

Dedication of the Second Printing

It has been my privilege and pleasure to participate in and underwrite the cost of this second printing of Three Rivers, The Early Years. I want to dedicate this effort to the memory of Lucile Haring and Phyllis Agosti who had the courage and commitment to write it for the Three Rivers' Sesquicentennial celebration 15 years ago; to Sheila Haring and the many others who have worked so hard to bring it back to life; to my mother, Louise who passed away last year having lived most of her life in Three Rivers and to my father, LeBart Beck, who at the age of 90 is still repairing books for the Three Rivers Public Library in his spare time.

Jim (Skip) Beck, Class of 1959
September, 2001

Introduction

Dedication

We dedicate this souvenir book to our ancestors who dared to dream of a better life, and who came to this wild land of the rivers putting down roots to make a permanent home for future generations.

Dedication to Jacob McInterfer

Jacob McInterfer knew a good thing when he saw it. When he arrived to this area in 1829, he realized the water power that could be obtained was immense. His only difficulty was selecting the best site because two streams emptied into the St. Joseph and this made a difficult choice. As McInterfer was the only settler in the neighborhood, he didn't wish to build bridges to get anywhere, so he built his log cabin on the west side of the Rock River.

Early Settlements

Early Villages — Platted, but never became permanent

1830 — MOAB — Section 20 — Platted by Richerts and Shinnamans

1830 — St. Joseph — Section 19 — Platted by J. McInterfer and G. Buck

Sesquicentennial Year 1986

November, 1836 —

John Bowman platted Village of Three Rivers on Section 18

December, 1836 —

George Buck, Jonathon Brown, Benjamin Sherman, Edward Pierson, and L.B. Brown platted
Lockport Village — Section 19-20

Message from Mayor Al White

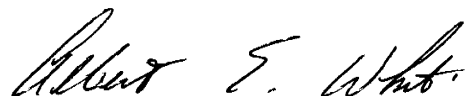
It is at this bench mark in time, 150th year, our Sesquicentennial, that we recognize again the many contributions made by our pioneer ancestors. These hardy souls who pushed back the frontiers through their courage and rugged individualism deserve our eternal thanks. Were it not for them, the fine and beautiful community you see about you would not exist. In this commemorative book you will be introduced to many of the leading contributors to our heritage. You will see graphic displays of their skills and ingenuity. As you peruse this book, you will sense your trip through time. It is amazing that in 150 short years our mode of transportation has been from horse and buggy to airline jets and indeed to spacecraft. What will the next 150 years bring?

What really makes Three Rivers a good place to live I think may be best expressed by this poem:

*I like to live in a little town
Where the trees meet over the street.
You wave your hand and say "Hello!"
To every person you meet.*

*I like to stop for a minute outside of a grocery store
And hear the kindly gossip of the folks moving in next door.
For life is interwoven with friends you learn to know,
And you feel their joys and sorrows as they daily come and go.*

*So I'm glad to live in a little town
And care no more to roam
For every house in a little town
Is more than a house — it's a home!*



Al White
Mayor 1986

Introduction

The St. Joseph, The Portage, The Rocky "The Three Rivers"

The St. Joseph River, first known as the River of the Miamies, rises in Hillsdale County. It flows a meandering course of 250 miles. Bending, twisting, backtracking through southwestern Michigan into Indiana, bending back again, it reaches Lake Michigan.

The Portage, peaceful and placid, enters the St. Joseph from the north. The Rocky flows snakelike through rushes and cattails and enters the big river from the west. The three rivers meet, flowing together — they become one.

The deer and raccoon made the river their home, turtles rested in its' shallow waters and wild geese followed its' course.

It was a river of history, traveled by Indians, traders, missionaries and finally the pioneers who believed this was the place for a new home, a new life.

A thousand stories the river could tell of the many years gone by.



Introduction

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Prologue

When one starts to collect history from 150 years ago it becomes a very difficult task. To compile all of it, and to try to fit it into a small souvenir book is impossible. We are just reminiscing about the very early years.

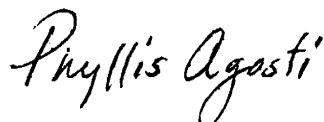
This is not a complete history of Three Rivers. With some exceptions we do not go beyond the early 1920's. If we have made mistakes in names, places, dates, we didn't mean to. If we have forgotten your great grandfather or favorite uncle, please forgive us. If we have omitted incidents you would have included we can't help it now.

Our hope is that many people will hunt through their memories, through printed material they have saved, and will find many interesting stories about Three Rivers. If you donate your pictures and information that you may find to the Library or to the D.A.R. Museum at the Sue Silliman House, we can enlarge our knowledge of Three Rivers through the years and save it for future generations.

Get ready to take pen in hand, for the next recording of Three Rivers history will be yours. The next generation can go on from where we left off.



Lucile Haring



Phyllis Agosti

Introduction

City of Three Rivers Sesquicentennial Committee

Phyllis Agosti, Todd Brian, Paul Cochran, Lucile Haring, Bob McDonough, Bill Monroe, Ron Reece, Suzette Warner, Al White, Chris Williams, and Gary Word

Time Capsule Committee

Stuart Stuckey, chairman, Betty Mattson, Lynn Weber, Gerry Allen, Marrey Cannon, Kathy Clay, Hyunsu Kim, Ed Tierney, and Jim Tucker

Alumni Committee

Suzette Warner, Billie Abel Chambless, Lois Millet, and Vera Fitch Young

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank many friends who gave us their memories, their pictures, their time, their co-operation.

Marion Holtom Sheffer produced all of the authentic sketches found in the first chapter. A real photo could not have shown all the minute detail Marion put in her work. We thank her!

Betty Mattson receives our special heartfelt thanks for endless hours of typing. She was worth a million.



Early History

Chapter One

This land we live on, the fertile valley of the St. Joseph River, was wilderness — a vast and endless forest. Over it lay a great silence broken only by the rushing wind and the running water. It was land of rare beauty, countless lakes, burr oak plains, white oak ridges, pines skirting the river, prairie ablaze with flowers.

For thousands of years ancient people wandered into the valley and drifted out. These prehistoric peoples mysteriously vanished leaving behind extensive earthworks, complex burial grounds, and unique garden beds.

In the 1600's when the first white explorers ventured into the valley they found living there peaceful Indians, the Pottawatomies. For the past two hundred years the Indians had hunted, fished, and roamed the prairies. The Pottawatomies were a great Indian nation occupying southern Michigan and northern Indiana. They were closely related to the powerful Ottawas and Chippewas. Recognizing this relationship they formed a loose federation calling themselves the "Brothers of Three Fires."

Through the years the Indians watched the intrusion of their land by explorers, missionaries, trappers, traders, soldiers, and the onrush of the American pioneer. In the Chicago Treaty of 1821 signed by Gov. Cass, Top-in-a-Bee and major Pattawatomie Chiefs, most of the southwestern Michigan south of the Grand River was sold to the American government. From the vast lands which the Pottawatomies had occupied, all that was left were a few isolated reservations and the Nattawa-seppe reservation. It was prime fertile land, a tempting area to the land hungry pioneer. In the Chicago Treaty of 1833, Gov. Porter tricked the Indians with slick promises and the Pottawatomies sold the reservations. Many Indians would not honor the treaty and refused to move off their land. In 1840, General Brady, with troops from the United States Army, rounded up the Indians and moved them across the Mississippi. Some Indians not willing to move hid in the forest until the soldiers were gone but their power and land was gone.

The St. Joseph River valley was a choice spot. The fertile prairies were covered with grass four or five feet high. The soil was rich and deep and forests of hard wood trees so dense the sun scarcely came through. It was wild land, untamed.

The early pioneers were squatters putting up temporary shelters and laying claim to many acres of land. Some were agents or land spotters for wealthy men in the East. The land office opened in White Pigeon in 1831.

In 1828, Jacob McInterfer came from Ohio and selected a mile square section of land along the Rock River. He erected a lean-to shelter, cleared land, planted corn and potatoes, and in the spring brought his wife, Cathryn, and twelve children to live here. The Richerts and the Sinnamans platted the village of Moab in 1830. Their land lay south of Broadway along the west side of the St. Joseph River. In 1830, George Buck purchased 800 acres on the east side of the St. Joseph River. He built a large two-room log house for his wife, Martha, and thirteen children.

Life was a challenge! Jacob McInterfer and George Buck cleared the wilderness, streets were laid through the woods, and the village of St. Joseph platted in 1830 (second district). They hoped to be the center of county government but lost out to Centreville. McInterfer started a saw mill on the Rock River. George Buck used his large double cabin for a pioneer hotel, and constructed a ferry raft to be towed across the St. Joseph River by rope and tackle. George Buck's cabin (4th Street) became the social and political center of the community. He was the first postmaster, and the first Justice of the Peace. The first road from White Pigeon came to his cabin door.



Pottawatomie Indian Village



Maranatte House in Mendon — where Treaty was signed in 1833 — Patawatomies sold the last reservation lands.

Early History

Chapter One

On the high ground on the west bank of the Rock River, where it enters the St. Joseph, was an active Fur Trading Post consisting of a double log cabin manned by French traders, Gibson and Cassoway.

More families arrived, the Hoffmans, Millards, Bowmans, Lelands, Prutzmans, Moores, Fishers and many more. They lived in their wagons or temporary shanties made of saplings and bark until trees were felled and cabins built. One family used bed sheets to make a tent and when it rained the baby was put under a tin washtub!

Jacob McInterfer died in 1831 and Michael Beadle bought and completed the unfinished saw mill. One of the first buildings, a grist mill was a necessity with new families arriving daily. He also opened a crude grist mill on the Rock River.

Philip Hoffman cleared and broke up fifteen acres of land, planted corn, buckwheat, and put in a peach orchard — no easy task in the middle of the woods. It was necessary to girdle as many trees as possible, stripping off the bark in a broad band, completely encircling the trunk. The trees would die quickly, shed their leaves and then, with luck, enough sunlight would come in to make it possible to raise some crops. Later the dead trees were felled (without chain saws!) and great bonfires were built.

The settlers found daily life challenging. The frontier was new, dangerous and unknown. The land was untouchable with no roads, fences or buildings. There were bears, wolves, deer, wild turkeys, and pigeons. In the summer, day and night, the danger was great plagues of mosquitoes filling the woods as they rose in great clouds. Until the land was cleared, swamps drained, and newly broken sod planted, malaria, chills and fever affected almost all of the settlers. To add to their difficulties, the livestock wandered unhindered, and at night the wolves would creep near and howl their mournful cry. There was always the never ending fear of the Indians who at that time outnumbered the pioneers.

The pioneers encountered difficulty when they tried to raise wheat and rye on the raw, virgin soil. Corn was much easier to grow. There were no gardens; emphasis had to be on staple crops. Many of the pioneers had used all of their money to buy land. At \$1.25 an acre it was a golden opportunity, but this made them land poor with very little ready money to buy even the necessities.

The arrival of settlers, speculators, businessmen and others created a demand for lodging and meals. In the fall of 1833, Burroughs Moore traded a yoke of oxen for six acres of land. He built a small hotel, one and a half stories. From time to time he added to the hotel almost creating a shanty village (site of L & M Jewelry).

The first stock of supplies was brought to the area for retailing by Joseph Smith and John Bowman who opened a small store on the east side of the Rock River (site of First National Bank). Simultaneously, Moore and Prutzman opened a store. Their first stock of goods became frozen in the harbor at Lake Michigan. In the spring they hauled the goods overland at the cost of seven shillings per hundred weight.

The great tide of immigration needing food made the St. Joseph River a necessary means of transportation — bringing goods into the territory and produce out. A barrel of salt in 1831-32 was a good trade for forty bushels of wheat.

In 1833 Burroughs Moore originated the "ark." The arks were simply two cribs, 40 by 16 feet, constructed of bottom timbers, six to seven inches square with posts at the corners and along the sides. They were spiked together and covered with square fronts. The arks were anchored by what the rivermen called "growlers," several stakes large enough to be struck down in front of the cribs to retard the motion. They found that nothing but flour could profitably and safely be carried on these boats. An ordinary ark could carry 400-600 barrels of flour at a price of 15¢ a bushel. The first ark, loaded with wheat, traveling down the river stopped at Constantine. The tail board was pulled off and some of the wheat lost. As they continued on to Elkhart, Indiana, the same misfortune befell them and they lost more wheat. Down river, more wheat was lost when they broke a hole in the bottom of the ark. What was left of the cargo was lost when they hit shallow water near Niles.

Many of the arks were wrecked along the way and their cargo dumped into the river. Arks were never brought back up-stream. They were either sold for the lumber or allowed to drift out into Lake Michigan. Elisha Millard was a very capable captain who brought many a cargo successfully down-stream. Washington Gascon built the first keel boat naming it the "Kitty Kiddungo." Keelboats took 100 barrels of flour to Chicago where farmers received \$13.00 a barrel.



Buck's Cabin, Buck's Ferry and Buck's Tavern.

After Jacob McInterfer's death his vast holdings were divided between his many heirs. His cabin on the Rock River was turned into a schoolhouse with John Arney as the teacher. He had but one arm. Mischievous boys were punished by holding their heads between his knees. With a single hand a sound whipping was dealt out! Reading, Writing, and Ciphering were important. The thirty students would watch with apprehension as Indians traveled past the school on their way to the trading post.

It was still a wilderness, but the pioneers could say:

Here, in this rich land, we found no man need serve another.

Here, any man with ox and gun could live, clear his own fields, hew his own home, win for himself a birth-right — independence.

Here, in these row clearings, stirred ideas.

Here, in this rich wilderness, we dreamed of a good life, a life of happiness for every man.

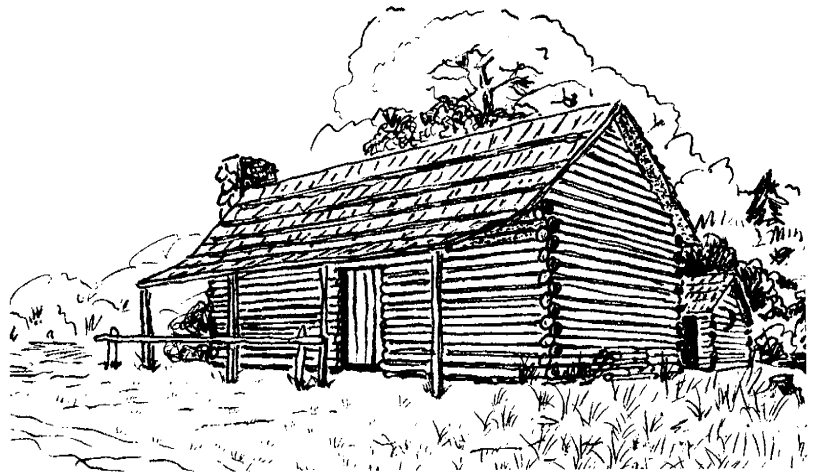
The French Mission

In the late 1600's, French explorers and missionaries ventured into the lower Great Lakes and eventually paddled their way up the St. Joseph River. Joliet, Marquette, LaSalle, and Hennepin visited the peaceful Indian tribes. Tradition has it that an Indian mission was established and for a long time flourished on the high bluff above the St. Joseph River (Michigan Power). This mission was founded by Father Allouez. It was a crude chapel of bark with a rough cross. At various times through the next few years the mission was maintained. The French Jesuit priests hoped to Christianize the Indians but were never very influential.

Gibson Cassoway Trading Post

Southern Michigan was abundant with fur bearing animals and the St. Joseph River valley was the site of many fur trading posts. The Gibson Cassoway Post manned by French traders was situated on the high ground west of the Rock River (208 Constantine Street). The post had been there before the Revolutionary War and continued to do business until too many pioneers settled near. They simply moved away. No one knows when or where. Typical trading items were brightly colored beads, cloth, ribbons, shot, powder, knives, tobacco, blankets and brandy. Four canoe loads of furs would bring one canoe load of goods.

French Mission



Trading Post



Grist Mill

The Sauk Trail — The Chicago Road The Sauk War Scare

From Detroit a trace led down across the southern part of the peninsula. It was first beaten out of the wilderness by great herds of buffalo which roamed southwestern Michigan. Later it was a path, a foot deep and foot wide, worn deep by centuries of constant single file foot travel by Indians. Many tribes used the trail for their annual trips to receive bounty from the government at Detroit.

In 1824, the Congress of the United States authorized the survey of the Chicago Military road to connect the forts at Detroit and Chicago. The surveyors followed a well marked Indian trail which bypassed swamps, lakes and natural obstacles (U.S. 12 roughly parallels this route).

The road was rough, grubbed out, with rough stones and tree stumps. In the spring the wagons sank into the mud up to the wagon bed. In the summer there were dust, ruts and holes. It was bad but it was the main route used by the pioneers entering southern Michigan from Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York.

This trail was the principle route of the great Sauk and Fox Chief Black Hawk. Each year when he traveled this route to pick up his gifts he threatened war for the injustices done to his people. He made no attempt to restrict his warriors as they roamed the countryside. Fear, panic and rumors spread through the isolated pioneer cabins and settlements. They believed the worst: Black Hawk and his warriors would encourage the Pottawatomies to join his Sauk and Fox warriors in war against the white man. The Pottawatomies had not always been placid and peaceful. They had actually participated in the massacre at Fort Dearborn and the River Raisin.

The excitement and wild stories created a great alarm. The pioneers knew that Black Hawk and his allies would ravage the settlements. Hasty plans were made to build a fortification — Fort Malden — a wall two feet high covering two acres.

Black Hawk and his war chiefs arranged for a council. The Indians were destitute and anxious to adjust all differences. When Black Hawk made his last desperate effort to drive out the white man it was not in Michigan but in Illinois and Wisconsin. His defeat and capture ended the war scare.



Sauk Chief — Black Hawk

Quotes From The Native Americans

Chief Cush-ee-wees of the Pottawatomies:

"We have so little, they have so much...Why do they want ours?"

Black Hawk: After his defeat by the white man in 1832, Black Hawk's band was nearly destroyed and the great chief was taken to a prison camp. Later he was released and sent on a trip East which included a visit to President Andrew Jackson. On that visit the Sauk warrior told the President:

"We did not expect to conquer the whites. I took up the hatchet to avenge injuries which my people could no longer endure. Had I borne them without striking, my people would have said, 'Black Hawk is a woman; he is too old to be chief. He is no Sauk.'"

Quotes From Early Pioneers

George Buck, Jr., came to Three Rivers with his parents in 1830:

"There were three camps of Indians near by. They came to our house quite often to hold Indian dances. They would gather, dance all night, and in the morning go about their business. We never locked our house. The latch string was always out. The Indians were in the habit of coming in at night, sitting around the fire, chatting and smoking and when they got ready to sleep they would roll up in their blankets on the floor and by day light would be gone."

Mrs. Sophia Salsig, daughter of Jacob McInterfer:

"The Indians were very friendly as they had a good chief, Sage-naw. He died in 1831 and was buried down near Hog Creek (Prairie River)...We all went and gave the Chief a decent burial...There was no underbrush, and the woods were beautiful just like a flower garden."

Mary Jane Hopkins:

"I was married in 1837 and began housekeeping in a little plank house with a basement on the side hill — it was fifteen feet square, and was built by Michael Beadle; it was the first house on the west side of the Rock River." (Corner of Spring Street and West Michigan Avenue.)



Edward S. Moore



Abraham C. Prutzman

The Honorable Edward S. Moore and The Honorable Abraham C. Prutzman

In 1834 Edward Moore and his brother-in-law, Abraham Prutzman packed a store of goods and sent it via New York, Buffalo, the Great Lakes to the mouth of the St. Joseph River. The family started west. After six weeks of hard travel, they arrived in Three Rivers. One of the earliest dwellings was the establishment of Burrows Moore, Edward's brother. The hotel was two rooms, 12 by 14 feet with outside stairs to reach the upper one — for several weeks 19 persons occupied this tiny hotel. Moore and Prutzman opened a mercantile store in Prairie Ronde, where they retailed goods of all kinds. Later they moved their stock of goods to Three Rivers. Mr. Prutzman continued in the mercantile business alone and later with his sons until 1867 when he retired. Mr. Prutzman held for ten years a position on State Board of Agriculture and for six years was a Senator in the State Legislature.

Edward S. Moore was prominent in public affairs. He served as a member of the State Constitutional Convention, a Regent of the University of Michigan, and as a State Senator. In Three Rivers he aided in the organization of the Riverside Cemetery Association. He assisted in the organization of the Presbyterian Church, in 1837 he was chosen one of the elders, a position which he actively held for 37 years. He was especially influential in bringing the Michigan Southern Railroad to Three Rivers from Constantine, a much needed railroad connection with the outside world. Moore Park station on the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern was established in 1871 and named for Mr. Moore.

Mr. Moore purchased a tract of 450 acres of burr-oak openings in Park Township, some $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Three Rivers. He built a spacious mansion, called "The Plantation." The home was elegantly surrounded by spacious grounds. The Moore's provided a happy home for fifteen homeless girls and boys ranging in ages from 2 to 12. From this homestead Mr. Moore went daily to his business in Three Rivers.

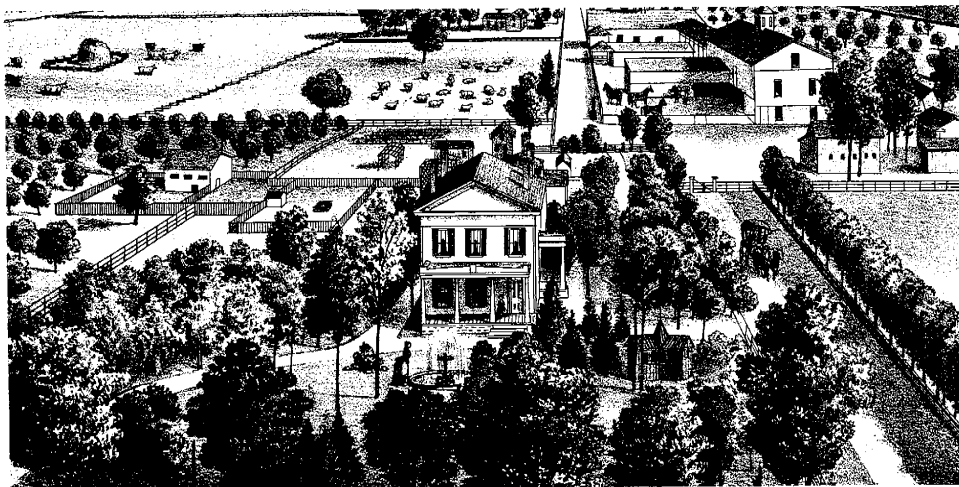
"The Plantation," a beautiful landmark, burned in 1943.

Probate Proceedings File Number 6

In the Probate Court for the County of St. Joseph, Michigan. In the matter of their estate of Jacob McInterfer, deceased.

March 3rd, 1832, Commissioners were appointed to set-off dower interest of Catharine McInterfer in the estate belonging to said estate. The following lands Sections and sundry lots in the village of St. Joseph...also a part of FRAL NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 19, T 6 S.R. 11 West. Beginning at the southwest corner of the St. Joseph River, thence East 22 chains and 11 links to a post being a corner between this tract and that set off to George Buck, from thence to yellow oak...12 chains North, thence to white oak 12 chains North...thence North to South side of Madison Street in Village of St. Joseph...North 42 West 2 chains and 90 links to a post on bank of the St. Joseph River, from which a white oak 15 links South 22 East 78 thence down the St. Joseph with its meanders to the place of its beginning — 30 and $2\frac{1}{100}$ acres be the same more or less. Also 37 acres of timber land situated North of boundry line — also 160 acres more or less on Section 3 to have and to hold for and during the term of her natural life as dower interest is said land.

Recorded in Probate Records, July 24, 1832. (The above was a portion of the petition or partition of the estate of said deceased.)



The Plantation

A Pioneer Story by Claravina Stowell Daughter of Misheal Beadle

Misheal Beadle moved from the State of Ohio, Crawford County, Town of Bucyrus, September 1827. The party that came at that time was David Beadle, Sr., Misheal Beadle and family, David Beadle, Jr., Henry Whited, Morris Dickson, Joseph Quimby, and Gideon Ball. The journey was tedious and slow; they having to cut their own road from Perrysburg on the Maumee River, to the River Raisin, through what was known as the cottonwood swamp. We were eleven days getting through the swamp, a distance of twenty-eight miles. Did not see a human being during the time; we often stayed two nights in one place.

The rest of the journey was more pleasant. We were twenty-nine days coming from Bucyrus to White Pigeon. We encamped the seventh of October on the bank of Klinger's Lake, caught some fish that evening from the lake for our breakfast, went to White Pigeon the eighth.

We remained here four weeks, sleeping in our wagons, and taking our meals with Mr. Hinckley's people, old friends from Ohio, until a site was selected at Mottville, and a house built for us.

From there we were soon obliged to move, as when the land was surveyed, there proved to be a prior French claim. The following spring we moved to Young's prairie. When we just settled there, the survey again struck us, and we were on the school section. The school land not being in the market at that time, we had to move again, so in June of 1828 we went to Flowerfield.

Father brought provisions and clothing enough to last two years, and they were also well supplied with teams and other stock like all early settlers, they saw some hard times, there being always more or less trials attending the pioneers. Our flour gave out before father built a mill.

He had to go to Niles to have his wheat ground, when he got there the mill was out of order, so the grist was left until the mill was repaired, then went again for the grist; had to put his own team on to grind it. During this time we had to grind buckwheat in a coffee mill for bread, six weeks for a family of fifteen. The pens for the young stock had to be covered to protect them from the wolves. We saw the wolves many times walking on top of the pens. Could hear them snarl and growl in their rage because they could not get the calves or lambs.

In the summer of 1829 father selected a site and built a small grist mill which he called the "corn cracker." The wheat ground in this mill, we bolted through a book muslin bolt, and worked it by hand; I myself, often shaking the bolt for hours, during my father's absence. Father went to Detroit in the fall, and bought some burrstones and the next season built a grist mill on a larger scale. Also built a saw mill the same summer.

In the spring of 1832, the Black Hawk war broke out and father volunteered and went with the company that was organized at Prairie Ronde, but they only went as far as Niles when the news came that Black Hawk was captured; so they returned home without seeing an Indian. Mrs. David Gilbert of Flowerfield, and I ran half a bushel of balls for the company. In June of 1832, father sold out both of his mills to Chalange S. Wheeler, and moved to Three Rivers.

In 1833 he built a grist mill on the Rocky River, (the one McInterfer started). In 1836 he changed this into a saw mill and built a grist mill on a larger scale on the opposite side of the Rocky, and sold it to John H. Bowman.

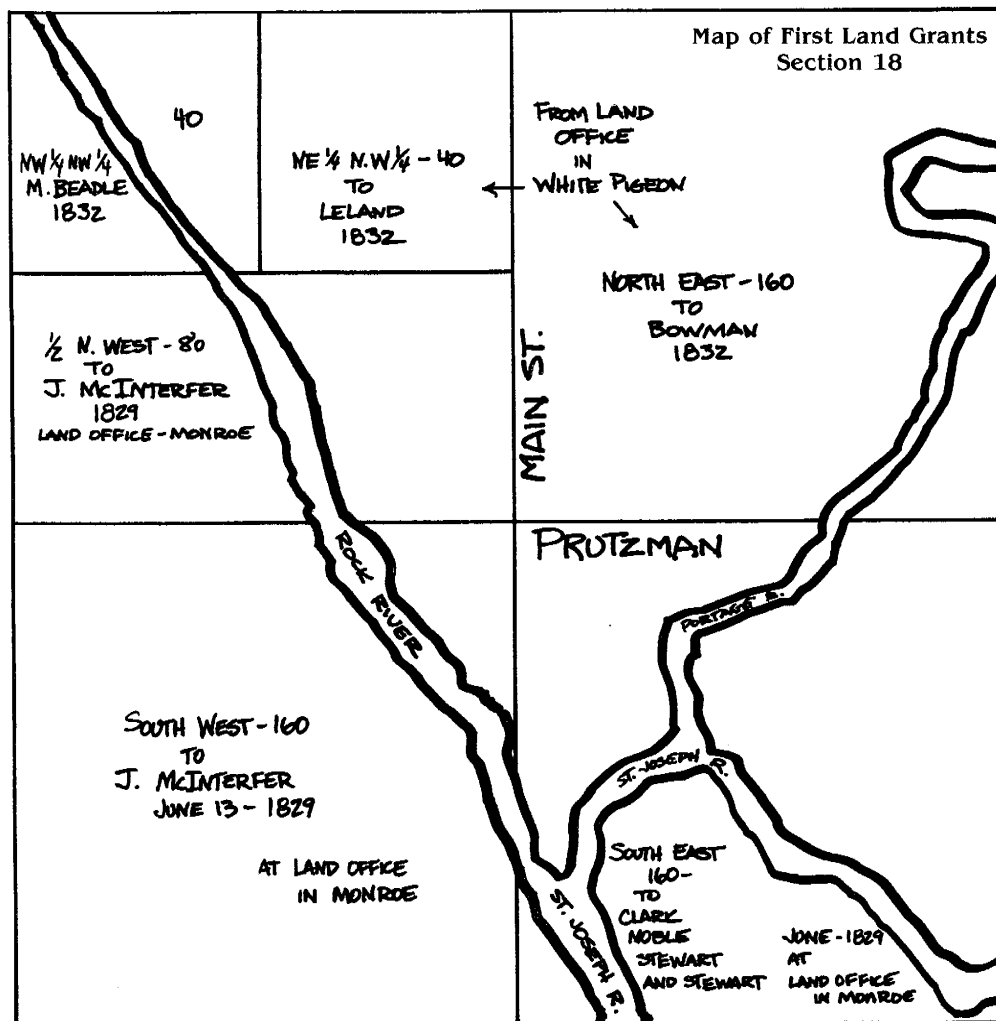
The inconveniences of the times did not keep them from enjoying themselves. They enjoyed parties, quiltings, and visiting just as well then as now. We did not think it a hardship to go ten miles with an ox team to a party or a quilting; and we generally enjoyed ourselves when we went.

Father had secured the services of his brother-in-law James Valentine (he being a millwright), in all his mills except the first which was built previous to Uncle's coming to Michigan. In 1838 he bought a farm two and one-half miles west of Three Rivers, and went to farming, but did not live long to enjoy farm life. He died in April 1839 at the age of 51 years. He left a wife and eight children, I being the eldest. Mother lived eleven years on the farm and made the home as cheerful as she could for the children, until she, too, was called from earth away, to meet the loved ones gone before. One of my sisters and a brother have since passed to the other shore; four of the others are living within a few miles of Three Rivers, one brother is in the north part of this state, and my home is in Burr Oak.

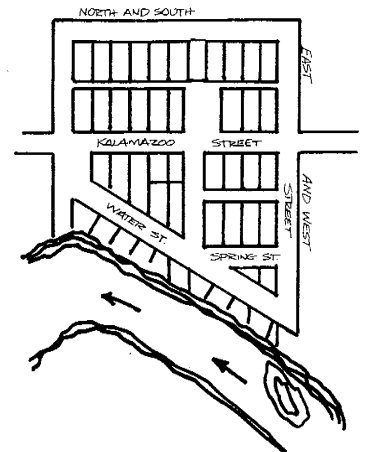


Left to right: Ruth Beadle Hopkins, Claravina Beadle Stowell, Dolly Ann Beadle Seeley, and Matilda Beadle Clark. (Photo courtesy of Marilyn Adams, great-great-granddaughter of Ruth Hopkins.)

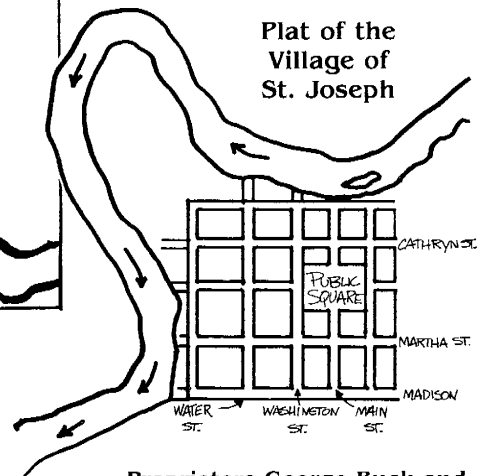
Early History "Maps"



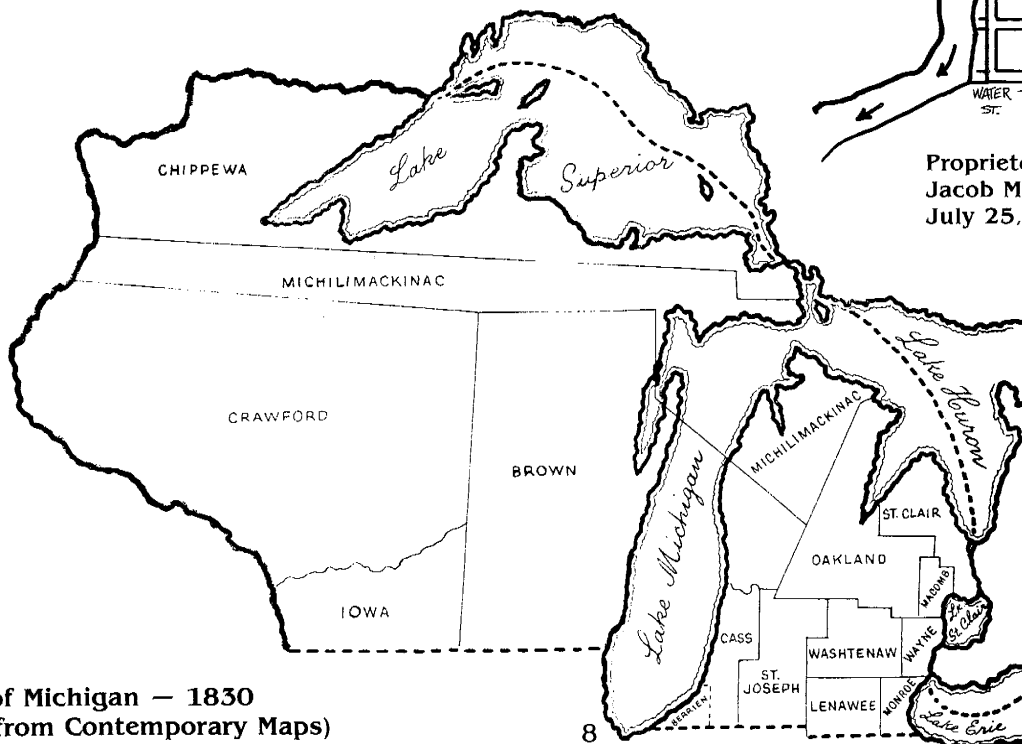
Plat of the Village of MOAB in St. Josph County, Michigan Territory Christopher Mack Schinnamon



Filed for record the 28th day of July, 1830 6 o'clock p.m. Recorded by me - W. Anderson, Reg.



Proprietors George Buck and Jacob McInterfer - July 25, 1830



Territory of Michigan - 1830
(Adapted from Contemporary Maps)

1836 – 1854 History

Chapter Two

On November 26, 1836, John Bowman platted the "village of Three Rivers," section 18. At this time it was only first ward. In December, George Buck and four friends laid out the "village of Lockport," sections 19 and 20. It was larger than the original plat of "St. Joseph." They formed the St. Joseph Canal and Lockport Manufacturing Co. with extended water power. They constructed tree dams, bridges, canals and locks. Buck sold the land to the company for \$66.00 an acre.

Moab, platted as a village in 1830, never materialized as a village and was turned into a cornfield. The platted settlements of Three Rivers and Lockport continued to grow, attracting many newcomers.

Canada (third ward) on the West side of the Rock River was a part of the large McInterfer tract. It was divided and never became a platted village. Brooklyn (4th ward) was heavily forested and swampy and never platted as a village.

Luther Carlton, in 1838, built a hotel (site of First National Bank). His first guest was Charles Starr who walked in from Bronson (Kalamazoo) and spent the night on a load of furs. Dr. Eggerly was established as the first physician. Asa Wetherbee built a bridge across the St. Joseph River. The stage line from White Pigeon to Bronson stopped at Buck's Tavern. George Buck built a saw mill in Lockport.

The pioneer period was over by 1840. Rams and stallions were prohibited from running at large, and wolf scalps were worth \$1.00. The settlers were becoming more established. Elisia Troy became the blacksmith and nearby a wagon and wheel manufacturing company was built by Joseph Millard.

The Hoffmans took over the Bowman mill on the Portage River; Luther Carlton built a woolen factory. Financial panic dashed the dreams of the St. Joseph Canal Co., and J.B. Millard bought the land for \$6.00 an acre for eastern investors. As superintendent and agent he established the Lockport Hydraulic Co. and hired Sylvester and George Troy. They built the first dam of logs, brush and dirt across the St. Joseph River. The great power of the river was distributed by means of a large race running through Lockport.

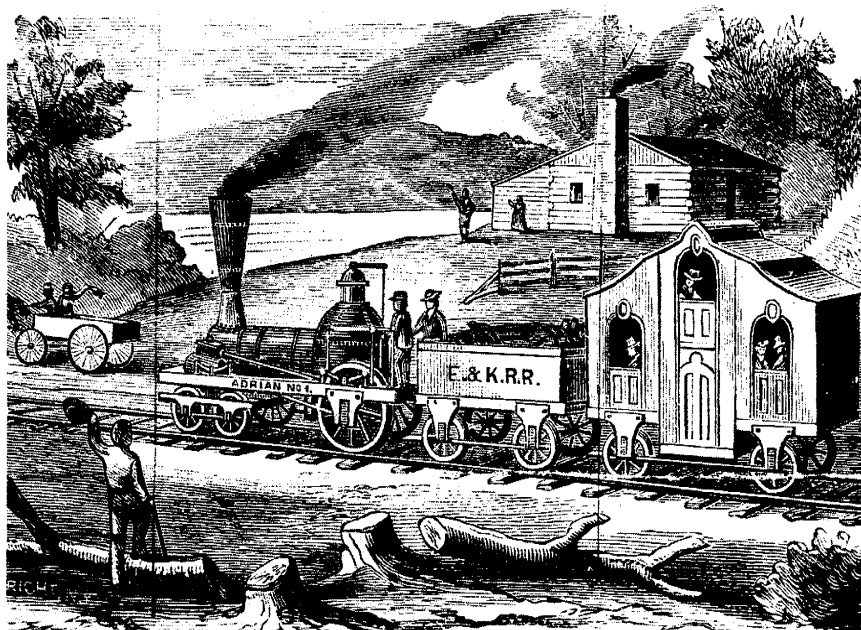
The Central House Hotel was built on the high bluff overlooking the St. Joseph River on the site of the Old Jesuit Mission. The hill was graded down and the sand went into mortar for the hotel.

In 1848 Moore and Prutzman "ark-ed" down the St. Joseph River with 1,100 bushels of wheat for 15¢ a bushel netting the growers 50¢ a bushel. Steamboats were built to navigate in the St. Joseph River and ran regularly to Constantine. Only a few trips were made to the settlements due to large ripples and shallow water in the river just south of the villages. Goods and supplies were carried overland by wagons to Constantine.

On the St. Joseph River traffic was heavy for many years. However, the railroads ended the navigation days on the river. The railroads were cheaper, less hazardous and easier to maintain. The river could not compete with the GREAT IRON HORSE.



Michigan – 1839



Early Post Office

The U.S. mail soon penetrated the new settlements. There were few letters or papers. In 1837, Louis A. Leland carried the mail for two years between the county seats of Branch and Berrien counties. He made three trips a week in a two-horse wagon from Centreville to Berrien via Three Rivers. The trip from Cassopolis and Niles had to be on horseback as there was only a trail to follow between those two latter points. Later John Winchell had the contract to carry the mail. He was required to carry the mail once a week in the summer and once in every two weeks in the winter.

Postage on a letter was 25¢ and was paid by the one receiving it. It required a week to get a letter from western New York to Southern Michigan — a distance of about 500 miles. (It still does!)

