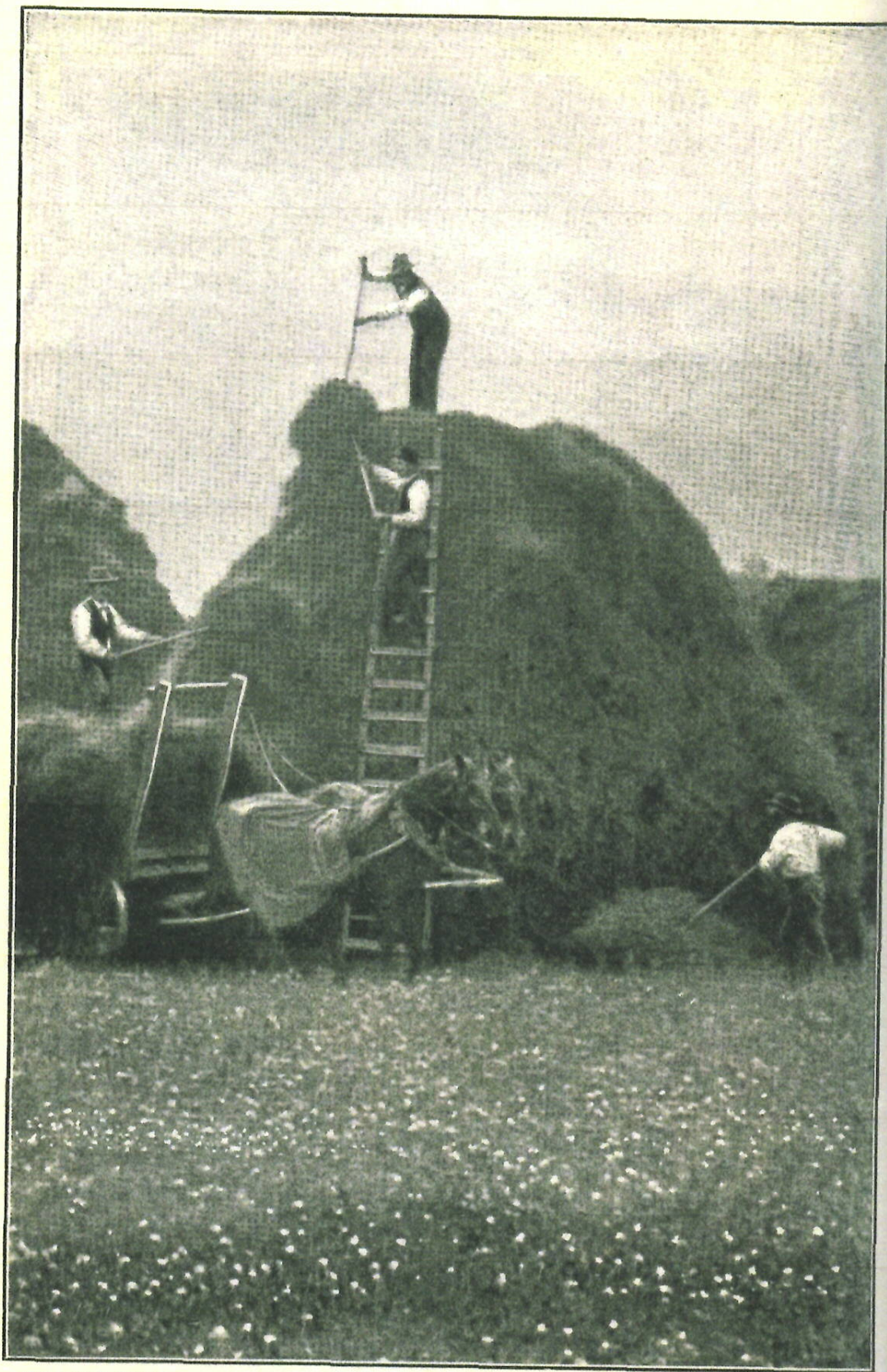
"They have, probably, helped the county as much as could be expected of any people with their opportunities. I should say that they have helped in this way only during the last ten years. The tendency in this respect is good. The present colored Supervisor is the first colored man to hold this office. He is an able man in official work. He is a member of the county Committee of Equalization, and of the Committee of Public Grounds and Buildings. He was a delegate from the last County Board to the State Board of Equalization of Taxes, at Lansing."

Mr. C. C. Nelson is an undertaker in Cassopolis, who does most of the work in his line in Calvin. He has lived in Cass County for sixty years, and has been postmaster, sheriff, and overseer of the poor. He said in substance

"There is no township in Cass County that has made so much improvement in the last twenty or twenty-five years as Calvin has. The people were once haphazard and lawless. At one time Calvin furnished two-thirds the court business of the county. That is past now. They have improved more, proportionately than the whites. As a rule, the whites feel friendly towards them, better than formerly. People who know them make no objection to them. People who live in Calvin would not sell their land there any cheaper because of the colored population. Probably more of the young people go away. They put civic pride before race pride."

The Hon. L. H. Glover is a prominent





TOPPING OUT THE GRAIN-STACKS OF J W MADREY, A COLORED FARMER OF CALVIN





STEAM THRESHER OWNED AND OPERATED BY HENRY L. ARCHER, A COLORED MAN,  
THRESHING A COLORED FARMER'S GRAIN

Democratic lawyer of Cassopolis, and has been a Justice of the Peace there since 1862. He said "The first generation of settlers were fine men—none better. The second generation was bad. The third shows a very marked improvement. But through it all the best men have supported the law unfailingly. There is a steady improvement morally, and this compares favorably with that of the whites. There is no social mingling, but otherwise the relations of the races are entirely friendly. I do not know of more than a dozen marriages of whites and blacks in the entire county. So far as prejudice towards the colored residents of the county is concerned, the farther away people live, the greater the prejudice. As they approach, it grows less. These people have contributed as much to the prosperity of the county as ought to be expected of them."

Mr. Allison, the proprietor and editor

of the Democratic paper in Cassopolis, practically confirmed all of Mr. Glover's opinions. Mr. Allison, like Mr. Glover, has lived in the county for many years, and knows the colored residents well.

As I mingled with the white people and tried to draw them out freely, I got the idea pretty strongly that while they saw the weak points as well as the strong ones in this interesting little African colony, yet, on the whole, the whites were very proud of Calvin township and watched its development with deep interest and not a little satisfaction. In the story of this development there is nothing startling or remarkable. It is simply the story of the growth of a people when given the American chance to grow naturally and gradually. With the negro, whether considered as individuals or in groups, I find that the bearing of responsibility is one of the chief essentials of growth.

## An Open Fire

By Frank Dempster Sherman

For ages, dreaming in the coal,  
Has slept in earth the shining soul  
Which waking brings to Winter's night  
Some ancient Summer's warmth and light.