

History of Watson  
Township  
Allegan County, Michigan



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## **WATSON**

SURVEY—Township No. 2 north, in range 12 west, otherwise known as the civil township of Watson, is not only among the foremost portions of Allegan County in date of settlement, but also in the excellence of its lands and the advanced condition of its farming interests. Its location has some advantages on account of its accessibility to the county seat, and also to the most important of the villages on the eastern side of the county. It lies south of Hopkins and north of Otsego, while Allegan bounds it on the west and Martin on the east.

### **NATURAL FEATURES**

The surface of Watson is greatly diversified. A considerable portion of the south and southwest is level, and possesses an easily cultivated soil. Some swampy land is to be seen, but this is easily susceptible of drainage, and will probably ere long be converted into some of the most valuable land in the township. The northern portion of the township abounds in elevations and declivities, some of which are quite abrupt, and command from their summits extensive views of the surrounding region. On the eastern side, as well as in the center, many inequalities are to be seen, but the changes of elevation are less abrupt and there are few impediments to the most through cultivation.

The soil is abundantly watered by springs and brooks, while numberless lakes, both small and large, are sprinkled over the surface. Chief among these are Schnable Lake, on sections 26 and 35; Big Lake, principally lying on sections 14 and 23; Schiller Lake, which lies on section 12; Hudson Lake, on section 14; School Section Lake, covering portions of sections 15 and 16; Pulsifer Lake, principally on section 10; and others not of sufficient importance to mention. Many of these sheets of water offer strong attractions to the sportsman, as well as the admirer of picturesque scenery. Numerous streams and brooks emanate from these lakes, and afford abundant irrigation to the land. Schnable Brook, in the south, affords quite a good waterpower.

A variety of soil is found in Watson, nearly all the kinds to be seen in other portions of the county existing here. Gravel and clay combined are found on the slopes, while on the level lands clay-loam is liberally interspersed with sand. On the lowest flats a rich vegetable mould and clay subsoil are present, and in the swamps the usual quantity of muck is to be found. The soil is generally well adapted to the growth of wheat, there being very little territory in the township where that grain does not thrive. Much of the land is devoted to this crop. The last census—that of 1874—gives the number of acres of wheat harvested the previous year as 1685, which produced 24,311 bushels, while 991 acres planted with corn yielded 31,854 bushels. Of other grains the annual product was 18,758 bushels, oats having been sown with great success. Much good grass is cut in the

township, and hay of a superior quality is produced. The number of tons cut in 1873 was 2243.

The timber of Watson does not vary greatly in kind or quality from that usually found throughout the county. Beech, maple, whitewood, basswood, sycamore, and oak flourish, and a few oak-openings are still to be seen on the eastern side. Pine is not abundant, but tamarack attains a luxuriant growth on the marshy land. Elm and ash are also to be seen, and so is an occasional hemlock, though the latter does not find a congenial soil in this region.

The climate and soil of Watson are both adapted to fruit culture, and no farm is found without its apple orchard. Many of these produce grafted fruit of a superior quality, and the yield is generally very abundant. The number of apple trees in the township is estimated at over 20,000, most of which are prolific bearers. The slopes and hills are admirably adapted to the culture of peaches, and more attention is being devoted to this fruit than heretofore. Those trees which are of sufficient age have yielded superior crops, while many orchards are but just started, and will require some time before becoming a source of profit.

Two railroads afford the inhabitants of Watson ample opportunities for the shipment of produce. The Allegan and South-eastern road, which is operated by the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad Company, enters the township on the west line of section 30, and, passing nearly due east, leaves it on the east line of section 25. It has two stations in Watson—Kellogg Station, on section 29, and Fisk's Station, on section 27. The Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad passes through the southeast corner of the township, with a station just over the town line, in Otsego.

#### ORIGINAL PURCHASES OF LAND

The lands of Watson were purchased from the government by persons whose names are given below:

SECTION 1: Bought from 1836 to 1848 by J. S. Grenell, Hiram Thompson, H. Dekano, Jacob Gillett, Darius Sprague.

SECTION 2: Bought from 1852 to 1866 by Porter Williams, J. T. Gregory, C. T. Kennedy, Rhoda A. Williams, William Simmons, William Perkins, S. A. Band, S. W. Bostwick.

SECTION 3: Bought from 1852 to 1862 by William Perkins, Norton Andrews, Horace Bigelow, M. Richardson, A. H. Durkee, William Dunton, Isaac Revick, M. P. Williams, Alexander Buell, William Perkins, H. D. Gallen George Kent.

SECTION 4: Bought from 1837 to 1852 by John White, W. C. Jenner, Lewis Huttleston, William Finn, James Bentley, M. Richardson.

SECTION 5: Bought from 1836 to 1854 by James McCormick, Brooks Mason, L. Kerwin, Oscar McIntosh, George Graham.

SECTION 6: Bought from 1847 to 1859 by N. K. Lonsberry, Butler and Bush, W. S. Miner, Oscar Bissel, F. H. Morton, George Graham, Hugh Campbell, R. F. Rockett, James Martin, Edwin Grawberger.

SECTION 7: Bought from 1837 to 1866 by M. B. Savage, M. Hinsdell [assignee], Stephen Moore, J. L. Hughes, O. P. Priest, Charles Miner.

SECTION 8: Bought from 1837 to 1854 by Asa Morse, Joseph Martin, John Martin, George Maybee [assignee], Isaac Hall, E. Flanagan, Peter Cronan, C. Ward.

SECTION 9: Bought from 1837 to 1854 by M. B. Savage, Jesse Holmes, G. Maybee [assignee], David Hurd, J. Pulsifer, E. A. Beard.

SECTION 10: Bought in 1852 and 1853 by W. D. Cook, William Pulsifer, T. D. Mason, J. F. Kennedy, John Armstrong.

SECTION 11: Bought from 1852 to 1854 by E. S. Hudson, Porter Williams, J. H. Gregory, S. O. Gregory, D. F. Ayres, Susan Smith, D. I. Sprague, J. W. Briggs, E. H. Reynolds, George Mason, Milton Pratt.

SECTION 12: Bought from 1838 to 1853 by J. I. Lardner, Mary Reynolds, Thomas Kirkland, J. S. Gorton, J. E. Harding, Justus Leach, W. M. Dyson, W. A. Reynolds, Fred Woodhaus, A. Beckwith.

SECTION 13: Bought in 1836 by Thomas Gorton.