The first Post Office established for the accommodation of the people of Lockport was in 1830-31, and it was kept by the Postmaster, George Buck, at his tavern, the "Half-Way House." He was succeeded by Burroughs Moore who kept the office in his tavern in Three Rivers. Moore was succeeded by John McKee in 1839. The mail was brought daily by stage from Kalamazoo and White Pigeon. It could be kept in a "quart cup."

The first stage-line that traveled through on the route from White Pigeon to Bronson, as Kalamazoo was then called, was Harvey's of Constantine (Harvey Hunt).

1831 — Post Office was called "Bucks" — Postmaster, George Buck.

1837 — Name changed to "Lockport" — Postmaster, George Buck.

1840 — Name changed to "Three Rivers" — Postmaster, Burroughs Moore.

Taken From The Three Rivers Commercial — September 15, 1911

Three Rivers Octogenarian Passed Away This Morning
(Son of original settler of Three Rivers — George Buck)

George W. Buck, Prominent in History of County

Lived in City Since 1830

Played Ball With the Indians

When Boy —

Noted Baseball Fan

Attended Every Game Played by Home Teams

George W. Buck, one of the pioneers of this section, passed away at his home on 9th Street this morning at 7:30 o'clock of paralysis, after an illness of three months, aged 81 years, 10 months, and 3 days.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Lucy J. Buck, two daughters, Mrs. Effie Robinson and Mrs. Roy Gleason of Three Rivers; five grandchildren, John E. Robinson of Three Rivers, Miss Lulu Robinson of Benton Harbor, Michigan, George Van Orman of Kansas City, Mo., and Clare Van Orman of Kansas City, Mo., Harriet Gleason and Clare VanOrman of Three Rivers besides numerous relatives and friends to mourn his loss.

The funeral will be held from the home on 9th Street Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock the Rev. J.D. Brody conducting the service. Burial at Riverside.

George W. Buck was prominently identified with the early history of Three Rivers, having come here with his parents when but seven months old, in June 1830, in which his father, George Buck, built a log house at what is now the junction of Buck and Fourth Streets. The building was plastered inside and out with clay, the chimney being of sticks and clay. Later he erected a two-story frame house on this same site near where the Sheffield office building now stands, and opened it to travelers. It was known as Buck's hotel and the place was called Bucktown. The Pot-

tawatomie Indians who were friendly to the whites and traded with them, held a dance in one of the large rooms of the hotel when the building was finished. Not having any music, they accompanied their dancing with a weird chant such as was customary with the savages. It was in this hotel that the first county convention to nominate county officers was held in St. Joseph County.

The old log school house, where the son, George W. Buck, received his first lessons, was furnished with slab seats having wooden pins for legs with no desks in front. As a boy, he began to assist in the felling of the giants of the forest which were everywhere. He remained at home until ready to establish a household for himself. His father then gave him two lots in the village. On June 1st, 1854, he was united in marriage to Lucy Arnold and in 1855 he erected a dwelling house in the village. In the meantime his father had formed a company to develop the water power in this locality and he and his brother Lewis took the contract to build the race, which was to be three quarters of a mile long. This race afterward furnished the power for a saw mill which the brothers built and operated for a number of years.

On December 21st, 1861, Mr. Buck enlisted in Company H 13th Mich. Volunteer Infantry, serving through the war. He was a member of Ed. M. Prutzman Post G.A.R., which organization will have charge of the funeral service, giving their ritualistic ceremony at the grave.

Mr. Buck was an ardent baseball enthusiast, who never missed attending the games of the home team, going with them when they played at other places, encouraging them with his presence and whenever necessary giving them money to promote the sport. A more loyal rooter no team ever had. Despite his 80 summers he hopped around with agility of a youngster, coaching the boys to greater effort. No man was happier than he when the home team won.

Three Rivers has lost one of its most prominent citizens who had endeared himself to all by his kindly attitude toward them. It was a common occurrence to see him with his carriage loaded with children giving them a ride around the city.

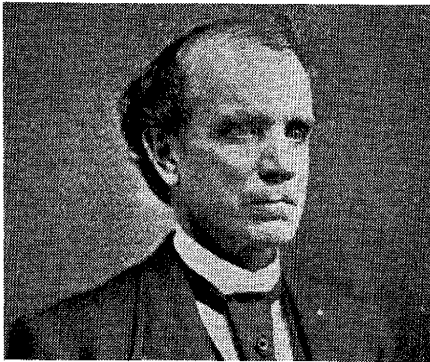
1836 – 1854 History

"Happy Thought Potato Digger"

Roberts-Throp Company 1848

Cyrus Roberts and John Throp established the Roberts-Throp Company in 1848. Cyrus Roberts was an inventive genius and through his skill they built agricultural implements and machines. The "Happy Thought Potato Digger," the "Invincible Vibrating Thresher," "Cyrus Roberts Corn Sheller" patented in 1852 was very efficient and profitable. In 1855, a magnificent plant was built (site of Dock's Foundry). Their output was first class and shipped all over the world.

Upon the death of Cyrus Roberts the firm continued and later became the Roberts Car and Wheel Co. They specialized in handcars and marketed a permanent safety device for railroads. In 1906, they were incorporated by the Sheffield Car Co.



Cyrus Roberts



"Hoffman Mills"

Portage River Mill

In 1845, Luther Carlton began to build a flouring mill on the Portage River (Wood Street and Hoffman). Through the early years it passed through many hands, and after a disastrous fire it became the property of John Hoffman.

When it was rebuilt it became one of the best mills in the state, four stories high with seven runs of stones. It had a capacity of 2000 bushels per day, custom work — 50 bushels per day. When wheat was moving, wagons were lined up way to the top of the hill. Everyone enjoyed seeing John Hoffman come down the street with his team of two big greys, and pair of Clydesdales, hauling wheat.

The mill was eventually wrecked in 1918. For years the site was used as a power plant.

Below the Hoffman dam was an ideal spot for a swimming hole. All the boys in town knew this and it too became a busy spot on a hot summer's day.

Philip and John Hoffman

In 1832, Philip Hoffman came from Pennsylvania with his family of four sons and three daughters. His oldest son was John W. Hoffman. They brought with them four horses, a wagon, several cows, a "little" gold and silver amounting to \$1500 (in their day that was a sizeable amount of "ready cash.") They pitched their tents and around the campfire discussed the best place to make their future home. They purchased a quarter section of land at \$1.25 an acre. Their future proved to be profitable; they were able to purchase the Bowman Mill on the Rock River and build their beautiful home (today the DeBoer home on Hoffman Street).



Roberts-Throp Company, site of Dock's Foundry



"Hoffman Mills" Property of J.W. Hoffman, Three Rivers

Michigan Southern and Michigan Central

1853

Rivers freeze in winter, flood in the spring and dry up in the summer. Snags, sandbars and other obstructions are difficult and expensive to remove. Roads and highways were unheard of until after 1900. The pioneers needed a cash crop. Corn and wheat were not profitable until a cheap form of transportation was available. The railroads ended the navigation days on the St. Joseph River. The coming of the railroad was hailed with enthusiasm.

Edward S. Moore was influential in extending a spur from the main line from White Pigeon north to Constantine and Three Rivers.

The first road to Three Rivers was laid with strap rail. Strap rails were slim pieces of iron strapped on the top. The chief virtue of strap rails was that they were cheap. Unfortunately they did not wear well as the equipment got heavier and faster.

The road soon fell into disuse. Mr. Moore again raised money to replace it with the modern "T" rail. Reconstruction of the line was financed by the villages of Three Rivers and Lockport. Individuals contributed large sums of money and farmers along the way gave tracts of land for the right-of-way and the depot.

It was quite a ride — about 18 miles an hour through forests; wild game could be seen from the windows. Freight cars were 15 feet long with no brakes or conductors. Fuel for the locomotives was wood and was piled along the way by farmers for sale to the railroad.

By 1895, the Air Line of the Michigan Central, depot in 2nd ward, gave direct communication with Chicago and the Great Lakes in the West and Buffalo in the East. The Kalamazoo branch of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, depot in first ward, connected with the main line in White Pigeon and gave direct communication with Toledo, Cleveland, Buffalo, New York and Boston.

J.W. French was appointed a director of the Michigan Central Railroad and had the contract for laying all the ties between Jackson and Niles. He demanded a stop and depot at

Fabius; he had a cottage at Corey Lake. Fabius station was half way between Three Rivers and Corey. Four trains a day traveled this line. Four acres of land were leased for the station house, freight house and a couple of small buildings.

Paper Mills

In the location of Third Street there has always been some kind of paper mill. In 1853, Shaler, Becker and White built the first paper mill known as the "Rosette." It had a capacity of 1,500 lb. of print paper every 24 hours, but it had trouble with fires and floods.

In 1871, J.W. French Manufacturing Co. invested in the manufacturing of paper. At this mill they manufactured wood into pulp and made print wrapping and book papers from 40% wood and 60% rags from which good print paper is made.

In 1881, the J.W. French Manufacturing Co. purchased the "Rosette" site and built a new mill. In 1885, J.W. French established the Three Rivers Paper Co. With many improvements it became one of the best equipped paper mills in the country. It could turn out 16,000 lbs. of book and paper every 24 hours.

J.W. French came to Three Rivers in 1854, on a stagecoach from Connecticut. With his three sons they all became very active in paper making. J.W. French was President of the National Pulp Board Co. with offices in New York which included all the pulp board mills in the United States. All three sons held high positions in the Michigan Wood Pulp Co. and were active businessmen involved in many public offices.

Letter From An Early Pioneer

The following is a letter written by Samuel Silliman to his father when the family left White Deer, Pennsylvania, May 18, 1847, for Three Rivers:

"Tell Mother by all means to bring her hop yeast along, set the risen at night and you can have your baking done early in the morning...Keep up your courage, Mother. Money wouldn't hire you to return once you are here. The river is beautiful and navigable. St. Joseph is the best county I have seen in my travels...I would rather live in the woods than any other place. Between Three Rivers and Centreville is the best oak openings...Mr. White says to tell you he raised 6,000 bushels of wheat last year, average cost of flouring is 22¢ per bushel...Lumber is worth \$7.00 per thousand...Mr. Ludwig invites your whole party to 'put up with him' until you can find what you want yourself."

Samuel's last admonition before the family leaves for Michigan is: *"At Pigeon stop at the second tavern at the cross roads. Bring all the home folks you can and let me know just when you start."*

Letter From Orlo Richardson 1906 Homecoming

At the 1906 Homecoming Orlo Richardson recalled the following about Three Rivers fifty years ago — 1846!

"There was no bridge over the Rocky in town above the dam, and only one bridge over the Portage, and the only one over the St. Joseph was the old red bridge. This was the one the elephant from P.T. Barnum's show, broke through."

The old curiosities displayed in the Hatch house made me think of the torture with which doctors pulled our teeth, there were no dentists and they bled the sick copiously."

Letter From E. Morse To E.G. Tucker

Morse recalled the following about Three Rivers in 1846.

"Fifty years ago standing in front of the old Three Rivers House and looking south, 'What did you see?' – ruts and holes and teams hauling clay and gravel from the banks of the Rocky River to make a passable road. Beyond the rivers looking south – nothing but a mass of tangled brush and mud."

Moore and Prutzman

On the banks of the St. Joseph River was the warehouse of Edward S. Moore and Abraham Prutzman. Many shipments of grain stood waiting to be "arked" down the river.

They located in 1838, and began the business of shipping flour on the St. Joseph River on the "arks." As they built their own boats, they were able to make quite a profit. In the Arthur Silliman records of 1848, was an account with Moore and Prutzman for "arking" 1,000 bushels of wheat.

When the railroad reached Niles in 1849, they "arked" down the river that far and it was even more profitable as the treacherous lower river was omitted. When the railroad reached first Constantine then Three Rivers, they continued their business with profit. From that time on they made all of their shipments entirely by rail.

Their warehouse was on the banks of the St. Joseph River, between the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad bridge and the St. Joseph Street Bridge (South Main). It stood for many years as a familiar landmark.

Roads

Road construction consisted of clearing trees, brush and roots to the ground line. Roads later were plowed and scraped. Logs and branches were packed into the mud holes. "Corduoy Roads" were an improvement. They placed logs every size as close as possible; the gaps between the logs were filled with smaller logs or boulders. When the wood rotted, horses would stumble and wheels were cracked.

Plank roads, many of them privately chartered, were an answer but they didn't last long. In 1848, The Three Rivers Plank Road Company and the Kalamazoo Co. had great plans. An 18 mile stretch opened from Kalamazoo to south of Schoolcraft. Work was started north from Three Rivers to meet it but was never completed. Maintenance of the three inch planks were costly; repairs in two years ran as high as the original construction costs. When the railroad moved in, termites became the plank roads' only passengers and bankruptcy ended the dream.

The great expansion of railroads halted the public's desire for roads until after the Civil War.

On the state roads they charged a toll – 2¢ a mile for a wagon or carriage drawn by 2 horses and 1¢ a mile for a sled.



1855 — 1870 History

Chapter Three

Three Rivers Becomes A Corporate Village

The municipality of Three Rivers made its legal entrance on February 13, 1855, when it was chartered as a village with Philip Lantz as president, George Reed, clerk; trustees, Thomas Clark, S.L. Herrick, Sylvester Troy, A.B. Moore, and W.D. Pettit.

"The incorporated title of the village shall be the 'Common Council of the village of Three Rivers.'"

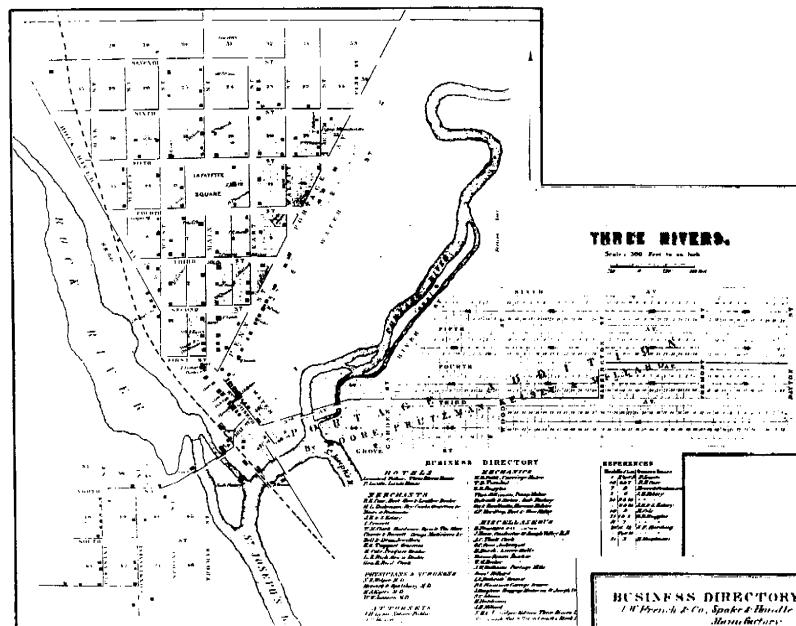
The village of Lockport remained unincorporated maintaining its separate and independent identity. The rivalry between Lockport and Three Rivers was lively and sometimes bitter. There were many disputes and many lawsuits.

Brown's Three Rivers Directory, 1870

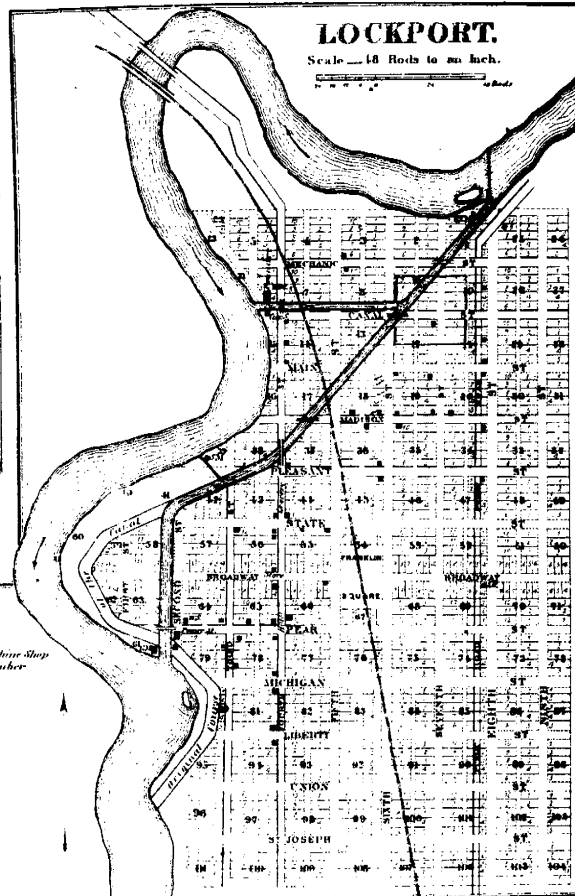
"Several long handled pumps are placed upon the street for public convenience, several beautiful public parks have been laid out and improved, while a ramble through their several groves would be a rich team to some of those who's business confines them too close to a thronged city life."



The Johnson Bridge on West Hoffman Street



Map of Three Rivers (1858)

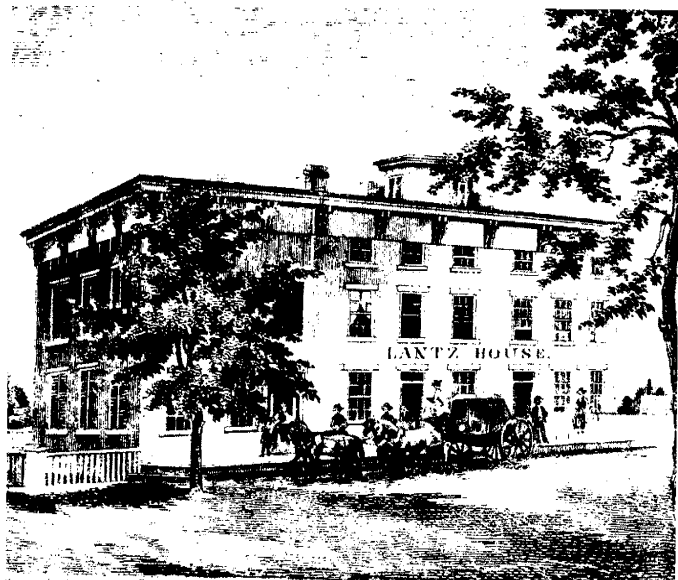


Map of Lockport

1855 — 1870 History

Chapter Three

Landmarks of Three Rivers



LANTZ HOUSE, THREE RIVERS.
P. LANTZ, PROPRIETOR.

Lantz House — Built in 1850 by Phillip Lantz who became the first President of the Village of Three Rivers in 1855. It was the stagecoach stop to and from Kalamazoo and the mail was delivered there. Later it became the Hatch House, a very popular hotel. Remodeling added balconies and porches to all three floors. The Sage Business College operated here at the turn of the century. (Rynstra Apartments — today parking lot on North Main Street.)



THREE RIVERS HOUSE L.FISHER, PROPRIETOR.

Three Rivers House — Frame part of the hotel was built by Luther Carlton in 1838. It became a temperance hotel. Hotels were a necessity — early pioneers had to have places to stay until they could make arrangements for their own housing and there were many traveling merchants, sales people and investors. (Today location of First National Bank of Three Rivers.)



KELSEY'S BLOCK, THREE RIVERS.
JAS. KELSEY, PROPRIETOR.

Kelsey's Block — 1854 — On the east side of Main Street, today the building south of Hudson Building, built by J. Kelsey. The upper two stories were used by the Pythian Home Company.



CROSETT MILLARD & SPENCER'S BLOCK
THREE RIVERS.

Crossett — 1856. On west side of Main Street today houses Kauszler's Hardware, Three Rivers' oldest retail store.

Old Three Rivers Business Directory

A Three Rivers Business Directory for the year 1858, is a quaint old publication in rhyme. It was published by H.S. Dille of the Western Chronicle, Centreville.

Where three noble rivers
In grandeur do flow
Lies a village as fair
As you may ever know.

Its' citizens number
Two thousand they say
With five hundred dwellings
All lovely and gay.

We've two noble churches
Two sabbath schools, too.
Two preachers, three lawyers
And doctors, a few.

We've also four taverns
I'll name as they come —
Lantz House, Three Rivers House
Both A No. 1
With the Traveler's Home
And the new Rising Sun.

There's Frey's Farmer's Exchange
'Tis the farmers' own store.
He has all that you want
And many things more.

C.S. Conn's yellow cart
Across from Fisher's hotel
Yields lifelike likeness
That please very well.

And Myron C. Havens
At his grocery, saloon
Has all the fixins'
Morn, evening and noon.

Next there's Thomas M. Clark
At his old hardware store
Has a much larger stock
Than ever before.

Fall & Winter Millinery Goods!



Dickinson's old building
Empty now doth it stand
But it will rent for a store
First chance comes to hand.

Our friend J.C. Bassett
He is now all alone
Clothing, drugs, medicines
And notions all his own.

E.M. George is wide awake with
Dry goods and groceries, too
All purchased last fall
So everything's new.

L.R. Rich grows richer
With clothing, boots and shoes
And sells pork at prices
To cure you of the blues.

C.F. Hewitt still keeps
All in the grocery line
All he sells is cheap
For Charley's bound to shine.

Caesar A. Jacot's gold
And silver, too, is fine.
He keeps a heavy stock
Of all things in his line.

A.F. Vandenburg
An assortment fine
of paints, oils, varnishes
Drugs, medicines and wine.

Mrs. H.A. Hutchinson
Our ladies all should know
Keeps some rich fancy goods
Which she is selling low.

Philip Lantz's Lantz House
The famous stage hotel
Travelers and boarders say
Is kept extremely well.

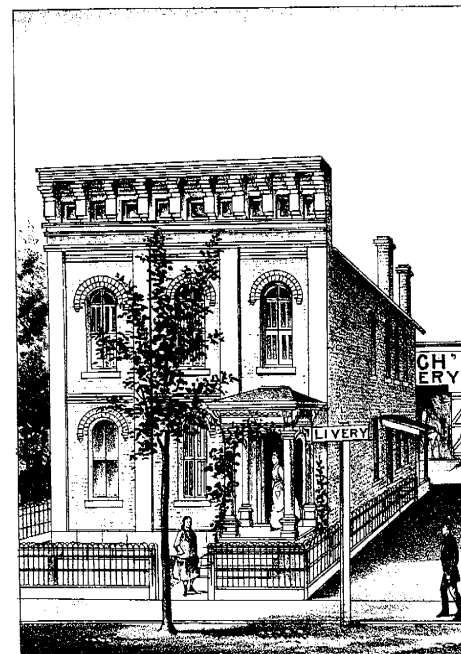
H. Burch keeps a livery
And always well supplied
With horses and fine carriages
For all who wish to ride.

J.W. Jones
Works on boots and shoes
Keeps meats and drinks
And luncheons, too.

George Ott — harness maker
Hard at work you'll find
You can buy of him
The best stock in the line.

The following are also mentioned:

E.H. Lathrop.....	Distiller
Peter Plumber.....	Blacksmith
Brigham & Warren's.....	Wagon Shop
I. Cookson.....	Blacksmith
Zeba Ruggles.....	Carriage Maker
Isaac Dovey.....	Painter
Caldwell & Slenker.....	Cabinet Shop
S. Leon.....	Clothing
S. Chadwick.....	Jeweler
I. Crossette's Bazar.....	Boots, Shoes
B.P. Richmond.....	Jewelry
Frank S. Lucker.....	Grocer
S.A. Walton.....	Medicine, Groceries
Zach Jacobs.....	Barber
L. Fisher.....	Famed Hotel
W. Jones.....	Meat Market
Neidhart & Brother.....	Furniture
E. Cole & Co.....	Plaster, Salt & Fish
Arthur Silliman.....	Blacksmith
A.C. Prutzman.....	Groceries, Dry Goods
Egery & Richardson.....	Two Excellent
	M.D.s
A.C. Hooker.....	Grocer, Crackers,
	Cheese, Candies, Raisins, Nuts,
	Beer and Wine



Residence of H. Burch

Livery, Sale, and Boarding STABLE,

First Street, and also rear of Residence, No. 16 Penn Street

H. BURCH, Proprietor.

THREE RIVERS, MICHIGAN.

Good Horses and Carriages Furnished Parties, Agents in particular, for long or short Drives. Office at Stable. Orders left at the Three Rivers House will receive prompt attention.

Cemeteries Burying Grounds

It follows as the night the day, in any new settlement, that there must be a burial ground. In research, this quote, by George Buck, has been found:

"The first regular burying ground was on 8th Street in Second Ward and near Broadway. My father, a brother and sister were buried there but later removed to Riverside and I know that there are bodies there yet which have not been removed."

This item must have been written shortly before his death. Nowhere else have we found any mention of the removal of other bodies from this location to Riverside.

The authentic history of the old Bowman Cemetery, now the John H. Bowman Memorial Park, begins in May 16, 1832, when the U.S. government granted to John H. Bowman an estate, part of which he platted into Three Rivers on November 28, 1836. One part of this plat, Block 31, was used as cemetery by the Bowmans and permission was given for other families to use it for burial purposes. Later, when Riverside Cemetery was established, many bodies were removed from Bowman Cemetery to the new location. Their names are on record at Riverside. This was done in the 1860's. Bowman Cemetery was given to the city of Three Rivers with the understanding that it should remain a cemetery and, if not, it would revert to the Bowman heirs. The D.A.R. placed a grave marker showing the

grave of Mrs. Christian Bowman Winn, a daughter of a soldier of the American Revolution. That is the only one so marked.

On May 15, 1915, the D.A.R. placed a sun dial in the cemetery in honor of John H. Bowman and the pioneer dead. Vandals have destroyed the dial, an intriguing item to the young people for many years.

Quoting from a letter written by J.C. Morse on August 20, 1906, we have the following:

"Fifty years ago today this beautiful Riverside Cemetery was a piece of natural oak openings. Today a city of our dead. Friends of my early days are resting within its borders. Norman Andrews, Herman Cole, and one or two others first conceived the idea of converting it into a burial place. Mr. Andrews worked all winter mapping out this beautiful place. The first grave was occupied by a child of Isaac Crosett, the second by a child of mine (Morse) and the third by a child of Wencel Nowak. There was more than 47 acres in the plot. The Association which controlled the property was organized on October 2, 1858. It was originally called the Oakdale Cemetery Association. On January, 1859, it became the Riverside Association. The Memorial Chapel was completed at a cost of \$3600 in 1903. The first lots were purchased by Hon. E.S. Moore and Col. Andrews in February, 1861."

Excerpts From Letter J. Millard to Mr. and Mrs. Snyder February 8 A.D. 1856

"The R.R. has produced great changes here in general and in this locality in particular and now the extension of our road is determined upon ties contracted from here to Schoolcraft and from thence to Grand Rapids via Kalamazoo forthwith, all of which will enhance the value of property which is already up to zenith, with flour 4 dollars per cwt., corn 40 cents per bu. What a contrast...While it was doubtful or at least uncertain whether the R.R. would be extended north the villagers were content to walk the streets thither rather at a hurried pace but now they must run to keep up with the times, betwixt Lockport and this place. There will be a considerable amount of building going this summer coming. Your correspondent is particularly concerned in putting up a block of brick stone houses...G.C. Millard is here now...He looks well except too much hair on his face but by the persuasions of friends has used the shears to some extent."



Fountain at Riverside Cemetery.

FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!

The call "Fire" and the ringing of the fire bell brought out the Volunteer Bucket Brigade. The person ringing the bell received a payment of one dollar. The fire equipment consisted of a hose cart, pumper, and a ladder wagon. The equipment was pulled by hand or if a dray horse was near by, the owner received \$2.00 for hauling the rig to the fire. The first department was organized in 1859. In 1866, a fire hall was located on North Main Street. In 1883, a second station was built on South Main Street. In 1888, the hand pumping unit was traded for a hook and ladder wagon at a cost of \$250.00. A steam fire whistle at Sheffield Car Co. replaced the fire bell.

Several rival fire companies operated within the city. They were independent of each other and quite jealous. They included the St. Joseph Fire Co., the First and Second Ward Hose Co., the Wide Awake Hose Co., the Optimistic Hose Co., Hook and Ladder Co., No. 1, and the Sheffield Ladder Co. In 1905, the rival departments were disbanded and the present Three Rivers Fire Co. came into being. The hand drawn hose carts were discontinued and a four wheel combination chemical and ladder wagon was purchased with a team of horses and a full time driver was hired. The firefighters were a popular and prestigious men's club. Besides putting out fires they provided Three Rivers with many social activities. Their dancing parties were especially elegant and the firemen were especially handsome in their uniforms.

In 1877 the Firemen put in a real days work — the whole row of wooden stores on St. Joseph Street burned to the ground.

In 1894 The Wide Awake Hose Company became the official United States champions in a contest at Elkhart, defeating a team from Streeter, Illinois. They could roll a fire hose cart 40 rods, lay 150 ft. of hose, attach a nozzle and get water in 35 seconds.

The Old Fire Bell

The historic bell mounted in front of the Three Rivers Fire Hall on West Michigan Avenue is a tribute to Fire Chief Sybert Crose, who served on the department for many years.

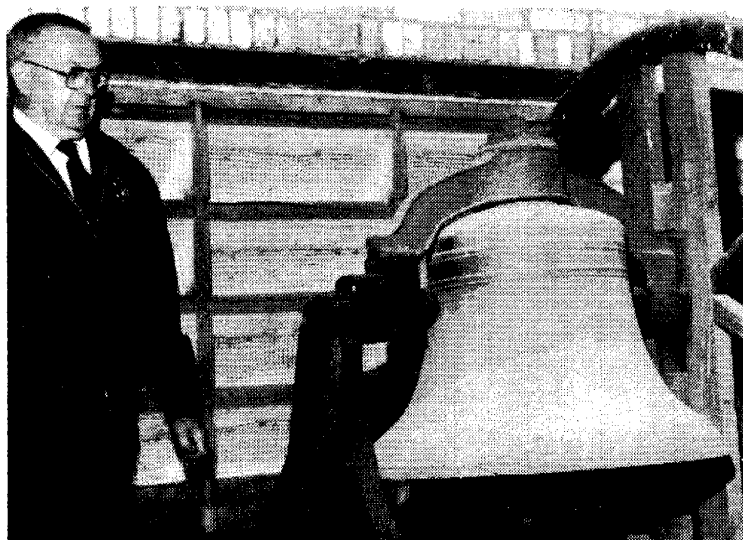
Mr. Crose started as a volunteer fireman in 1937 and became a full time employee in 1947. In 1957 he was promoted to fire chief and remained with the department until 1986.

The bronze bell was originally mounted in the fire station at 122 North Main Street and was used to summon village fire fighters to man the horses and firefighting equipment. On the cry of "fire" the first person to ring the bell received \$1.00 for his efforts.

In 1918 the old second ward school burned, and when the new Huss Elementary School was built the bell was mounted in a wooden tower. The bell cast in 1865 by Kennedy of West Troy, N.Y. is 2½ inches feet across, 3 feet high and has a thickness of 2½ inches. Through the years the familiar peal summoned students to school and from the playground. Residents of the second district place a great deal of sentiment in the bell, and are proud their old bell is a monument to Sybert Crose and to all "old firebells."

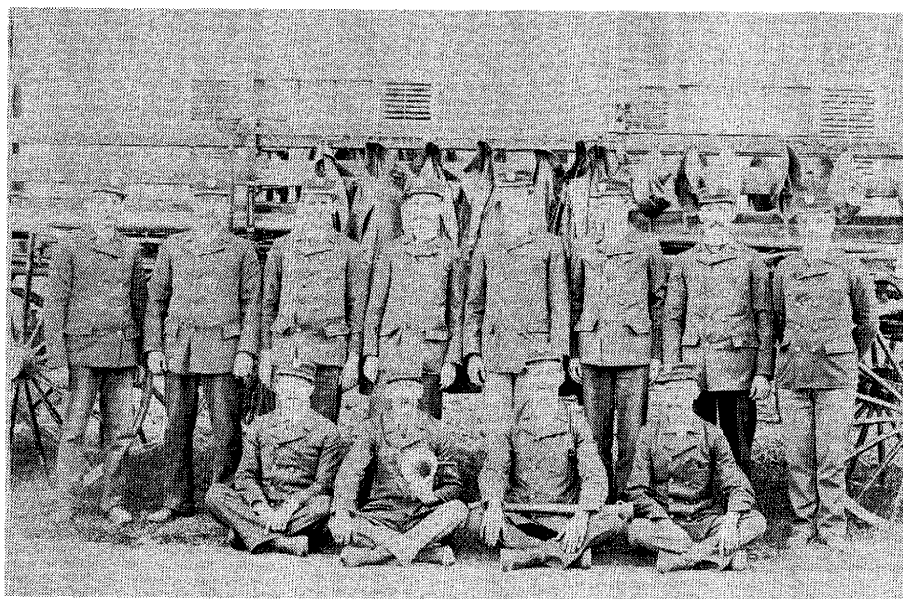


Charles Langworth (left) & Charles Salisbury (right).



Sybert Crose and Old Fire Bell.

1855 — 1870



A handsome group of Three Rivers firemen with their jaunty looking jackets. Do you know any of them? We don't!



Wide Awake Hose Company.



First Ward Fire Station.



In 1903 the Fire Department was housed in the Second Ward Station — South Main Street.

1855 — 1870 History

Chapter Three

Bonnie Castle (Corner of Adams and North Main)

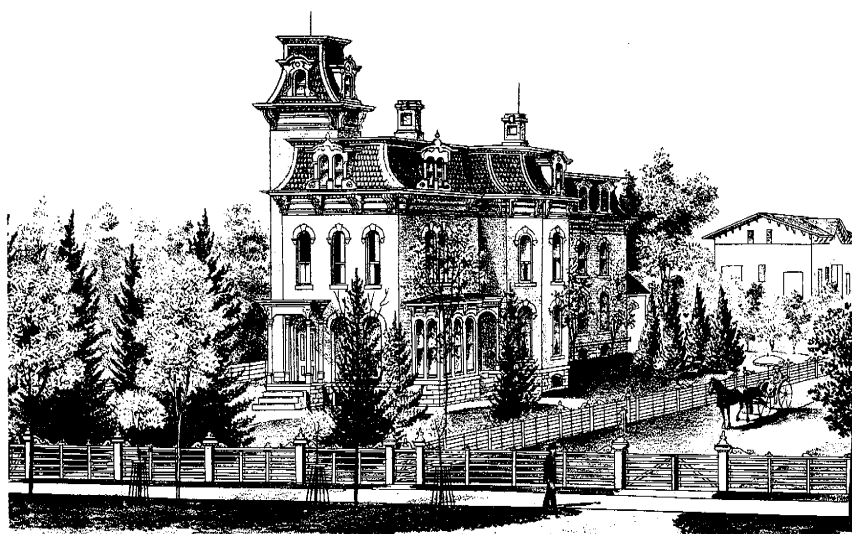
This beautiful home was built by the Swarthout family in the 1860's. The Swarthout's Furnace and Machine Shop was one of the leading industries of the day.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Willits and their family moved into this spacious home in the '90s. The family was very hospitable and there were many dinner and dancing parties. The Willits were among the first to have a player piano.

Bonnie Castle had great charm. One of its' most impressive features was a beautiful spiral staircase from the entrance hall to the cupola on the 4th floor.

There were spacious family rooms, a library, conservatory, guest rooms, card room, billiard and pool rooms. In the basement were two furnaces, one steam and hot air. The house was lighted with gas manufactured in the basement from gasoline. The out-buildings included a laundry house, carpenter shop, barn, wood shed, and an ice house.

Later, in 1915, it became the Three Rivers Hospital administered by Dr. and Mrs. J.R. Kingsley. Many area residents began their lives in this hospital.



Bonnie Castle

"Extra — Extra" Read All About It" Newspapers — 1861

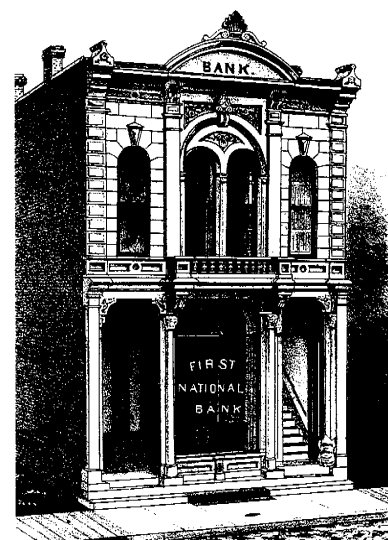
Newspapers were a necessity. The Western Chronicle, 1859, was the first newspaper. In 1861, The Three Rivers Reporter was established. The editors were fearless and uncompromising and greatly influenced their readers to becoming radical "greenbackers" or staunch Republicans. Over the years newspapers came and went — The Three Rivers Reporter, The Three Rivers Tribune, The Daily Hustler, The Times, The Three Rivers Herald, and The Commercial. At one time Three Rivers had four daily newspapers. In 1911, the Commercial Hustler was purchased by H.J. Burgess and William W. Shumaker. In 1914, Mr. Shumaker became editor and owner. The name of the paper changed to the Daily Commercial.



Three Rivers Daily Hustler

The First National Bank

In 1864, the Hon. Edward S. Moore became president of the First National Bank which opened in 1864. It was one of the very few national banks at this time. In 1932, the bank closed during the Bank Holiday, proclaimed by President Roosevelt, and reopened the same year. It is still doing business today on the site of the famous Three Rivers House Hotel.



PRESIDENT
E. S. MOORE.
CASHIER,
C. L. BLOOD.
FIRST NATIONAL BANK
OF THE
THREE RIVERS, MICHIGAN.
CAPITAL \$100,000.
DIRECTORS
E. S. MOORE, N. PIERSON, A. C. FRUTZMAN, STEPHEN KELSEY,
D. FRANCISCO, J. W. HOFFMAN, S. A. WALTER, J. P. Mc KEY,
E. L. BROWN, N. M. THOMAS, C. L. BLOOD.

First National Bank

In 1871 they had capitol stock of \$50,000, surplus and undivided profits — \$12.00, National bank notes outstanding \$50,000, deposits \$394,821.

The First National Bank is the third oldest National bank in the state of Michigan and one of the oldest in the county. The bank has remained under local ownership and management thru their history.

1855 – 1870 History

Chapter Three

by Loretta Magner

First Baptist Church

With the aid of pastors from Schoolcraft and Centreville, Baptists in the vicinity of Three Rivers were organized into a church on April 6, 1861. In the early years the church was aided by pastors from sister churches and by Kalamazoo College.

On May 12, 1861, the first five new members were baptized. For a short time the members worshipped in Hutchinson's Hall and from there to Kelsey's Hall, where they worshipped until 1864. In 1861 the church had obtained its first resident pastor. This young man visited members, securing subscriptions of \$1800 for the building of a church, estimated to cost \$4000. The new church was located at the junction of Portage and Walnut Streets, with much of the work done by the members.

A pipe organ and a bell were both added in 1864. Church membership soon doubled, and in the following two years one hundred thirty-five more members were received.



First Baptist Church

On February 13, 1870, this church burned to the ground. For the next several years, meetings were held in several halls, particularly Huglar Hall. On July 12, 1892, the present church on Main Street was dedicated. The fiftieth anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of this church building was celebrated November 9, 1940.

First Presbyterian Church

With nineteen charter members, the First Presbyterian Church was organized on August 12, 1838. Most of these members were settlers either from Pennsylvania or New York. Services were held in homes and the schoolhouse. After the Methodists built their church in 1847, they shared it with the Presbyterians.

In 1849, a wooden structure was erected just south of the present site. The first communion service was held in the new church on March 4, 1849. Ten years later this building was enlarged because of an expanding congregation. At about the same time a manse was purchased for the minister.