SECTION 14: Bought from 1837 to 1855 by W. D. Cook, C. Barrell, Thomas Gorton, Oramel Griffen, S. W. Dunning, Alfred Stone, L. Decker, H. C. Round, T. T. Mason.

SECTION 15: Bought in 1837 and 1851 by O. Griffin, G. R. Allen, Heirs of William Birch.

SECTION 16: Bought from 1851 to 1858 by T. Sullivan, G. W. Lonsbury, J. E. Lonsbury, W. W. Kent, S. Spaulein, Thomas Cronan, M. Maybee, Samuel Fish, I. Wheatly, G. B. Bassett, D. Bracelin, Jr., C. Latter.

SECTION 17: Bought from 1836 to 1858 by Lucy Miner, W. S. Miner, Benjamin Richards, J. H. Lonsbury, N. K. Lonsbury, C. C. Collins, John Redmond.

SECTION 18: Bought from 1836 to 1858 by C. A. Miner, W. B. Robinson, Benona Collins, J. S. Hesseyton, A. S. Pratt, B. Pratt, William Bracelin, J. A. Frost.

SECTION 19: Bought from 1836 to 1858 by Daniel Leggett, James Bracelin, Ira Hamilton, Wells Field, Daniel Bracelin, W. M. Pullen, Charles M. Miner, J. M. Edgerton, D. C. Henderson.

SECTION 21: Bought in 1836 by Justin Ely, G. Y. Warner, L. H. Sanford, Eli Watson.

SECTION 22: Bought in 1836 and 1837 by L. H. Sanford, R. Talcott, James Armitage, A. D. Dunning, J. L. and S. L. Davidson, Oramel Griffin, S. L. Davidson.

SECTION 23: Bought from 1836 to 1845 by Chauncey Burrell, W. S. Miner, Hiram Thompson, Lucy Dunning, J. M. Thomas.

SECTION 24: Bought from 1836 to 1850 by Ostrom Company, E. S. Chase, O. Griffin, N. Skinner, B. P. Chase, John Hicks, M. Shellman, James Redpath.

SECTION 25: Bought from 1836 to 1853 by Ostrom Company, E. S. Chase, C. D. Carman, J. S. Hoegboom, J. B. Nicholson, A. I. Deedrick, E. B. Billings, John Richie, H. Kidd, Jr., Mary J. McCorkell, Samuel Caruthers.

SECTION 26: Bought from 1837 to 1854 by Hiram Thompson, S. A. Atkins, James Fitch, N. Tullam, C. F. Dunning, E. B. Billings, A. J. Kent, R. W. Brooks.

SECTION 27: Bought in 1836 by Justin Ely.

SECTION 28: Bought in 1836 by Justin Ely, George Y. Warner.

SECTION 29: Bought in 1836 by A. and F. Bronson, Justin Ely, G. Y. Warner.

SECTION 30: Bought in 1836 and 1837 by A. and F. Bronson, William H. DeWolf, George Patten.

SECTION 31: Bought in 1836 by A. and F. Bronson.

SECTION 32: Bought in 1836 and 1837 by A. and F. Bronson, Oramel Griffin.

SECTION 33: Bought from 1836 to 1854 by James Chase, Jr., Francis Dwight, Cynthia Chaffee, James G. Coons.

SECTION 34: Bought in 1836 and 1837 by Francis Dwight, Richard Talcott, Hiram Thompson.

SECTION 35: Bought from 1836 to 1852 by E. B. Bentley, Lyman Lane, Robert Mason, L. D. Nicholas, A. Baustin.

SECTION 36: Bought from 1835 to 1853 by Philander Knappen, I. S. Roberts, D. Sprague, William Rose, James McDiarmind, Anna Atkins, Wm. McKenzie, H. G. Johnson, Samuel Caruthers.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENTS

A number of the pioneers of Watson found a temporary home and employment in Allegan, meanwhile making occasional pilgrimages to the lands they had selected in this township and preparing the way for a residence there.

The earliest to arrive were Daniel Leggett, and William S. Miner, the latter of whom came from Rochester, N. Y., in 1836, and remained for a while in Allegan. He entered 160 acres on section 17, May 20, 1836, and the same year built a log house upon it, bringing help from Allegan to assist in the raising. This was the first house in the township, and Mrs. Miner on her arrival was the sole female representative of the Caucasian race in Watson. Mr. Miner devoted himself at once to the improvement of his land, clearing and sowing wheat, and assisting, as far as he was able, the later settlers in the township. He was the earliest postmaster in Watson, the office, which was legally known as Proctor, having been located at his house. He died in 1876, on the farm he had cleared up, which is now occupied by his two sons, Charles M. and William Miner. His widow resides with her daughter in Allegan.

Daniel Leggett also came from Rochester in 1836, and entered 120 acres on sections 18 and 20. He erected the second house in the township, remaining in Allegan until its completion, when he removed his family to their primitive habitation. Mr. Leggett has converted the forest he found on his arrival into a productive farm, upon which he still resides.

Chester A. Miner followed his brother William to the township in 1837, and located 80 acres on section 18. He at first built and occupied a board shanty 12 feet square, but the next year erected a log house. Mr. Miner spent his subsequent life upon this farm, where he died in the fall of 1876. It is now occupied by his children. His brother, Joseph Miner, who arrived in the fall of the same year, located himself on section 17 and resided with his mother, who survived for several years her removal to the West. Mr. Miner still resides upon this place, and is now, as formerly, engaged in farming.

Daniel Bracelin came with his brother James from Washtenaw County in 1835, and remained for a while in Allegan, having been among the earliest arrivals in the village. They were employed by Alexander L. Ely in clearing lands in that township, and were induced to make a purchase there, but Daniel, not being satisfied with his location, exchanged his land for 80 acres in Watson, on section 20. This he cleared and improved, and became one of the most enterprising citizens of the township. He was largely instrumental in the erection of a Catholic church in Watson, and contributed liberally to its support. His brother James, who survives him, is still a resident of Allegan.

Eli Watson, a previous resident of Jefferson County, N. Y., entered the east half of the northwest quarter of section 20 in 1836. He did not remove to the township until August, 1837. He came with his family to what is now Trowbridge in July of that year, and accepted the hospitality of Mr. Granger, of that township, for about six weeks, until their own log house was ready for occupation. Their household goods were stored in an empty house owned by Dr. Bigelow, and there they slept at night, living during the day at Mr. Granger's. As soon as their cabin in Watson was completed, they moved into it. He was a successful farmer and public-spirited citizen, devoting a portion of his time to the interests of the township, but he at length removed, with the tide of emigration, to Nebraska, where his son now resides. Still later Mr. Watson returned to Allegan, the scene of his early efforts, and died there.

Samuel A. Atkins, a former resident of Tompkins County, N. Y., was among the foremost pioneers of 1838, and located upon the east half of the northeast quarter of section 26. On section 24 was a squatter named David Updyck, who, after a brief residence, disposed of his improvements to a permanent settler. With him Mr. Atkins remained until he had completed a house, to which he speedily brought his family. Mr. Atkins experienced

all the hardships of pioneer life, and was on one occasion obliged to carry a bag of corn on his back seven or eight miles to Pine Creek to be ground, and to bring back the grit in the same manner. Perseverance and courage, however, ultimately brought him a competence, which he still lives to enjoy. His son, A. W. Atkins, who came with his father in 1848, now resides upon a tract of 200 acres on sections 23 and 26.

Caleb D. Carmen, another pioneer from Tompkins County, N. Y., located in 1838 upon 40 acres on section 25. He was the father-in-law of Mr. Atkins, and found with him a temporary home until he could build a log house for himself. Mr. Carmen was by trade a shoemaker, and during the early years of his residence numerous demands were made upon his skill. He resided on the place he first occupied until his death, ten years, later, at a very advanced age.

Amos D. Dunning, another of the Monroe County pioneers, arrived in 1837, and found a home with William S. Miner, and later purchased 80 acres on section 22. He was selected by his fellow townsmen as their choice for supervisor after the organization of the township, and filled other local offices acceptably. Mr. Dunning died upon the land on which he first located, and was succeeded in the ownership by his widow and his son, Gilbert A. Dunning.

William Allen, a former resident of Vermont, came to Allegan in 1837, and for a while had charge of the boarding house erected by Alexander L. Ely, for the accommodation of the men employed by him on the various improvements that engaged his energies. Soon after, he purchased land on section 27, upon which he erected a log house. He was for some time employed upon the Justin Ely farm, in the township of Allegan, but in 1841 became a permanent resident of Watson, and occupied the house he had already built. He improved his land and rendered it among the most desirable farms in the township. He has since erected a substantial frame house, in which he now resides.

John Hicks, an emigrant from the Dominion of Canada, arrived in 1837, and obtained a fractional 80 acres on section 24. A year later he returned for his family, and on his arrival at home hired a conveyance to bring him as far as Marshall. His limited means would permit of no further expenditure for traveling purposes, and the family pursued the remainder of their journey on foot. A wheelbarrow was employed during their progress, which served to render the pilgrimage less wearisome to the little ones. Mr. Hicks and his family found the log house he had built very inviting after the fatigues of travel. He resided in the township during his lifetime, most of which was devoted to labor upon his land. His death occurred in 1878, at the advanced age of 84 years.

From New York State came N. K. Lonsbury, first to Lenawee County, and in 1839 to Watson. He entered at Kalamazoo, that

having at the time been the site of the land office—80 acres on section 17. On this he erected a log house, to which he later brought his wife. His neighbors were the Miner brothers—Joseph, William, and Chester Miner—Daniel Leggett, and Eli Watson. There were at this time no roads, and Mr. Lonsbury was obliged to open highway to his farm through the dense forest. He cleared five acres the first year and sowed a portion with wheat, which yielded an abundant harvest, meanwhile laboring in various portions of the county to obtain means where-with to live. He had no horses, an ox-team having aided in his pioneer labors. In 1856 he erected a substantial house, in which he has since resided. Mr. Lonsbury was married, in 1841, to Miss Lucy A. Miner, the earliest marriage in the township. His brother, Henry Lonsbury, came some years later, and located 80 acres on the school section. This land was unimproved when he settled upon it, but industry and energy have rendered it a well-cultivated farm. At this time a pilgrimage of several miles was necessary to obtain lumber for building purposes. In 1859, William S. Miner erected a saw mill on Schnable Brook, which after that date supplied much of the building material of the township.

Peter Richart, another pioneer of 1838, came from Pennsylvania and located on section 21, where he purchased 80 acres, which as yet was unimproved. He cleared the principal portion, and resided for several years upon it. Later he removed to Otsego, where he engaged in milling, and ultimately chose Pine Creek as a residence.

The arrival of Job Moon occurred at the same date, and a farm on section 29 absorbed his attention for many years. The attractions of the West were, however, superior to the advantages Michigan offered, and he departed for Nebraska. Later he removed to Missouri, where he has since remained.

Among the foremost citizens of Watson is Jesse D. Stone, who came from Rochester, N. Y., in 1836, and located 80 acres on section 23. Though an early purchaser of land, he did not become a permanent resident until 1840. Amos D. Dunning welcomed him to his humble quarters while procuring material for the erection of a house. The township presented a very primitive appearance at this early date. A dense forest covered most of the land, the Miner settlement alone affording an exception to this fact. Wolves and deer were abundant, and Indians roamed the wilderness in pursuit of game, or wandered along the streams which afforded them subsistence. Two acres had already been planted with corn on Mr. Stone's arrival, which yielded the family a supply of food until a greater variety could be obtained. The log house was later supplanted by a comfortable frame residence, in which Mr. Stone, as advancing years overtake him, spends peacefully the remainder of his life.

Lloyd Austin, on his arrival from New York, located first in Allegan. The land on section 27 offered strong attractions, and induced him, in 1842, to purchase 160 acres, which he converted from a wilderness to fruitful fields. He died in 1878, upon this farm, having left a record for excellence of character which made his death universally deplored.

Edward Flannagan, the second arrival among the Irish population of Watson, was a pioneer of 1845. He cleared a portion of the 80 acres he purchased on section 8, and erected a log house. His death occurred in Allegan in 1877.

William Kent, emigrated from Canada to the wilds of Michigan in 1840, and found a home in Watson in 1848, having selected 15 acres on section 15. He was accompanied by five sons, of whom William, James, and George now reside in the township. This venerable gentleman is now in his 84th year, and in his advanced age enjoys the filial care of his son George, with whom he resides.