First Presbyterian Church

In 1868, the cornerstone for a new church was laid. This included all of the sanctuary of the present church. The total cost was \$30,000. This building was patterned after the Presbyterian Church in Goshen, Indiana. A large steeple was built on the north tower. This has since been removed as a safety measure.

In 1881, a pipe organ was installed. Many young men earned spending money pumping life into the organ each Sunday. After 103 years of service, a new organ was brought from Germany and installed and dedicated on December 8, 1985.

First United Methodist Church

Three Rivers was a church-going city. While Jacob McInterfer's (1829) family was living in their wagon waiting for their home to be built they were paid a call from Mr. Fenton, a Methodist minister "circuit rider" from Kalamazoo. Mr. Fenton was the circuit minister for the St. Joseph mission. His circuit extended to Kalamazoo on the North and Niles on the West.



First United Methodist Church

In 1847, the first small Methodist Church was dedicated on the site of the present United Methodist Church at 215 N. Main Street. This church had been built by the labors of the members, with many carrying bricks and mortar. With the completion of the building, the members registered it under the name of the First Methodist Episcopal Church. This building was razed in the 1860's, and the cornerstone for the present larger church was laid in 1863. In the diary

continued

Trinity Episcopal Church

of William Arney for October 12, 1865, is this entry:

"Cool and cloudy. All hands went to the dedication of the church in Three Rivers. Rev. R.M. Hatfield preached, assisted by Dr. Eddy of Chicago. \$6000 raised by subscriptions; \$1000 yet unprovided for."

There follows a statement of the amount of his own pledge and a significant entry, "Borrowed \$10.00 of Weatherbee."

A belfry with a bell was added three years later and a pipe organ was installed in 1905. The bell was a gift from the Masonic Lodge No. 57. The bell was tuned to the note G (the symbol of the Lodge).

In 1892, the preacher was Dr. James Shera Montgomery. He was very influential in the growth of the church. No nodding asleep when he preached for his voice was loud and clear and he was an eloquent speaker. Later, he became chaplain of the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. — a post he held for 29 years.

In 1918, five hundred people were afflicted with influenza and pneumonia. For three weeks the Red Cross operated an emergency hospital on the first floor of the church. Sheffield Car Company donated their nurse, extra men and an automobile to be used as an ambulance.

Through the years the church has grown and prospered.

The St. Joseph River flows serenely along the south side of Riverside Cemetery in Three Rivers. Not too far from the bank of the river, on a rise, is the grave of the Reverend Voltaire Spalding. "A Priest in the Church of God and the first Rector of Trinity Church, Three Rivers."

Father Spalding, a skeptic in his younger days, entered the ministry when he was fifty-three years old. Before that, he had walked from Detroit to Niagara Falls in winter, and had been a land agent (United States Government) for the Northwest Territory and had traveled the Indian trails from Detroit to Fort Dearborn (now Chicago) with packhorses carrying silver dollars to pay Indians for land. He was graduated from Nashotah House (seminary) in 1851. The Reverend V. Spalding first came to Three Rivers in 1863.



Trinity Episcopal Church



Trinity Episcopal Church after the storm.

Articles of Agreement of First Organization of the Church were signed September 14, 1863. On September 28, 1863, the first meeting was held with wardens and vestrymen elected — Wm. E. Wheeler, John Cowling, Edward Murphy, Samuel Chadwick, Thomas M. Clark, Isaac Crosett, John M. Bailey, L.A. Sellick, and Wm. Chart.

The vestry rented a spacious hall, 100 ft. long, the upper story of a large brick building. The salary of the Rector was raised largely by the rental of the church pews.

The foundation of the first building was laid in May, 1867. Civil War prices of building materials and labor made the project particularly difficult. This building was damaged by fire in April of 1909. Rebuilding was begun at once.

In 1870, a substantial Parish library was organized and open to the general public. In 1896, Mr. William C. Squire, a churchman from Philadelphia, organized a boy's choir of fourteen voices.

For three-fourths of a century the church reverted from having a resident clergyman to mission status.

In July of 1942, a tornado damaged the chimney of the rectory, tore off shingles from the roof, and blew off the back porch. That same storm took the steeple off the church building.

In 1946, Judge Van Selous gave a bell for the tower. The bell had been previously used by the Methodists at Florence.

In 1953, the mission church applied for Parish status. This request was granted.

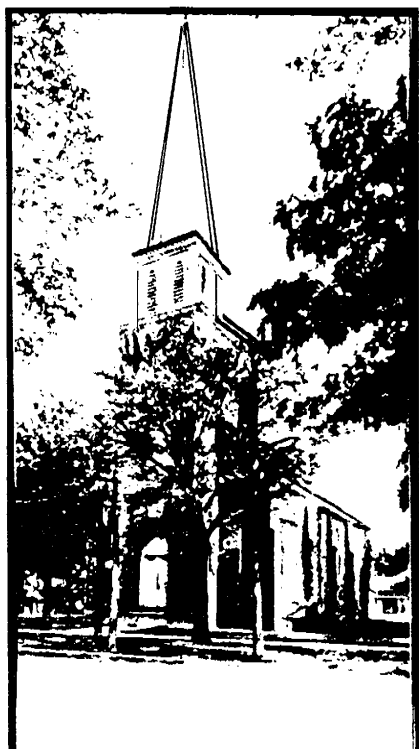
After struggling for more than a century, Trinity Episcopal Church is now well established in Three Rivers.

In 1946, Trinity and the community of Three Rivers were enriched by St. Gregory's Priory which moved here from Indiana. At that time they were a dependence of Nashdom Abbey, Burnham, Buckinghamshire, England.

In 1969 the Priory became the St. Gregory's Abbey. St. Gregory's Abbey follows the ancient Rule of St. Benedict, the father of western monasticism. The monks are priests and laymen of the Episcopal Church and life is one of prayer, manual work and study.

Three Rivers Bible Church

The Bible Church, formerly The Dutch Reformed Church, using Dutch in some of its services, was organized in 1863. Later the name was changed to the First Reformed Church, and English was used for all services.



Three Rivers Bible Church
Corner of North and Lincoln

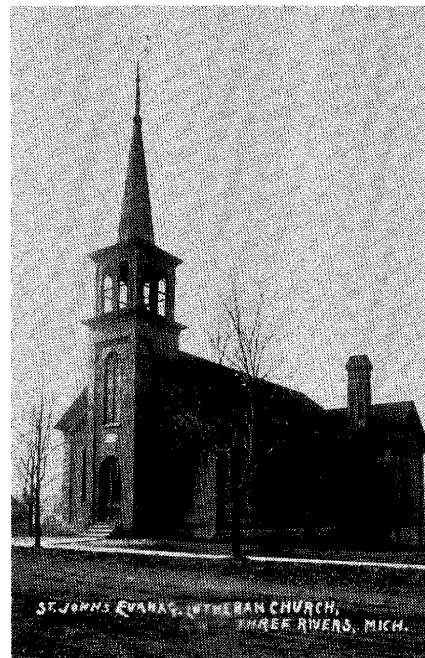
In 1877, with a membership of 175, the first church was built on the corner of West Michigan Ave. and Lincoln Ave. At this time the church was affiliated with the Reformed Synod at Fort Wayne, Indiana. In 1929, the church severed connections with the reformed denomination and became an independent denomination, calling themselves the Three Rivers Bible Church, a fundamental, evangelistic group.

The congregation has continued to grow, and in 1964, a new church was erected on the corner of Erie and Pealer Streets.

St. John's Lutheran

With thirty-one charter members, St. John's Lutheran Church was founded April 3, 1870. It remained a mission church for fifteen years. The first services were held above a store, but the meeting place was soon changed to the pastor's home on the southeast corner of Broadway and Fourth Streets.

At the time of the dedication services, there were 84 members. At the time of the twenty-fifth anniversary in 1895, there were 400 members on the rolls. Two hundred seventy-five were reported as communicant members.



St. John's Lutheran Church

Throughout the years frequent remodeling and repairs have been made. In 1889 transepts and an organ niche were built and a pipe organ was installed. In 1956 this organ was replaced by a new Kimble pipe organ. A parsonage adjoining the church was completed in 1962. In 1965 the decision was made to use this building for parish educational purposes. A parsonage was then established at 416 W. Hoffman Street.

St. John's Lutheran Church continues to show an increase in baptized members.



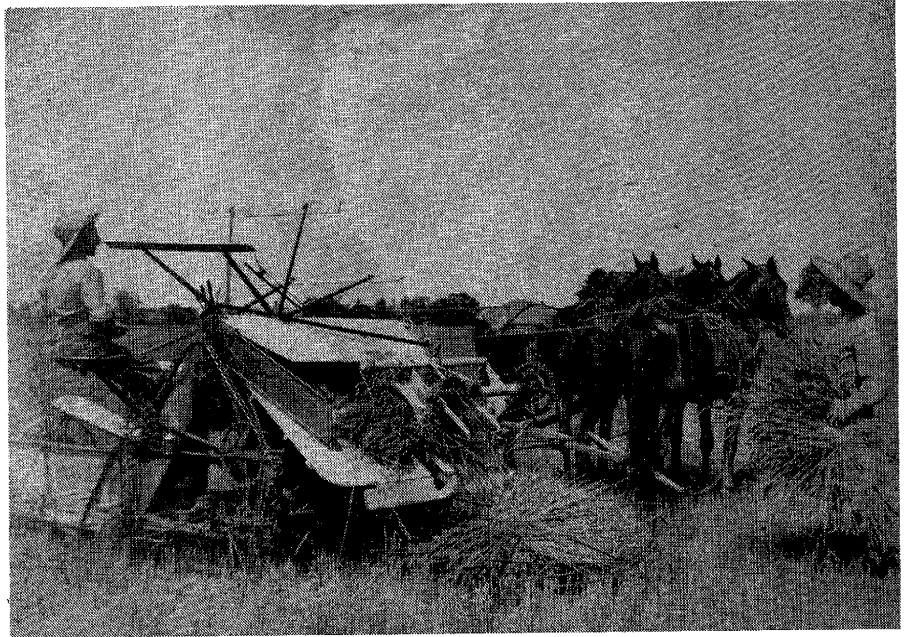
Sunday in Three Rivers

1855 — 1870 History

Chapter Three

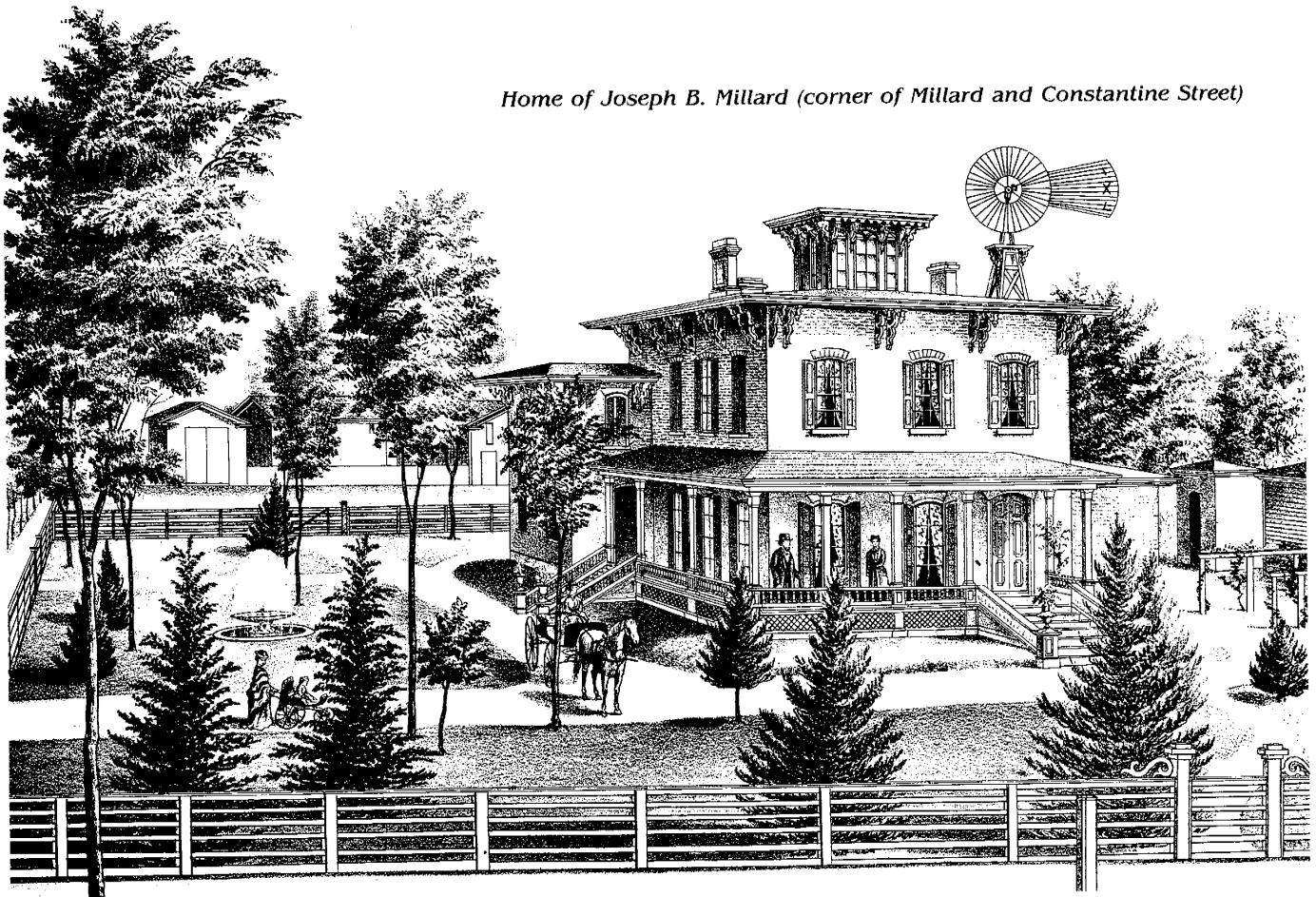
Home of Joseph B. Millard

Joseph B. Millard was the superintendent and manager of the Lockport Hydraulic Company. He was one of the original owners of the flouring mill on the Portage River which later became the Hoffman Mill. Joseph Millard was an influential member of the community and a very successful farmer, his home looked upon acres of corn and wheat.



A good hot summer day's work — binding wheat. Later the women brought a cold drink and a sandwich to the men about 3 o'clock. They needed it! The man on the right was shocking the wheat with about 8-10 bales in a shock.

Home of Joseph B. Millard (corner of Millard and Constantine Street)



1855 – 1870 History

Chapter Three

Magnetic Mineral Springs

Do you remember when Three Rivers had a spa? Yes, it is true!

C.C. Flint, for whom Flint Avenue (South Main) was named, owned the property at the time the spring was discovered. Mrs. Green, in ill health, occupied a small house on the property, and was cured by the magnetic qualities of the water. The enterprising owner, C.C. Flint, erected a small building and installed several bath

tubs. In 1873 Thomas Silliman bought the property and enlarged the building. He soon found himself proprietor of a brisk mineral water business. Patients came from distant points to drink and bathe in the curative water at the Three Rivers Magnetic Springs. Townspeople, not to be outdone by visitors, began to request carry out service and took home gallon jugs of the water. Young people would walk on Sunday after-

noon to the site to drink, from the public tin cup, the refreshing water. (This was much before our germ-conscious generation.)

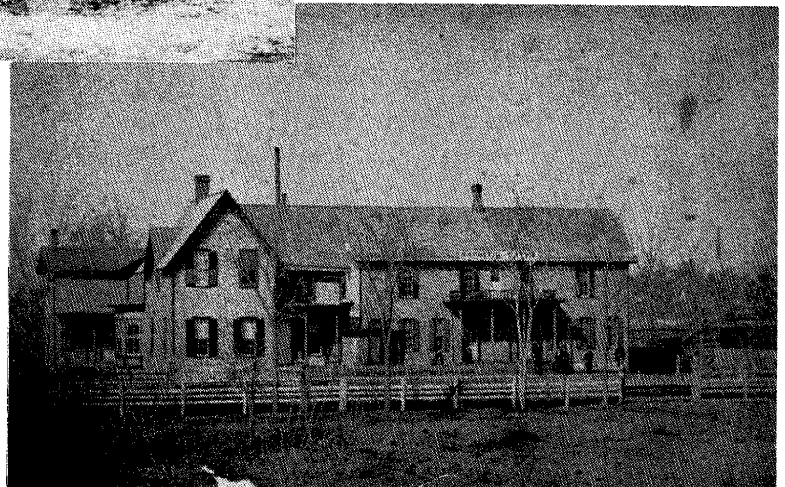
The era came to an end. The building became run down. Finally it was razed to make a parking lot for the Atlantic and Pacific Food store located on the east side of the street and one more historic landmark was lost.



Popular Guest at Springs

A most unusual sight in that day was a special patron of the Magnetic Springs. To the great delight of the children, Eliza Nestle, an actress and a midget, would drive up to the sanitarium in her tiny red and gold surrey drawn by shetland ponies. Stepping daintily out of her carriage she marched to the pump and drank from the tin cup. Back into her surrey again she drove off with a renewed vigor with all the children following along.

Magnetic Mineral Springs



The Western Chronicle, June 19, 1861

Letter From Charles Nichols to Olive W. Nichols Thursday, 13th, 1864 Camp on Saudy Cove, Al.

"Dear Mother, I now take my pen in hand to let you now that I am well and I hope that these few lines will find you and the children the same. I have inlisted in the 7 Mich. light artillery battery G. army of the gulf. I inlisted the 24th of Oct. at Coldwatter and they prommissed me a furlow as soon as i was mustered but when i was mustered there was orderd to march and i had to go to and I had my bounty paid to me just as I was getting reddy to start and i had no time to send it home so I had to take it with me and as I was a comming down the river mississippi i one night i was to sleep and i had my money all stole i had \$300 and a good silver watch and a revolver all stole and i never could hear from it but i shell some pay in a little while and i will send you some i didn't have time to send any thing home. I can't right to day by I will write again and let you know how i get along so good by for this time write as soon as you get this when you write direct to Charles Nichols 7th Mich. Battery 13th Army Corps Department of the gulf New Orleans, la."

Thurs 13th 1864

Camp on sandy cove, Al

Dear mother I now taking my pen in hand to let you now that i am well and \$300 and a good silver watch and a revolver all stole and i never could hear from it but i shell some pay in a little while and i will send you some i didnt have time to send any thing home. I cant right to day by I will write again and let you know i get along so good by for this time write as soon as as you get this when you write direct to

Civil War

Three days after the firing on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor by the Confederates, President Abraham Lincoln issued a call to the states to furnish 75,000 men for three months duty to suppress "a combination of seven states opposing the laws of the land."

Michigan furnished to the Union armies of the Civil War 30 regiments of infantry, 11 of cavalry, 14 of artillery, one of mechanics and engineers, one of sharpshooters and several companies incorporated into the command of other states.

The Eleventh Michigan Infantry Regiment was raised in St. Joseph County. The regiment under Colonel J. May was mustered into service at White Pigeon. They were in the 2nd Brigade of the 2nd Division of the Union Army of Cumberland. They left for Kentucky December 9, 1862 and participated in 15 battles. They showed exceptional bravery at Stone River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, and Atlanta.

Company E was made up almost entirely of Three Rivers and Lockport men. Their officers were Captain Henry N. Spenser, First Lieutenant Thomas Flynn, Second Lieutenant Charles W. Newberry. They mustered out September 30, 1864.

The entire enrollment of the Regiment was 1,329. Losses were 286, four officers, 45 men killed in action, one officer, 36 men died of wounds, and one officer and 198 men died of disease.

Three Rivers and Lockport men also fought in many other Michigan Regiments. Edward Prutzman, adjutant 25th Infantry, 21 year old son of pioneer A.C. Prutzman, was killed at Resaca, Ga. The G.A.R. Post No. 72 was named for him. J.W. Seekell enlisted at 12 years old as a drummer boy, served two years and was taken prisoner at Stone River. He later became a prominent grocer on Main Street.

The Eleventh Michigan at Chickamauga and Chattanooga

The Eleventh Michigan left for Kentucky, December 9, 1862. Their send off was tremendous, for these were exciting times. It was fun, romantic, high adventure! Most of these farm boys had never been outside the county. It was great to be alive, young, and going off to war! "After all, the war would last only a few months — lick the Rebs and come home."

The day of their departure was great. The band led the parade of marching recruits. Mayors and Congressmen gave patriotic speeches, songs were sung, and a beautiful flag was presented to Colonel May.

Everyone was there, friends, relatives, proud fathers, weeping mothers and girlfriends — all anxious to wave the last farewell.

They were stationed at Bardstown, Kentucky. Camp life was not so glamorous. It was dreary. They were cold, wet, dirty and racked with disease. Measles, chicken pox, every sickness you could get from poor sanitation, poor food, poor water. Quinine was administered for everything. They were undisciplined. They had to drill, drill, and drill. They became bored, lonely, homesick. It wasn't quite the high adventure.

In spring came more activity. As they went deeper into Kentucky and Tennessee, they were plagued by Southern guerrilla fighters who excelled in night raids. The war went on relentlessly with heavy fighting. Then long stretches of no activity. They felt they were on a forgotten front. Spectacular battles in 1863 had taken place; in the west General Grant had captured Vicksburg, in the east General Lee had been defeated at Gettysburg. The Army of the Cumberland pushed thru Chattanooga without a battle. Then events happened fast at Chickamauga, Ga. The Union army had pursued the Confederates through Tennessee believing they had them on the run when the Confederates turned and made an unexpected deadly attack, splitting the Union forces. General Rosecrans, the Union Commander, lost control. He was badly defeated, his command post overrun.

continued

1855 – 1870 History

Chapter Three

He ordered a retreat. *"Ride to the front — tell General Thomas if he is still alive to hold at all costs — hold — cover our retreat."* The 11th Michigan was part of that expendable force — all day they held — allowing the Union Army to escape. The Rebel yell rang in their ears, as the Confederates made bayonet charge after charge. Mass after mass the waves of assault rolled back, then up again, through the long afternoon. Thomas' Regiments, frayed to a thin line, held. The General rode back and forth. *"Steady. Hold your fire, fix bayonets, aim, fire."*

They ran out of ammunition, they robbed their dead. Hundreds lay around them, dead and dying. The 11th Michigan exhausted, their faces black with grime and battle smoke, waited for each assault. Finally darkness came. The last Confederate charge was a boiling melee of clubbed muskets and bayonets. Then that charge, too, rolled back down the hill, then silence. At eleven o'clock Thomas' Regiments were ordered to draw back. The 11th Michigan was the last to leave the battlefield.

At dawn they held the road as the Union army moved out the last of their artillery. Back in Chattanooga the Union army was in wild disorder — but the 11th Michigan had won honors for themselves, they had performed marvelously. It was a Confederate victory but there was no Confederate follow-up — the word Chickamauga in Cherokee means, "River of Death" — the Confederates lost 23,000 killed or wounded.

General Thomas replaced General Rosecrans. His orders were to hold the city of Chattanooga at all costs for it was the strategic gateway to the deep south. The Confederates held the all surrounding hills and mountains and placed a tight siege on the city. Confident of victory, they sent part of their forces to Knoxville to protect Virginia from the west and waited for the Union army in Chattanooga to surrender.

U.S. Grant was made commander of all the Union armies west of the Alleghenies, with orders from President Lincoln *"Chattanooga and the Army of Cumberland must be saved."* At Chattanooga the Union army was nearly starving, the regiments lived only on thin gruel and parched corn, 11,000 horses and mules died in the besieged city.

Union forces from the west under General Sherman, and Union forces from the east under General Hooker were sent to break the siege and save the army.

Across the Tennessee River from Chattanooga loomed Lookout Mountain held by the Confederates. General Hooker in the famous Battle of the Clouds was successful and took the high ground. But in another sector General Sherman met tremendous Confederate resistance when he attempted to push the Rebels off Missionary Ridge, a range of steep and difficult hills, east of the city.



Looking south along Missionary Ridge

In an attempt to help General Sherman, the Union troops under Thomas were ordered to take the Confederate rifle pits and foxholes at the bottom of the ridge. Happy to be in the action, the men moved out in parade formation and easily overcame the opposition. From above at the top of the ridge a murderous rain of bullets and cannon fire rained down on them. There was no cover. General Sheridan, Field Commander, downing a half pint of whiskey slung the flask up the slope yelling — *"Here's how"* and began to climb the ridge. The whole line went crazy, musket in hand, through rocks, behind trees, up cliffs they climbed the mountain. It was incredible. It was magnificent. From above sixty cannon shot down at them, guns fired on them, rocks were thrown, the slope ran red with blood. Twice the colors of the 11th went down. Their Major killed, a Captain took over. The enemy surprised at the audacity of such a charge, panicked, and when the Union line fighting like savages reached the top, the Confederates retreated in wild disorder. Mission Ridge was won, Chattanooga saved and the road to Atlanta open.

It has been established the 11th Michigan was one of the first, if not the first, to reach the summit. Sergeant James King from Fabius, according to many sources, was the first man to reach the top. He flung his cap in wild exaltation although severely wounded, a minnie ball had shattered his arm.



Confederate line of battle in woods at Chickamauga.

1855 — 1870 History

Three Rivers Residents Find Civil War Relatives

Reann Triano Snook — Great grandfather, Lew Emig, served in the 25th Michigan as an ammunition train-master. The 25th Michigan was ordered into rendezvous at Kalamazoo. On the 22nd of September 1862 the regiment as a part of the 9th Division was mustered into the service of the United States under the command of Colonel Orlando H. Moore of Schoolcraft.

Company G was under the command of William Fulkerson of Florence, First Lieutenant John B. Handy, Lockport, Second Lieutenant Darius D. Thorp, Three Rivers.

The regiment saw action in Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama. In the pursuit of the Confederate General Hood's army, the regiment marched over a thousand miles and suffered many hardships and privations. Almost at the end of the war the regiment was transferred to North Carolina engaging in the surrender of the rebel forces under General Johnston. The war ended and the regiment was mustered out of service on June 1, 1865.

An unusual circumstance occurred in the 25th Michigan when they were garrisoned in Louisville. A young soldier was detailed for duty at Barracks No. 1 with the 25th Michigan. His name was Frank Martin. However, a secret was disclosed by a soldier from the same hometown. The young soldier was a "lady"! She begged to be retained for she had already been in the service ten months. Her wish was granted and she continued on duty in the hospital. When the 25th left Louisville for the Atlanta campaign she remained in Louisville. Later nothing was ever known of her whereabouts by the regiment.

Three Rivers Reporter Saturday, June 4, 1864

"Dr. Sill has returned to Three Rivers and is very busy inserting artificial teeth. Persons intending to get teeth supplied after harvest and during the coming fall, should call without delay and have the mouth put in a state of preparation. He is an excellent hand to extract teeth, 'without injuring the feelings' — and can make a set to fit without pain and posess the grand quality of clearability."

"A young soldier, Henry Apted, son of Mr. Apted of this place was killed in the battles of the Wilderness on the 6th of May, while at his post of duty among the 1st Regiment of Michigan Sharpshooters under Colonel DeLand. It seems but a day since we met this lad — but 16 years old — among a score of his comrades on the way from Detroit where they had been to be sworn in to their Country's service. Thus rapidly they pass, one by one, from our sight, painful, yet noble sacrifices of fond parents on the Nation's altar. A brother of Henry's fell a year ago last month, and one other a veteran in the service yet remains in the rank."



THE
THREE RIVERS REPORTER
is published
Every Saturday, at Three Rivers, Mich.
\$1 50 per year, in Advance.
\$2, if not paid strictly in advance.

THE OFFICE has complete separate News and Journal covers, and is supplied by no establishment in Michigan, West of Toledo, in beauty and variety of type, plates and ornaments. The State, Foreign and local news, connected with unimportant city news and society.

Three Rivers Reporter.

CLUTE BROTHERS,
PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS,
at Toledo, O.

Dedicated to Local, Public and National Interests.

PER YEAR IN ADVANCE:
ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS.

Vol. IV.

Three Rivers, Mich., Saturday, June 4, 1864.

No. 17.

RATES OF ADVERTISING:
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space. For the first time per line:
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5th 10 6th 5 7th 2 8th 1 9th 10 11 12
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26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40
41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100
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Henry Campbell, P. M. at Grandville.

Wm. Grubbs,
Business, Three Rivers, Michigan. Buys and sells
Exchange discounts good business paper, collects

MICHIGAN CENTRAL RAILWAY TIME

Passenger Trains leave Kalamazoo station
as follows:

GOING WEST.
Day Express..... 12:30 p. m.
Evening Express..... 11:30 p. m.
Night Express..... 2:30 a. m.

GOING EAST.
Day Express..... 12:35 a. m.
Evening Express..... 2:30 p. m.
Night Express..... 4:00 p. m.

DYSPEPSIA.
DISEASES RESULTING FROM
DISORDERS OF THE LIVER
AND DIGESTIVE ORGANS.
AND CURED BY
**HOOFLAND'S
GERMAN BITTERS,**
THE GREAT STRENGTHENING

FARM FOR SALE.

1871 — 1900 History

Chapter Four

Three Rivers Incorporates

Village of Three Rivers Includes Lockport, Canada, Brooklyn 1871

In 1871, the corporation limits of the village of Three Rivers were made to include Lockport as second ward, Canada as third ward, and the tract of land on the East side of the Portage River between it and St. Joseph River as fourth ward — known as Brooklyn.

In 1871 Brooklyn contained 45 dwelling houses; there were no manufacturers or places of business — all residences. The houses were built in a beautiful forest of oak trees. The Fairgrounds on 6th Avenue and Riverside Cemetery were located in Brooklyn.

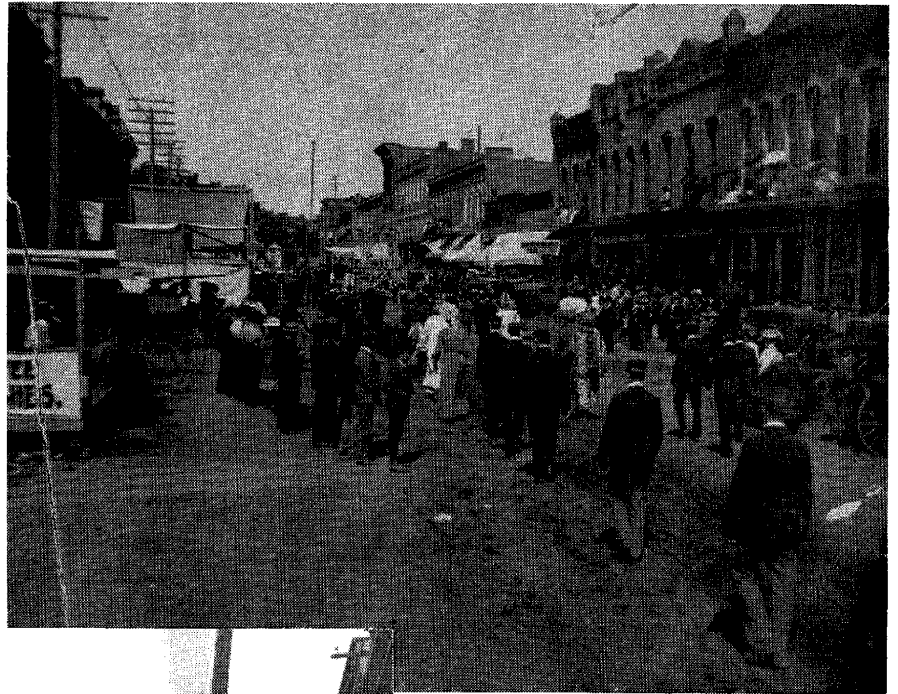
One of the first orders of business of the new village was to pave, with cobblestones, St. Joseph Street...

"every male inhabitant between the years of 21 and 50 shall work one day on the streets or pay one dollar..."

More men than money guaranteed a speedy paving project and in the next year Flint Avenue was graded and graveled.

*Thirty years later they removed the cobblestones from St. Joseph Street and a paving of wassal bricks was laid. The cobblestones, after all those years, were almost in A-1 condition!

A BIG IMPROVEMENT! — village gas lights were erected at the engine house, in front of the post office, at the depots, and near the bridges! Street lamps could also be maintained at the individual's own expense.



Sam Outland on top of his elegant livery about to pass by the Soldiers' Monument when it stood at the intersection.

1871 – 1900 History

Chapter Four

The Arm of the Law

In the late '80's and early '90's the law and order was Sam Jordan, the village marshall. His only help was a night watch who patrolled the streets, rattling door knobs to see if the locks were secure. Charles Salisbury, and later A.B. Elliott, became the arm of the law until 1919 when Charles Salisbury became Chief of Police. In 1927, the major acquisition was the purchase of a motorcycle and the appointment of Arno Harding as the first motor policeman. He was very smart looking on his motorcycle and the favorite of all the young girls in town.



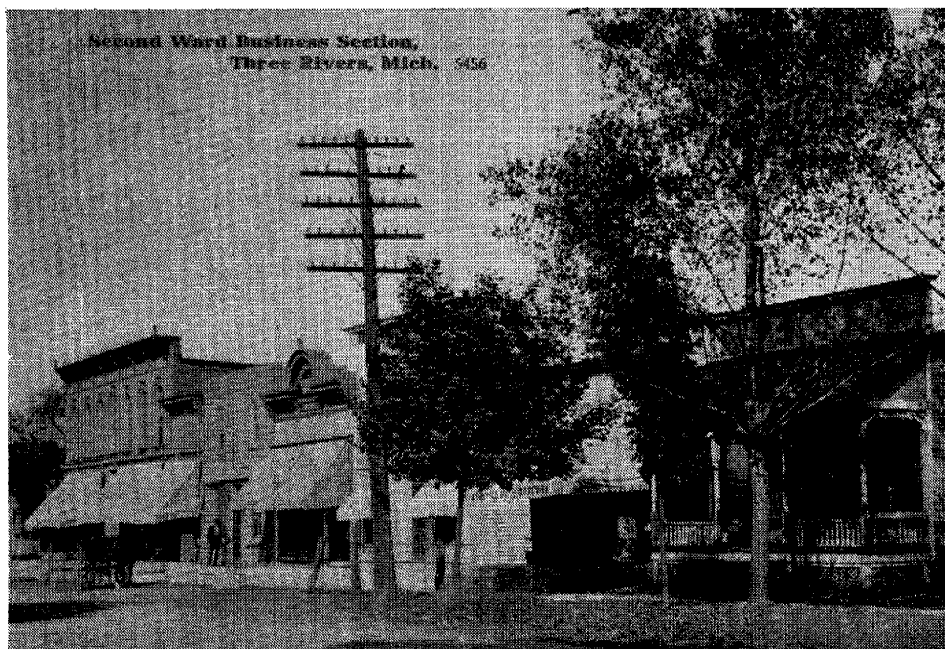
Marshall Jordan wearing first uniform of office of Chief of Police.

Lockport

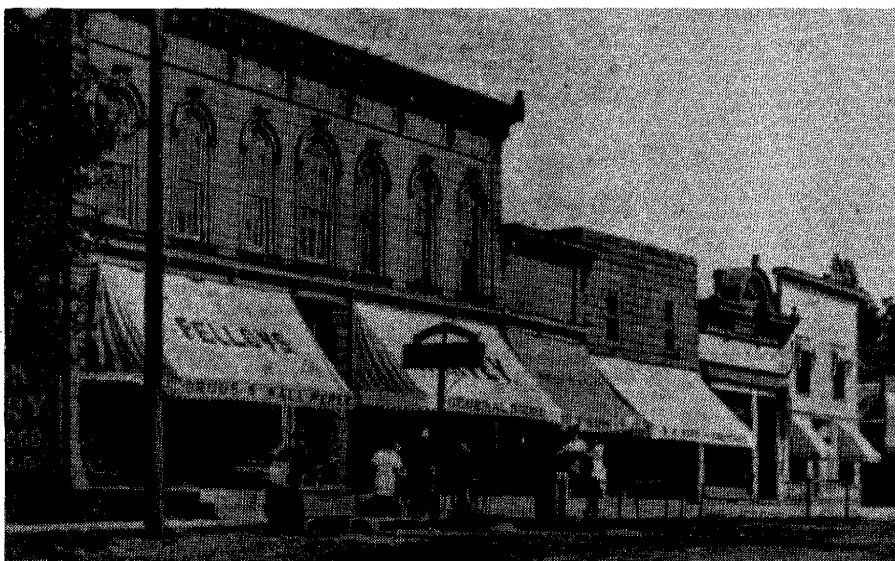
The Village of Lockport became the 2nd District in the Village of Three Rivers in 1871. The Lockport business district included the C.A. Fellows Drug Store; The Wolf Bank, a branch of the First State Savings; and Donovan's Grocery Store. Across from the

Fellow's Drug Store was the Michigan Central Railroad Depot and its park.

The Lockport Union School was located on 8th Street. The school district joined the Three Rivers District in 1889.



Second Ward — Lockport



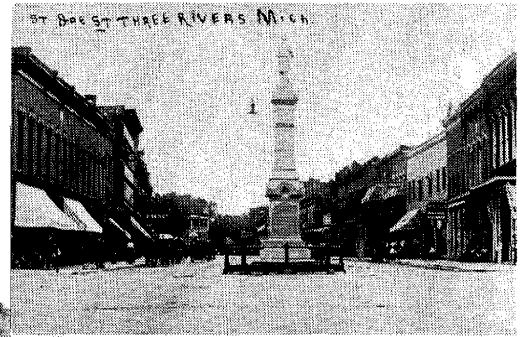
1871 – 1900 History

Chapter Four

Names of Streets

St. Joseph Street.....Main Street
Flint Avenue.....South Main Street
Third Street.....East Michigan
Mill Street.....West Michigan to the
Railroad Tracks
North Street.....West Michigan from
the Railroad Tracks
Penn Street.....Portage Street to
Prutzman Street

Long before West Michigan existed Mill Street ran from St. Joseph Street through to the depot (right thru Coney Island). Relocation of Mill Street began in 1859 but did not become a reality until 1881 because of the many legal complications.



1871 – 1900 History

Chapter Four

Central House

On the south end of St. Joseph Street was the Central House built in 1880. At the turn of the century D.S. Hale was the proprietor. They advertised central steam heat, a fine dining room serving a roast beef dinner with soup, salad, vegetables and desert for 20¢. A Saloon was downstairs with an outside entrance. At one time eight Saloons on Main Street served the thirsty. The Hotel was wrecked in 1930 for Montgomery Ward (today site of Michigan Power).



Central House

Three Rivers House

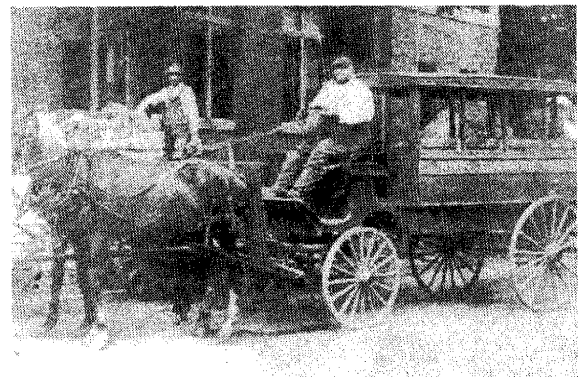
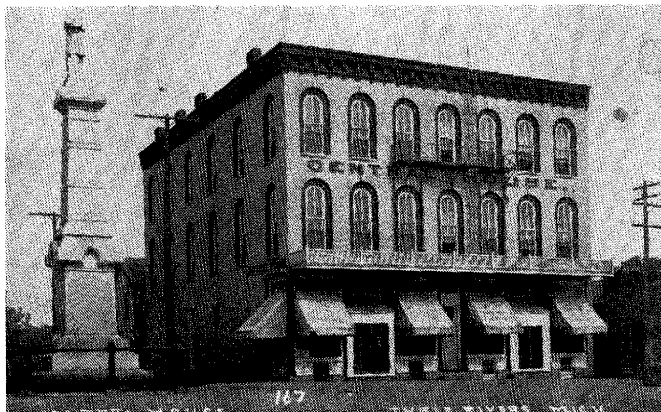
The frame part of the hotel was built by Luther Carlton in 1838. Guests arrived by stage coach and must have been impressed by the great verandas. The brick building was added by Leonard Fisher and Sons in 1877. Peter S. Lott and family came to Three Rivers from Flint. His son Milbert Lott was a popular proprietor of the hotel over a long period of years.