Wells Field, a native of Phelps, Ontario County, N. Y., emigrated to the village of Allegan with his wife in July, 1836, and took charge of a store of Joseph Fisk, where he remained for a year, when he assumed the position of "mine host" of the Allegan, and in the fall of 1840 he purchased the west half of the southwest quarter of section 19, in Watson township, near his brother-in-law, William Pullen, who settled in Allegan township a year or two previous. Mr. Field and his family remained at Mr. Pullen's for about a year, and returned to the village of Allegan, where they resided three years, and again removed to the farm and purchased the east half of the southwest quarter of 19. At this time he built a frame house and resided there for three years, when he moved to Allegan and spent three years, and in 1849 again went back to the farm. He now lives in Allegan, still owning the southwest quarter of section 19.

Nelson Fisk came from New York State in 1850, and chose the township as his residence, purchasing 80 acres on section 22, upon which he built a log house. He soon after began the cultivation of the land, which he rendered productive, but ultimately removed from, and located upon the same section, adjoining the residence of his son Samuel, who has 60 acres on section 22. The farm, improved by Nelson Fisk, is now occupied by Samuel Martin.

J. Pulsifer, a former resident of Ohio, found an attractive home on section 9, upon which he located in 1853, and on which he built a log house. A cooper-shop, which had done duty on previous occasions in affording shelter to pioneers, performed the same kind of office for his family during the interval. He was the earliest pioneer in the immediate neighborhood. A brother, William Pulsifer, followed a year later, and after a temporary residence with him removed to section 10. Still later another brother, Horace, located on the same section. Both are now dead.

John Grant, formerly of Lyons, N. Y., erected on section 22 a frame house in 1856, having on his arrival received a welcome from S. V. Borne, who was then a neighbor, but has since removed to Monterey. Mr. Grant afterward changed his location to section 26, where he also erected a frame house, and now resides. He is by trade a carpenter, and numerous residences in the township bear evidence to his taste and skill.

John McLaughlin, one of the band of Irish pioneers that helped to populate Allegan County, purchased 95 acres in 1856 on section 15, the former owner having been Alfred Stone. A tract of five acres had already been cleared, but no house was built upon it. William Kent's hospitality was extended to him for 7 weeks while being prepared for the erection of a house, to which his family removed on completion. His improvements the first year embraced five acres, which were gradually increased until the whole farm reached a high degree of cultivation. A convenient frame residence has since taken the place of the log structure. Mr. McLaughlin suffered much from poor health on his arrival, but has since become thoroughly acclimated.

Randall Brooks became a resident of Watson in 1846, having located on section 27, where he still resides. He found temporary shelter at the house of Charles Dunning, who had located 80 acres on section 26, but who subsequently removed to Iowa, where he died.

William A. Reynolds, a former resident of New York State, removed to Gun Plain in 1845, and to the township of Watson one year later, having chosen a location upon section 12, where he now owns a farm that has been cultivated to a high state of productiveness.

In 1852, George W. Gorton became a permanent resident of Watson, having arrived on a prospecting tour two years previously. He chose a home upon 80 acres on section 13, upon which he built a substantial residence. He enjoys the reputation of being a successful farmer.

Three years later came James Anderson, from Monroe County, who chose a farm of 139 acres on section 15. A log house had already been built by one Stratton, the former owner, but no improvements were made. Later, Mr. Anderson removed to section 10, where he erected a comfortable habitation, which he now occupies.

From Livingston County came William Wheatley in 1855, who located on section 8, where he found productive land and where he resided until his death, in 1873.

Among other pioneers whose enterprise entitles them to especial mention are Nicholas Skinner, J. A. Caughey, L. Brewer, A. W. Beals, A. Durkee, J. Potter, H. Bartlett, E. C. Osborn, L. Howe, F. Goldspring, W. Wetherill, H. D. Edgarton, Wells Field, Wm. Oaks, Jedediah Morse, and Charles Benson.

The earliest religious services in the township were held in the first log house erected in Watson, that of Wm. S. Miner. They were conducted by Rev. W. C. H. Bliss, of Allegan, whose zeal in the good cause had made him a pioneer in Christian work in other portions of the county. Later services were conducted in the Miner schoolhouse, which, for a succession of years, was the resort on Sabbath of the church-going population of Watson.

The following list embraces the names of the taxpayers in Watson for the year 1843:

Eli Watson, Joseph Skinner, William S. Miner, N. K. Lonsbury, Chester A. Miner, James Bracelin, Wells Field, Daniel Bracelin, Daniel Leggett, James A. McLaughrey, Jedutham Morse, Charles Bensen, William Oaks, Peter Richart, A. D. Dunning, Jesse D. Stone, Nicholas Skinner, John Hicks, Caleb D. Carman, Samuel A. Atkins, William Allen, Luther Howe, Josiah Potter, Charles F. Dunning, Job Moon, Edward Flannagan, John Parsons, William H. Warner, Timothy Crampton, Erastus Congdon, Jonathan O. Round, Esek Baker, Harvey N. Baker, John J. Sandun.

#### EARLY ROADS

The earliest road which traversed the township of Watson entered it on the western boundary line, between sections 18 and 19. From that point its course continued until it reached the center of the section-line between sections 17 and 20, where it diverged to the southeast, passing in an oblique line through sections 20, 21, 22, and terminating at the northwest quarter of section 23, near the residence of Jesse D. Stone. This road, by intersecting with a road in the township of Allegan, made the village of Allegan accessible to the residents of Watson. It is probable that the survey was made by William R. Watson, in 1837.

A road which was recorded April 21, 1838, and was surveyed either by William R. Watson or Aaron Chichester, at a date prior to this, began

"At a post on the section-line seventeen chains thirty links east of the northwest corner of section 23, in township one north, of range twelve west, and ran as follows: 1st. 4 degrees 15 minutes west 15 chains. 2d. 19 degrees west 28 chains 50 links. 3d. 9 degrees west 38 chains 50 links. 4th. Due north 280 chains. 5th. 45 degrees west 125 chains 25 links. Whole distance, six miles twenty-nine rods, terminating at a post twenty-five rods northwest of the quarter-post on the west line of section twenty-one, in Township two north, of range twelve west."

The highway commissioners who directed this survey were Aaron Chichester, Eli Watson, and E. H. House.

A road was surveyed by Aaron Chichester in 1839, beginning on section 6, in Otsego, and pursuing first a northerly, then

an easterly course, and terminating at the quarter post between sections 5 and 6, in Watson. Other roads followed as the township became more thickly populated, Allegan or Otsego having been the objective point.

#### SCHOOLS

The educational interests of the township first received attention in 1840. Until then no effort towards the establishment of a school within the boundaries of Watson had been made. In that year a log school-house was erected on section 20, upon land owned by Daniel Leggett, and Miss Mary Ann Stone was employed in the capacity of teacher. Nine scholars received early instruction and discipline at her hands.

Later, district No. 2, having been organized, and embracing section 27 within its boundaries, a school building, known as the Stone school-house, from its close proximity to the residence of Jesse D. Stone, was erected. The earliest teacher is, however, not recalled. Nine whole and two fractional districts now include eleven substantial frame school buildings within the limits, the directors of whom are W. H. Miner, James C. Leggett, Harvey J. Chase, J. W. Haynes, Phineas Konkle, John Nevill, Jacob Rautz, J. B. Hall, Dennis DeLano, Alexander McBride, and Jabish B. Tefft. The number of children receiving instruction is 362, of whom 62 are non-residents. Six male and 17 female teachers preside over the various schools, some in summer and some in winter, who receive an aggregate yearly sum of \$1,406.67. The total resources of the township for school purposes is \$2,494.77.

#### EARLY BURIAL PLACES

The earliest death in Watson occurred in the family of S. A. Atkins. No ground having been set apart for purposes of interment, the remains of the little one were taken to Martin for burial. In 1843 an acre of ground was purchased of Eli Watson, on section 20, neatly fenced, and planted with attractive shade trees, which has since that date been used by the townspeople as a cemetery. Some years later an acre was secured on section 24, which was inclosed and devoted to the same use. This consecrated spot is located on the borders of a picturesque lake and adorned with evergreens and maples, which combine to make it one of the most attractive localities within the limits of the township.

#### WATSON CORNERS

The land on which the first building at the Corners was erected was originally entered by A. J. Kent, Dec. 8, 1849, on a warrant obtained for services as a patriot in the war of 1812. It was purchased from him by Edward Billings, who, in 1854, sold to A. W. Atkins. The latter gentleman sold half an acre to George Harman, who speedily built a blacksmith shop and partially completed a house upon it.

Jerome Parks soon after purchased land on the opposite corner and erected a store, which he subsequently disposed of to G. V. Goucher, who still conducts a business adapted to the wants of a country trade.

Dr. C. E. Clapp afterward purchased the half-acre originally owned by Harman, and erected a store which he filled with a stock of drugs and groceries. He is also the postmaster of the hamlet.

Eugene Bartholomew arrived in 1879 and built a blacksmith shop, which he still conducts. One of the school buildings of the township is also located here.

#### CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The society of Christians in Watson had its beginning as early as 1854, under the fostering care of Elder Manchester, who first preached to the small flock in the Stone school-house, on section 18. The members increased, and the need of a larger and more permanent place of worship was felt. Under the spur of this need an effort was made to erect a house of worship, which resulted in the present frame edifice on section 23, built in 1856, by subscription. The clergymen in succession after Elder Manchester have been Elders Daily, Deyo, and Fowler. The pastor of the Baptist Church of Otsego, Elder Buck, now holds a service each Sabbath, but the society has no stated pastor. The present trustees are John Edgarton, Samuel Fisk, Nelson Fisk.

#### ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

In 1857 the first movement was begun which later resulted in the establishment of a permanent and successful Roman Catholic society in Watson. In that year Father Labelle, of French descent, made a pilgrimage to the township from Kalamazoo once in three months, and ministered to the people, services having been held first at the house of Daniel Bracelin, and subsequently at the houses of other residents.

In 1867 an effort was made to build a church, and so zealous were these people to further the interests of the cause that several members of the congregation secured a loan of \$500 by mortgaging on their farms, which three years later were canceled. This amount, together with small subscriptions and contributions in labor and material, enabled them to build the present edifice on section 8. The pastors in succession since Father Labelle's advent have been Father Quinn, Father Herwig, who remained three years, Father Seybold, and the present incumbent, Father Brogger. A Sabbath school connected with the society is held during the summer months, with about 40 children in attendance. The present trustees are Patrick Gilligan, William Kavanaugh, John McLoughlin.

#### WATSON GRANGE, NO. 154

The first effort to establish a grange in Watson was made in 1874, which soon after resulted in the present prosperous organization, its first officers having been John F. Beebee, Master; B. C. Palmer, Overseer; William Kent, Steward; Joseph Miner, Chaplain; J. B. Alexander, Secretary; James W. Kent, Treasurer. A convenient hall for the use of the organization was soon after erected on section 15. The Watson grange is among the most flourishing in the county, having now a membership of 150, and enjoying a steady increase in members and influence. Its meetings are held twice a month. The present officers are S. P. Albertson, Master; Ransom Leach, Overseer; William A. Reynolds, Chaplain; Monroe Kent, Steward; A. F. Haynes, Secretary; J. W. Kent, Treasurer.

#### WATSON LODGE, NO. 226, I. O. O. F.

The charter of Watson Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd-Fellows bears date of Feb. 19, 1876, the charter members having been Judson A. Frost, James E. Lonsbury, David R. Miller, Zachariah Foster, S. Van Duzen, William C. Rowe, Daniel K. Davis, David Bracelin, and Charles E. White. Its first officers were James B. Lonsbury, N. G.; David R. Miller, V. G.; J. A. Frost, Secretary; William R. Rowe, Treasurer.

The convocations of the lodge are held on Saturday night of each week, in a spacious and well-appointed hall which was built for the purpose, and is the property of the lodge, the first floor being used as a public hall. The present officers are B. C. Palmer, N. G.; J. F. Austin, V. G.; G. V. Goucher, Secretary; J. C. Leggett, Permanent Secretary; J. W. Kent, Treasurer.

#### THE WATSON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

This association was organized by a few citizens of literary taste in 1877, and holds its meetings semi-monthly at the residences of the various members. Its object is the accumulation of a class of wholesome and entertaining literature for the use of those interested in the association. The members have been successful in gathering a choice collection of reading matter, which is dispensed at the residence of Mr. A. W. Atkins, whose son is the efficient librarian. The present officers are Smith Albertson, President; Samuel Fisk, Secretary; Alfred Fassett, Treasurer; L. G. Atkins, Librarian.