In 1892 Mr. Lott remodeled the Hotel adding a wing which contained a lobby, writing room and a pleasant parlor. The dining room served excellent meals for the guests, and was frequently patronized by the townspeople. Mr. Lott married Gertrude Fairchild, a Three Rivers girl.

The Hotel, for many years, belonged to the Fraternal Order of Eagles; the building was taken down for the First National Bank, after their building burned in 1970.



Three Rivers House



Sam Irwin

1871 – 1900 History

Chapter Four

Main Street

Saturday was the big day; most of the stores and offices were open until 9:00 p.m. Nearly everyone came to town. They walked or hitched up the horse and buggy, piled in the kids and came for the day! Some came for serious shopping, others came to meet friends and relatives to catch up on the latest news and gossip.

The women would head for the dry goods stores — The Economy or Charles Starr's. With winter coming on they had to purchase the long legged wool underwear, flannel nightgowns and night caps for the family, caps.

The men would make their way to Griffith's Hardware Store to order coal for the winter. Then they would go down to the Harris Milling Co. for a barrel of flour and then across to the Crossett Lumber Yard — the chicken coop needed repair!

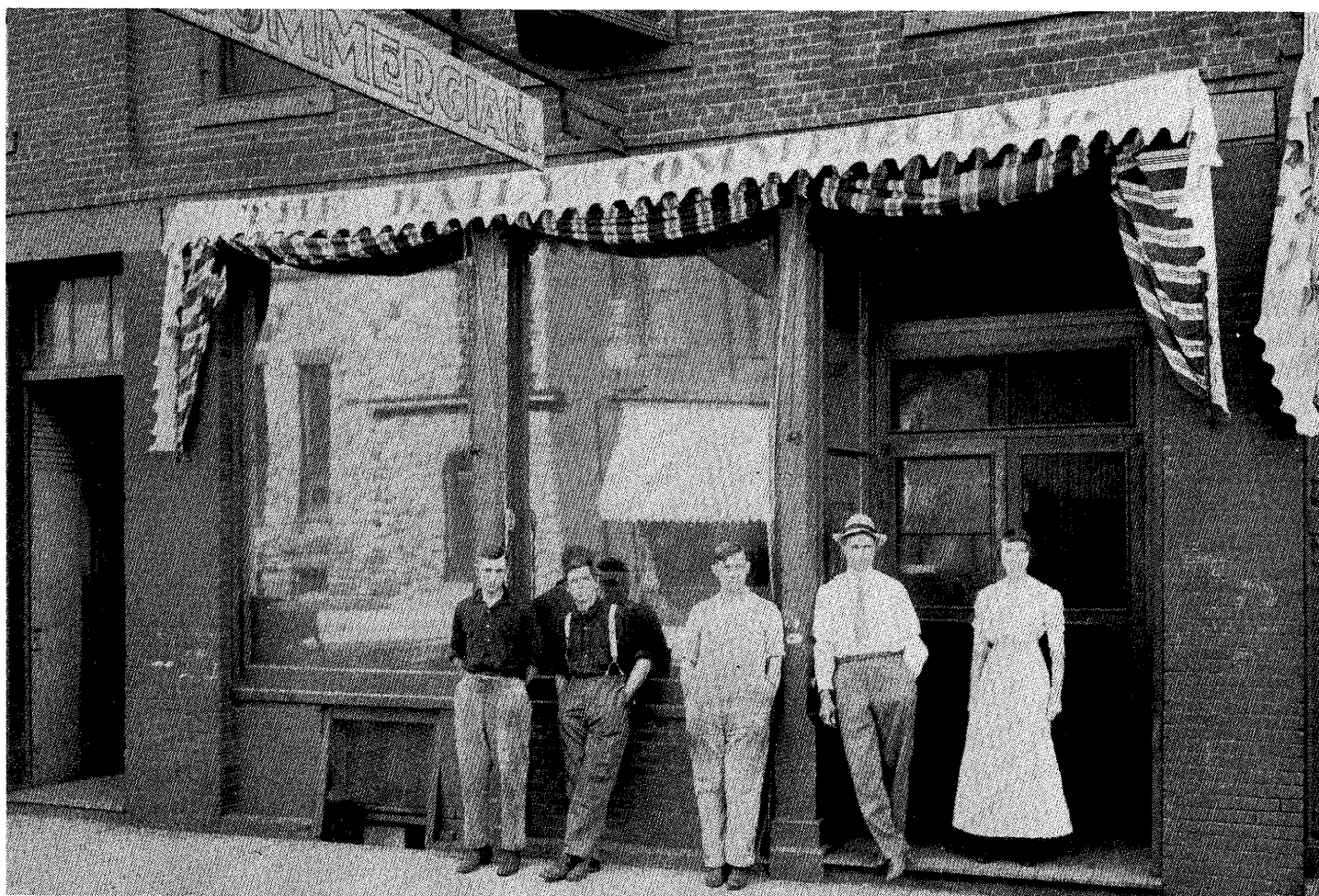
For the men, their next stop was a hurried trip to the saloon below the Central House and then on to Carl Klocke's Cigar Store for his latest Winchester — rumor had it that there was a large herd of deer out at Fabius!

Before leaving town the kids would be sure to go to Potter's for a special "frozen delight."

The oldest girl went for her piano lesson from Miss Eva Doty, and the bachelor of the family spent most of his time at Abbott's tonsorial parlor and at J.W. Ellet, the tailor, to have his new suit fitted.

One of the last stops before going home was to buy groceries for the next week at Coles', Jake & Jack's or Seekell's — all on Main Street. They would then pick up the horse and wagon at the tie sheds and then head across town to the Three Rivers Packing House by the dam.

A full day! Next week they might pick up grandpa's teeth at the dentist and get an appointment for grandma to have a new hat 'made to order' by Mrs. Harris who carried a full line of Fine Millinery and grandma wanted one with feathers and a bird.



Kate Starr (Mrs. B.E. Smith, mother of Harriet Hagenbuch & Edna Wescott), was the linotype operator. William Shumaker, second from right, Editor of the Daily Commercial.

1871 – 1900 History

Chapter Four

John Griffith's Double Hardware Store

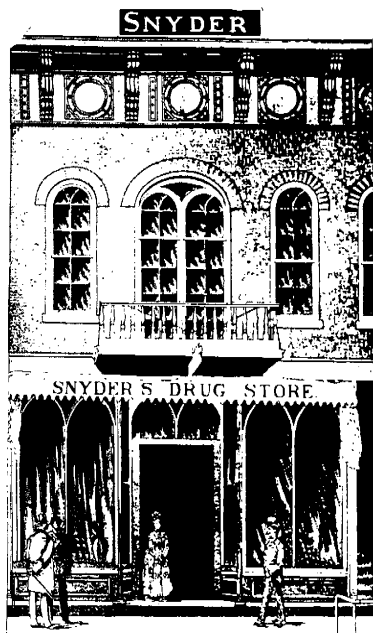
Griffith's Hardware Store handled general hardware, stoves, bicycles, farm implements, coal and lime. He also had a tinshop and plumbing department. He was the agent for the McCormick Harvesting Machine Co., and the agent for U.S. Express Co. Because of the diversity of his operation he had five warehouses!

Snyder's Drug Store

A.W. Snyder established his drug business in 1871. What was more fun and exciting — he put in the first soda fountain! — Chocolate sodas, strawberry sundaes, lemon phosphate!!!

D. Abbott Tonsorial Parlor

D. Abbott had a very popular Tonsorial Parlor — 136 St. Joseph Street — advertising four chairs and first class service! As many of the men of the time had full grown beards to be trimmed and fancy mustaches to be styled this was a necessity. However, more important and enjoyable — "Double baths with porcelain tubs!"



Liveries

The Riverside Livery had a special transient service day and night. Louis Prange, proprietor, had feed for sale, horses for sale and a boarding stable.

H. Burch, proprietor of his livery stable, advertised good horses and carriages furnished for parties. He was also the agent for long or short drives. You left your order at the Three Rivers House. He also boarded horses. You could call up and tell "Don" to bring the horse and buggy around at 12:00 and he would be there!

J.G. Ott

J.G. Ott was a dealer in harnesses, saddles, bridles, collars, whips, etc. He was also available to repair all articles and trim on carriages.

A.N. Knapp

A.N. Knapp called himself the "Shoe Doctor." His place of business was at 123 St. Joseph Street. For a reasonable price he would do repair work of all kinds — neatly and promptly.

Clark Potter Ice Cream

Clark Potter gave special attention to private orders. They manufactured ice cream and fancy frozen delights. They served people on their second floor, using a dumb waiter to bring up their "goodies."

Three Rivers Robe Tannery

Three Rivers Robe Tannery paid the highest price for hides. You could bring in a hide, get it tanned and see it made into a robe or coat. You needed a good heavy fur robe to wrap up in when you visited friends in an open sleigh and it was a warm "cozy" for the kids in the back of the wagon.

A.B. Ranney News Dealer

A.B. Ranney was the news dealer with a room at 101 St. Joseph Street. He sold all of the leading newspapers; had a circulating library, important as it was established before the Carnegie Library. He also had books to sell and a full line of stationery and fine paper.

1864 Ad from Three Rivers News Reporter

"A.C. Shaad's Mammoth Boot and Shoe Store, in Kelsey's Block, 50 cases of summer goods have just been received comprising the best, and latest and most fashionable styles of Ladies', Misses's and Childrens' gaiters, shoes and slippers, Gents' gaiters and fine french calf boots, slippers, etc. Shaad has truly a magnificent store to select from."



38 North Main (Today — Fashion Fair) Built in 1876 by Conrad Shaad, and remained in his family until 1977.

Sam Franklin

The Three Rivers Iron and Metal Co. with Sam Franklin as proprietor made a special offer to farmers for their scrap iron, rubber, metals, paper, hides and pelts — all at the highest market prices.

Milliners

Mrs. W. Daniels and Mrs. A.E. Harris were the popular milliners. Ladies' hats and bonnets were among the most important items of dress. Hats were fashionable and beautiful with flowers, ribbons, lace, veils, feathers, and sometimes even a bird! A lady would not go out of the house without a head covering and gloves.

It was a luxury item when you could have your hat custom-made!

Dress Makers

Miss Clark and Miss Gardner were the very necessary dress makers. It was a skill to make a dress fit trim across the shoulders, make room for the bustle, and have it fall just right in the back for a little sweep on the ground. The interfacing could not buckle, the stays could not pinch and the padding had to be in the exact right places. The construction was an art! Everything was hand sewn — small button holes, tiny tucks, intricate beading, hems, facings — the dressmaker had to be patient and certainly had to have good eyesight.



The Three Rivers Marble Works

As a fitting tribute to the dead the family tried to get the best marker they could afford. Some markers were status symbols, but a marker was a necessity. A.H. Huyler Marble Works in 1895, was one of the leaders in its line in the state. From West Michigan, turning left at the traffic light, the building on the right is the "Marble Works." You can still see the fading letters above the second story.



Charles Starr.

Starr's Dry Goods Store

On St. Joseph Street was Charles Starr's Dry Goods Store (Newberry's) — a big double store including a second floor. He was a dealer in clothes, curtains, shirtwaists at reduced prices, odorless feathers, and carpet sweepers. Established in 1881, it was one of the finest and largest stores of its kind.

It was a favorite place for the ladies who enjoyed browsing and buying the fine silks, satins, velvets, calico, and linens. It took all afternoon to pick out the Butterick pattern, the eight yards of material plus the stays, hooks, ribbons, buttons and yards of trimming and binding.

Later it became a Home Furnishing Store and Funeral Parlor with F.W. Balch the leading furniture dealer and O.L. Haring the leading funeral director. The embalming was taken care of at the rear of the store but the funeral was always held in the family home. Later, the first funeral parlor was opened by Mr. Haring in 1917, in a home built by E.S. Moore, one of the early pioneers.



Balch & Haring Furniture
The Largest Store in the County



34 North Main (Today — Paul's Shoes)
Built in 1870 by William Wheeler. A
dormer type curved window makes the
building unique on St. Joseph Street.



36 North Main (Today — Ruby's)
Built in 1870 by William Wheeler. It is
very similar to the building south of it,
but the windows are more in a cathed-
ral style. The windows in the back
have iron bars. On the third floor the
round windows have colored glass.

CARL KLOCKE



MANUFACTURER OF
AND DEALER IN
Fine Cigars Sporting Goods

Cigars and Tobacco and all kinds of Smokers' Articles.
"Hazel," "Blue Ribbon" and "Petite" are the
Leading Brands of 5c. Cigars.

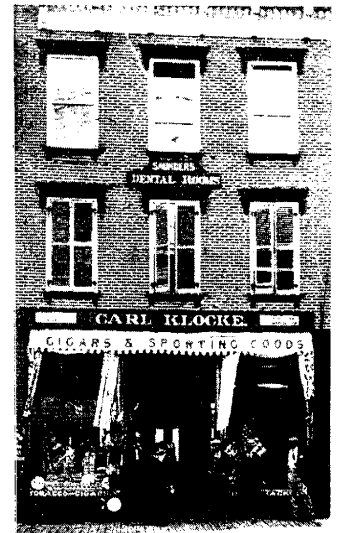
140 St. Joseph.

Phone 34

Get in Line and Subscribe for THE LADIES' WORLD
Price 50c a year. Send for Sample Copy.

Carl Klocke Cigar Store 1892

Nothing is better than a good cigar
after dinner and nothing is more
American than a five cent cigar. Carl
Klocke came to Three Rivers in 1882.
He maintained a cigar making
business for 40 years, the oldest
establishment of its kind in the
country. His five cent cigar, the
"Hazel" was very popular, rivalled on-
ly by his "R & K" — a ten cent cigar.
In his retail store on the east side of
Main Street, he had a full line of
cigars and a large stock of Sporting
Goods. He specialized in guns, fishing
tackle and baseball equipment. He
was given an Honors' Banquet on his
90th birthday.



Jack Thoms

Jack Thoms was born in 1852, in Lockport Township. He came to Three Rivers when he was fifteen. Within two months of his finishing high school, he was offered a job as bookkeeper and clerk for Barkman and Thorpe, grocers. He worked there for six years. Then he and a fellow clerk, Jake Dunham, went into the grocery business for themselves. The firm was called "Jake and Jack."

When they began the business, such a thing as a paper bag had not been invented. Jack says, "I would like to see one of these chain store squirts put a piece of straw paper in a hopper, throw twenty pounds of sugar and wrap it up. Everything came in bulk. A paper cone was made for carrying eggs; there were no creameries and the farm women brought in the butter, often coming with their children Saturday morning and staying in town all day long until their husbands came for them when the saloons closed at night. At least 25% of the trade was German."

He recalled a Three Rivers Rally Day when the old cobblestone pavement on St. Joe Street was padded with wet saw dust and made into a very fast track for foot races.

At the age of 80, his favorite sport was fishing.

Jake and Jack's Wholesale and Retail

Jake and Jack's wholesale and retail grocery store had a complete line of staples and fancy groceries. Their slogan — "We buy no other, we sell no other."



Jack Thoms

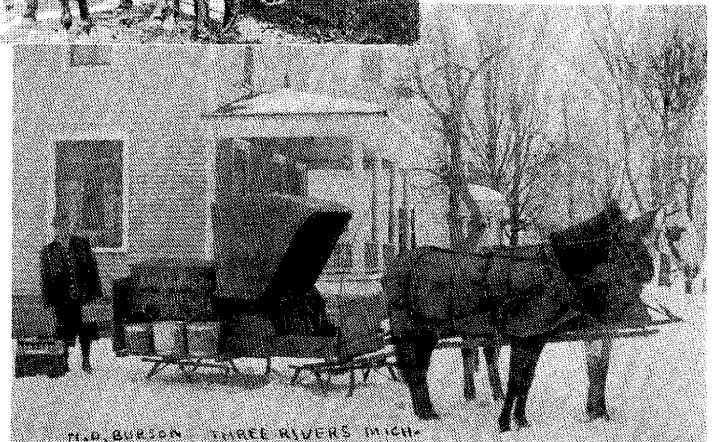
The Rawleigh Man A Friend of the Family 1889

The Rawleigh Man — had a regular route, a regular time and there he was with his load of staples — coffee, tea, spices, patented medicines, extracts — a large bottle of vanilla was \$1.00 — medicated ointments for cold discomforts and nasal irritations. Even the snow didn't keep him away. He would hitch up his horses to a sleigh and be at your door with your order on schedule.

Delivery Wagons

The clop-clop of horses over the cobblestones could be heard every day as the merchants made their deliveries. What convenience! You either could call in your order or leave a flag on the porch steps. The delivery boy would take it back to the store, fill the order and later deliver it — a free service! The big supermarkets of today would have a "wee bit of trouble" duplicating that service!

The Merchants Delivery



The Rawleigh Man

1871 – 1900 History

Post Office (Around the turn of the century)

The Post Office at this time was in the Case Building with an entrance on Main Street and on Penn Street (Portage Avenue). Over the building was a weather signal flag, noting the present weather condition.

A post card cost a penny and regular first class letter — 2¢! Total receipts for the fiscal years show how the Post Office grew — or at least how many more letters and packages were sent.

Fiscal Year.....	Total Receipts
1840.....	\$131.84
1850.....	\$321.96
1860.....	\$1,102.75
1870.....	\$3,248.37
1880.....	\$5,393.99
1890.....	\$6,904.06
1906.....	\$20,447.54
1985.....	\$736,767.13

Lester B. Place was the efficient and popular postmaster of the City of Three Rivers from 1906 to 1914. He is the nice looking gentleman in the center. E. Schellhouse, the boy in knickers was the Special Delivery Boy — remember a letter would be delivered right to your door.

During the Civil War Mr. Place was in active service with the 136 Ohio Volunteer Infantry. In 1883, he came to Three Rivers and was the manager of the foundry department of Sheffield Car Company for nineteen years. In 1902, he organized and became manager of the Three Rivers Foundry and Machine Company. In 1905, he was appointed postmaster. He was an ardent Republican and for several years Republican County Chairman.

Postmasters 1831-1986

Postmaster.....	Appointment Date
George Buck.....	Oct. 10, 1831
Burroughs Moore	
William McKee.....	April 1, 1839
Burroughs Moore.....	Feb. 15, 1840
Herman H. Cole.....	June 2, 1846
John Ogden.....	May 9, 1849
James E. Kelsey.....	July 19, 1850
Issac Crosell.....	April 2, 1853
Issac C. Bassett.....	June 16, 1859
Issac Crosell.....	Aug. 16, 1859
S. Allen Smith.....	April 26, 1861
James E. Kelsey.....	Jan. 13, 1862
Wilbur H. Clute.....	March 10, 1865
Charles W. Fonda.....	Oct. 10, 1866
Albert B. Ramsey.....	March 19, 1867
Wilbur H. Clute.....	April 15, 1871

John B. Handy.....	April 13, 1875
Theron L. Arnold.....	Jan. 23, 1888
George A. B. Cooke.....	April 11, 1890
Theron L. Arnold.....	April 18, 1894
Frank Watson.....	May 16, 1898
Lester B. Place.....	April 12, 1906
Herbert I. Wright.....	March 9, 1914
Webb W. Walter.....	March 3, 1923
John F. Cross.....	April 9, 1935
(Postmaster Cross died in office on July 4, 1949)	
C. Earl Crout.....	Aug. 4, 1949
Peter N. White.....	June 30, 1950
Calvin E. Sands.....	March 31, 1953
Lillian Boeschstein.....	March 31, 1968
Wilfred R. Miracle.....	March 6, 1971
Kenneth E. Wortinger	
Robert Ellison.....	1980
Arthur R. Boyce.....	April 26, 1985



Three Rivers Business Academy and Normal School

On North Main Street was the Sage Business College established in 1879, by Charles Sage, owner and proprietor. On the first floor was the business college, second floor was the Normal College and on the third floor, the dormitories. It was patronized by over 100 students from all over the United States. For a term of ten weeks the tuition was \$6.00!

In 1858, this was originally the Lantz House, then in 1871, it was a popular hotel called the Hatch House. Later Miss Abbie Barker operated a young ladies seminary with Mr. Sage as the penmanship teacher. This endeavor wasn't profitable and later Mr. Sage acquired the building and incorporated his schools.

Next door was the Three Rivers Armory and the Fire Station.

The Armory Opera House

Next door to the Sage Business College was the Armory Opera House. Formerly, this building was the Presbyterian Chapel. The congregation moved to this location while building their church.

In 1892, the officers were: Captain Wade Swarthout, Edward L. Lenhart, 1st Lieutenant; M. Shelley Arnold, 2nd Lieutenant. Under these officers the men participated in a great military parade for the first World's Fair in Chicago, a matter of 12 miles and 6 hours of marching.

A feature of Co. D was their Drum Major Corps, sponsored and trained by Harry Reed. The original four drummers were: Harry Hoffman, Jerry Gephart, Eli and Frank Houts. They were smartly uniformed and were expert drummers. They made a handsome addition to Co. D.

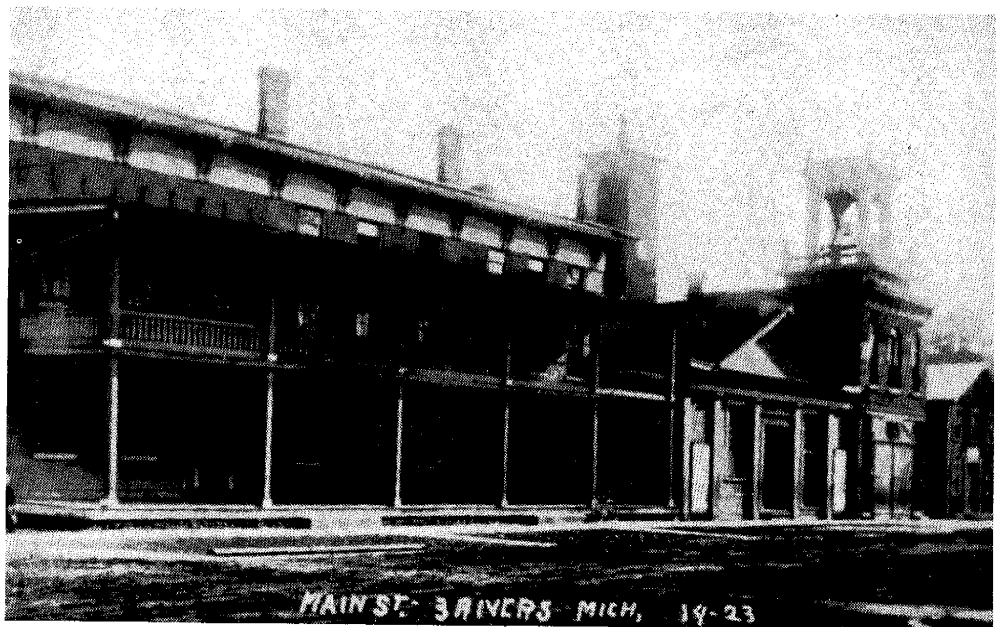
Some of the big events of the year were the grand military balls with visiting generals and their staffs, governors of state and their entourages. The Armory, which could see 100 people, had a fine floor for dancing. The ladies in their beautiful

silk and satin dresses, the men in their elegant dress suits, the soft music of Charles Fisher's orchestra, twinkling gas lights — made it a night to remember.

Another yearly event held in the Armory Opera House was the high school graduation exercises. This was an impressive ceremony of many speeches, music, recitations, and the presentations of diplomas. The music was provided by the Three Rivers Cornet Band, very splendid in their bright red uniforms. It was a serious and dignified ceremony, the boys dressed in suits, the girls in lovely white formal gowns. The evening was one to be proud of.

In 1896, Co. D was mustered out and a new company recruited in Battle Creek. The military trained members of Co. D formed the basics for recruiting a volunteer company of militia under Charles Wheeler for service in the Spanish American War.

At the time of mustering out, Edward L. Lenhart was Captain of Co. D. He purchased the building and operated it as a theater for many years.



Sage Business College, Armory, Fire Station

Dedication of the Soldiers' Monument

June 20, 1893

The first meeting of the Three Rivers Monument Association was held on October 2, 1891. One thousand seven hundred and fifty subscriptions were reported amounting to \$900.00. Judge Pealer was appointed to select a design for the statue. To select a site for the monument, all those who contributed were given a ballot to be deposited in Snyder's Drug Store by February 5, 1892. The site was announced (with considerable criticism) and the first load of stone was contributed by N.B. Carey.

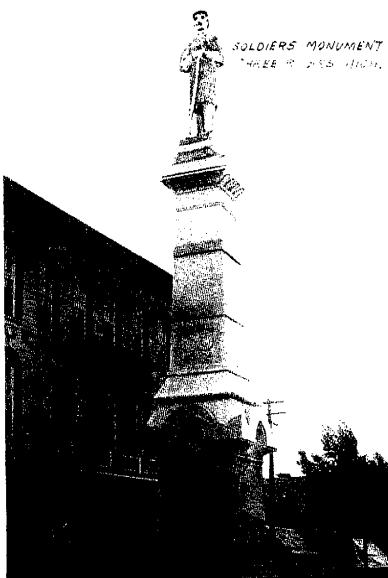
The day of the dedication a parade was held headed by 80 members of the Bicycle Club. The parade included many military bands from the surrounding area plus Companies A, C, and D of the 2nd Regiment, Michigan National Guard, and the local firemen. There were several speeches and Judge Pealer, in his presentation speech to the city, remarked, *"Sixty-two soldiers sleep in yonder cemetery,"* (many more today).

In the evening there was a dress parade, a campfire, and a military ball was held at the Armory.

The Tribune said, *"This day is an historical event which will go down to posterity as a fitting semblance to be recollected by the people of Three Rivers and vicinity and well may be proud of the statue and monument as it stands a lasting memorial to the gaze of future generations."*

One of the fund raising activities was a spectacular and historical pageant called "Poetry of the War." A chorus of 100 voices sang all the favorite songs of the Civil War, "Rally Round the Flag," "Just Before the Battle Mother," Battle Hymn of the Republic, "Bonnie Blue Flag," "Dixie" and many more. The band played songs from the North and South, patriotic speeches and recitations by the townspeople glorified their Civil War veterans.

Soldiers' Monument



Winter Fun

What was more fun than a bobsled ride through the crisp night air — the sled filled with straw, kids snuggled under warm blankets and a soapstone for their feet. Everyone had a good time singing and talking. Over the snow covered roads — full moon shining brightly in the cold sky, the bells on the horses making a merry sound. At the end of the ride — a cup of hot chocolate and homemade doughnuts. What more could you ask of a night in February?

During the day there would be many bobsleds in the streets. The big boys, who dared, would run and hop on the rear runners for a free ride. They called it "hooking bobs."

Three Rivers Building and Loan

In 1886 E.B. Linsley and a group of Three Rivers citizens formed the Three Rivers Building and Loan Association. The stock of the Association would comprise of a maximum of 2,000 shares of \$125.00 each to be paid for in weekly installments of 25¢ per share. Today the Association is located at 123 Portage Avenue.

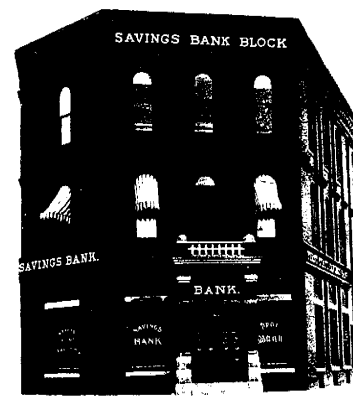
The First State Savings Bank

The First State Savings Bank was established in 1891. It was the only savings bank in the county and was the first bank in the county to pay interest on deposits — 4% on time deposits and savings. The president was Mr. Willits, head of Sheffield Car Co., J.W. French was vice president, George T. Wolf, cashier, and Guy Bean, assistant cashier — all businessmen. It was the largest bank in St. Joseph County, and for the convenience of their customers their savings department was open Monday evening from 7 to 8 o'clock.

Young men would gather at the point in the evening, laugh, talk and sometimes serenade the passerby.

In 1914, the point was cut off and the building rebuilt.

Originally the building contained the Knause Harness factory, wholesale manufacturer of harnesses, selling their wares to all parts of the United States. (Past site of the Three Rivers Savings and Loan.)



First State Savings Bank



Bob Sled Party

Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Depot

Can anyone ever forget the sound of a steam locomotive as it whistled a warning at every crossroad? Or can anyone forget the sound of a steam engine starting up, puffing clouds of steam at each turn of the big wheels; or the sound of its wheels screeching to a stop, bells clanging?

The depot of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad was a busy place — six daily passenger trains and many freight trains. (Presently Templin's Feed and Seed Store.) Three Rivers was one of the largest wheat shipping stations in the state.

The passenger station was a bustling place. Inside the waiting room the men gathered around the coal stove and talked about the latest political scandals. Outside, freight, luggage and passengers crowded the train platform and baggage room. The newsboys picked up their newspapers every day except Sunday — they met the early evening train from the north. Myron Fellows worked for the Kalamazoo Daily Telegraph, Worthington delivered the Chicago Record. Other boys worked for the J.T. Muncey News Agency carrying the Detroit Journal, and the Detroit Free Press.

Also at the depot was a reporter for the local newspaper. The "Comings and Goings" of Three Rivers residents were closely checked at the trains and reported in the news.

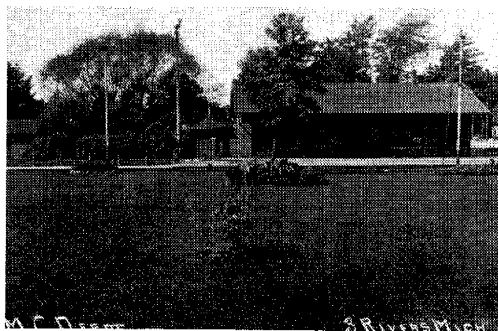


Michigan Central Air Line Depot

The Michigan Central Air Line Station in the Village of Lockport had a fenced-in Railroad Park with beautiful flowers, trees and bushes which were well groomed.

The station had a waiting room and telegraph office. Outside you could hear the click of the telegraph. Henry Trattles was one of the telegraph operators. One dark rainy night an exciting event happened. Trattles tried to reach the freight agent east of him to tell him that a train going west, carrying horses, was approaching a freight train going east on the same track. The trains would meet head-on if not warned. They didn't communicate, and the terrible accident happened just east of town. Both engineers were killed and many horses were killed or injured.

In 1876 the business of the road transacted at the Three Rivers station: freight forwarded, 12,486,462 pounds, which included 29,400 barrels of flour, and 28,000 bushels of wheat. The freight received, 12,442,253 pounds. The ticket sales were \$14,765.50. The Western Union Telegraph lines also ran over this line.

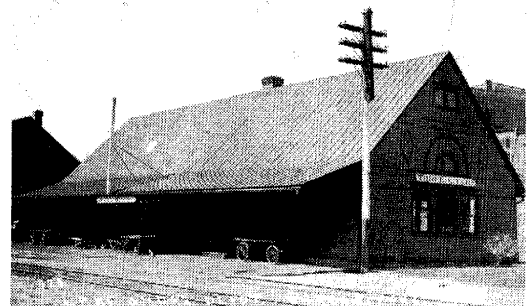
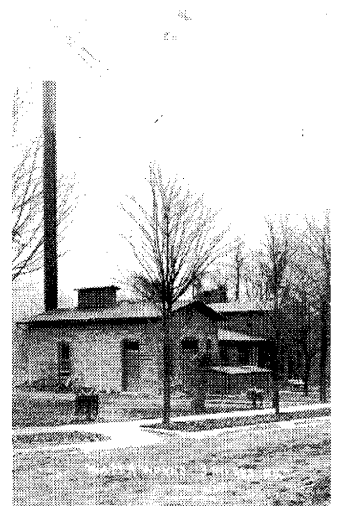


Michigan Central Air Line Depot

The City Water Works

The City Water Works original structure was built in 1888 and additions were made through the years. J.W. French, president of the Village, hired Stub Burkett for one year to beautify the grounds. He stayed for 50 years making the surrounding area into a park of flowers, bushes and trees.

City Water Works



Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Depot

Immaculate Conception

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church had its beginning as a mission of Niles in 1885. The first mass in Three Rivers was celebrated in a small store building. Later the church was a mission of Jackson and then of Mendon. Immaculate Conception continued as a mission until a resident pastor was first assigned in April, 1933.

In 1904 the first church was built on South Main Street. The cost of the site and foundation exhausted the funds of the congregation. Father Kaufman sent a letter to 40 wealthy Catholics in Detroit asking for help. A generous contribution was sent and the church was built. The present Catholic School is located on its site.

Immaculate Conception School, adjacent to the church, was started in 1949. In 1959 the present church on Douglas Avenue was constructed. St. Joseph's, White Pigeon, and St. Clare's, Centreville, are both missions of Immaculate Conception Parish. In 1967 a new rectory next to the church was completed.



Jessie Crandall

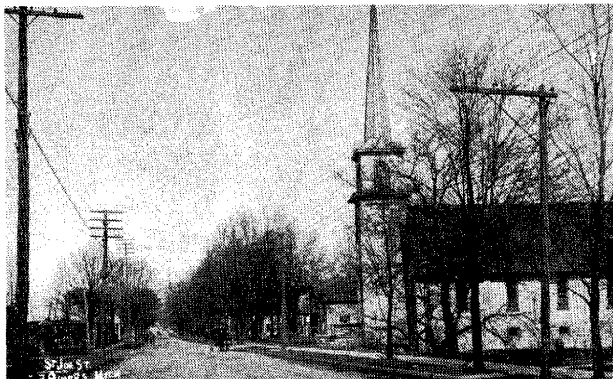
Ninth Street United Methodist Church

The first prayer meetings were begun in 1844. The first full time pastor, Samuel Reeves, was assigned to the church on Ninth Street, "The Little Brown Church on the Hill." The first church building was erected in 1887. The church was originally formed as a member church of the Methodist Protestant Church. They merged in 1939, with the Methodist Episcopal Church. Some of the members did not wish to comply to the Episcopal system of the Methodist Church so departed the congregation to form another church. The greatest strength of this congregation was realized during the 1930's.

Jessie Crandall, a very popular minister, came here after he retired as an Army Chaplain in the Civil War.



Ninth Street
United Methodist Church



Immaculate Conception

Hon. Russel P. Pealer Prominent Judge of the Circuit Court – 1895

Hon. Russel P. Pealer was a native of Pennsylvania. During the Civil War he enlisted in Company E, Sixteen Pennsylvania Cavalry. He was very proud of his war record. He entered as a private and was discharged as a First Lieutenant. He participated in 35 battles including the famous Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Cold Harbor. He was wounded at Hatcher's Run. In the open battlefields of Virginia, while serving as a soldier, he cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864. From that time on he was a staunch Republican.

After the war he entered law school and came to Three Rivers in 1867 to practice law. The first four months he received \$40.00. The first year he received \$190 (his office rent was \$100). The second year his cash receipts were \$1,551.75, and from that time on he acquired a large and lucrative practice.

He served for six years as Circuit Judge of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. He was a member of the legislature, a prosecuting attorney, and a member of the school board. In addition, he helped to raise most of the money for the Soldiers' Monument on St. Joseph Street.

He was commander of the Michigan Chapter of the Loyal Legion which was composed of commissioned officers of the Civil War. With the prestigious office he was admitted to many interesting places in Europe – the English House of Commons, and the Peace Conference at the Hague.

For many years he practiced law with George F. Miller. They had a good business, practicing law in federal courts as well as state courts.

Judge Pealer married Sallie Stevens in Pennsylvania. Their daughter, Mary, married J.W. Breyfogle.



Hon. Russel P. Pealer

The Arthur Silliman House

Arthur Silliman came to this area in 1847, with his father, Alexander, and ten brothers and sisters. Silliman built the house in 1876. It was constructed of native birch and was situated on the north bank of the St. Joseph River. A few yards east of the house the Portage River joins the St. Joseph River and a block to the west the Rocky River emerges to blend with St. Joseph.

It housed a blacksmith shop and above the shop was a two story residence. His location for the blacksmith shop was convenient, and as his service was excellent, carriages and horses would be lined up for several blocks. When Arthur Silliman first built this home you could take a wagon load of fish from the river at his doorstep.

When his daughter, Sue Silliman died, she left the building and all its furnishings to the city. In 1945 it became the home of the American Legion, Post No. 170. As this was right after World War II it became a popular spot for the returning veterans. When the American Legion owned the home, Leo Houghtaling would leave his fishing rod right at the Post. On a good day he would fish right out of the back door — but he was never as lucky as Arthur Silliman!

In 1975, the Silliman House had the honor to be placed on the State Register of Historic Homes.

In 1979, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Homes.

A Sue Silliman Reminiscence

Sue Silliman loved to reminisce about her young childhood. Her father never let her go out on the street on Saturday nights in those days. She had to remain on the balcony of her home from which she could see much of what was going on. The streets of Three Rivers were not safe in the 1880's, not on the Main Street bridge when the war of the wards erupted every Saturday night. The farmers of St. Joseph County of that area plus many male residents of Lockport (second district) would drive their wagons and buggies north on Flint Avenue (South Main Street) to shop the stores in First Ward. The men and some merchants would meet them on the bridge and a battle would ensue. The pitchforks and clubs and fists would fly and there were many bashed heads, split lips and black eyes, not to mention the dunkings in the river. No Chamber of Commerce promotions in those days. First Ward stores were for "1st warders" and Lockport was for Lockport, and never the twain shall meet. But they have — eventually.



Sue Silliman

Dr. Blanche Haines & Dr. Thomas J. Haines

Blanche Moore was born in Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. She received her medical degree from the Woman's Hospital Medical College of Chicago.

Dr. Thomas J. Haines was born in Logan County, Ohio. He graduated in 1888 from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago University. He began the practice of medicine in Three Rivers, Michigan, in 1889, and there Dr. Blanche Moore Haines joined him after their marriage in 1890. He was at one time a surgeon for the Michigan Central Railroad.

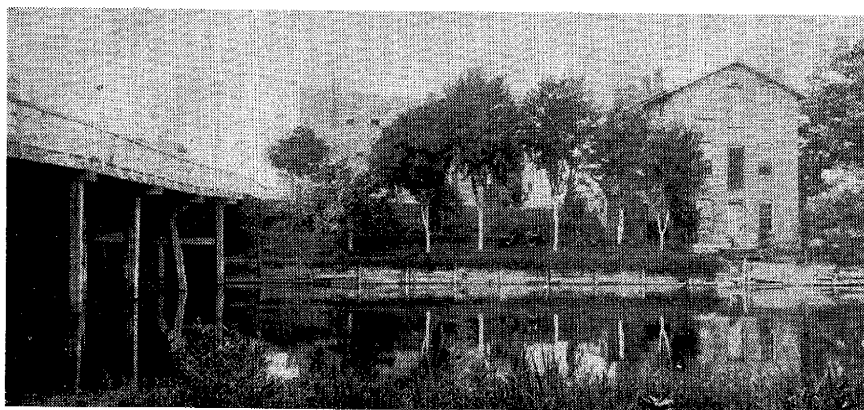
Dr. Blanche Haines held many city and state offices in connection with Public Health and Nursing. She was the first woman to be elected to the Three Rivers School Board.

Dr. Blanche Haines was an avid suffragette appearing before the local Lincoln Club as their first woman speaker. She spoke on, "What the Ballot Will Do For Women."

It was through her generous gift, along with Adam Armstrong, that Three Rivers was able to procure a "Flying Field."