#### ORGANIZATION

The survey of township 2 in range 12 was made by Lucius Lyon, being completed April 30, 1831. It was first in Allegan township and then in Otsego, but by the following act, passed Feb. 16, 1842, it became independent: "All that part of the county of Allegan designated as townships Nos. 2, 3, and 4 north, in range No. 12 west, is set off into a separate township and organized by the name of Watson, and the first township meeting shall be held at the house of Eli Watson." This included the

townships of Hopkins and Dorr, which later became distinct organizations and left the township of Watson with its present geographical boundaries, Dorr having been set off in 1847, and Hopkins in 1852.

## CIVIL LIST

The first meeting of the township of Watson after its organization occurred on the 4th day of April, 1842, at the house of Eli Watson, on section 20, Daniel Leggett, Chester A. Miner, Peter Richart, and William S. Miner having been appointed inspectors of election. The following officers were chosen: Supervisor, Amos D. Dunning; Township Clerk, Eli P. Watson; Treasurer, Eli Watson; Assessors, Peter Richart, John J. Lardner; School Inspectors, William H. Warner, William S. Miner, Amos D. Dunning; Director of the Poor, Charles Benson; Highway Commissioners, Jesse D. Stone, Harvey N. Barker; Justices of the Peace, Erastus Congdon, William Allen; Constables, Jesse D. Stone, J. Baker. The township officers from 1843 to 1879 are embraced in the following list:

## **SUPERVISORS**

1843, William S. Miner; 1844, Amos D. Dunning; 1845, Benjamin P. Chase; 1846, Samuel Edgarton; 1847, J. B. Alexander; 1848, W. S. Miner; 1849, Lloyd Austin; 1850, Wells Field; 1851, Lloyd Austin; 1852-53, Wells Field; 1854, Lloyd Austin; 1855, Wells Field; 1856-58, William W. Kent; 1859, Sylvanus Van Duzen; 1860, William W. Kent; 1861, L. D. Nichols; 1862-63, C. L. Horning; 1864, Herman Johnson; 1865, Sylvanus Van Duzen; 1866, C. D. Clements; 1867, John H. Wicks; 1868-69, S. Van Duzen; 1870, C. D. Clements; 1871, Benjamin Pratt; 1872-78, C. D. Clements; 1879, Robert Konkle.

## **TOWNSHIP CLERKS**

1843, A. D. Dunning; 1844, Daniel Leggett; 1845, Eli P. Watson; 1846, Daniel Leggett; 1847, Chester A. Miner; 1848, A. D. Dunning; 1849, Eli P. Watson; 1850, W. B. Andrus; 1851, Charles E. Watson; 1852-53, A. D. Dunning; 1854, Nelson Fisk; 1855, Samuel Fisk; 1856-60, C. L. Horning; 1861-62, Daniel Leggett; 1863-64, John L. Hughes; 1865, L. D. Nichols; 1866-67, H. D. Edgartown; 1868-70, James C. Leggett; 1871, Henry J. Leggett; 1872-77, Wesley S. Tefft; 1878, G. A. Miner; 1879, Wesley S. Tefft.

## **TREASURERS**

1843, C. A. Miner; 1844, Luther Howe; 1845, W. S. Miner; 1846, Jesse D. Stone; 1847, K. C. Osborn; 1848, A. W. Beals; 1849, Randall Brooks; 1850, John S. Gorton; 1851, William C. Rowe; 1852, N. K. Lonsbury; 1853, J. D. Stone; 1854, no record; 1855-61, Alfred Stone; 1856, James W. Kent; 1857-60, L. D. Nichols; 1861, Melvin B. Nichols; 1862, George Kent; 1863, L. D. Nichols; 1864-65, C. A. Miner; 1866, John F. Beebe; 1867-69, John G. Kent; 1870-71, James W. Kent; 1872, George Kent; 1873-74, Samuel Fisk; 1875, John H. Jones; 1876-77, John G. Kent; 1878, J. E. Lonsbury; 1879, F. C. McClelland.

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## SCHOOL INSPECTORS

1843, W. S. Miner; 1844, Sidney W. Dunning; 1845, J. O. Round; 1846, N. P. Stone; 1847, Benjamin P. Chase; 1848, W. W. Beebe; 1849, Luther Howe; 1850, Horace Bartlett; 1851, Nelson Fisk; 1852, Horace Bartlett; 1853, C. C. Horning; 1854, C. C. Chester; 1855, William Dunton; 1856, Daniel Leggett; 1857, D. A. Swan, M. A. Brewer; 1858, Samuel Fisk; 1859, A. B. Austin; 1860, John A. Bidwell; 1861, Samuel Fisk; 1862, J. S. Bidwell; 1863, Sylvanus Van Duzen; 1864, John H. Wicks; 1865, William Dunton; 1866, J. L. Goodrich; 1867, John H. Wicks; 1868, J. H. Goodrich; 1869, John H. Hicks; 1870, A. J. Bracelin; 1871, Samuel Fisk; 1872, J. F. Goodrich; 1873, John H. Wicks; 1874, Charles White; 1875-77, Samuel Fisk; 1878, John L. Hughes; 1879, John F. Goodrich.

#### HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS

1843, Harvey N. Baker, Jesse D. Stone; 1844, Lloyd Austin, Erastus Congdon; 1845, C. A. Miner, Samuel Edgerton; 1846, H. N. Baker, A. C. Jacobs; 1847, K. C. Osborn, A. C. Jacobs; 1848, J. W. Kent, W. C. Rowe; 1849, John Hicks, S. A. Atkins; 1850, Charles F. Dunning, K. C. Osborn; 1851, R. K. Andrus, G. W. Andrus; 1852, John Hicks, J. W. Kent; 1853, S. Edgerton, C. A. Miner; 1854, William C. Rowe; 1855, Q. H. Gorton; 1856, Herman Johnson; 1857, James E. Lonsbury; 1858, John W. Briggs; 1859, Herman Johnson; 1860, James E. Lonsbury; 1861-62, W. S. Howe; 1863, S. B. Hughes; 1864, Horace Bartlett; 1865, Charles A. Miner; 1866, J. C. Hurspool; 1867, J. M. Edgerton; 1868-69, George S. Barber; 1870, Joseph Dayton; 1871, Isaac Page; 1872, Lyman Wright; 1873, William C. Rowe; 1874, Isaac Page, Latham Cross; 1875, Francis L. Hickson; 1876, G. A. Dunning; 1877, A. C. Burnham; 1878, A. F. Haynes; 1879, John Anderson.

## **JUSTICES OF THE PEACE**

1843, Wells Field; 1844, N. P. Stone; 1845, Erastus Congdon, E. C. Osborn; 1846, William Tyler; 1847, E. C. Osborn, Wells Field; 1848, W. W. Beebe, Samuel Edgerton, N. K. Lonsbury; 1849, Lyman Knapp; 1850, James Kent; 1851, W. W. Kent, E. C. Osborn; 1852, C. C. Collins, J. D. Stone, Samuel Edgerton; 1853, William Kent; 1854, Porter Williams; 1855, William Pulsifer, Lloyd Austin; 1856, Luther Howe, J. B. Tinker; 1857, Dashiel Leggett; 1858, John S. Gorton; 1859, Norton Andrus; 1860, Herman Johnson, Horace Pulsifer; 1861, John Beebe; 1862, John S. Gorton; 1863, C. A. Miner; 1864, William C. Rowe; 1865, Jesse D. Stone, Thomas Goodsell; 1866, William S. Kent; 1867, William Dunton; 1868, J. F. Beebe; 1869, Jesse D. Stone, W. Richards; 1870, G. W. Lawrence; 1871, Lloyd Austin; 1872, Isaac Page; 1873, Chester A. Miner; 1874, James E. Lonsbury; 1875, John Grand; 1876, John H. Wicks, Artemus W. Beals; 1877, Stephen Case, H. D. Edgerton, A. W. Beals; 1878, William Dunton; 1879, John L. Hughes.

#### DIRECTORS OF THE POOR

1843, Erastus Congdon, Eli Watson; 1844, Daniel Leggett, Peter Richart; 1845, Eli Watson, A. D. Dunning; 1846, W. S. Miner, A. D. Dunning; 1847, A. D. Dunning, Eli Watson; 1848, William Allen, Samuel Edgerton; 1849, Samuel Edgerton, W. W. Beebe; 1850, W. C. Rowe, Josiah Potter; 1851, G. W. Andrus, Josiah Potter; 1852, C. C. Collins; 1853, S. A. Atkins, C. C. Collins; 1854, Daniel Leggett, N. K. Lonsbury; 1855, A. W. Atkins, C. C. Collins; 1856-57, Luther Howe, J. D. Stone; 1858, Thomas Goldspring, Luther Howe.

#### SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

1875-79, John H. Wicks.

#### DRAIN COMMISSIONERS

1876, John L. Hughes; 1877, A. W. Atkins; 1878, George Hicks.

#### CONSTABLES

1843, Josiah Potter, Nicholas Shellman; 1844, Daniel Leggett, Josiah Potter; 1845, Josiah Potter, D. E. Alexander; 1846, N. K. Lonsbury, Jason Baker; 1847, Peter Richart; 1848, R. K. Andrus, Josiah Potter; 1849, Benona Collins, G. W. Andrus; 1850, Benona Collins, A. C. Jacobs; 1851, W. A. Reynolds, W. S. Howe; 1852, J. S. Gorton, A. W. Atkins, William A. Reynolds; 1853, A. C. Jacobs, J. M. Edgerton, O. Hesselton, W. S. Miner; 1854, A. W. Atkins, Martin Kent, J. S. Gorton, W. W. Howe; 1855, A. W. Atkins, David Hurd, C. M. Miner, H. Mason; 1856, A. W. Atkins, M. V. Kent, W. S. Kent, John Dean; 1857, A. W. Atkins, O. J. Hesselton, Lewis Barney, Alva Graves; 1858, A. W. Atkins, H. Johnson, Porter Williams; 1859, O. J. Hesselton, James Miner, W. S. Howe, J. B. Alexander; 1860, J. M. Simkins, H. D. Edgerton; 1861, A. W. Atkins, O. J. Hesselton; 1862, Josiah Potter, Alonso Campbell, Alva Graves, H. D. Edgerton; 1863, James E. Lonsbury, William H. De Wolf, A. W. Atkins, Josiah Potter; 1864, A. W. Atkins, Enoch Howe, N. S. Pike, Charles Miner; 1865, S. A. Bentley, Duncan Livingston, A. W. Atkins, J. H. Beebe; 1866, James Leggett, Charles Miner, A. F. Haynes, Oliver Caruthers; 1867, E. L. Horning, Herman Johnson, H. Nichols, John Stone; 1868, Charles Miner, G. A. Dunning, Samuel Martin, A. W. Atkins; 1869, A. J. Fasset, Morgan Maybee, Philip Bellinger, Josiah Pulsifer; 1870, Enos Warren, W. Flannagan, B. C. Palmer, William Bracelin; 1871, A. W. Atkins, J. L. Hughes, O. B. Priest, A. Taylor; 1872, J. L. Hughes, Charles Dunton, A. W. Atkins, Enos Warren; 1873, Charles Dunton, A. W. Atkins, C. O. Collins, George V. Goucher; 1874, Charles Miner, Charles White, Barrett Gibson, George Dayton; 1875, George V. Goucher, A. W. Atkins, W. S. Kent, Charles E. White; 1876, Chauncey Nichols, George F. Ayres, Seymour Stace, Alex. Rowe; 1877, James Miner, Samuel Atkins, Isaac Hoffmaster, John Miner; 1878, Robert Hicks, C. P. Nichols, James Miner, Samuel Atkins; 1879, E. L. Clements, George B. Myers, Thomas Conway, Edward Malony.

Note: The foregoing list is as nearly accurate as the records rendered it possible to make it.

#### STEPHEN CASE

The parents of Stephen Case were both natives of New York State, the father having died when the lad was but 6 years of age. This son, the tenth in a family of thirteen children, whose birth occurred in Henrietta, Monroe County, N. Y., May 20, 1824, found a home with an uncle until his twenty-second year, when he engaged in labor elsewhere in the same township. He purchased land in Michigan in 1848, and two years later married Miss Sarah Harris, daughter of Thomas and Mary Harris, who was born in Monroe County, N. Y., March 19, 1828. In the spring of 1855, Mr. and Mrs. Case became pioneers in the township of Watson, Allegan County, where he erected a log house, which is the inevitable accompaniment of the life of the early settler, and chopped thirty acres soon after his advent. This was not, however, a permanent abiding-place. In 1870 he sold, and the year following purchased his present attractive home.