Dr. Blanche Haines



Silliman House

James Roberts House

On the hill on North Street (306 West Michigan), the handsome red house with the turret was a familiar landmark. It was built by James Roberts in 1887, the president of one of the old time reliable manufacturing firms. Later it became known as the home of the Milton H. Rix family, Mr. Rix was general superintendent of Fairbanks Morse.

Issac Null Main Builder of St. Joseph Street

Some men build dreams — Issac Null built buildings. In 1867 he bought the first lot on the west corner of St. Joseph Street for \$1,000.00. He built the next five buildings and also constructed buildings on six lots on the east side of the street. Much of our Main Street was built by this one man.

When he retired in 1884, he built a beautiful home in back of his first store. The interior has oak cabinets, rich oak woodwork and an Italian marble fireplace.

People have wondered why the home was built so close to the road. Before the turn of the century West Michigan wasn't nearly as wide and the area behind St. Joseph Street was grass gently sloping down to the river.



James Roberts Home

George B. Cooke (Nephew of Pioneer John Bowman)

Disliking school, John Cooke began at the age of nine to learn the printing trade under the tutelage of his father in Washington, Pa.

He served with Pennsylvania troops during the Civil War, and after the war came to Three Rivers. Mr. Cooke immediately began to be involved with the "press." In 1887, he established the Three Rivers Tribune, and for forty years was the Tribune's publisher and proprietor. The Tribune became one of the leading Republican papers, with the largest circulation in the county. He introduced the first rotary job printing press in Three Rivers and the first steam power printing press. All styles of work from books to pamphlets were printed.

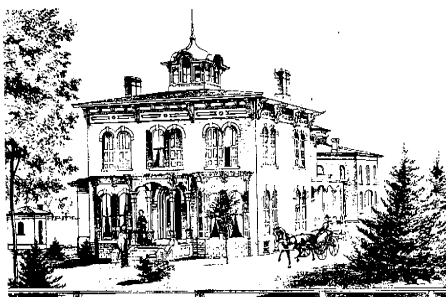
He was an active councilman, school board member, past master and commander and adjutant of the Edward Prutzman Post.



Issac Null Home



George B. Cooke Home



Hoffman House

Hoffman House 500 East Hoffman

John Hoffman, owner of the Portage River Flouring Mill, built this beautiful residence in 1871. When his daughter, Martha, married Dr. A.H. Moody the bride's gown was made of pure silk bolting cloth used for milling flour!

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Beatty and their three children came here in 1903 and purchased the lovely home. The town and house were shaded by fine old trees, and to the west was an extensive formal garden.

In 1922, Kellogg's diversified its offerings and now the home was located south of 200 acres under cultivation for fruit, ornamental plants, trees, shrubs, and bulbs.

The Kellogg Rock Garden, with its waterfalls, roses, and flowers was known throughout the state for its beauty. It was a perfect showroom for Kellogg's products.

Armitage House

John Armitage lived on a farm but came into Three Rivers in 1864. He was a contractor and built this home in 1872. (Law office of Leonard Bullard.)

It became the home of three generations of the Armitage family. As a contractor and builder he built the home of Johnson Bennett, 12 East Bennett Street, for many years the home of E.H. Andrews (currently Carol Boulette's home).



Armitage House

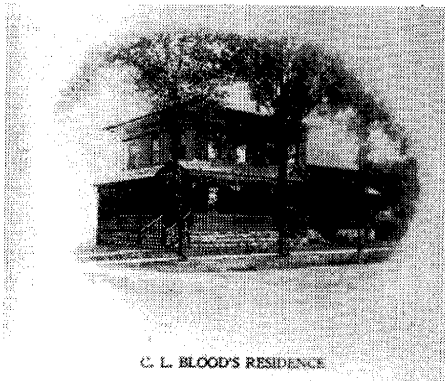
C.L. Blood's Residence

C.L. Blood's residence was the former residence of H.D. Cushman. Later it was the office of Dr. John O'Dell and his brother Dr. Charles O'Dell, followed by offices of Dr. Clark Porter. Hanging in the reception room over the mantle was a portrait of Dr. John O'Dell, father of the young doctors.

Dr. Cushman was the inventor of the famous "Menthol Inhaler," an absolute cure-all — price 50¢, sold by all druggists. (Currently office of Dr. James Souers, Orthodontist).

H.P. Barrows Home

In back of the Barrows home (former Dr. Porter home) was a rustic foot bridge across the Rocky River to an island in the river, a very favorite place for an afternoon stroll on Sunday afternoon. They called it the "Lover's Bridge."



C.L. Blood's Residence



H.P. Barrows Home

George Brisette Residence

The yellow house on North Main Street was built by George Brisette, a very prosperous merchant and tailor. Later it became the residence of Captain Charles P. Wheeler, Commanding Officer of Co. D.

J.W. French Home Mayor of Three Rivers

The home in picture is the second home of J.W. French (now Elks Temple) built to replace the original home which was destroyed by fire. The first home burned in a spectacular fire one very cold night when it was 18° below zero! The French House was covered inside and out with a coating of ice. At the same time a fire was reported at Sheffield Car Company. The "hero" of the evening was Mrs. Stub Burgert on duty at the waterworks pumps. She didn't have enough strength to turn the wheels by hand so she used a big steel bar.



George Brisette Residence

Dr. W.E. Clark Residence

The home of Dr. W.E. Clark, later became the home of Dr. A.W. Scidmore and much later the home of Estes Griffin (located on Portage Avenue).

Dr. W.E. Clark came to Three Rivers in 1872 after graduation from Hahnemann Homeopathic College in Chicago. He was a very active doctor in Three Rivers for many years. He was an active member of the Masonic fraternities and the First Baptist Church, heavy stockholder in the Three Rivers Robe Tannery, telephone company and the Magnetic Springs and Sanitarium. He built several buildings in the city — among them the Clark Flats. He served as city councilman and as mayor.



Dr. W.E. Clark Residence



J.W. French Home

"Red Brick" Dickenson-Peeler

The beautiful old residence known as the "Red Brick" (300 North Main) was the home of the Smith boys. North of the house was a tennis court and a huge vine covered umbrella as high as an ordinary tree. The Smith boys had fine horses and a red and gold double sleigh, "the wonder of the town." Couples sat facing each other, while from a high-up seat in front, the driver directed the horses. The occasion was an oyster supper in Schoolcraft. This house later became the home of Edward French.

"White Brick"

The "White Brick" at one time belonged to the Smith brothers. In 1902, Kate Fellows (Mrs. R.E. Dean) purchased the property. Miss Fellows had her own car — a white Buick. She was the first lady driver in Three Rivers. Several "men about town" had to take driving lessons from her. One of Three Rivers famous "high winds" has taken down a very large tree. (Currently site of American Bank of Three Rivers).



Red Brick



White Brick

Ruggles and Armitage Shop Carriage & Wagon Manufacturers

The shop was located in the 100 block on Portage Avenue. The shop had been a going concern many years earlier and was listed in the Three Rivers Directory in 1871.

The Roller Mill

On the site of one of the original mills, the Emery Grist Mill was built in 1882 (across from Templin's). It was a very successful mill with a siding on the railroad. Later it was known as the Roller Mill of the Harris Milling Company.

One cold winter night in 1904, it burned. Four thousand bushels of wheat burned, despite the fact the noon train had pulled out with several carloads of wheat. The actual fire lasted two days. Heavy black smoke blanketed the town, but it smoldered for months. The mill was never rebuilt. The charred timbers stood for ten years. Finally in 1915, it was cleared away for the city power plant.



Roller Mill

Toe Pad 1886

A familiar sound of long ago was the tinkling music of sleigh bells in the crackling winter air, the squeaking and crunching of steel runners on hard packed snow. Nearly everyone owned a sleigh or a bob sled, and one of the best places to buy the finest of fittings was at the Initial Toe Pad Company. In June 1886, H.P. Barrows, F.B. Watson, and L.D. Knowles formed the Initial Toe Pad Co. In 1890 they erected a large plant on Third Avenue (River Glen Apts). The firm manufactured a complete line of carriage trimmings, cushions, tops, carpets and toe pads. Their market included all of the United States and several foreign countries. The company became one of the largest and most pretentious manufacturing industries in Three Rivers. Studebaker, of South Bend, was one of their best customers.

Initial Toe Pad

"This is made of enameled cloth or patent leather, with raised ornamentation, initial, or monogram, and is attached to the sides or panels of a carriage or buggy, to prevent injury to the finish from the feet. Handsome dies are made and furnished the trade in names, initials, figures, and coat-of-arms."

"A special storm apron, the 'Watson Adjustable,' the invention of Mr. F.B. Watson, is an advance upon anything made in this line."



Initial Toe Pad Company



1871 – 1900 History

Sheffield Car Company

George Sheffield, a mechanic for the Three Rivers Pump Factory, lived seven miles outside the village on a farm bordering the tract of the Michigan Central Railroad. He secretly designed a three wheel device to run on the railroad tracks. His little car enabled him to ride to work. It had a double hand lever drive and was light enough to be handled by one man. He could make 20 miles an hour under good conditions. Just a few friends knew of this first "track velocipede."

A coincidence brought the device to the attention of the railroad officials.

On one of Sheffield's trips he observed a broken rail, flagged down the oncoming train, averting a train wreck. The officials recognized the merits of the car and gave him an order for several for their rail inspectors. In 1879, a patent was granted, and a partnership was formed in 1881 to include W.J. Willet and E.B. Linsley. In 1882, the business was incorporated under the name of Sheffield Velocipede Car Co.

In 1892, Sheffield Car Co. incorporated with W.J. Willet, president and E.B. Linsley as secretary-treasurer. Sheffield Car Co. (Essex Wire) was one

of the important industries in the United States. It was the largest manufacturer in the world of light railroad cars of every description. Over 30 different types of cars were made for railroad repair, milling and lumbering, contracting and plantation work. They constructed elegant private railroad inspection cars propelled by gasoline engines. In addition they manufactured railway supplies, stand pipes, hand cars, and all kinds of gasoline motor cars including large interurban cars for street railways. At one time they employed between 1000 and 1500 people.

Sheffield Car Company was the life blood of Three Rivers from 1881 until the 1920's. Men worked in the foundry, the machine shop, and the car assembly plant. Everyone in town listened at 10:00 for the Sheffield weather signals. They also listened for their proper ward when the Sheffield fire whistle blew.

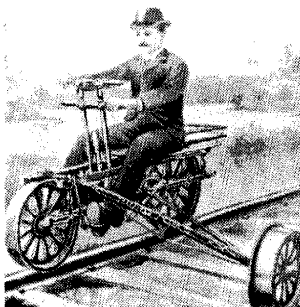
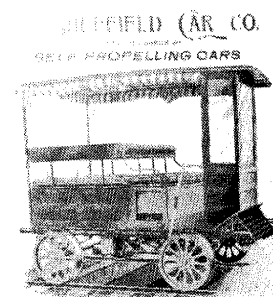
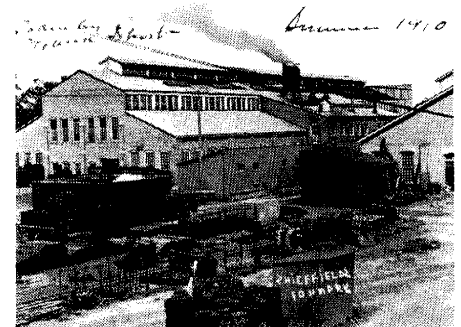
The men and their families enjoyed the company parties, picnics (with over a 1000 attending), clam bakes, excursion train rides to the beach at Lake Michigan. In 1918, Sheffield consolidated with Fairbanks Morse.



Sheffield bridge that was used for testing cars.



Motor car manufactured by Sheffield Car Co.



Whitmore Purifier Co. 1891

The Whitmore Purifier Company was organized in 1891. Lewis Emory was the principal owner, H.C. Wilcox the manager, and E.B. Whitmore the inventor. They manufactured and promoted a new invention that purified wheat with air blasts. The old foundation was still there when Broker's Garage on South Main was built.

Edward B. Linsley

One of the founders of the Sheffield Car Co., Linsley also was associated with Fairbanks Morse where he remained through his lifetime.

Mr. Linsley was born in New York, came to Three Rivers when he was 20 years old. He became associated as a partner with A.W. Snyder in the drug business. In 1881, he became interested in the manufacture of small railway cars. He was secretary and treasurer of the Sheffield Car Co., incorporated in 1882, and remained in that office until 1902, when he became general manager.



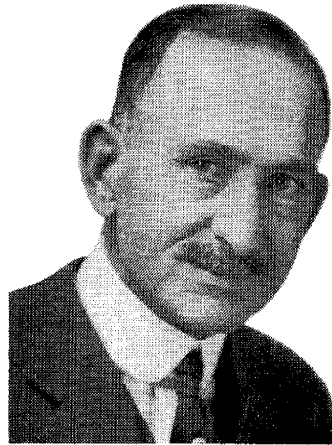
Mr. and Mrs. E.B. Linsley



Whitmore Purifier Co. on left.

Mr. Linsley was very interested in promoting the industrial and civic prosperity of the city. He was influential in acquiring the Andrew Carnegie financial support for the proposed city library. During his lifetime he was mayor of the city, president of the school board, elder in the Presbyterian Church, promotor of the Philharmonic Society, a member of various fraternal and civic organizations, and as the Hon. Edward B. Linsley, State Senator from the sixth district. In 1876, he married Emma Burch. They had two children, Raymond and Margaret.

What also can be remembered — he was an avid baseball fan keeping score for the "Maroons" an all star ball team of 1898. He always sat on the players bench and never missed a ball game. Later, because of his enthusiasm for baseball, the Fairbanks Morse athletic field was dedicated, the "E.B. Linsley Field."



Frank Beatty



Offices, R.M. Kellogg Company

Kellogg Strawberry Co. 1897

Kellogg Strawberry Co. was the largest strawberry farm in the world devoted to the propagation of strawberry plants. Two hundred and twenty-five acres of thoroughbred, pedigree strawberry plants were created by R.M. Kellogg in 1897. He paid \$50,000 for the famous Rockhill strawberry. Orders came from every state in the Union. For eight weeks of the year carloads of plants were shipped out on special express trains. Kellogg published a catalogue with 185,000 subscribers. Daisey Peters and Nellie Freese worked all winter assembling the catalogue.

As the company was only interested in the plants, it gave the Three Rivers kids (of all ages) an opportunity to pick the blossoms for 20¢ an hour. Chick Boeschenstein remembers working 10 hours a day — Chick must have missed some blossoms because others remember picking the big red strawberries for home and to sell to friends and neighbors. Still others remember that the horses working the fields would have red stained legs!

In 1903, Frank Beatty purchased 1/3 of the business.



R.M. Kellogg



Fields, R.M. Kellogg Company

Fur Mittens, Coats & Robes

Through the years the convergence of the three rivers brought many trappers to this area with their fur pelts.

O.T. Avery established the Three Rivers Robe Tannery (Three Rivers Furs) in 1891. In a small workroom Mr. Avery and an assistant took the raw skins, processing them into fur robes. The assistant was an Englishman who had a limited experience in tanning hides "with hair on." With an ingenious improvement in the preservation, curing, and tanning of skins the company rapidly developed. In 1902, a large brick building was erected. The manufacture of coats, robes, gloves and mittens made it one of Three Rivers' leading industries.

In 1901, the National Fur Tanning Co., a smaller tannery and fur tannery, was located by the Pealer Street Bridge. It was managed by George H. Arnold. They specialized in Galloway hides (cattle with long black hair) which made up into a durable, handsome coat lighter than the buffalo robe.



At Michigan Central Depot

Spanish American War

In May 1898, amid cheers and tears, wild enthusiasm and sorrowful scenes of parting, Company K left Three Rivers for Island Lake and the Spanish American War. The men assembled at the Armory Opera House under the command of Capt. Charles P. Wheeler, 1st Lieutenant Wade L. Swartout, 2nd Lt. W.F. Park and Quartermaster Sgt. James McJury.

Schools, factories, business houses were closed and at least two thousand people witnessed the departure. The Grand Army Boys turned out in large numbers and escorted the recruits to the Michigan Central Depot in Lockport. Special attention was given to Charles Boyer as the only high school boy permitted to enlist. When the train reached Jackson, Michigan for a long lay over, the citizens of Three Rivers had arranged for a great reception and a fine meal. In September only 47 fever-ridden men of Company K returned to Three Rivers. Company K was one of the few Michigan units to see action in Cuba. The town staged a big homecoming, a parade led by the Three Rivers Cornet Band, 280 school children, all the civic organizations, the Civil War Veterans, and finally Company K in carriages — Willard King, Louis Evans, Charles Hitchcock, Walter Jones, F.E. Davery; corporals: E.J. Stillwell, S.L. Culbertson, B.C. Nottingham, Charles Salter, Charles R. Arner, J.L. Dockstader; artificer: Ross Appleman; wagoner: Harmon Legg. The chaplain was C.H. Sage and the physician was L.D. Knowles.

Parade honoring Spanish American War veterans.



Three Rivers Race Track Three Rivers Tribune June 19, 1891

"The town is full of fast horses, and horse-talk is heard on every hand. The races were to have begun Wednesday, but the heavy rains made a change of program necessary, and so the managers cut the Gordian knot by postponing each day's exercises one day.

Yesterday was a very fine fair day all the pleasanter by reason of the rain of the previous day — the track was settled and the dust nicely laid. During the afternoon, the flyers were groomed and exercised, and exercised and groomed, the delay in the races only adding intensity to the interest and attending excitement. The attendance met expectations.

Madame Marantette was on hand with her celebrated high jumping steed, Filemaker, and sat on his back like a statue, while he cleared the 7 ft. 3/4 in. gauge breaking his record by 3/4 inch. It is something marvelous to see him rise up in mid-air like a bird of prey and skim over a barrier of such wonderful altitude."

The Fairgrounds

The fairgrounds on the northwest end of town had horse racing. The fairgrounds had a grandstand and the entrance was on Main Street. This was probably a favorite pastime of the men — to make and to lose money! Women were not so interested — too hot and dusty!

Three Rivers Race Track



Three Rivers Becomes A City 1905

Three Rivers became a city in 1905 through a charter granted by the State of Michigan. M.H. Bumphrey was the first mayor, Fred J. McMurtie, clerk. The aldermen were: A.H. Hulyar, C.E. Perrin, George C. Brissette, John Tracy, Isaac Lomis, B.F. Schoock, E.G. Tucker, A.N. Hill, William P. Gibbs, and George E. Miller.

City Fathers take note: in 1907 Mayor Foster reported a \$6,000.00 surplus in the city treasury!

In 1918, a city manager-commission form of government was adopted and incorporated under a new charter. W.H. Gay, F.H. Kohrer and O.T. Avery were elected city commissioners. O.O. Johnson was appointed city engineer. Charles Salisbury, for many years marshal, was appointed the first Chief of Police.

Marvin H. Bumphrey was Home Coming Historian in 1906. He was connected with the Robert Throp Company. When Three Rivers became a city he served as its first mayor. He was a member of Company "K" during the Civil War. He served twenty years as a secretary to Senator Burroughs from Michigan and later to Mark Smith of Arizona. When he was brought home to be buried in Riverside Cemetery the clerk of the Senate wrote: "He possessed one of the finest minds I have ever known and the Lord never made a better man."

Home Coming August 20-26, 1906

The weather during "Home Coming Week" was exceptionally dry and hot; each day the thermometer ranged at noon from 90 to 96 in the shade. Two stands were erected; one in the grove at Lafayette Park, for the afternoon meetings, and the other in the middle of St. Joseph Street for the band concerts in the evening.

Special to the Kalamazoo Evening Telegraph:

"Three Rivers, Mich., August 10 — Home Coming week from Monday, August 20 to Sunday, August 26, promises to be the biggest event in the history of this city and county. Arrangements have about been completed for the features of each day and elaborate programs will be in order. Tuesday, the 21st, will be specially set apart as 'Pioneer Day,' Wednesday, the 22nd, as 'Maccabee Day,' and Thursday, the 23rd, as 'Anniversary Day,' Friday, the 24th, 'Reunion Day'.

Many guests have been invited; among them Representative Hamilton, Judge Yapple, Judge Severens and Dallas Boudeman will be present on Tuesday, Governor Warner of the state of Michigan on Wednesday, and Vice President of the United States Fairbanks, and Senator Burrows on Thursday. A fine program has been arranged for each day, and many of the old-time residents have signified a desire and intention to be here during the week."

The Home Coming celebration on Wednesday was a hot one. Thousands stood in the sweltering sun to watch the big society and industrial parade. In the afternoon at Lafayette Park a 17 gun salute honored Governor Warner who addressed a great crowd assembled there.

The program also included music by the Three Rivers Cornet Band, a chorus of 100 voices and addresses by many visiting dignitaries of the Maccabees. At 3:00 athletic sports were held on Main Street, it included a 100 yard running race, broad jump, pole vault, and climbing a greased pole. At 4:30 water sports were held at St. Joseph Bridge; boat race (rowing), swimming and tub race. At 5:30 the Three Rivers Fire Department gave an exhibition drill and at 8:00 and 9:00 at the water works park a band concert and a grand display of fire works.

Thursday, August 23rd — Three Rivers Hustler:

"A large crowd gathered at the Lake Shore Depot this morning to receive Vice President Fairbanks, who was scheduled to arrive on the 10:18 from the north. After a large crowd had alighted from the train and the exodus of people had ceased the wise ones began to say 'I told you so — you'll get a message giving his excuses, etc.!' But just at that moment the second official of the nation appeared bowing to right and left. He was given a rousing ovation as he passed between two lines of people on his way to Hon. E.B. Linsley's automobile in which he was conveyed to Dr. Clark's residence."



Marvin H. Bumphrey



Home Coming — 1906

The Three Rivers Library 1905

The people of Three Rivers have always been interested in a library. Long ago, in 1837, when wolves were still at their door, and Indians peering in the windows, the early pioneers voted \$5.00 for a library plus a suitable case to hold the books.

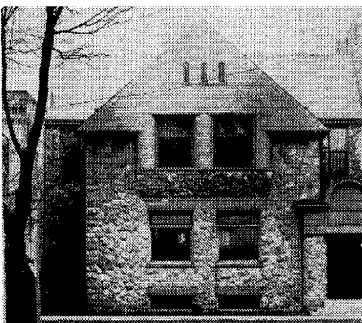
Through the years as the population grew so did the library. Also, through the years there has been bad luck — several times fire demolished the building the library was housed in.

In 1885, plans to levy a small tax to establish a library in Three Rivers began to formulate. Persons behind this movement were familiar names in our history such as E.B. Linsley, Walter Cheever, B.E. Andrews, G.A.B. Cooke. On July 17, 1889, the library opened with Mrs. Lucy Fellows Andrews as librarian in the "White Ribbon" rooms — now the second floor of the Knights of Pythias block.

In 1902, the mayor applied to Andrew Carnegie, the famous steel manufacturer, for a fund to build a city library. Carnegie offered \$12,000 for a new building if the city council would vote \$1000 for its support. The lot for the new building, between Main Street and Penn Street (Portage Ave.), was donated by Warren Willets, president of Sheffield Car Co.

In 1905, the new library opened. It was grand — broken fieldstone and pink granite (Jim Gleason's grandfather brought the stone in from his Fabius Farm). Two hundred and twenty-five dollars was paid for the hand carved oak circulation desk. There were oak floors, oak banisters, four Grecian columns, a fireplace with a green marble mantle, a circular rotunda with a beautiful skylight of mosaic glass.

Sue Silliman kept a vigilant eye on the library. She was head librarian for over forty years.

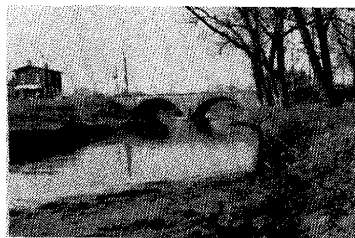


Three Rivers Library

Miss Sue Silliman "Miss Librarian"

Miss Sue Silliman was "Miss Librarian" in Three Rivers practically her whole life. Her salary was \$1000 a year, and when money was not available she worked for half that amount.

During World War I she and Mrs. A.W. Scidmore and others sponsored Liberty Bond sales. She held many offices in the Abiel Fellows Chapter of the D.A.R. and was Assistant National Chairman of Genealogy. She was every inch a majestic figure — not the ordinary stereotyped image of a librarian. She "coaxed, cajoled, or commanded" as the situation demanded. She was also a leading figure in local "society," and at political gatherings. She carried on an extensive correspondence with prominent state figures to further her goals in genealogical or historical research. She was in great demand as a public speaker, and author of "St. Joseph in Homespun."



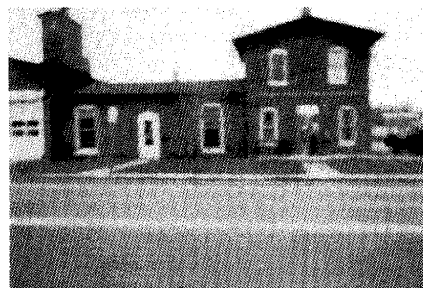
Police and Fire Station

Hazen Lumber Company

In 1907, Wirtz Hazen came from Jonesville to start a retail lumber, coal, and building material business. It grew to be one of the largest in the county with the largest shed in the State of Michigan. His yards were equipped with adequate stocks of various grades and varieties of lumber. He also established a coal elevator which made the unloading of coal much easier. Perhaps, more exciting to the people in the 1900's — he had the first automobile — a "Jackson."



Hazen Lumber Company



Three Rivers Telephone Co.

In 1882, the first telephone exchange was installed over Smith's store on St. Joseph Street. They had 43 phones.

In 1896, there were two companies in town — The Bell Telephone Co. and the Three Rivers Telephone Co.

Professional and businessmen had to have phones from both companies and their ads in the newspapers would include "both phones."

This arrangement was confusing. When you called grandma, her telephone might be on the other exchange, and she would have to go next door and hope that phone was on the exchange with you! Homes with "both phones" almost had to act as sub-stations. Because of the confusion and inconvenience the companies merged in 1905. They built a fine brick building. By 1913, they had 700 subscribers. Their rates were reasonable (by today's standards — cheap). Business phones were \$30.00 a year, residences were \$17.00 a year with no federal or state tax.

John Cunkle started work for the Bell Co. in 1896, in the front rooms over Watson's Shoe Store. The exchange had 52 phones. Among the early operators were Frank Burrow, Kate Edelman, Kate Furey. John was night operator. Grace Carrick (Playford) and Jeanie Carrick (Skinner) were the first girls to serve as night operators.

In 1901, Marvin Brown was the night operator for the Three Rivers Telephone Co. He was also the messenger boy and trouble shooter — all for \$3.00 a week!

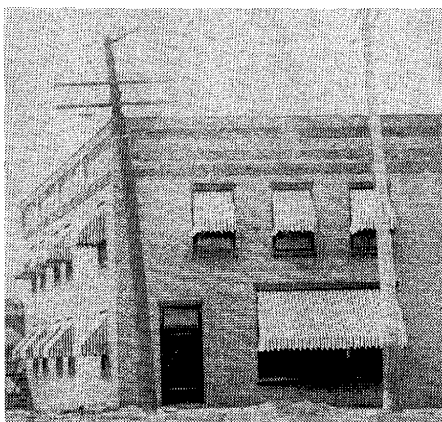
The telephone operator played a major part in the "home town doings." She knew where the fire was, the correct time and what the basketball score was, if the team was home yet, and where Aunt Bessie went at 4:00 (didn't sound like a far off mechanical voice saying, "You have taken too long to dial, will you please hang up and dial again?").

Remember the wall crank phone — "one long and two short" — you always knew who was being called and if your parents didn't catch you, you could listen in — the more intimate the conversation, the more fun!

Quincy Knitting Mill

Quincy Knitting Mill across from the Water Works, was owned and managed by George Arnold. They manufactured knitted goods from woolen and merino-yarns. Mr. Arnold was a busy and successful man. In 1913, he was the Mayor of Three Rivers and Prosecuting Attorney for St. Joe County.

In the 1920's, Merrill Warner established a laundry in this building. He maintained a laundry here for 26 years. A fire destroyed the laundry in 1952.



Three Rivers Telephone Company

History of Grant Chapel

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was started in 1787 in Philadelphia, but it was not until 1917 that enough Blacks had collected in Three Rivers to begin to "feel an urgent need to unite in Bible study."

"History can only be made by the works of people striving to achieve a goal so that a record can be made to inspire others to carry it out and make improvements."

This was the idea that Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Swaney, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Van Dyke, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Williams and Mr. Samuel Outland had when they organized Grant Chapel in the year 1917. The group started to look for a building where they could have regular worship and Sunday School.

In 1918, they purchased a barn on North Main Street and had it moved to its present location on Fourth Avenue where it was remodeled into a church. The first pastor appointed after Grant Chapel joined the A.M.E. conference was Rev. J. Roundtree.

The congregation has had many difficulties through the years but have won a respected place in the community. During the depression days the church offered the city's coal and wood dealers a yearly delicious southern fried chicken dinner in exchange for fuel to heat the church during the frigid winter months.



Quincy Knitting Mill

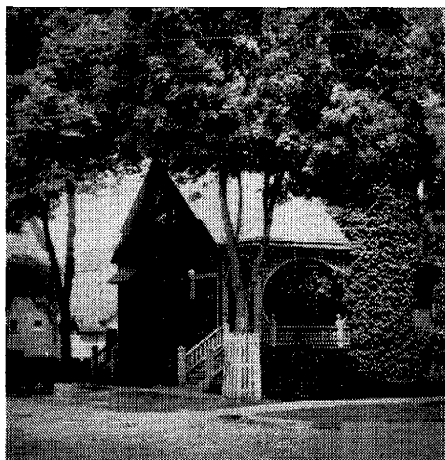
First Church of Christ Scientist

Mrs. Von Warner of Chicago was the first Christian Science practitioner to present the doctrines of Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy to the people of Three Rivers in 1888. She had a small class at the home of Mrs. Isaac Seeley on Flint Avenue. By 1902, there was an interested group studying the teachings of Christian Science. The first society in the city was organized about that time.

The society was reorganized in 1912, and the following were among the charter members: 1st and 2nd Readers, Mr. and Mrs. Owen Kellogg, Mrs. Lucy Seekell, Caroline Klose, Isaac Spaulding, and Martha Cochran.

Some of the readers were: Mrs. Edgett, Miss Lottie Seekel, Mrs. Yagerlehner, Mrs. Maude Haddon, Miss Blance Deisch, Mrs. Ina Seibal, Mrs. Lucy Lamb, Mrs. Margaret Clayton, Mrs. Lucy VanAlstyne, Mrs. Eunice Verheul, Mrs. Esther Waffle, Mrs. Beatrice Besley, Dyo Waffle, and Mrs. Glenna Jones.

During 1912-1913, services were held in G.A.R. Hall. In 1914 through 1921, services were held in the Reinstra Apartments. A need for larger quarters caused the group to move to the Vaudette theatre in 1921. During the summer of 1923, the present building was erected on East Kelsey Street. It was dedicated in 1925.



Dr. L.D. Knowles Home

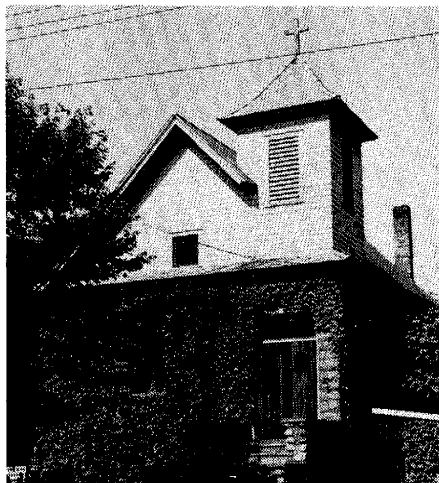
St. Peter's Lutheran Church

St. Peter's Lutheran Church had its beginning in 1884. By August, 1885, a resident pastor was serving the Centreville, Fabius, and Three Rivers congregations. These first services were held in rented rooms at the corner of Portage Avenue and Main Street. By 1890, services were being held in the Methodist Protestant Church on Ninth Street.

On May 31, 1896, nine charter members signed a new constitution. In 1905, land was purchased on Wood Street and a new building was erected at a total cost of \$1600.00.

Originally, most of the services were in German. In 1929, the members voted to have two Sundays with English services followed by one Sunday with German. By 1934, German services were held only once a month, and by 1942 they had been discontinued entirely.

After having been part of a multiple parish for sixty years, in 1945, the decision was made to sever connections with the Centreville and Sherman congregations. The present church and parsonage were dedicated in 1958.



St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Post Office

Dr. L.D. Knowles

Dr. Lawrence D. Knowles graduated in 1874, from Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York City. He was city physician and surgeon of the 2nd Regiment, Michigan National Guard.

His beautiful home, with many barns and a gazebo, was torn down in 1911 to make room for the federal building — the United States Post Office (in the same location — 1886).

The Federal Building

The Federal Building or the Post Office was built in 1911. The city fathers were very excited when they received word that Three Rivers could have a new post office. A committee was appointed, many meetings held, different prospective sites discussed and the final decision — the O'Dell property which was formerly Dr. Knowles' home. The dedication was an important day. School was recessed so the students could join in the historic event.

Today, the government-built office is located at 100 N. Main Street and was first occupied in 1915. Prior to that time, the Post Office was located in a leased building at 105 N. Main Street.



Dr. L.D. Knowles

War Memorial Unveiled 1903

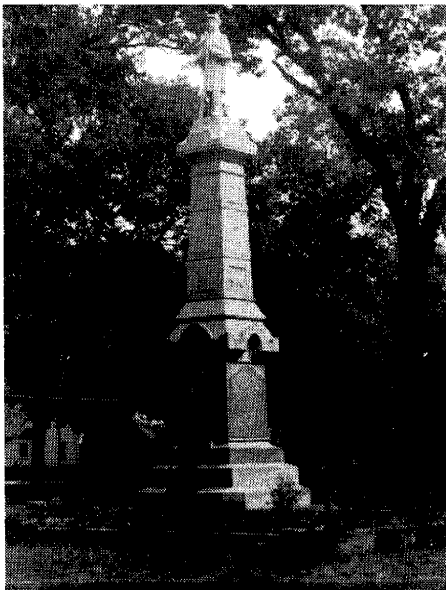
On May 30, 1903, several thousand persons coming in carriages and marching in one of the most spectacular Memorial Day parades in history, stood in respectful silence as the words of Attorney Russel P. Pealer, and Bishop Andrews were spoken — dedicating the Civil War memorial boulder in Riverside Cemetery.

The boulder, weighing 27 tons, 54,000 pounds, was moved and set entirely by hand with the aid of horses and a monster stoneboat. The monument is five feet wide and six feet thick and stands close to nine feet above the ground.

Members of the Ed. M. Prutzman post were credited with the achievement. The boulder is of native granite and was "dug up" on the farm of Joseph Heindell — four miles west of here in the hilly section of Fabius known as "The Knobs."

A tremendous amount of labor was required in the excavation — the moving with block and tackle — and the long haul with two teams of straining steeds — over rutty dirt roads to the cemetery.

The determination and cooperation of the Ed. M. Prutzman Post and the veterans of the Spanish American War made the impressive monument possible.



Bowman Park, Soldiers' Monument

The Mayor Who Moved The Monument

Mr. A.T. Van Alstyn was born in 1856 in Illinois. After he grew to manhood he worked in a bank, clerked in a drygoods store, farmed, worked for Carson Pirie Scott in Chicago, and finally owned his own business which he moved to Three Rivers in 1922. As Mayor of Three Rivers in 1927-1928, he made quite a few changes in the city. One was to persuade the Governor of Michigan to pave Third Avenue and bring M-60 through the city. He was the prime force in moving the Soldiers' Monument from the intersection of two highways in the center of town to Bowman Park. Also, he petitioned a Charter Amendment that would change the city from a three member Commission to a five member Commission and have the election of a Mayor. Many more changes in Three Rivers were accredited to Mr. Van Alstyn.



A.T. VanAlstyn — 1927-28

J.H. Pratt American Photo Supply and Manufacturing Company

Have you ever seen an old postcard picturing Three Rivers, signed by J.H. Pratt and a cancellation mark of the early 1900's?

J.H. Pratt was President of the American Photo Supply Card and Manufacturing Company. The company took many pictures of Three Rivers. They produced an exclusive line of photographic supplies and accessories, one of the best in the United States.

Perhaps you have a picture of a grandmother sitting sedately in a large ornate wicker chair. It, too, was the work of the Pratt Company.

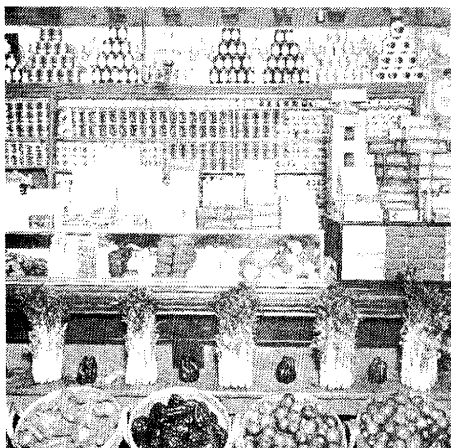


Horse and Buggy Days

Ed Ash's Grocery Store

Old Dutch Cleanser, pickles in a barrel, big round cheese, penny candy, slabs of plug tobacco, big ornate cash registers, fly paper hanging from the tin ceiling, barrels of kerosene, bananas hanging by the bunch, wooden floors and benches for weary customers — all could be seen in Ed Ash's grocery store on St. Joseph Street. He maintained a grocery store for 44 years, offering his customers free delivery service, and fresh vegetables and fruit from Martin Verhuel. Housewives cry — fresh ground coffee sold for 22¢ a lb.!

The Bazar, a variety and candy store, was run by Mr. and Mrs. Eaglesfield. Kerosene lamps, lace trimmings, garters, fly paper, celluloid dolls, celluloid collars and cuffs, pins, needles, thread, hairpins, a few dishes — a store where you could find most anything you wanted. Then there was a candy counter where tempting goodies sometimes pulled a small boy to the end of the counter where there was an opening. While reaching in, he was immediately caught and rest assured — he never tried it again.



Three Rivers Hospital

In 1926, the Three Rivers City Hospital was built on the beautiful hill high above the St. Joseph River bordering the Scidmore Park. It opened for business in 1927, with 24 beds and the latest equipment. The city passed a bond for \$70,000 and a 2½ mil tax.



Three Rivers Hospital Addition — 1959

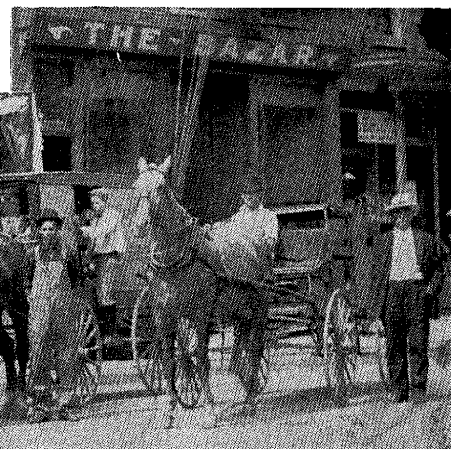


W.W. French

W.W. French — Mayor of Three Rivers who served three terms during the "Gay Nineties." He was a member of the school board for six years, member of the famous French paper making family and in 1895, served as active manager of the Three Rivers Paper Co.



W.W. French



Ed Ash's Grocery Store

Adam Armstrong

Adam Armstrong, born in 1876, in Stark County, Illinois, attended Toulon Academy in Illinois. In 1900 he moved to Three Rivers and began to manufacture bicycle spokes. The first Armstrong building (Halverson's parking lot) was a wooden structure donated by the City of Three Rivers to induce the firm to settle here.

The idea for a steam trap was presented in 1910, by Otto Arner. Mr. Armstrong developed the idea and by 1929, the wooden building was too small to accommodate the increasing business. A new red brick building was built at the present 816 Maple Street location. For over a half century he guided the Armstrong Machine Works to becoming a world leader in the manufacture of industrial steam traps. It became a very stable business — layoffs were virtually unknown.

On his desk was a sign "The Big Boss," there was nothing officious about it, everyone knew he thought "big" about his job and community.

In 1954, Armstrong Hall was built. Mr. Armstrong remembered the gift of his first building from the city. This was his way of thanking the community, and he overruled the idea that the facility was to be an employee's 'clubhouse.' Mr. Armstrong wanted it to be a civic center. Through the years countless banquets, business meetings, dances, family reunions, motion pictures and even weddings were held there.

Adam Armstrong was an active member of the Presbyterian Church, Life member of the Sauganash Country Club and a charter member of the Three Rivers Rotary Club.

An active and influential civic leader and philanthropist, he had a strong interest in young people and assisted many with their formal education. He was a kind and generous man. The land for the Armstrong Athletic field was donated by him.

In 1901, he married Margaret Fowler; they had three children — Lawrence, Margaret, and Betty. Upon the death of his wife he married the former Bonnie Avery Bodley.

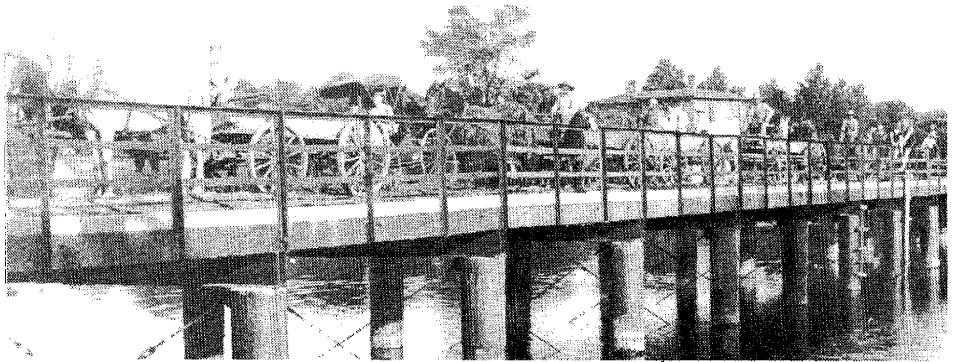
Adam Armstrong

Eddy Paper Mill

On May 13, 1919, work was commenced in the Eddy Paper Company, a fibre container factory. By the next year their power plant was in operation. Their 300 ft. smokestack was a familiar landmark. In 1929, they added a new office and a large steel warehouse.

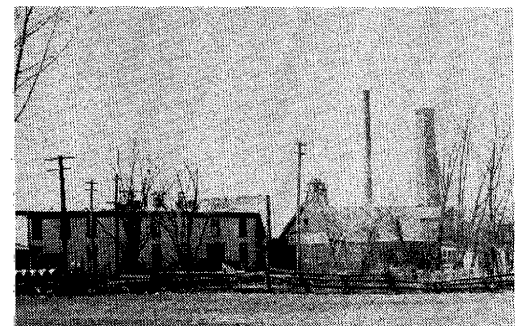
People from Three Rivers and surrounding areas worked on the beaters, rollers, corrugators, presses, cutters, printers, stitchers — women worked for 10¢ an hour, ten hours a day, the men for 15¢ an hour. Each year there came a raise, until the depression and the hourly wage went back to 15¢ an hour.

Many families who did not work at the mill owned a long-lasting memento — the "Paper Mill Blanket" — heavy and cozy warm. Housewives would bind the raw edges with cotton material. Long after they were no longer of use in the home, the blankets were found at cottages and on camping trips.



1879

Wood Street Bridge carried a great deal of traffic — 2nd and 4th Wards.

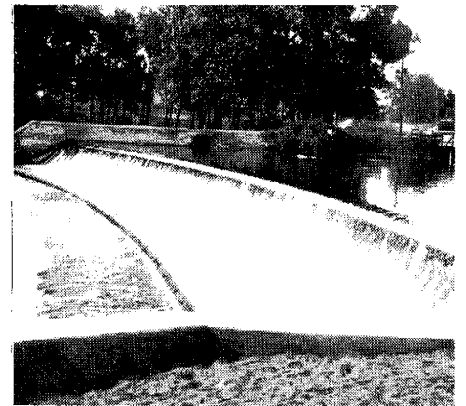


Eddy Paper Mill

Wood Street Dam

The Cement Dam over the St. Joseph was built in 1879. The first dam of logs and dirt was built in 1851. The long bridge in the background, the Wood Street Bridge, was built in 1911.

Note: The Wood Street Bridge, no longer in existence, cost \$10,000 to build and was demolished in 1984 at a cost of \$90,000 (plus \$1,000 engineering fees)!



When Bridges Were Built

1901
East Michigan across the Portage

1903
Sixth Street across the St. Joseph
(moved in 1925)

1903
Flint Avenue, South Main across the
St. Joseph

1904
Mill Street across the Rocky

1911
Wood Street across the St. Joseph

1912
West Michigan across the Rocky

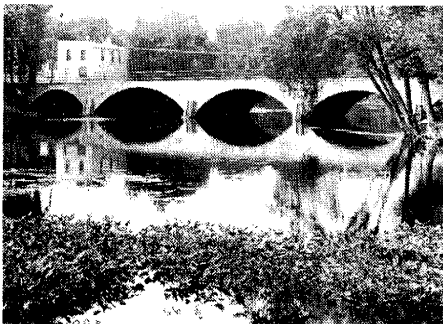
1917
Fifth Avenue across the Portage

1917
East Hoffman across the Rocky

1919
East Hoffman across the Rocky

1924
Broadway across the St. Joseph
(original in 1878)

In 1895, Three Rivers had 16 wagon
bridges and two railroads.
The 1900's must have been a
"bonanza" for bridges.



Flint Avenue Bridge.



Railroad Bridge



Johnson Bridge — Hoffman Bridge

Flood — Early 1900's

The Portage, Rocky and St. Joseph
Rivers have had many floods through
the years.

The school board paid to have the
students ferried to school, and the
telegraph operator at the Michigan
Central had to hire a boat to get to
his hotel room.



Behind the High School.



The railroad track of the L.S.M.C.,
before it crosses the bridge, is in
trouble.



The Portage River taking out the Hoff-
man Street Bridge at the Hoffman Mill.



Flint Avenue



Flint Avenue (South Main Street) —
resembles a lake — you could row a
boat right down the avenue. Some-
times it would get as deep as three
feet.

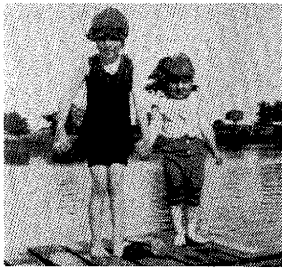


Flint Avenue

Summer Fun

Picnics

Picnics were a favorite summer pastime, and family reunions a yearly outing. Gallons of lemonade, pounds of homemade potato salad, dozens of meat and cheese sandwiches, apple pie and ice cream made from real cream and fresh strawberries was the menu. The men and kids would have a ball game; the women would sit around exchanging menus, patterns and exclaim over the newest baby — or baby-to-be! Sometimes the younger ones would go in swimming. The women's suits were respectable with bloomers, stockings, sleeves and a cap. The men were equally as respectable — pants down to their knees and a cover-up shirt. No matter — fun was had by all!



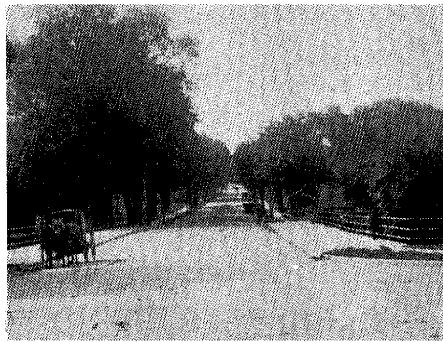
Flint Avenue "THE" Avenue

Flint Avenue was "The" Avenue, beginning at the Central House and running south to the Michigan Central tracks.

Flint Avenue was a lovely shaded street. A lady wishing to spend an enjoyable afternoon would go calling on "The Avenue." She would carry a lacy parasol, perched on her head would be a little straw hat decorated with ribbons and flowers. She always wore gloves and carried a "card case."

The caller would stop at Mrs. Hal Wilcox's, Mrs. Gus Arnold's, The Dexter's and the Hendersons'...and others. A full afternoon was well spent in friendship. When the lady of the house was not at home a calling card was left.

It was horse and buggy days — the days of the surrey with the fringe on top. A common but pretty sight in bygone days was to see women driving around town with carriage tops down, carrying gay parasols and wearing flattering feather boas.



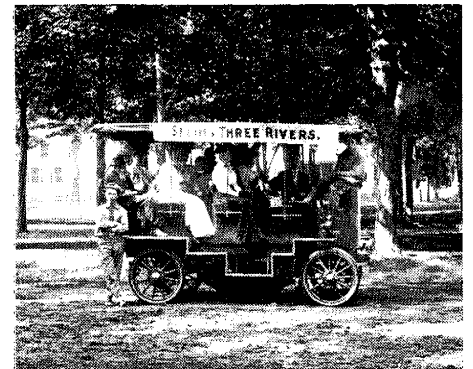
Flint Avenue

The Sight Seeing Bus

On a Sunday afternoon a ride about town went past the Waterworks Park with its elaborate flower gardens, down to the Scidmore Conservation and Tourist Park to see the new picnic tables, across the Pealer Street Bridge, down along the Rocky River, stopping for a cold cider at Johnson's orchard, over to the Fairgrounds — a most enjoyable ride! There were many places to see and visit.

Sprinkling Wagons

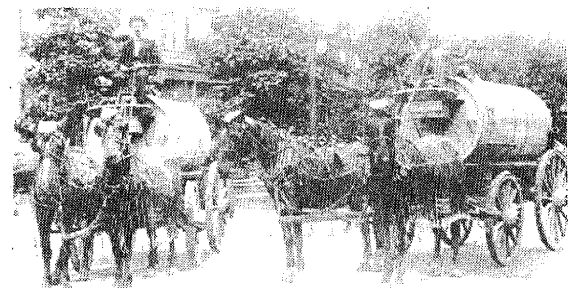
In the summer when it forgot to rain, the street would become a nightmare of dust and dirt. A welcome sight would be the big sprinkling wagons spraying the hot dirt, wetting it down. Every kid on the street would follow behind having a grand time in the puddles, the cool mud oozing up between toes. In summer another irritation was the flies — notice the horses have on their long fly nets.



The sight seeing bus



Swimming pool???



Sprinkling wagons

Band Concerts

Band concerts in the park — people would sit on the grass around the band shell in Lafayette Park on a Sunday afternoon or in the cool of an evening. There always seemed to be a hand for parades, dances, ceremonies, concerts. The members wore colorful uniforms and could play and march with pride and enthusiasm. The Cornet Band and the Predmore Band were favorites. They always provided a pleasant hour of music.



The Ole' Swimming Hole

The ole' swimming hole in the Rocky River was below the bridge. It was forbidden territory for girls because if the July sun was hot enough — skinny dipping was fun — no place for giggling girls!

Below the Hoffman Mill was another favorite spot sometimes called "Dovetail." Not a bikini in sight but scratching wool suits that would never dry. Sometimes a passerby would get thrown in just for the "heck of it."

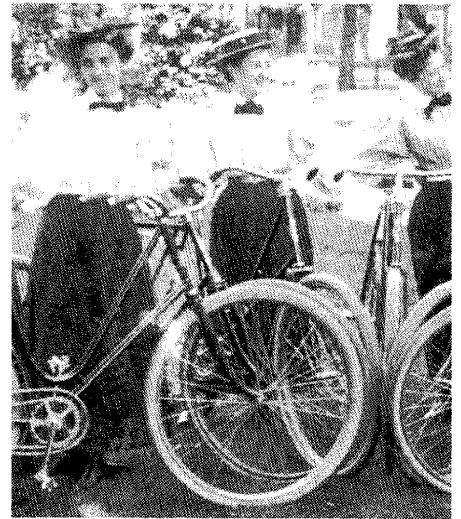
Bicycling

While the boys were swimming the girls went bike riding. It was a favorite pastime especially after they designed girl's bicycles. The more daring wore bloomers but it was more lady-like to wear your long skirt, shirt-waist and sailor hat. If the boyfriend went along, a bicycle built for two was perfect.

The Fair and the Circus

The fair and the circus — there was no better amusement in the world. The parades with bands playing, elephants, camels, clowns, wild animals — what more could one ask for? The Barnum & Bailey Circus brought 27 elephants one year.

Their big, old elephant wouldn't cross the bridge. He trumpeted and then waded the river! The excitement of the day was sometimes more than one person could endure — up at 5:00 a.m. to watch the roustabouts unload the animal cars, hours spent laughing at the clowns; watching in horror at the strange sights and sounds.



1905 — History

Chapter Five

**"Take Me Out To The Ball
Park — Buy Me Some
Peanuts and
Crackerjacks"**

BASEBALL!!!

The Maroons — 1898

The Three Rivers "Maroons", an all star ball team around the turn of the century — with their handle-bar mustaches and striped ball caps — looked like a ball team of the 1980's.

The ball park was located on an old show ground called "The Commons," bounded on the east by Portage Street; on the west by Elm; on the north by Hoffman; and the south by Wheeler. The field was surrounded by a high board fence with a grandstand. Outside the fence were tall oak trees — box seats for the young boys of town.

Some of the players were Fred Rohrer, John Robinson, Ernie Baker, Fred Van Dyke, George Taylor, Steve Boyer, John Benham, Jess Evans and Bert Sanders. A popular sport, the men of town never missed a game.

**Sheffield Car Co.
Baseball Team — 1906**

In 1906, Sheffield Car Company had a fine team. Sam Bennett, Rollie Drumhiller, LaVerne Dougherty, Len Sanders, Carl Stropaugh, Fred Van Dyke, Ernie Baker — all stars of yesterday and evidently, as the years went by, some of the local stars continued to play with later teams.



City League Baseball Team. Ask Joe Brackett who they are!!!

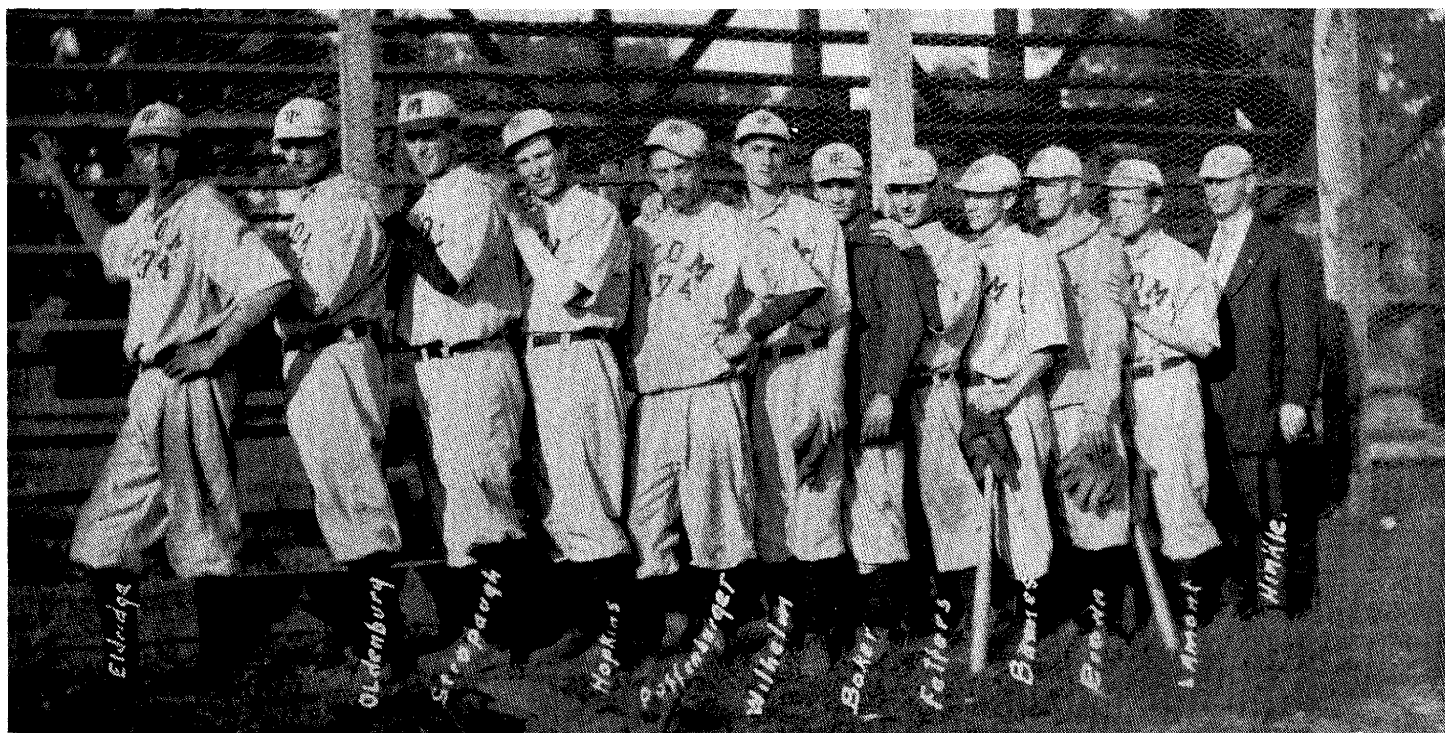
**Loyal Order of Moose
Ball Team — 1914**

The Moose No. 474 Baseball Team used to play on King's Diamond (near the hospital). Ray Poffenberger, desk officer at the police station remembered:

"When they hit foul balls back of the stand, the land was all muck and springs. The kids would shove the ball down into the mud. After the game was over they would go and pick them up...we lost a lot of balls to the kids.."

When the new field back of the high school was built, the ball team paraded down to the field to the music of Earl Crout's band. Gordon Stockdale, Jim Eldridge, "Poffy" Poffenberger, Dennis Hopkins, China Gee, "Doc" Yorton, Paul Shafer, Jay Baker, Fred Oldenberg, LaVerne Dougherty, Mike Shivelis — all played for the Moose team. They were good and versatile. Fred Miller (former clerk at the post office) was a whiz of an outfielder.

With no TV, bowl games or "Miami Vice" to watch, everyone got in the act and there was fun and excitement for everyone.



1913 — Sheffield Car Company team.

1905 — History

Morsemen — 1920

In 1920, Fairbanks Morse Company purchased the Isaac Steel land for an athletic field on Madison and 14th Street. Six hundred to seven hundred men belonging to the association turned an alfalfa field into a great baseball park, "E.B. Linsley Field." It had everything! — a grandstand with 900 seats with comfortable backs, dressing rooms, showers, restrooms, concession stands — cost unknown! The first President of the Fairbanks Morse Athletic Association was Warren Merrill who worked day and night to make Linsley Field a success.

The Morsemen were one of the finest semi-pro teams in the country. At the opening game, June 24, 1920, 1500 attended and watched with wild enthusiasm as the Morsemen defeated the Battle Creek Postums seven to one!!! In the season of 1920, the Morsemen scored 22 victories and ten defeats.

In the great years from 1923 through 1929, the Morsemen played in a league of "top notchers" in the area. Not necessary to say, but they were rivals of another great team — the Sturgis Spence Club.

During those great years they also played teams from Detroit, Chicago, Kansas City, Kenosha, Wisconsin, and the House of David. In order to insure a winning team, "imports" were brought in from the Cubs, the American Association and, closer to

home, from Kalamazoo came Rudy Miller, Harve Freeman, Fred Spurgeon and Phede Lambke.

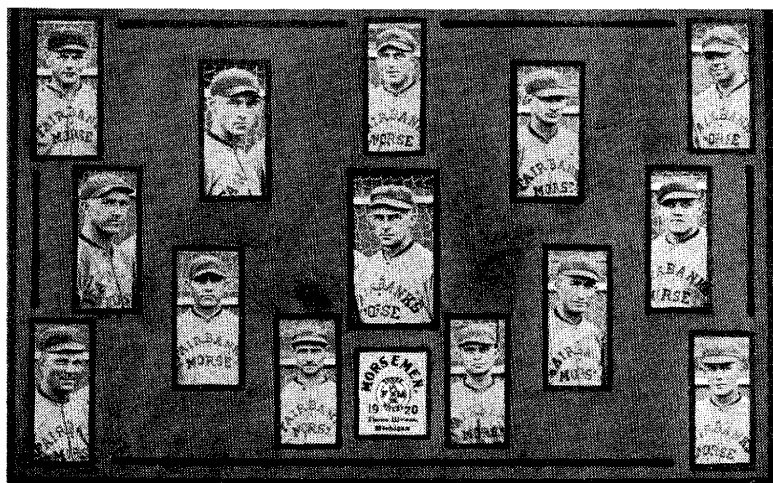
The local heroes were: "Tack" Tessin, "Tris" Kline (a leading hitter), "Doc" Yorton, Johnny Oswalt, Taxi Hackenberg, Lew Bellazza, Clayton Keith, Harry Schoch; and later Paul Wilhelm, and Ryald Marvin.

To add to the fun and excitement, the big Fairbanks Morse Band, directed by W.J. Predmore, played at all of the games.

Still later, Johnny Bellazza, Jack DalPonte and many other local "talents" didn't play for Fairbanks Morse but in a club that continued after the "death" of high priced semi-pro baseball.

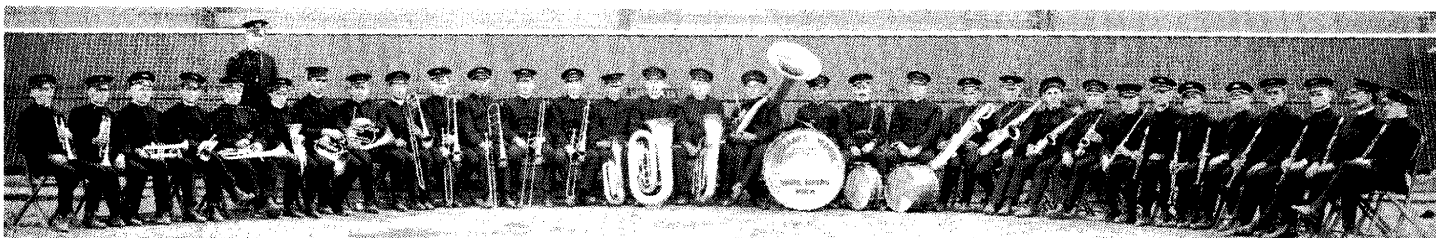
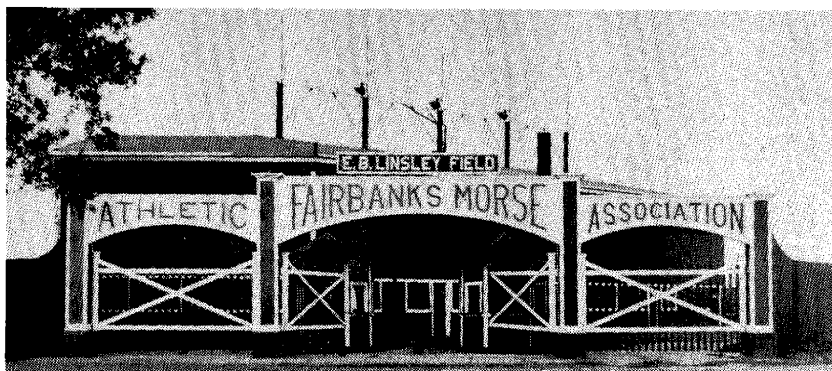
News Item — 1934

Four teams will battle away in the first bargain baseball game presented to Three Rivers fans in many a year at E.B. Linsley Field when the Eddy Corporation team clashes with the Blue Eagles Mill Union team.



E.B. Linsley Field

1920 Morsemen



Fairbanks Morse Band

Winter Snow

The winter of the big snow — no one can remember exactly when — we've had so many of them. On St. Joseph Street it was easy to clear the sidewalk of snow — just pile it in the middle of the street. Horses with sleighs and buggies didn't mind.

The telephone lines are down — another ice storm! Not much talking on the phone, a sorry day for the women. The men with the hats, suits, and white shirts must be telling the other men what to do. With all that tangle of wire two sidewalk superintendents were needed.



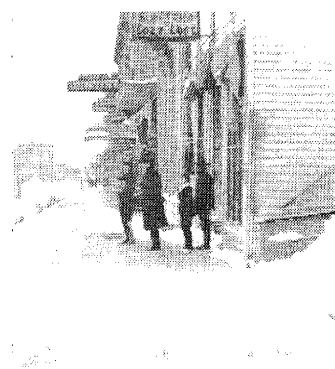
Economy



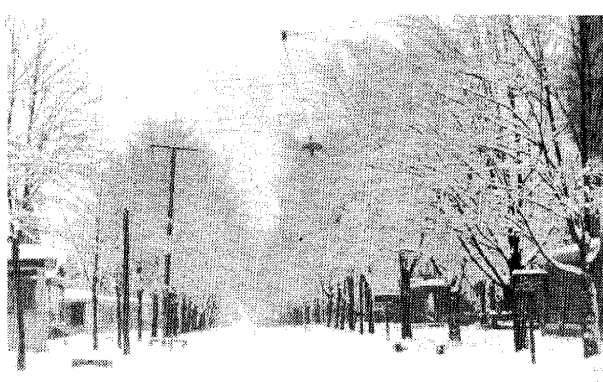
After the sleet storm



After the sleet storm



St. Joseph Street



Portage Avenue

Some of the Oldest Fraternal Organizations and Societies in Three Rivers — 1852 - 1920

- Three Rivers Lodge No. 57, F & A.M. — Chartered 1852
- Salathiel Chapter No. 23, R.A.M. — Chartered 1859
- Three Rivers Council R. and S.M. No. 7 — Chartered 1869
- Odd Fellows, Excelsior Lodge No. 80 I.O.O.F. — 1860
- Curtis Encampment No. 39 — Chartered 1870
- St. Joseph Historical Society — Organized 1873
- Good Templars Lodge No. 660
- G.A.R. Edward Prutzman Post No. 72
- Knights of Pythias Three Rivers Lodge No. 43 — 1883
- Pythian Sisters — Crescent Temple No. 57
- Three Rivers Commandery No. 29 K.T. — Chartered 1872
- Three Rivers Camp No. 846 M.W.A. — Chartered 1889
- Three Rivers Court of Honor No. 468 — 1889
- Philharmonic Society — 1890
- Three Rivers Woman's Club — 1891
- Abiel Fellows Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution — 1905
- Fraternal Order of Eagles — 1911
- Loyal Order of Moose — 1911
- Benevolent Protective Order of Elks Lodge No. 1248 — 1911
- Order of Eastern Star No. 210 — 1913
- Order of White Shrine of Jerusalem Three Rivers Shrine No. 42
- Three Rivers Commandery — 1913
- American Red Cross — 1917
- Lady Elks — 1919
- American Legion Louis K. Hice Post No. 170 — 1920

We were rich in clubs — something for everyone.



1920 — Knights Templar parade in cross formation. North end, east side of business section — St. Joseph Street. City offices on left, Caldwell's department store, the Pythian Building, the Circular Arch, a theater front.

World War I

War on Germany was declared by the United States, April 6, 1917. A list was completed of all the men in St. Joseph County eligible for duty in the war. Draft number 258, George Van Ness, was the first man drawn for service. In September the first contingent of men was sent to Camp Custer.

Dr. Scidmore was ordered to Camp Custer for hospital staff duty.

The patriotic appeal, "Make the world safe for democracy," sent the whole country into wild preparation to do their part in fighting "a war to end wars." They entered the war with great enthusiasm. Deeply stirred, they were willing to sacrifice comfort, money, and even their lives in a war against the "forces of evil." The local board inducted 521 into the service. Thousands of dollars were generously contributed to Liberty Bonds. Military training was organized in the high schools, and the German language dropped from the curriculum. The local women spent hours on Red Cross work and were organized for national defense work.

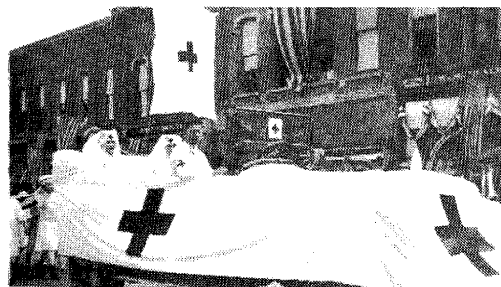
The fighting in France was bitter and hard. Many Three Rivers men participated in the battle Chateau Thierry and the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

Louis K. Hice who was with the first contingent to Fort Custer, wrote home to his family:

"Night, dead tired...mud to my knees...disgusted with absurd doings."

No letter was received after June 12 — killed in action; the first Three Rivers man to die overseas.

On June 4, 1919, Lieutenant Colonel Ganser instituted the Louis K. Hice Post No. 170 of the American Legion.



Red Cross Float

Impromptu Parade World War I

On the evening of the Armistice ending World War I on November 11, 1918, at 7:00 p.m. a big night parade — a great impromptu celebration, was organized. There were fireworks and the Predmore Band led the parade:

This directive went out to all citizens:

"Get a flag, horn, drum, dishpan, or anything that will make a noise and join the parade. It will be the Kaiser's funeral procession — and a day we have been looking forward to."

Banquet

A lavish banquet was given the returned soldiers by the G.A.R. (Veteran's of Civil War), the Women's Red Cross, and the Spanish American War Veterans.

September 1, 1919, a great Home-Coming celebration was held in honor of the returned soldiers and sailors of World War I.

Red Cross Float in the World War I Parade

The women of Three Rivers were active members of the Red Cross and spent many hours preparing hundreds of kits for wounded soldiers, providing surgical dressings for every conceivable purpose. Their first big order was for 80 hand knit sweaters!

Letters Home

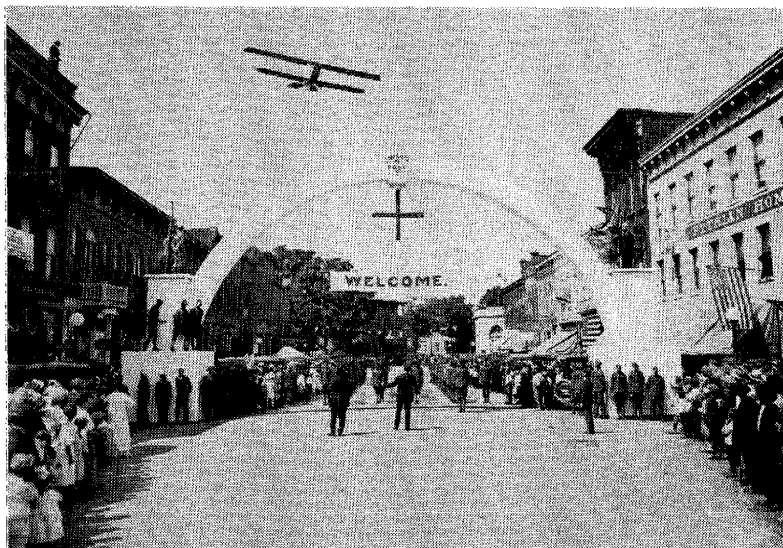
Willard and Warren Huss, twin sons of Murray J. Huss were ambulance drivers for the French Army.

Warren wrote to his father from a small village in France, February 6, 1918:

"Christmas day I had a lot of trouble with my car. I was called out to one of our posts at the front to get a load of blesses. I found that I could not make the long steep hills. The pressure pump for the gas tank was broken and I had not sufficient pressure in the tank to force the gas into the carburetor. But I merely turned around at the base of each hill and backed up, and then turned around again. I did this all the way to the post, got my blesses and returned the same way, backing up all the hills. I tell you that when I finished that trip my head was just spinning from riding backwards, and I was rather nervous, too. However, I got through it O.K. and that made me feel pretty good. It is late now, so I must close, sending you all my love and best wishes for a happy New Year. May that New Year bring us victory and peace."

Your loving son,
Warren

September 1, 1919 — Home-Coming Celebration



Chet Shafer

Chet Shafer was a well known character who used to be seen every day on the streets in his fur hat and his long coonskin coat. He lived in "The House of the Golden Rat Hole." A famous nationally known humorist, he gained many credits to make him a celebrity. He was one of the original nine organ pumpers at the Presbyterian Church. He wrote for the Detroit News, Chicago Journal of Commerce, the Saturday Evening Post and the Country Gentlemen. He was written up in a book called "Headlining America" by Frank L. Mott and in the Ford Magazine. He enjoyed writing "Three Rivers Doings," stories about the home town folks.

One of his columns concerned Three Rivers. It was called "Excitement in Three Rivers" and we quote verbatim —

"Amelia Earhart ate in the Old Snug Restaurant (Sands) one day this week...Mary Sands (Cal's wife) saw her first. 'If that ain't her sittin' in there I'm seeing things,' she said. She rushed out in the kitchen and told Cal who was out there frying eggs. Cal came in and the word spread around town, and Mary went in asked, 'Ain't you Amelia Earhart?' Amelia said she was and Mary put her hand to shake hands and Amelia never noticed it.

Pretty soon half the town poured in on some excuse, buying gum or what was cheaper still — to use the telephone or get a drink of water. Cal took charge of the situation and had Amelia autograph a dollar bill...Roy Hinckley heard about it up at the garage and tore out without his rubbers for the first time this winter. After Amelia had gone Dave Marvin said Cal should have had her autograph the chair she sat in...Cal said Amelia was about the first celebrity that ever ate in the Snug outside of Governor Brucker who came in for breakfast one morning after he had made a speech the night before. Cal didn't know him, and when Brucker asked Cal if he had heard the speech Cal said, 'No, I wouldn't go across the road t'hear a politician talk. I hear it was rotten.'

An Mary said she'd hate to be in Roy Hinckley's shoes when his wife found out that he went out without his rubbers.

As Prop'r of the City News Bureau, I was taking a nap up at the house after dinner the day Amelia Earhart came to town...Well, I finally came down and Amelia had just departed. So I asked Cal Sands, the Prop'r of the Old Snug Restaurant, which chair she sat on. I then scribbled a note on the bottom, 'Amelia rested here.' those weren't the actual words, 'between the hours of 12 noon and 2 p.m. on Feb. 13, 1935.' I then went over to the offices of the City Bureau and wrote the piece for Karl Lysinger, head of the Detroit News copy desk.

'Chair Worth Thousands'

That's the last thought I gave to the story on Amelia until the letter came notifying me of the selection of the piece for the Best News Book. I immediately went over to the Snug and asked Cal which chair it was Amelia had sat in. We had to turn over every chair in the place before we found it. Then I read Cal the letter, and he put the chair behind the counter and said, 'I wouldn't take a thousand dollars for that.'

Then Mary (that's Cal's wife) said some folks came in a while ago who had read about Amelia's visit someplace in some newspaper somewhere and wanted to see the chair. Mary said one of the party was some relation of Amelia...Mary didn't know just what relation that would make them but she showed them the chair. And when Cal heard Mary tell this story of that repercussion he said, 'I wouldn't take fifteen hundred dollars for it!'

So you can see the story of Amelia's visit is just the first chapter. The final chapter won't be written until Cal tries to sell the chair for \$1500 and his prospective customer takes it away from him and bashes him a good one over the head with it."

MRS. MAX BARTH (writes from Florida about Chet Shafer):

"I can still see him — standing in Wittenberg's News Stand at the bus station on Portage Avenue — 'shooting the breeze' after his daily jaunt down Main Street where he stopped to chat with friends. His fur coat and fur hat were set at a jaunty angle and he had a gleam of devilment in his eyes. He entered a contest for a seat in the House of Representatives against a durable old curmudgeon, Clare Hoffman, and was faced with an impossible fight. But when it was all over he at least came closer to unseating the incumbent than any other hopeful. Chet filed his report for campaign expenditures — his single item of expense was 25¢, 'to purchase a ball point pen for use in getting nomination petitions signed.' (No other candidate for Congress has ever spent less on a campaign."



Chet Shafer Quotes From His Autobiography

In a sketch he once wrote, he made this reference to his hegira from the halls of higher learning:

"After the first semester my biology professor said I was sour in my crustaceans and my history prof said I was sour on my Phoenicians, so I quit school in the spring."

The following is another quote from his autobiography:

"I once made a speech in Ann Arbor for the Michigan Press Club and Lee White of the Detroit News got up a resolution that my scholastic record of 30 years be removed. The dean refused to honor it."

A quote on his departure from the Detroit News:

"I once asked him (Bingay) for a raise and he queried, 'What for?' It was the shortest bargaining conference in history."

"There'll always be somebody to write about — like Ossy Poe, the only man in the world that liked horseradish on his doughnuts in the morning."

This is a quote from Chet Shafer's "Three Rivers Doings." Chet worked on newspapers from San Francisco to Paris but preferred to write about the hometown folks.

Kellogg Park

A beautiful park — a scenic spot sponsored by Kellogg Company. Colorful flowers, waterfall, gazebo, rose



arbor, a rustic bridge — a perfect spot for those special pictures. — Mrs. Frank Lepley.

For Your Health's Sake, Eat More Strawberries Mrs. F.E. Beatty's Recipe for Strawberry Ice Cream

"Wash, pick over and hull two boxes berries. Sprinkle with two cups sugar, cover and let stand two hours. Mash and squeeze through cheesecloth; then add three pints cream and a few grains of salt. Freeze, using three parts finely crushed ice to one part coarse salt. Strong arm action on the crank."



*Mrs. Beatty's
Strawberry Dainties
and
Other Recipes*



LAFAYETTE PARK
THREE RIVERS MICH

Lafayette Park — across from Hopkin School

Scidmore Park

In the beginning, the park lands of Three Rivers belonged to the Indians. For centuries, the big river of the Potawatomies flowed serenely to the Great Lakes. Through the years these lands evolved into the busy, thriving community of Three Rivers.

One of Three Rivers' most enterprising mayors was Dr. Arthur W. Scidmore, a well-known physician, World War I Major and avid wildlife lover. In the early evening, after a busy day of making his rounds of the sick, the doctor wandered down to the wild land on the east side of the Rocky River between the mill race and where the river flowed into the St. Joseph River. Feeding a pair of pet raccoons and listening to the birds and rushing waters, Scidmore visualized a park carved out of the wilderness, a place where young and old alike could see beauty, contentment and fun.

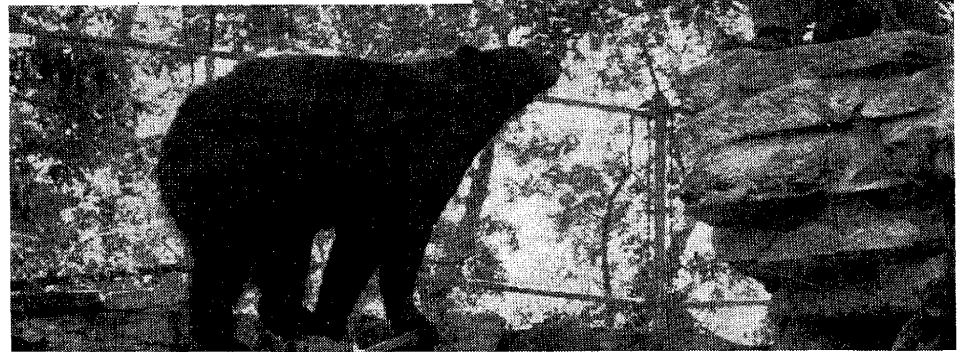
Due to Scidmore's untiring effort to realize this dream, the park, Scidmore Park and Tourist Camp, was dedicated in 1922, by the city commission and the Daughters of the American Revolution.



Dr. Arthur W. Scidmore

In 1927, the city purchased the west side of the Rocky River from Millard St. to West Michigan Avenue. For many years the property was a mixture of bog, tin cans, fruit jars, rubbish and swamp — the city dump!