The family circle of Mr. and Mrs. Case includes four children: Mary E., born Oct. 5, 1851; Ardell S., born Dec. 5, 1853; Ella A., born Jan. 27, 1856; and Julia P., whose birth occurred Sept. 28, 1858. Mary E. was married in April, 1876, to James R. Fenner; Ella A. became Mrs. William H. Hooper, Dec. 19, 1877; and Julia P. was united to Delavan R. Hooper in May, 1879. They all occupy homes in the vicinity of that of Mr. and Mrs. Case, forming a neighborhood linked by the ties of relationship and affection.

#### WILLIAM A. REYNOLDS

The parents of William A. Reynolds were born in the State of New York, and he, the eleventh in a family of twelve children, was a native of Jefferson County, in that state. He was early placed in the family of William Hewitt, with whom he remained until his ninth year, when ill treatment compelled him to seek other quarters, and the lad became a ward of the town. From the age of nine until his fourteenth year, his home was with a cousin. At the expiration of that time he became independent of friendly aid, having earned a comfortable support by hard labor. On the 5th of February, 1837, he was married to Miss Mary, daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Russell, both natives of the State of New York. In 1844, Mr. Reynolds followed the tide of emigration to the West and located at Gun Plain, where he remained one year. In 1845 he removed to the land he at present owns, having pre-empted it. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds was brightened by the happy faces of six children, three boys and three girls. Mrs. Mary Reynolds having died on March 30, 1872. Her husband, on the 22nd of March 1873, was united to Mrs. Mary Palmer, widow of David Palmer, formerly of Pine Plains.

Mr. Reynolds is associated with the Baptist Church, of which he is an active member, as he is also of the lodge of Odd-Fellows of Watson. In politics he affiliates with the Greenback Party. He is an enterprising and public spirited citizen, and by his consistency of character has won the respect of acquaintances and neighbors.

#### CHARLES MINER

Though not a pioneer in the sense of age, Mr. Miner was among the earliest arrivals in Allegan County, and has accomplished as much of the preliminary labor of clearing as others whose silver locks are evidence of the rapid flight of time. His birth occurred in the town of Brighton, Monroe County, N. Y., Jan. 3, 1835, and with his father, Chester A. Miner, he made his advent in the state soon after. His residence was at the home-stead until twenty-one years of age, when he returned to the East, and during this period married Miss Lucy R. Edgerton. Together they embarked for Michigan with little else than courage and ambition as their capital. Mr. Miner purchased a farm in Watson, and their energies were directed to liquidating the indebtedness upon this land. To acquire means for this purpose was a much less arduous task at the East than in Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Miner's family circle has been made happy by the presence of four sons. Frank M. was born June 7, 1858, and died Oct. 1, 1862; James was born in Hartland, N. Y., May 26, 1860; the birth of Martin C. occurred June 8, 1868; and that of Fred C., June 20, 1871. Mr. Miner is a Republican in his political convictions, but is rarely interested in party differences or local contests. The cares of the fine property he has accumulated occupy at present his time and energies.

#### ISAAC PAGE

Mr. Page was formerly a British subject, having been born [the fifth in a family of nine children] in Sussex, England, Feb. 15, 1829. In 1855 he sailed for the hospitable shores of America, and in the same year arrived in Watson, Allegan County, where he engaged in clearing land and other labors of a similar character until a favorable opportunity occurred for the cultivation of a farm on shares. He meanwhile purchased eighty acres of land, which was sold again in 1867, he having bought a more desirable tract elsewhere. To this he has from time to time added, until two hundred and fifteen acres are embraced in his present estate. Having been possessed of little or no property on his arrival, Mr. Page may, in an eminent sense, be regarded as entitled to a prominent place among the self-made men of this county.

Mrs. Page was formerly Miss Susan A. Clay, a native of Virginia, to whom he was married March 24, 1872.

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In 1869 Mr. Page visited the home of his childhood, which he had left many years before almost penniless, but now as a successful and independent farmer.

In politics Mr. Page is a Democrat, and has held the offices of justice of the peace and highway commissioner, both of which positions he has dignified by administrations characterized by ability and integrity.

In religion he is a liberal, but his opinions are marked by a profound respect and regard for the convictions of others.

#### GORUM W. GORTON

The father of G. W. Gorton, the latter of whom is the subject of this biographical sketch, was William H. Gorton, a native of the State of New York, who was born Nov. 15, 1801. His mother, whose birthplace was in the same state, was Miss Electa Hitchcock, who was born Feb. 14, 1799. The birth of their son Gorum W., a native of Monroe County, N. Y., and the fourth in a family of six children, occurred Aug. 29, 1829. In 1849 the latter embarked for Michigan, having previous to his twentieth year assisted his father in his farming pursuits. His grandfather had entered land in Watson, which had by inheritance fallen to him. On his arrival he remained one year, and then returned to his native state, where he was married to Miss Mary A. Mellows, who was the daughter of Thomas and Jane Davis Mellows, and was born in Monroe County, N. Y., June 30, 1830. She was the third in a family of eight children, her parents having formerly resided in England. In 1852, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Gorton became permanent residents of the state. He had previously hired twenty acres chopped, and upon this he built a log house, to which they removed, and experienced all the privations of the Western pioneer. Three children have graced their family circle: Electa J., born Dec. 15, 1851; Russell J., whose birth occurred May 12, 1857; and J. W., born Oct. 5, 1863. These children still enjoy the protection of the parental roof. In religion Mr. Gorton is liberal; in politics a Republican, though not an active partisan.

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**D. F. AYRES**

In a family embracing eight sons and ten daughters, Mr. D. F. Ayres was the eleventh child, having been born in Pennsylvania, March 3, 1882. He remained under the parental roof until twenty-one years of age, when employment was sought in an iron foundry in Ohio, his family having meanwhile removed to that state. On the 9th of January, 1845, he married Miss Sarah, daughter of George Mason, who was a native of Essex County, N. Y., and born Feb. 6, 1828. Mr. Ayres came to the state in 1852, and secured the land he at present owns. It was entirely unimproved, and indicates much labor and enterprise in its present cultivated condition. A log house was early erected, which has been the comfortable home of the family to the present day.

Mr. and Mrs. Ayres have had four children: George F. and G. F. [2nd], Cora A. and Tull B., the last of whom is still a member of the home circle. In politics Mr. Ayres was formerly a Republican, but his political affiliations have more recently been with the Greenback party. He is one of the most conspicuous examples of the reward which follows industry and ambition, having borrowed the means with which to reach Michigan.

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