On the flats behind Warner's Laundry, the Three Rivers Conservation League raised pheasants and partridges to make hunting better for local sportsmen. The conservation league (Clayton Conrad, president, Estes Griffin, vice president, David Marvin, secretary, and Merrill Warner treasurer) proposed a plan to the city commission. The proposal, accepted by the city, outlined the league's plan to make the park area around the hospital and the present park into a game farm for exhibiting game birds and animals as part of the Three Rivers' park system. The league, assisted by the N.Y.A. would landscape the grounds, construct pens and breeding coops, clean the trout ponds, build exhibition cages and carry out an extensive clean-up and landscaping program. The league wanted a full-time man to take charge of the operations, someone experienced who loved birds and animals. The popular choice was Estes Griffin. So in 1938, he took over what must have been an overwhelming, discouraging job.



Early park

The dump along Spring and West Michigan Streets had to be filled in, covering tons of glass, ashes and tin cans. Springs on the high ground were capped and ponds were cleaned and lined with stone. The lowland behind the hospital was filled in with hulks of old cars and draped with a layer of top soil. Where the Rocky River drained into the St. Joseph, the land was slimy green with swamp. Into that bog of cattails, quicksand and muck, the city dumped 2,100 truckloads of fill. City streets were being paved and loads of dirt were hauled, creating a point of land. On that point, "Estey" erected his lighthouse, carefully putting each stone into place.

The lighthouse has done its job, too. Visiting the park, Lee Kyle squinted downriver and said, "Don't think there ever has been a shipwreck down here."

At first there were no animals — "Estey" acquired them all a few at a time, deer from Milham Park, wild mallards from his son, and trout from Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery.

Scidmore Park continued

As shrubbery, flowers, trees and grass were planted; as the riverbank was lined with stones; as paths were hewn and bridges constructed; as hours were sacrificed and muscles ached, slowly the park emerged and took form.

In 1941, a stone tourist information booth was built with stones donated by Arthur L. Jones. Stones in the building are from the Upper Peninsula, Canada and Alaska, each of them set in place by Griffin, including a "skinning" stone which probably belongs to Princess Misaunuke.

"Estey Griffin, curator down at water cress park, with the 8-by-10 flagman's shanty with the round-bellied waiting-room stove," was how Chet Shafer described Griffin's command post through the years. From his shanty, Griffin hosted visitors from every state in the union and cared for and loved the animals who have lived in the park.

Old Joe, the ornery, cantankerous crow, was the gripingest crow ever heard. He perched on "Estey's" finger while a baby porcupine hung on the other. Estey would say, "Shift," and they would scurry to exchange places. And there was the American eagle who ate so much he had to be turned loose and Harry, the blue-eyed gander and his wife, fat, shy Molly. And the 65 pound beaver who lived in the concrete house in the upper pond.

And the peacock who flew over the Pierce's on West Michigan to visit their chickens. And Owlubi and Owleoni, the huge owls. And Porkey, the admired, but seldom petted porcupine, who bit the end of "Estey's" finger. And all of the deer; the most famous through the years was "ol' Buck," with his 13-point rack of horns. And the black bear who took a healthy chunk out of "Estey's" hand. But the kids' favorites have always been the ducks who winter on the east coast and return in the spring to call the park home.

The years have slipped quickly from cattails and quicksand to picnic tables, shelters, tennis courts and playground equipment.

"Estey" was a special park superintendent — one who got up at 2 a.m. to take care of the pheasant eggs; one who could create a wooden leg for a one-legged duck; someone who could teach a baby porcupine to walk on his hind legs; someone who could tame a badger into a loveable pet like "Sharky," and someone who could mend the torn fur of the deer and be a midwife to their babies.

"Estey" Griffin could talk to the animals. They could listen and understand when he said, "Come on Gus, play dead," or "Give me a kiss, honey...or, that's nice...pretty wet and sloppy, but nice."

"Estey" said one time he was down at a revival meeting at Warsaw, Ind., and an evangelist kept saying, "The light that shines the farthest, shines the brightest near home."

Scidmore Park, the park that "Estey" Griffin built, is the shining light of the city of Three Rivers.

Cannon In the Park

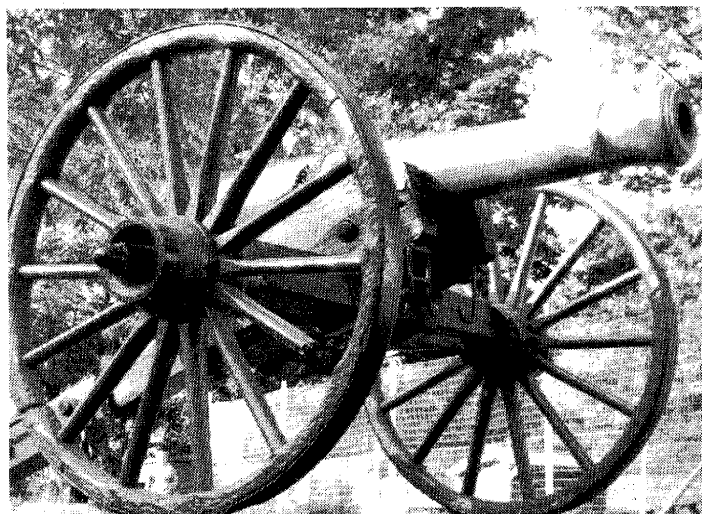
The cannon — "it's a real old one, dates back to 1847," was bought from the government for 10 cents a pound. Every Fourth of July the firing of the cannon was a signal to start the parade.

The last time the cannon was officially fired was in 1930. Felix Guethoff was the gunner. While his back was turned, some practical jokers filled the barrel with wet newspapers as Felix, pocket in hand, waited for high noon.

Promptly at the appointed hour, Felix touched his match to the cannon and WHOOM — it erupted! Aimed at the Hazen Lumber Yard, the gun splattered the whole intersection. When the smoke cleared back at the power plant, which had taken the full concussion — the sounds of breaking glass filled the air for 15 minutes. Nineteen windows were shattered.

The cannon was brought to the park years later. Chub Knapp used to say he wished it was aimed the other way because his coal yard was in direct range and with so many eager pranksters around you never could tell what might happen.

After the cannon had been in the park for two years, "Estey" Griffin wanted to see if the old cannon still worked — it did! BOOM! Puzzled, everyone downtown stopped to listen — sounded like a cannon — in Three Rivers!!!



History of Three Rivers Community Schools by Suzette Warner

The District of Three Rivers Community Schools was started over 150 years ago. The first school house was the McInterfer cabin on the west side of the Rocky River (Third Ward) in 1832-1833. In 1839, the district was reorganized and a one room frame building was constructed on what is now the intersection of Portage and Hoffman.

After five years, it was determined that the building should be closer to the center of town. It took 15 oxen to move the building to the west side of Main Street. In 1850, a brick building of 2 rooms was erected on the east side of Main Street. In 1859, this building was replaced by a three story building which later became the first high school.

Copies of School Board minutes became available to us starting in September 1859, when the first annual meeting was held in the new school house. Looking through these minutes we find the following chronological events:

1859
William Payne hired as first superintendent of schools

1871
First graduating class — Edith Mower and Mary E. Ranney

1873
Opened school in Third District in basement of Reformed Church

1879
Re-employment of Supt. C.S. Baker discussed for three meetings — finally employed Mr. Washburn

1882
Board instructed to confer with Second Ward with view to consolidation with the Union School

1882
Enrollments for all schools were:
First Ward — 393
Third Ward — 149
Fourth Ward — 79
Total — 621

1883
Voted \$2,500 to purchase a site and erect a building in Third Ward in the Arnold Addition

1884
Board recommends building a new Fourth Ward building — \$2,000 appropriated for site and brick building
Board policy requires all graduates of the High School to have an average standing of 80 in 17 subjects and 80 in Arithmetic, Grammar, U.S. History and Geography

1888
Addition built on Union School in Second Ward

1889
Voted to consolidate with School District No. 4 (Union School in Second Ward — Lockport)
First meeting held in October on new school district now known as District No. 1

Moved to put in a telephone in Second Ward building

1890
March 27, First Ward School building burned down
April 11, voted to erect a 2½ story building on the same site
September 19, first record of school being let out to attend the fair

1895
Notification that school is on the University of Michigan Accredited list

1898
Additional lots purchased for school site

1901
Voted to bond district for additions to both Third and First Wards
All rooms in First Ward building were closed for two weeks due to smallpox

1903
Present site of high school purchased and money borrowed to build a high school

1904
Jan. 7, fire destroyed First Ward Building — loss adjusted at \$17,433
Rebuild First Ward for \$15,477 plus furniture

1905
In September schools close due to scarlet fever
A new high school building is opened

1908
Expense of boat transportation of pupils up Flint Avenue (South Main) on account of flood, authorized

1913
Paper towels introduced in the high school

1915
February 12, schools closed due to laying corner stone of new Post Office
Athletic Field purchased behind school

1918
January 28, Second Ward building burns, voted to rebuild on same site

1919
Plan to build addition to high school

1920
Additional money needed to complete addition to high school — total cost \$290,870

1921
Dancing authorized at Alumni meeting

1923
Van Alstyn presents certain lots for athletic field if school board fences them

1924
Honor system for graduates adopted — Highest Honor, With High Honor, With Honor

1927
Site selected for new Third Ward building

Total school census showed 1,598 students with 58 teachers

1929
October 16, Bishop E. Andrews School dedicated — he served 31 years on the School Board

1931
February 5, Henry P. Barrows School dedicated — he served 20 years on the Board

1932
Nine teaching positions abolished, salaries of all staff and board reduced
Hiring of married women restricted
Unable to meet payroll for several weeks due to depression

1933
First mention of Second Ward school as Huss School. Mr. Huss served 24 years as a School Board Member.

1934
First Ward School now named Ruth Hoppin, former preceptress and educator

1935

Purchased additional land for practice field adjacent to the high school athletic field

1942

Ringling of outside bells is to be discontinued for the duration of the war

1947

School district becomes a registration district — instead of holding annual meetings all voting would be under General Election laws

Voted to purchase bus for transporting students

1949

Purchase 40 acres of land east of M-60 for an athletic field

Mainly through donations, an athletic stadium is started on this site

Mr. A. Armstrong donates property for field

1952

Voted to construct addition for Industrial Arts and bands and a basement at high school

1954

Cafeteria started at high school

1955

Purchase Kramb property for Barrows School playground

March, started construction for new Hoppin School and addition at Barrows

April 17, fire destroys older section of high school

People vote for school busing to and from schools

1957

Schock School District in Lockport Township annexes to city schools

1958

Hitzman property at 318 Fourth Avenue purchased

1960

After 42 years with school system, 24 years as superintendent, Walter Horst retires

1965

Vote millage for new Third District (Andrews)

Jones School District annexed to Three Rivers

1966

Johnny Cake-Hopkins, Lake Section and Park Community Schools vote to annex to Three Rivers

1967

School board increased from 5 to 7 members

1968

New gym and library area added to Huss School

1970

Due to crowded conditions split sessions are started at the high school

1971

Vote to build a new junior high school on M-60 just north of the athletic field

1973

Board votes to add rooms at Lake and Park

A cafetorium is added at high school

1975

Board votes to add rooms on at various buildings and do repairs at the high school

1977

Due to cut backs 15 teachers are released

Extra millage vote is defeated

1982

Huss School closed due to State Aid cuts and lack of money

Students are bused to other schools within the district

More cuts are made and teachers released

Administrative wages frozen for one year

Three Rivers Community Schools Area Foundation started

1984

Additional operating millage passed

Lake Section School renamed, Arvid E. Norton in honor of past board member who had served 31 years

Energy saving project started at all schools

To add to the chronological listing above we include current information. Presently our school district covers 120 square miles, enrollment (including adults) is 3,179 students, population within the area is estimated at 19,000 persons and we have 10 buildings which are used for instruction.

We are the second largest employer in the area with 222 full and part time personnel: 1 superintendent, 1 assistant superintendent, 126 non-certified personnel.

Our transportation department averages 2,000 student riders, and drives an average of 1,450 miles each day.

The school lunch department serves an average of 2,000 every day. During the past year 325,000 lunches were served.

1871 - 1915 — There were 656 graduates

1916 - 1961 — There were 4,011 graduates

1962 - 1985 — There were 5,458 graduates

The class of 1986 will number approximately 265 graduates, to date 10,390.

From 1859 - 1873, the head of the school was designated as either professor or principal. The title of superintendent first appears in the Board of Education minutes under the date of September 15, 1873.



Three Members of the Board of Education — 1920 (left) E.H. Andrews, M.J. Huss and H.P. Barrows.

Superintendents of Schools

1859-1868 — William Payne
 1868-1869 — J.C. Clark
 1869-1874 — L.L. Stone
 1874-1879 — C.S. Baker
 1879 (Oct.) — F.L. Kern
 1879-1880 — Mr. Washburn
 1880-1883 — David Howell
 1883-1885 — G.A. Osinga
 1885-1889 — C.H. Cheever
 1889-1892 — W.E. Hewitt
 1892-1894 — J.J. Jackson
 1894-1897 — L.J. Anderson
 1897-1901 — E.E. Webster
 1901-1907 — E.M. McElroy
 1907-1911 — L.L. Tyler
 1911-1915 — J.A. Wiggers
 1915-1924 — F.W. Crawford
 1924-1936 — C.H. Carrick
 1936-1960 — Walter Horst
 1960-1969 — Robert Davis
 1969-1971 — Warren Andrews
 1971-(3 months) — Robert Ashby
 1971-1975 — Harlan Hudgins
 1975- Ronald P. Reece

The record of high school principal is not always mentioned in the Board minutes. From 1917 to the present we have had only four high school principals:

1917-1936 — Walter Horst
 1936-1952 — Howard Dickie
 1952-1976 — Edmund Blank
 1976- William J. Jacobs, Jr.

It is difficult to write a history of the district because history can encompass so many events. People create the history of your district. No count has been made of the many persons who have served on the school board and the hours they have given the community. No count has been made of the many teachers and staff members who have passed through the schools; the students who have walked the hallways, and the fans and parents who have all helped shape the history of our district.

Editor's note: Because we may never expect to get this much information again, we have included the complete history of the schools up to 1986.

Three Rivers School Houses

1st Ward School — Hoppin

This splendid school was built in 1904. It included kindergarten through 12th. The school bell in the belfry ringing out brought students from all over the city to school.

Annett Cowling taught here for 39 years, teaching from the Appleton School Reader and drilling the 3 R's.

2nd Ward School — Huss-Lockport

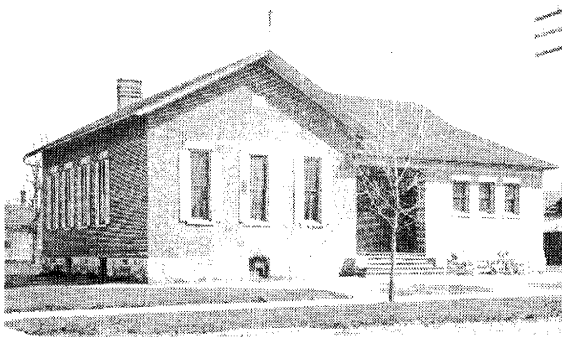
Union School in Lockport was located on 8th Street and was erected in 1868, at an expense of \$7,000 and an additional \$1,000 expended in its surroundings and fences. In 1869, there were 270 students enrolled. In 1889, Lockport School consolidated with Union School in Three Rivers. In 1918, this school burned and was completely destroyed. It was replaced by the present Huss building.

3rd Ward School (site of Fred's Grocery)

Kids in Canada began school in this little red brick school house. In 1915, an addition was authorized. Special outings for the students included picnics on the high ground above the river and sledding parties in the winter (site of Three Rivers Hospital).

4th Ward — Wood Street School

This school was built in 1884, and was used until 1930 when the present Barrows School was built. This is the only original school remaining in the city. In 1985, it was again a kindergarten — an overflow from all of the districts.



4th Ward School



3rd Ward School



1st Ward School



2nd Ward School — Lockport-Huss

High School

Crowded conditions in both first and second wards convinced the city to build a new high school. Erected in 1906, it was one of the finest in the state. It had a big open stairway, a study hall where every student had a desk, cloak rooms with hooks, a home economics room in the basement, a special art room, the chemistry room with elevated seats. Best of all was the big bell in the belfry. Sometimes in the dead of night someone would sneak in and ring the bell — just for the fun of it.

Junior High

In 1921, the junior high building was dedicated. It included a large auditorium with a stage and a balcony and a big gymnasium with a balcony. It was built for a cost of \$200,000. It had an office for the superintendent, and an office for the secretary of the board and a truant officer!

You really felt big when you came here as “Rhines” — that was until you got a good look at the seniors and found yourself sitting in the drinking fountain!

February 1922 — When Mrs. Kauffman, music and art teacher for all the ward schools, died the funeral was held in the auditorium. It was the largest funeral ever held in this vicinity for a woman!

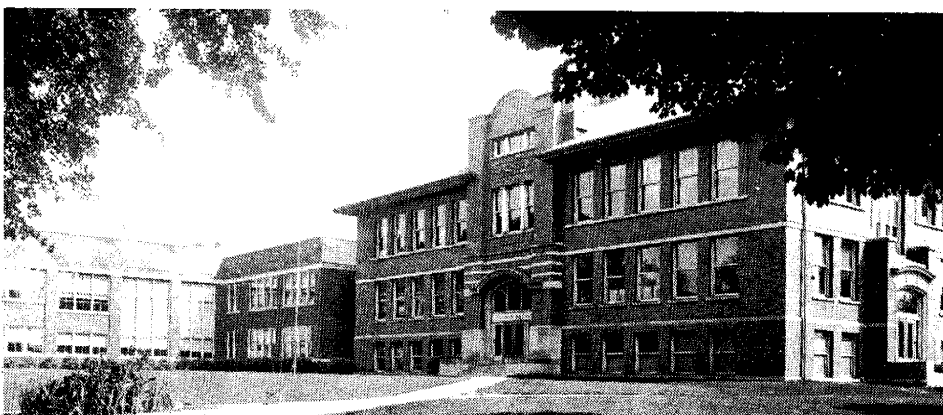


High School burning

Gertrude T. Starr Second Ward School Fire January 28, 1918

(From her column “Let’s Go Remembering” — The Three Rivers Commercial.) She quotes Don Wilson, graduate of the TRHS class of 1926:

“I still vividly remember the old Second Ward school which was destroyed by fire in January, 1918, when I was in the fourth grade there. It was about 11 o’clock in the morning and the fact that there was no panic or loss of life is a tribute to Edith Williams (Mrs. Clyde Fetters). It was in our fourth grade room of which she was teacher, that the fire was discovered. I remember during a recitation that Irene Boggio raised her hand frantically and said she could smell smoke. Miss Williams thought it all Irene’s imagination but Irene was not to be put off and said, ‘Miss Williams, I smell smoke and if you don’t see about it I will...’ Miss Williams then went to the head of the basement stairs (the fourth grade room was on the top floor) and found the basement in flames. Her impulse was to scream, ‘Fire,’ but instead she calmly walked to the fire signal and rang for routine fire drill (and she was not principal of the school at that time). The children walked out the building and it was when there was no signal to return, they realized the fire was real. The only thing I lost besides my school books was a pair of fleece-lined mittens given me for Christmas by my aunt Franc Bodley (Glenn Bodley’s mother). The school burned on Monday and after the week off we were housed in St. John’s Lutheran church until May of 1919 when the present building was opened.”



High School Burns

April 17, 1955 — On a bright Sunday morning the older portion of the high school was completely destroyed by fire. Steel fire doors sealed off the high school and kept the fire from spreading into the junior high building. The big bell in the belfry fell through the three floors and was never recovered.

Walter Horst

In 1917, Walter Horst joined the high school faculty as a science teacher. He became principal in 1919, and superintendent in 1936. Mr. and Mrs. Horst were very active in civic as well as school affairs. Mr. Horst retired in 1960.



Mr. and Mrs. Walter Horst

Teachers Around the Turn of the Century

In the good ole' days the teachers were very prim and proper. They wore high neck dresses, somber colors, long sleeves; their feet were hidden discreetly under long skirts. Hands were always piously folded! Heaven forbid if they used a faint touch of makeup and there was absolutely no fingernail polish! A wee scent of lavender might be permitted.

The men with their neat beards, stiff collars, vests, coats and ties were sedate like professors!

The sweet, but solemn faces of the women and the stern looks on the men's faces make one believe — education and discipline went together in those "good ole' days"!

The names of the Three Rivers teachers were: Professor Anderson, Evelyn Watson, Lucy Gleason, J.J. Jackson, Miss Bishop, Ada Barnum Overholt, Annette Cowling, Mrs. DeLong. Can you recognize a relative? Or a friend of the family?

Faculty of 1903



Ruth Hoppin

Ruth Hoppin was born in Chautauqua County, New York. In 1836, she emigrated with her parents, brothers and sisters to Prairie Ronde, Schoolcraft.

She graduated from Oberlin College in 1856. From 1858 to 1863, Miss Hoppin was the first preceptress in the Union School of Three Rivers. Mr. W.H. Paine was principal and Mrs. Paine was the other teacher. She became preceptress of the Michigan State Normal School at Ypsilanti from 1867 to 1881. Later she accepted a chair of biology at Smith College, North Hampton, Massachusetts.

She spent several years of rest and travel in Missouri and Texas. She returned in 1890, to resume literary studies at the University of Michigan where she earned her Master of Arts degree in preference to the honorary degree offered her previously.

The last ten years of her life were spent in Three Rivers. She enjoyed her simple home life and taught private lessons in literature and history.

Teaching was her gift, her life's work, her greatest delight!

She passed away in Three Rivers, April 1, 1903.

Annette Cowling

Annette Cowling was a favorite teacher for many years in Three Rivers. She often said that she had taught every businessman on Main Street and often recalled some of their antics in school. She began her career in 1890, and except for two years in the Jackson schools, was in the elementary grades until 1922. At that time she became a grade supervisor and continued until she retired in 1927 — thirty-five years in all! She taught in the first ward school and the building burned twice while she was there.



Annette Cowling



Ruth Hoppin

1889 Commencement Three Rivers Tribune June 19, 1889

Perhaps there is no annual event that so interests our citizens as the High school commencement. It occurs this year, next Thursday evening, June 25. It will be held in the Presbyterian church which will be appropriately decorated for the occasion. An admission fee of 10 cents will be charged to help the class out with its expenses, they having secured the service of the Otsego orchestra to furnish the music which will be worth much more than the fee. The class was composed of ten members until a few days ago when death claimed one of the brightest and best, B. O. Francisco, so there will be one vacant chair and only nine will be present to accept diplomas. The class is organized as follows: Pres. Harry Hall. Vice Pres., Nora Perrin; Sec. and Treas., Drusa Sager; Historian,

Harry Cushman; Class essayist, Sharon Thoms; Prophet and Valedictorian, Drusa Sager. The Valedictory is not awarded this year by the faculty, but by the class and not wholly on merit. The records having all been burned at the great fire it is impossible to reckon the exact class standing and hence the honor is one of compliment. The class motto is a sentiment quoted from Virgil: 'Forsan et haec olim reminisse jaubit' — Perhaps it will be pleasant to remember these things. The class flowers are white and red roses. The class colors are sage green and somber pink.

10,000th TRHS Graduate

Jeannie Teresa Granzotto received a bouquet of flowers and congratulations from principal William Jacobs. Jeannie received the 10,000th Three Rivers High School diploma from Board of Education member Ann Hermen. Jeannie is the daughter of Frank and Lydia Granzotto and the tenth member of their family to graduate from TRHS.



Jeannie Teresa Granzotto



High School graduates of 1891

The Graduating Class
of
Three Rivers High School
announces their
Commencement Exercises
Friday evening, June seventh
Nineteen hundred and eighty-five
at seven-thirty o'clock
Three Rivers Middle School Gymnasium

Class of '82.
Three Rivers High School.
"No Footsteps Backward."

Homecoming — 1932

The Homecoming Parade was a real event. The historical parade was two miles long. Milt Fitch (local post office employee) led the parade on a white horse and dressed as George Washington. The final float was Ophir Haring driving an antique funeral hearse bearing the corpse of "Old Man Depression."

One important event was a program in the high school auditorium entitled, "A Soldier's Tribute." Josiah Wallet represented the Civil War, Charles Lincoln, the Spanish American War, and Major Hyatt, World War I.



Predmore Band — 1932

At the time of the Three Rivers Homecoming in 1932, a reunion was held by the Predmore Band. Former band men, Cleon Wheeler and Art Jones, sent out invitations to band men in various parts of the country and brought together a group for the first time in twenty-five years — "We are asking you to get out the old horn, practice up a bit and meet for rehearsal Sunday afternoon at Wheeler's house. Monday we'll put on our stuff — no parades to wear you out but a couple of concerts of old tunes." The response was great. They had fun at the rehearsal and the picnic supper. During the week the Band played concerts at Bowman Park with R.C. Peeke directing and W.J. Predmore as cornet soloist.

In 1899, the Predmore Band represented the State of Michigan in the great Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic in Philadelphia.

Front row (from left), Lee W. McKey, Bill Steubegen, Ben Granzotto, Arthur Turnbull, Otho Ulrich, and Allison Knapp. Second row, Clare VanOrman, Harley Miller, Joe Costello, William Clark, Guy Bodley, Earl Crout, William C. Harder, Bert Walker, Corey Surface and Ed Edelman. Back row, William Predmore, Dr. Bill Ellett, E.P. Hart, Lloyd Lauder, Ira Woodman, Dan Elliott, John Robinson, Tonnell Elliott, Gus Bortolon, Earl Houghtaling, Wm. Ellet, Cleon Wheeler, and Arthur L. Jones.

Walter Horst Prophecy 1932

In the Homecoming Book for 1932 Walter Horst made some of the following prophecies:

- ★ Our two main highways 131 and 60 will be routed around the city with 131 going north of Three Rivers.
- ★ The high school will be enlarged. The enlargement will consist of a separate unit to house vocational work and will consist of a permanent stadium with enlarged grounds.
- ★ The First Ward School will be enlarged or rebuilt.
- ★ The liquor question will no longer be the burning question in politics.
- ★ A modern landing field will be established within a mile of the city limits and a number of citizens of Three Rivers will own and operate their own planes.
- ★ No one will think of bragging when they drive to Kalamazoo in twenty minutes.
- ★ Mechanical refrigeration will be the rule and not the exception.
- ★ The Sauganash Country Club will be enlarged to 18 holes and will thus occupy both sides of the railroad track, if the New York Central is still maintaining a line there.



City of Three Rivers Mayors

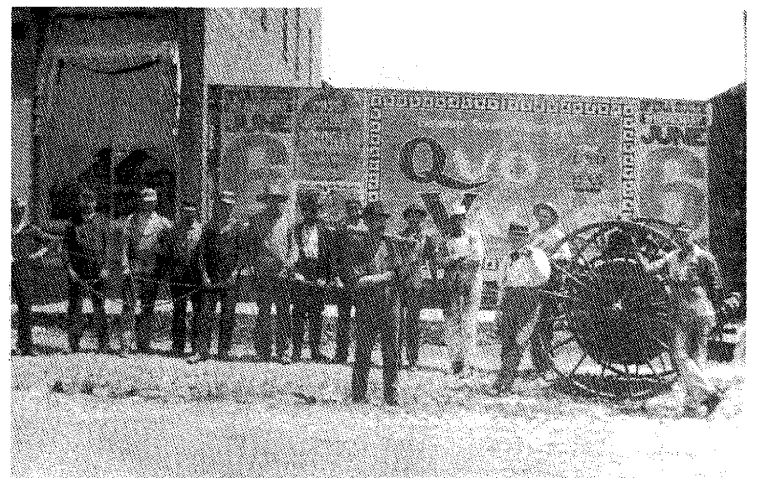
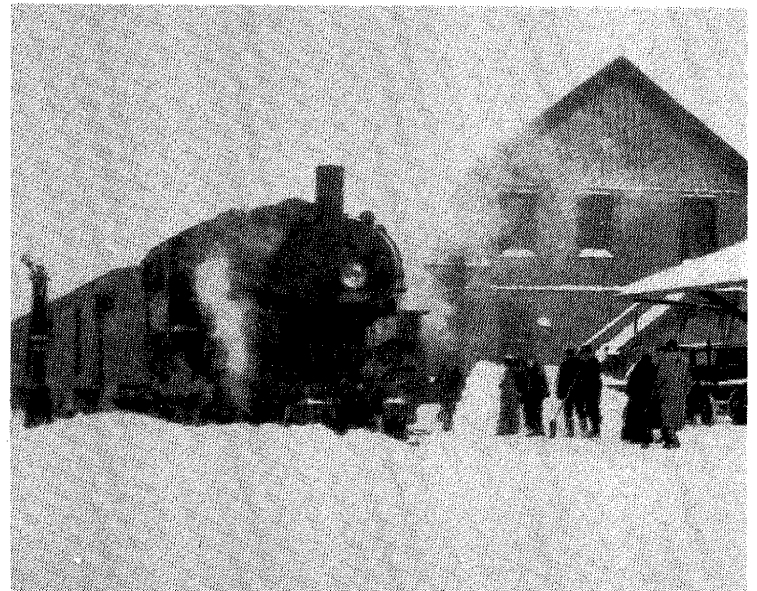
1893-1895	— W.W. French
1895-1896	— M.H. Bumphrey
1897-1898	— C.A. Dockstader
1899	— C.A. Fellows
1900-1901	— W.W. French
1902	— J.J. Foster
1903-1904	— A.W. Scidmore
1905-1907	— J.J. Foster
1908	— C.A. Howard
1909	— Robert M. Hall
1910	— Arthur Scidmore
1911-1912	— Samuel A. Schaeffer
1913	— George H. Arnold
1914-1916	— Giles W. Cole
1917	— C.C. Bateman
1918	— William H. Gay
1919	— Fred A. Rohrer
1920	— O.T. Avery
1921	— M.H. Rix
1922	— Jay L. Bullock
1923	— O.L. Haring
1924	— George W. Watkins
1925	— William H. Gay
1926	— W.F. Clayton, Jr.

1927-1928	— A.T. VanAlstyn
1929-1932	— A.C. Ruggles
1933-1934	— A.T. VanAlstyn
1935-1936	— O.T. Avery
1937-1940	— Richard E. Baum
1941-1942	— Clayton Conrad
1943-1944	— S.F. Beatty
1945-1946	— George C. Radke
1947-1948	— Bernard H. Johnson
1949-1955	— Frank R. Warner
1955-1963	— Samuel M. Smith
1963-1965	— William A. Cutler
1965-1968	— Ralph B. Vandenberg
1969-1971	— Dwight H. Fair
1971-1973	— Grace E. McCally
1973-1979	— Gerald Bales
1979-1981	— Robert T. McDonough
1981-1983	— Norman J. Rivers
1983-1985	— Robert T. McDonough
1985-	— Albert E. White

Last Passenger Train

One cold Christmas Day, the L.S. and M.C. ran their last passenger train. A great crowd assembled to meet the train and wave a last farewell. Some of the townspeople went to Moorepark and rode the last few miles for a sentimental journey. The train puffed in with red ribbons flying from a Christmas tree on the cowcatcher. The band played, the train whistle blew, the crowd cheered and finally with a clang of her bell and a long whistle, she moved off across the bridge into the darkness.

December 25, 1937



Wide Awake Hose Company



Three Rivers Woman's Club — 1891

The Three Rivers Woman's Club is the oldest service organization in the city. Organized in 1891 the club through the long years has been a consistent contributor to the welfare of the community. The fourteen charter members were Mesdames Jeannette Moore, Fracaela Knowles, Lucy Andrews, Martha Andrews, Myra Hewitt, Thirza Cushman, Myrna Watson, Dr. Blanche Haines, Mary Blood, Isabella Colluer, Allie Dickerson, Linnie Nichols, Margaret Hall and Agnes Vernon. Today, the membership is one hundred.

Their programs have included discussions and lectures on cultural as well as timely topics. The club has enjoyed many social affairs, teas, luncheons, Colonial Breakfasts, and banquets.

Somehow they have been able to foresee the needs of the city. In 1915 one of their accomplishments under the sponsorship of Mrs. Milton Rix was securing a Visiting Nurse for the city. Mrs. Agnes Dunn was the first nurse, the service was discontinued in 1985. The club has also sponsored a yearly nurse's training scholarship.

During the years of World War I, the club programs were discontinued, and the members actively engaged in Red Cross work.

Mrs. W. T. Jones (1934-35) instituted a plan to provide milk and crackers to needy children in the schools up to 12 years of age. This work was continued until 1940 when it became a part of the community chest.

Mrs. A.R. Maurer (1953-54) planned adult evening classes to study the trouble spots of the world, including the Near East, Turkey and Greece. The meetings were held in the library and were open to the public.

One of the outstanding achievements of the Club under Mrs. Steven Bonfoey (1960-63) was the establishment of a Family Service Center, which eventually grew into the Mental Health Board of St. Joseph County.

From the beginning the Club has saved and invested monies in a building fund for a Club House. Under the leadership of Mrs. Raymond Bowersox (1978-81) the Carnegie Library was saved from destruction. Putting \$20,000 of their building fund into the project the Club brought in

engineers and architects. Through their expertise the building was reconstructed and made a vital part of the community. Today the Woman's Club has taken full responsibility for the maintenance of the Carnegie Center for the Arts, a very ambitious program.

Since their beginning the Club has financially supported the Federation of Girlstown, and the Community Ambassador Program.

The busy women of the Woman's Club through the years have had many money raising projects from plays, pageants, pies and petits fours; back in the 1930's Mrs. Paul Ulrich started the sale of Daisy dishcloths, later Mrs. Harold Voorhees took on the project. It would be hard to estimate how many cloths have been sold through the years, and by the way, "used" by the good women of Three Rivers.

Without much fanfare or saying too much, their purpose was always to raise funds in order to financially support their many projects and also to make donations to the immediate needs of the community. The list is

long, it even includes helping to construct the All-Weather High School Track. They have a social conscience, our city is certainly a better place to live because of the Three Rivers Woman's Club.

In 1986 under the Presidency of Mrs. John Carlisi (1984-86) at the state meeting of the G.F.W.C., the Three Rivers Woman's Club was awarded First Place in Michigan for their Community Improvement Program. The award was given by Chevron, U.S.A. Incorporated. This award makes the club eligible for the National Competition. The award was for the Club's work in improving the quality of community life in their many efforts involving the Carnegie Center for the Arts.

Mrs. Harold Voorhees, President in 1976 wrote: *"The roster is long, the projects numerous. It is a story without end. One that will continue as long as women demand the right to take on the responsibility of 'full citizenship' — a demand to pay their fair share in shaping the future."*

Home of Mr. & Mrs. E.S. Moore



Mrs. E. S. Moore



Mrs. Ruth Hopkin



Mrs. O. H. Dickinson



Mrs. C. L. Blood



Mrs. L. D. Knowles

The Three Rivers National Guard

In January 1950, the 46th Infantry Division, Michigan National Guard Company B, 246th Medium Tank Battalion was activated. A group of World War II veterans recruited nineteen members, meeting in the Odd Fellows Hall. January 17, they met Federal recognition, which meant they could request and receive equipment, clothing, and pay from the United States Government. A few months later, the unit received 5 Sherman Tanks, a half track, 2 trucks, and 3 Jeeps.

In August, when they went to field training at Camp Grayling, the Company of sixty men was at full strength, First Lieutenant Marion F. Anderson, Commanding Officer; First Lieutenant Thomas G. Pass, Executive Officer; First Sergeant Armond D. Agosti. In September, 1950 the Three Rivers Armory (M-60 East) was built by A.J. Korth and was leased by the Michigan National Guard for 10 years with option to purchase the building.

Through the years the local National Guard has been called out on active state duty. In 1964 the Governor of Michigan ordered the Company to Hillsdale, Michigan to keep law and order at the Essex Wire Company strike. In 1967 the Company was federalized and sent to Detroit during the race riots. The Guard has been called to local duty in the city to assist in snowstorms, tornadoes and windstorms.

In 1964, Company B, Second Battalion 246th Armor, Michigan National Guard unit received the coveted Draper Combat Leadership Award. The annual award was made to the outstanding armor unit of the 46th Infantry Division based on ratings accumulated during the calendar year. Since that time the unit has received the award several times, including the Best Unit Award in the Battalion.

The Guard drills every Monday night, and engages in weekend field training. The annual field training with the 46th Infantry Division is held at Camp Grayling for two weeks. In 1955 their field training was at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

In 1968, the local unit became a detachment of Headquarters Company at Dowagiac, Michigan, 246th, 1st Battalion 1st Armor, compliment of 50 persons. The Detachment consisted of a Heavy Mortar Platoon, Ground Surveillance Radar Platoon, a Headquarters Tank Section.

In 1970, the local unit became a Combat Support Company, 1st Battalion, 246th Armor, consisting of a Scout Platoon, Mortar Platoon, A.V.L.B. Section (Armored Vehicle Launch Bridge), present strength 89 persons.

At this time, April 1986, the unit is a part of the 38th Infantry, Indiana National Guard, Commanded by Captain James G. Harknes of Battle Creek; Lieutenant David B. Holtz, Executive Officer of Elkhart, Indiana; First Sergeant, Warren Mack of Three Rivers, and three Lieutenants as platoon leaders.

The Armory like its predecessor in the late 1800's has seen many social events, weddings, banquets, dances, and receptions. Hundreds of local men have been Guardsmen through the years. Several have seen years of duty — Warren Mack, 34 years; James Griffin, 32 years; Douglas Brundige, 30 years; Kenneth J. Baker, 22 years. All of them will remember Robert C. Cook ("Snuffy") who harassed the troops from 1950-1979, as building custodian.



Armory

Citizen of the Year Program

In 1965, the Three Rivers Lions Club initiated the Citizen of the Year program to pay tribute to those many individuals who regularly go out of their way to perform service to our community.

They believe their efforts are frequently taken for granted by a community that welcomes an opportunity to display its appreciation in some small way. By selection of a Citizen of the Year annually, the Three Rivers Lions Club helps the city of Three Rivers to so honor its dedicated servants and hopes the efforts of these Citizens of the Year will stand as a challenging example to others.

Three Rivers Citizens of the Year

1965 — Estes Griffin
1966 — Ray E. Clifton
1967 — Walter Horst
1968 — Effie Van Selous
1969 — Ed W. Drumm
1970 — Russell P. Breyfogle
1971 — William R. Monroe
1972 — Alvertus Allen
1973 — Charles Beal
1974 — Marinus Meringa
1975 — Harold and Zelda Voorhees
1976 — R.A. Watson
1977 — Randall R. Painter
1978 — M. Mary Black
1979 — Cleo Roberts
1980 — Cyril C. Buck, Jr.
1981 — Paul P. Brady
1982 — Christopher Williams
1983 — Albert E. White
1984 — Helen L. Wickman
1985 — James E. Souers

DAR Citizens Three Rivers High School

These Citizens were chosen in their senior year by a vote of the class and faculty. The class chose three girls who best exemplified dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism. From these three candidates the faculty selected the outstanding one to become the Good Citizen of Three Rivers High School.

1936 — Francis Kauffman
1937 — Margaret Ellen Clayton
1938 — Maxine Brooks

1905 — History

Chapter Five

D.A.R. Citizens continued

1939 — Jeanette Balch
1940 — Dorothy Rensenhause
1941 — Betty Clayton
1942 — Julia Gherna
1943 — Evelyn Monroe
1944 — Drucilla Wiedenbeck
1945 — Marjorie Berger
1946 — Dorothy Weinberg
1947 — Barbara Rensenhause
1948 — Nancy Stickler
1949 — Phyllis Tracy
1950 — Ruth Wahlstrom
1951 — Evelyn Kahler
1952 — Pauline Shook
1953 — Barbara L. Handley
1954 — Sheila J. Haring
1955 — Etta Jane Lewis
1956 — Shirley Stark
1957 — Margaret Eleanor Hoshel
1958 — Barbara Jean Smith
1959 — Penelope Ann Frincke
1960 — Gwendolyn Reed
1961 — Barbara Ann Hay
1962 — Marsha Heywood
1963 — Jonel Karen Jones
1964 — Barbara Jean Runowski
1965 — Mary Frances O'Dell
1966 — Diana Joy Aronson
1967 — Sharon Marie Britton
1968 — Mary Frances Christiansen
1969 — Christine E. Reish
1970 — Rose Marie Mrazek
1971 — Donnell R. Roberts
1972 — Shirley Livanec
1973 — Julie L. Crose
1974 — Ann Brady
1975 — Beth Childress
1976 — Paula Tironi
1977 — Sally Wallach
1978 — Charlotte J. Hubbard
1979 — Heather L. Howard
1980 — Julie Meyer
1981 — Sarah Westfall
1982 — Tammy Beal
1983 — Tracy Honeywell
1984 — Megan Durren
1985 — Amy Jolly
1986 — Rebecca Handy

The Old Grass Bridge (Gross Bridge)

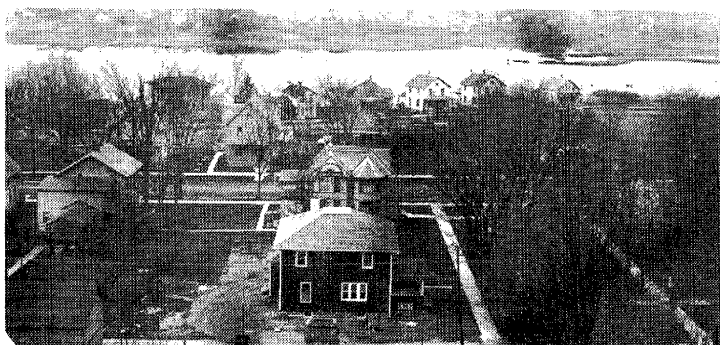
Grass bridge was built in 1904 of masonry and sod. This bridge crosses the Rocky River at Null Road and Cowling Road, northwest of Three Rivers. Unusual in design the bridge is actually two arches in the span joined at a pier in the middle of the river. The river is narrow and shallow and an old Indian trail follows it north. The trail became an important road and in later years was planked over.

The bridge goes nowhere for today a more modern one to the south carries the traffic. The bridge is different and picturesque only used today by fishermen, small swimmers and people who like to walk along old byways.

The Old Grass Bridge (Gross Bridge)



Main Street



View West



View Southwest

1905 — History

Chapter Five

Our Local Police Through the Years...



Do you remember when Chief Babcock was a motorcycle "cop"?

Policemen in the 1930s —



Roush



Hyatt



West



Chief Salisbury

Three Rivers Local Police May 6, 1965



Bob Evans



Ken Baker



Harold Salmen



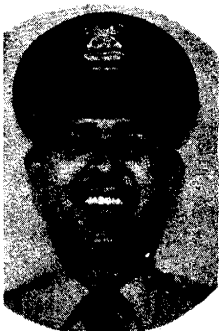
Dick Rangler



George Gunter



*William
"Buck" Roberts*



Doug Babcock



Jesse Younts



Dave Recher



Dick Thayer



Katie Clipfell



Emory Dailey

I Remember Bonnie Castle

by Zelda Kingsley Voorhees

There I stood in awe and amazement, a gangly, freckle-faced ten-year old, gazing at the beautiful red brick mansion that was to be my home. It was, indeed, a castle with a tower, white limestone trim, and a mansard roof. It stood in the middle of a large yard, surrounded by a black cast-iron fence with gates opening here and there. Many trees surrounded it: maple, catalpa, horse chestnut, and two old pine trees at the front. Behind the house were a huge barn, a garden space and an orchard.

It was the summer of 1914. Somehow my father and William Shumaker had connected through the American Medical Journal. St. Joe County wanted a hospital, and so did my father who had established his medical practice in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Earlier that spring my father had come to Three Rivers to look over the situation. He met the "City Fathers" and purchased Bonnie Castle. So here we were! My father, Dr. James R. Kingsley; Julia Palmer Kingsley, his wife; James Kingsley, his four-year old son; and Zelda; the author of this epistle. We had driven the many miles from Wisconsin, and tired though we were, had been fired with enthusiasm at the sight.

We entered the house through the front stained-glass doors into a large hall. To the left was a beautiful circular stairway curving up out of sight. To the right was an impressive parlor with a gorgeous black walnut carved fireplace and a conservatory. The living room was next with an outside entrance, marble fireplace, big bay-window, and a floor-to-ceiling glass enclosed bookcase in black walnut. Across the hall one entered a large dining room. Here were glass cupboards, a marble fireplace, a lovely Tiffany central light and an outside porch covered with Wisteria vines. Between the dining room and kitchen was a large pantry with lots of cupboards and counter space. The kitchen opened on to a back porch and a grape arbor, where there was a pump and the best spring water in the world. On the other side of the house, across the hallway was a large bathroom and the master bedroom which had ample clothespresses and a large black walnut cabinet with a

marble top and washbasin. The next room was a small one which turned out to be mine.

Of course, to two small children the most fabulous thing to investigate was that four story tower that stood at the northwest corner of the building. The circular stairs started to curve in the large front hall. At the bottom was a huge newel post on which stood a bronze "Rebecah at the Well." The spindles on the stairway were black walnut, as was the curved hand-rail. Our legs carried us as fast as possible up to the second floor, then the third, and finally to the square room at the top, with its own window-seats and views to the four corners of the earth. We looked down the hole at the center of the stairway and saw Rebecah standing silently at the bottom. The view from the top was most exhilarating, especially when we opened the windows and sat on the ledge with our feet hanging over. One could see the Kellogg farms to the East, the race track which was north of town, beautiful farms and sunsets to the West, and clear downtown to the South.

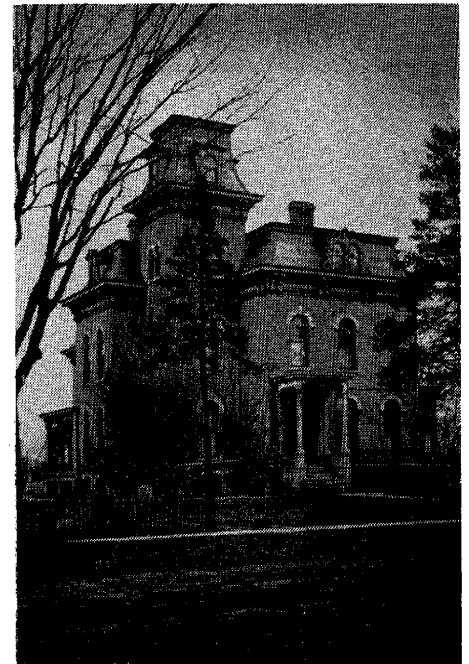
The second floor consisted of three large bedrooms facing north, south and west. Each had big windows with cherry blinds, marble fireplaces, marble washstands and ample closets. The rest of the floor consisted of four small rooms and a good-sized bathroom. All the rooms seemed to be fitted with both gas and electrical fixtures.

The spacious third floor was the "fun place." The stairs opened into three front rooms which were for games and parties. There were ice cream tables and chairs and still streamers left from the last party. Across the center of the third floor was a long gymnasium. There hung the trapeze, rings, and a lowered circular affair for a punching bag. On the floor were mats and the corner was graced by a big parrot cage. Beyond the gymnasium were smaller rooms for storage and intriguing steps leading up to the roof. When things got too difficult on the lower floors, I would often sneak up the back stairs to the gym where I could swing and dream to my heart's content.

The Bonnie Castle property consisted of about one acre of land. To the right of the building was a square

of lawn surrounded by a border of old fashioned perennials. Nearby was a small greenhouse and a good sized raspberry patch. To the rear of the house was a big two story barn. It was finished beautifully inside, with paneling, large pegs for harnesses, and stables for race horses. In the center was room for the car. The stairs went up to a spacious second floor which made a good play spot for rainy days and a wonderful place for Halloween parties. Next to the barn was a good sized garden for vegetables and behind it all was an orchard which adjoined the Kellogg properties. In the orchard were apple, peach, cherry and pear trees. It's a good thing that there was a large basement to take care of all the produce.

The basement was an English one which meant it was large and airy and had good sized windows. Under the tower was a huge coal bin which supplied the large steam furnace. A room across from there was fitted with shelves and cupboards for canned fruit and vegetables. (500 quarts a summer we stored there.) Near the furnace room was a carpenter shop with tools and workbench. Near the cellar outside entrance was a cold storage room for vegetables and apples. There was also a laundry room.



Bonnie Castle

continued

Changing all this into a hospital was no easy task. The building was so well constructed that not much structural work was necessary except in the tower area where an elevator would be installed. We all hated to see the beautiful stairway torn out. The steps were made of strong ash which would be used for the new steps built around the elevator cage. The black walnut spindles were saved for future use in furniture. (The great newel post is still in my basement.) We were all thankful when the machinery and the elevator were duly installed. In the meantime skylights were put into the ceiling of the third floor over the three front rooms which became an operating room, delivery room, and a preparation room. These rooms required extensive electrical and plumbing fixtures. The floors were covered with composition material, easy to clean, and the walls were white enamel. On the second floor, all floors were covered with composition material. The three large rooms became the men's ward, the women's ward and the maternity ward. The four small rooms became four private rooms, and cupboards and counters were installed in the upper hall for a nurses' station. All received fresh paint. The first floor received new flooring in the hall, dining room, and kitchen. My father's office in the big front room got cork flooring and the other rooms remained the same except for paint. Outside the garden had to be planted, the fruit trees sprayed, the barn painted and the yard cleaned up.

The summer passed quickly and that fall I was enrolled in the seventh grade presided over by Miss Belle Troy. There were many youngsters in the neighborhood and we had good times playing tennis and baseball in Bowman Park. There was also a big field to run in. It had a solitary stone house on it built by Ralph Reed. We went to church on Sunday and on Saturday there was a serial movie to attend for ten cents. In the winter we would hitch rides on the farmer's sleds as they drove past on their way to town. It was also my job to see that the flag was raised and taken down from the new flagpole in the yard. New hospital equipment was arriving daily and we would soon open.

The Three Rivers Hospital was ready for business in 1915. Nurses were

hired, also kitchen help. Most of the nurses lived in the city, but often ate their meals with us in the big dining room. One person we really depended on was Sally Reed, who lived in the stone house nearby. She was a very good nurse and would always come in an emergency. As all the doctors used the hospital, it was soon filled with patients. I remember those doctors well: Scidmore, O'Dell, Moyer, Weir, Springer from Centreville, and Sweetland from Constantine. My mother supervised the meals and I often helped with the setting of the trays, carrying them upstairs and then down again. Thus I met the patients and they always wanted to visit. As I got older I had more responsibilities. I would pitch-hit in emergencies, at the telephone and running errands. I often helped cut and fold sponges and count them for the packages to be sterilized. I helped get fresh vegetables from the garden. I would see that patients had flowers, and always they would tease me to play the piano. It was dull without radios or TV's.

The winters and summers rolled by, each bringing its chores. I was growing up and there were many school events to attend. There were class plays, operettas, games and concerts; in the winter. In the summer there was canning to do, also sewing. Then there was also the unexpected! I

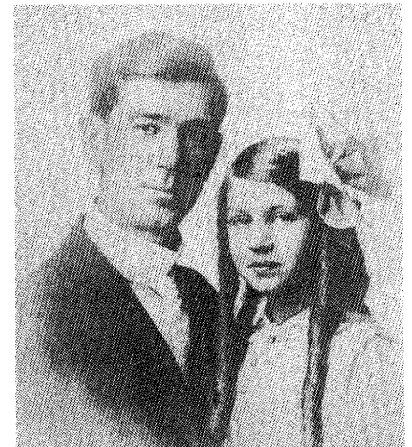
remember the terrible steam explosion at night at the paper mill. Many men were brought in badly burned. There were car accidents, shootings, and the dreadful flu epidemic during World War I. The new X-ray machine made quite a stir. They came from all over the county to get a picture taken. There have been many improvements in the medical field, and things we take for granted now were unknown then. Many of you who are reading this were born at the hospital, and many of you lost loved ones there, but no one was turned away, and everyone cared.

The years 1919 and 1920 were difficult years for my mother, and as the city was anxious to take over the hospital, we moved out to another home in Three Rivers. That was my Senior year in high school. In 1927 the new hospital was finished and I went away to school for four years.

I sometimes dream of Bonnie Castle. It was built for wealthy, fun-loving people, and many parties and entertainments were held there. Now all that remains are the two pine trees that originally stood in the front yard, whispering to each other as always. I like to feel that Bonnie Castle finally fulfilled its destiny which was to bring healing and comfort to those who needed it. Most people think of it as "The Old Three Rivers Hospital." To me it will always be Bonnie Castle.



Mrs. Julia Palmer Kingsley and son James.



Dr. James R. Kingsley and daughter Zelda.

Pauline Ellet Abshire Remembers Dancing School

One of my memories is of the dancing school in the 1918 and 1919 years after World War I.

My sister Florence Ellet Warner and I taught ballroom dancing up over the stores on the southwest side of downtown Main Street.

We made several trips to Detroit to take lessons in the new dance steps at the Strasberg School of Dance.

We started our dancing class at 7:30 p.m. and for a couple of hours we had the young ladies and young men form long lines and step in time with piano music from one side of the long room to the other.

We taught them the Box Waltz, calling out, "right foot forward — left foot forward — left foot to right foot." Then as they advanced, the Hesitation Waltz — the Lula Fada — Balling the Jack and the Charleston.

After the dancing class we held an assembly. The students' who had paid one dollar for their lessons were admitted free to the assembly, where they could dance with the young people who paid a dollar to dance to the piano and drum music until "Good Night Sweetheart" was played at 12:00 a.m.

It was the age of Vernon and Irene Castle, and the young men who had been in service were eager to meet the young ladies who were very glad to have them home again. Dancing was a form of entertainment allowing them to meet each other.

I remember how we walked home after the assembly was over, our toes bruised and tired from steering young men around the floor at the assembly.

We carried cigar boxes tied with string under our arms, stuffed with one dollar bills which we were able to use later as a down payment on a 1920 Ford.



Pauline Ellet Abshire

Lucile Haring Remembers The Chautauqua

Lucile Haring remembers when a new form of culture came to Three Rivers in the summer of 1908.

Chautauqua under the big tent arrived. In 1874, a summer school to train Sunday School teachers at Chautauqua Lake, New York was originated. In 1904, it became so popular that traveling circuits were formed. Under the Midland Chautauqua based in Des Moines, Iowa, a group of guarantors in Three Rivers began a yearly program of seven days of entertainments. These ranged from magic for the children to musicals, concert groups, lecturers, operas, plays and bands. Carrie Nation with her hatchets for temperance, Wm. Jennings Bryan, Russell Conwell and his "Acres of Diamonds," Champ Clark, Kaffir Boys' Choir, Jubilee Singers, Yodelers, and some very fine

bands were some of the groups.

The first tent was erected at the corner of Spring Street and West Michigan in what is now Scidmore Park. Once in awhile snakes would enter the tent and cause some consternation but the show would go on. Later the location site was changed to the rear of the High School building. Finally near the early 20's the enthusiasm of the guarantors gave out as the ticket sales diminished and the era of the radio began. A season ticket was a real bargain. For two dollars a ticket, one could attend fourteen Chautauqua programs. Children paid \$1.00. I was rather young at the time but I don't believe my parents missed a program and of course, I went along. In later years my dreams came true — I traveled on Chautauqua for six years!



Lucile Shafer Haring



Chautauqua

Virginia Reed Remembers Sunday

Sunday was truly the Sabbath in our family. It probably all started with grandmother who made it very clear that Sunday was the "Lord's Day" and that was that!

The day started early. We attended church on the other side of town, and it was tricky getting six people dressed in their Sunday clothes by 9:00 a.m. And I do mean Sunday clothes! We each had a special outfit from head to toe that was worn only to church and weddings.

Off we'd go to Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. and church at 11:00 a.m. Sermons in the Methodist Church were not short in those days and I must admit that my Uncle and I often had a sneak nap during the duller ones. My Aunt watched my Uncle very closely and would carefully nudge him when his head began to droop because at a certain point he would snore. She always seemed to know just when to interrupt his dozing.

When we arrived at home, Grandmother would get dinner...it was her responsibility. We would have fried chicken with mountains of mashed potatoes and milk gravy, two or three

vegetables and cole slaw. There was also hot biscuits and jam, and we would finish off with homemade pie or cake.

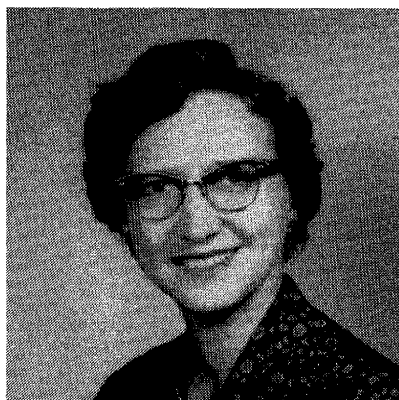
The men would read the Sunday paper until dinner was served. It started with grace which always seemed long to me. It was the big meal of the week...then came the flurry of "redding up" the table, washing the dishes and putting the best china back on the buffet to wait another Sunday feast. In the afternoon we read. No games!! "Games of chance were the handwork of the devil," so said grandmother. Lots of talking for the grownups, but the children just listened! Children were to be seen, not heard in Sunday afternoon talking time. At five o'clock it was time to freshen up for Epworth League at seven and evening church at eight.

I seldom remembered coming home from church at night. I always went to sleep with my head on Mother's shoulder. I never said my prayers on Sunday night. Somehow I think God understood. After all, we'd been in church half the day.

Acceptance Into The National Register of Historic Places

In December 1982, the entire central business district of Three Rivers was named to the National Register of Historic Places. It is one of the first Michigan cities to be so honored and one of the best examples of an unbroken string of 19th century Victorian buildings.

Also included in the registry is the original Carnegie Library building (Center for the Arts).



Mrs. Virginia Reed



Downtown Three Rivers



Do You Remember When...

- ★ you could buy a pineapple sundae for five cents and a banana split for ten cents
- ★ the principal excitement for Saturday night was to park on Main Street and watch the people walk up and down
- ★ you picked up your milk bottle in the dead of winter and the cream had pushed the cardboard top from the bottle
- ★ all of the ice was cut out of the mill pond by Hoffman Dam in the very coldest part of the winter and then stored in a large barn and covered with saw dust and straw to hold it through the warmer weather
- ★ our ice was delivered to our doors by horse and wagon and we would buy a block of ice that would exactly fill our ice box
- ★ we all walked to school and carried our lunch if we lived too far from the school to go home at the noon recess
- ★ the first annual or reflector for the school was called the X-Ray
- ★ the special year end trip for the Senior Class was a picnic out at Thompson's Landing at Fisher Lake
- ★ you could get a hair cut at the shop of E. Ranck for 25¢
- ★ we had trains coming into Three Rivers from the north, south, east and west with two depots and with stops at Moorepark, Flowerfield, Schoolcraft, Fabius, Jones, Centreville, Wasepi, Nottawa and finally to Jackson, Niles, Kalamazoo and Elkart
- ★ we had several grocery and meat markets on Main Street
- ★ we had silent movies — one had to know how to read then — and "mood" music was provided by local talent on the piano
- ★ Eddy Paper blew the noon whistle for the midday meal — again at 1:00 — back to work!
- ★ The Three Rivers Brewery advertised "Lager Beer and Ale" — 6th Street corner, Rock River Avenue

- ★ we had Liberty Loan Drives:
- ★ most houses had lovely open porches and people enjoyed sitting on them during the summer months
- ★ each school building had a bell which rang at 8:30 and 9:00 each morning calling the children to their classes
- ★ the banks closed and we went through the Depression Period
- ★ we had the Sunshine Dairy on the eastside of Main Street, and we could get the heaping ice cream cones of 20 different flavors and colors
- ★ we could watch a blacksmith shoe horses
- ★ the football field was in back of the high school
- ★ the first airplanes — open cockpit — landed at the Zierle farm (GM) and took passengers for fifteen minute rides for \$15.00
- ★ it was safe to go out for a Sunday drive and drive slowly enough so you could look at and enjoy the landscape
- ★ there was no radio or TV in your home
- ★ the Hotel deHamburger was one of the popular eating places in town
- ★ doctors made house calls
- ★ the police department was at the entrance of the Arcade, and the jail was on the left side as you entered from the parking lot
- ★ the teen hangout was HepCat Hollow
- ★ the Rocky River dam went out — a "great wall of water" rushed into Scidmore Park
- ★ they rang all the church bells at the end of World War II
- ★ the girls locker room across from the principal's office was REALLY crowded

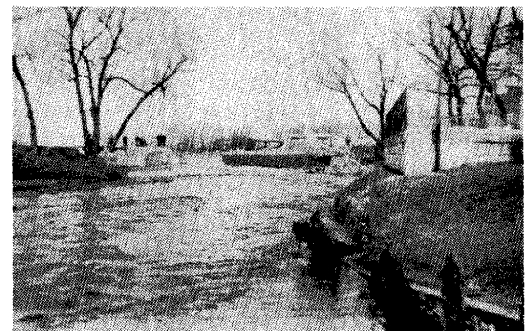


Girls locker room



Train Depot

CHARLES ESSLINGER, Agent. AUGUST ESSLINGER, Brewer.
THREE RIVERS BREWERY,
ESSLINGER BROTHERS,
 Manufacturers of
LAGER BEER & ALE,
 THREE RIVERS, MICH.



Rocky River Dam



Sunday Drives

Do You Remember When...

★ The Three Rivers House was managed by Leonard Fisher

★ July 4th was a day to look forward to with fear and trembling — the firecrackers were 4-6 inches long and the explosion they made was deafening and dangerous

★ mustard plasters — hot and applied with a firm hand were a cure for a slight cold or the last stages of pneumonia

★ the high school had a youth officer, Mr. E. Dailey, from the police department

★ you could go ice skating on Emery Pond behind the fire station

★ W.E. Barnard instructed women on the use of the ballot in preparation for their right to vote — 736 women had registered

★ we had statues of Greek God and Goddesses in the halls of the high school — gifts from the graduating classes

★ on the statues in the high school an apron sometimes would appear on "Athena"

★ a trip to the woodshed wasn't always for wood

★ the high school basketball team, before they had their own gymnasium, played all of their games in the Moose Hall

★ you would awake at night and hear a train whistle — a lonesome sound

★ you went on an afternoon ride with the whole family — you could have: a flat tire, the car stalling on the hills, Dad twisting his arm cranking the car, a sudden rainstorm would have everyone out trying to button the side curtains

★ the ice storm of 1906

★ we studied in the study hall, and the desks would drop down with all your books

★ when The Johnson Corporation was called the George Johnson Machine Company

★ we had an undefeated football season and were State Champs

★ you knew that Campbell's hot fudge sundae was the best in the whole world

★ the family picnic was out to Thompson's Resort at Fisher Lake — and you were afraid to go down the big slide

★ the high school auditorium had a balcony and when it crashed down

★ the high school gymnasium had a balcony

★ veterans of World War II formed a Drum and Bugle Corps and they were good!

★ Saturday afternoon was spent at the Rex Theater watching Rin-Tin-Tin

★ Walt's popcorn stand at the corner of Michigan and Main was a popular spot for all of the ducks from the park and every kid in town

★ we used to walk — uptown, downtown, to church, to school, to work and sometimes just for an evening stroll

★ we went to country school — Johnny Cake, Coon Hollow, Hickory Grove, etc.

★ the channel of the St. Joseph River was changed giving Fairbanks Morse 26 more acres

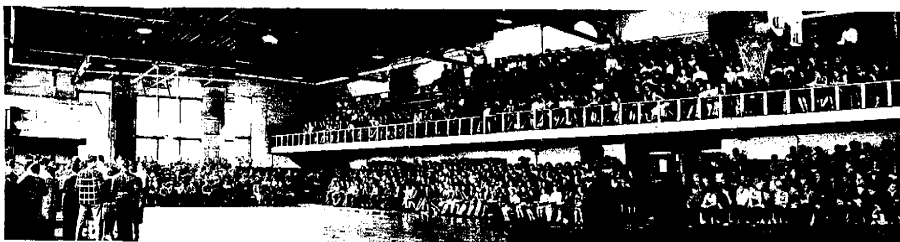
★ your report card told Mom and Dad how many days you were absent, tardy, and how many times you were caught whispering

★ the bells tolled, June 6, 1944, Invasion Day, World War II

★ everyone listened to the weather signals given every morning at 10:30 by Sheffield Car Company — one long blast meant fair weather

★ when the school bells rang all over town — some "janitors" would hold the bell for stragglers — and some would cut them short

★ when Adam Armstrong started in a little building on Rock River Avenue



High school gym



Drum and Bugle Corps



Going to country school



First Armstrong building

Do You Remember When...

- ★ the football field used to flood
- ★ Kellogg Gardens were a well known beauty spot throughout the state
- ★ we took excursion boat rides on Sunday up to the picnic grounds
- ★ a thousand persons attended the Merchant's Picnic, sometimes held at Diamond Lake
- ★ the first moving picture show in Three Rivers was shown in a tent just south of where the Michigan Power building is now. Admission was a nickel and the movie usually concerned the experiences of a wild western hero. Some of the slides shown said: *"Ladies will please remove their hats."* *"Please remain seated while operator changes reels."* *"Those who have not seen the entire show may remain for the next performance."*
- ★ you could see the whole St. Joseph River valley from the Silver Heights Tower on Gleason Road
- ★ 4/5 of the world's supply of peppermint was grown in St. Joseph County
- ★ milkman Lash carried a ten gallon milk can with a quart measure for a top — customers would set pans on their porches or hang pails on nails driven in trees
- ★ it was fun to go on train excursion rides to Lake Michigan or to the "big city"
- ★ many clubs and organizations held meetings at Riverside Grange No. 12 and dinner was always served by the ladies of the Grange — chicken dumplings and apple pie!
- ★ the Abbey was a farm
- ★ 1976 — re-enacting the Signing of the Declaration of Independence at the high school
- ★ the only labor union in the city was the Cigarmakers Union with about 30 members, R.L. Duncan, president
- ★ an old familiar location at the Centreville Fair was the "Blanket Man"
- ★ there were neighborhood grocery stores — C.W. Wellington on Broadway, Walter Smagalia on Constantine Street, Sadie Smith on Walnut, Schoonmaker on West Street, DalPonte on South Main, Didato on South Main, and the old Hoffman Street grocery

- ★ how the horses "snorted" when they saw automobiles coming down the street
- ★ "Vandette" on the east side of Main Street was the first motion pictures managed by Merrill and Luther Warner. Mrs. Starr and Mrs. Predmore provided the music. Lou said they made more money on the popcorn than the movies
- ★ the famous Kirsch Manufacturing Company, the world reknown makers of curtain rods and accessories, started their business in Three Rivers (located at the J & K Florist Shop)
- ★ there were about 200 Italian families living on Spring and Constantine Streets. A close-knit neighborhood, visiting back and forth with much fun, laughter and music. And always competing — who had the first tomatoes, who had the biggest peppers and who grew the best bib lettuce!
- ★ John Galinet was a boxing legend in the 20s and 30s — he was number 18 in the world by Ring Magazine in his weight class
- ★ Chet Shafer gave "Magic Lantern Shows." It was one of the earliest slide/talk shows — it contained two carbon rods which provided the illumination for the slides
- ★ Easter sunrise services were held on a high hill south of the City
- ★ — if you can remember all of these, you are older than the two who wrote "Remember When"



The Abbey



Easter sunrise service



"Ladies — kindly remove your hats..."



Boat excursions

Prophecy for 2011

Chapter Six

Prophecy For The Year 2011

Join us as we look into the crystal ball at the year 2011. Though the future is based somewhat on past events, change occurs so rapidly we can only "imagine" the year 2011. When this document is removed from the "Time Capsule" in 25 years we can only hope for accuracy along with some amusement and perhaps a good share of amazement!

NATIONAL

- there will be socialized medicine
- a longer life expectancy
- people will be in excellent physical condition
- people will work out of their homes using home computer centers
- there will be space stations
- people will be living in space
- homes will be angular — some built in the ground and all will have solar panels
- energy will be geo-thermo and there will be less reliance on gas
- technology will increase money flow
- economy will be strong
- there will be a sophisticated system of recycling water which will be very pure
- autos will continue to be the preferred mode of transportation
- cars will be smaller, lighter and safer
- speed limit will go up

COUNTY AND ENVIRONS

- area will be the site of an inter-state airport
- there will be a new Class A high school — consolidating Mendon, Centreville, White Pigeon, Constantine, and Three Rivers
- this high school will win Class A titles in football and basketball
- there will be a space shuttle launch site in the area

- the county will be the site of a large meat packing plant
- there will be fewer farms — those remaining will be large
- southwestern states will buy water from the Great Lakes
- there will be a Japanese Nissan headquarters in the area
- 6-8 lane highways will lead to Detroit, Chicago and Kalamazoo

THREE RIVERS

- we will be the fast food capital of Michigan
- we will be a suburb of Kalamazoo
- we will retain our entity as a city government
- we will sponsor a professional football team
- the first woman governor of Michigan will be from Three Rivers (Mark Siljander's daughter)
- we will produce a Nobel Prize winner
- General Motors and all of its plants will be making robotics
- all hospitals will be in Kalamazoo — there will only be clinics in Three Rivers
- clinics will handle emergency cases and be out-patient
- population will increase and be more diversified
- our area will be known for its lake centered recreation

DOWNTOWN WILL BE:

- historical
- boutiques emphasizing area history
- there will be more florists and jewelry stores
- a few large banks

This prophecy has been based on opinion, conjecture and interviews.

Submitted this 20th day of February, 1986 by the following Three Rivers High School students:

Written by:

Gerry Allen — son of Kendall E. and Gloria J. Allen. Gerry plans to go to Glen Oaks for an associate degree in electronics, then into the Navy.

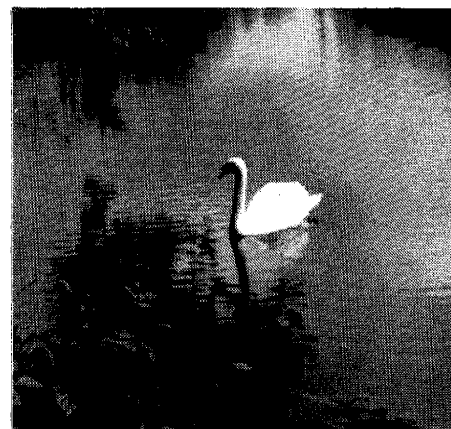
Marrey Cannon — 16 years old and a junior at TRHS. Marrey is the daughter of Russell and Daneen Cannon, both teachers at TRHS. She plans to attend college after graduation.

Kathryn Clay — daughter of Kenneth and Joyce Clay. Kathryn is a National Merit Finalist and plans to earn a B.A. from Kalamazoo College and then pursue her doctorate in biophysics or astrophysics.

Hyunsu Kim — a senior at TRHS and will attend the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Hyunsu was chosen by the Detroit Free Press for All-State Academic Top Ten and was a semi-finalist (top 1,000 in the nation) in the selection of the Presidential Scholars. His parents are Hak Yul and Yoonhee Kim. They are Koreans and moved to the United States in 1977, when he was 10 years old.

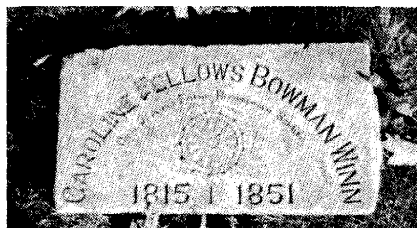
Ed Tierney — son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Tierney. Ed plans to attend the University of Notre Dame after graduation to study mathematics and science in order to become a physician or engineer.

Jim Tucker — a junior at TRHS and the son of Theodore and Elaine Tucker. Jim is currently a member of the National Honor Society and the Student Council, along with being very active in football, basketball, and tennis. After high school he plans to attend a large university and study business.



Tour of Historical Plaques in the City of Three Rivers

A good place to start a tour would be at Bowman Park on North Main Street. This is the original plot given to the village of Three Rivers by John H. Bowman for use as a cemetery. When it ceased to be a cemetery, as many bodies as could be found were removed to Riverside Cemetery. One grave was designated with a marker on which we find the name of Caroline Fellows Bowman. With this



marker Bowman Park remains as a cemetery — a stipulation of Mr. Bowman. On May 30, 1915, the local chapter of the D.A.R. unveiled a memorial sun dial at a special meeting to commemorate the life of the Hon. John H. Bowman. The ceremony dedicated the sun dial as a monument to the pioneers lying there and was also a means of preserving the Bowman Cemetery as a permanent possession of the city. Unfortunately, the sun dial has been destroyed by vandals but the base remains.



The Soldiers and Sailors monument in the park was erected by the citizens of Three Rivers. It stood in the intersection of M-60 and Main Street until it was moved to Bowman Park in 1928. This monument is a

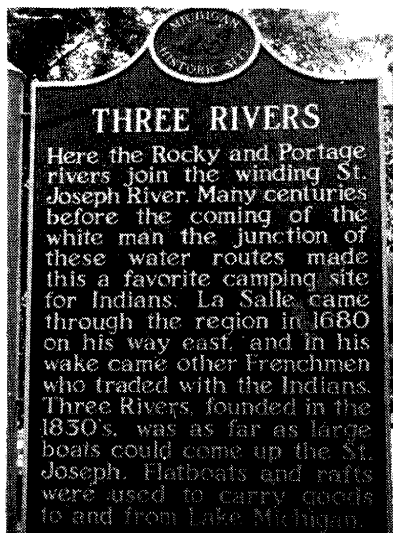
grey granite figure of a soldier on guard. It was erected in 1893 at a cost of \$3,300.00. The monument is inscribed with the names of the battles of the Civil War in which the Michigan 11th and other companies fought.

The next stop is at 231 Portage Avenue at the home of Mrs. Harold Voorhees. Her home is on part of the land originally owned by John H. Bowman. A portion of the house was built in the 1840's with the front part added in 1897. An interesting feature of the home is the solid wood cupboards of tiger maple trimmed with black walnut. Mrs. Voorhees' father, Dr. Kingsley, purchased the house in 1923.

The home next door, owned by Mrs. Russell Longanecker, is also on land once owned by John Bowman and is the site of the first frame house in the city of Three Rivers. The D.A.R. has placed a bronze plaque at the right of the front door of the present house to so designate the spot.

Our tour continues up Portage Street to Main Street and to the corner where Michigan Power is currently located. The old Catholic Mission had been established by Father Allouez in 1760 on a high bluff overlooking the St. Joseph River. The bluff was later used to fill in the approach to the St. Joseph River Bridge on South Main Street. This location in the river is historic as it was the landing place of the river arks, pioneer crafts, for transportation of merchandise before the time of railroads and trucks.

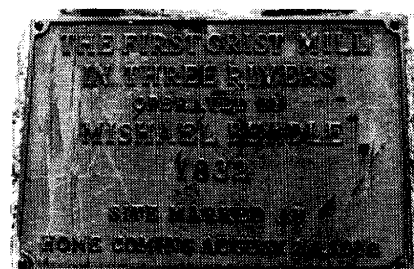
We continue on West Michigan to Scidmore Park where two markers are located. The first one is by the



Chamber of Commerce building. This marker commemorates the Indian camping sites at the junction of the three rivers, LaSalle's travels through the region in 1680 and the fact that in the 1800s Three Rivers was as far as large boats could come up the St. Joe River. Flatboats and rafts were used to carry goods to and from Lake Michigan. The next monument is at the entrance to the park, a huge native boulder. This stone commemorates the legendary Indian battle of Three Rivers at the confluence of the Portage, St. Joseph and Rocky Rivers in 1802, between the Shawnees

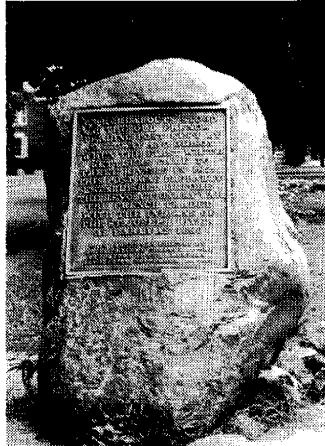


and the Pottawatomies and allied Indian tribes. A short distance west of the Chamber of Commerce building on the right of the highway is a marker placed there in 1932 to designate the spot of the first grist mill operated by Mishael Beadle in 1832.



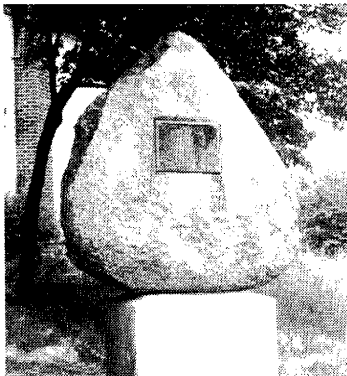
Continue west on Michigan to Constantine Street and turn left. About three blocks down the street we come to LaSalle Park. There we find a large red granite boulder with a bronze tablet. On the plaque there is the following inscription: "Hereabouts stood the old French Trading Post kept by Cassoway and Gibson when the first white settlers came to Three Rivers in 1828. This post was probably established before the Revolutionary War. The French traded with the Indians of the St. Joseph River as early as 1680." The park was so named because LaSalle was supposed to have landed near it in his explorations of the St. Joseph River. When the first families came here, the post had long been established and continued until 1836. The old post was a log house situated at what is now 205

South Constantine Street. The French flag may have been flown over this spot and so at the time this monument was unveiled the Marsellaise,



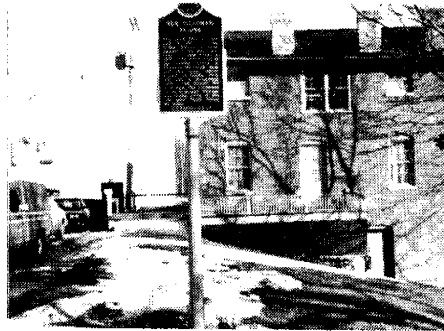
the national air of France, was heard during the ceremony.

The next stop is at the corner of Constantine and Broadway. Here stands a gray granite boulder and bronze tablet which marks the site of MOAB, pioneer village. This was the first village platted within the present limits of the city of Three Rivers. It was platted by Christopher Shinneman in 1830.



Although there is no marker at the next stop, we would like to point out the probable location of the first tavern in Three Rivers. Go east on Broadway to Fourth Street and turn left. Cross the railroad track. Immediately on the right is supposed to have been the location of Buck's Tavern. George Buck, a veteran of the War of 1812, came to Three Rivers in 1830. Halfway House or Buck's Tavern was owned by Mr. Buck. It was called Halfway House because of its location between White Pigeon and Prairie Ronde. The description gives it as standing near the corner of Buck Street and Fourth Street.

From here we continue on to South Main and proceed north where just over the bridge we find the Silliman House. The marker at this place was placed April 13, 1977. The inscription reads:



"This brick structure was built in the 1870s by Arthur Silliman, an early pioneer in the area, who came to Three Rivers in 1847. The lower level of the building served as Silliman's blacksmith shop and the upper stories housed his family. Near this site, a Pottawatomi Indian Trail crossed the St. Joseph. The confluence of the St. Joseph, Portage and Rocky Rivers at this site gave Three Rivers its name." (Side one.)

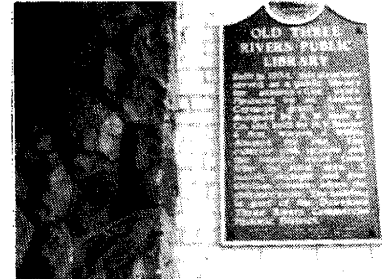
"Arthur Silliman deeded this property named 'Riversbye' to his daughter Sue in 1914. Sue Silliman was Three Rivers librarian and historian for forty years. During that time she also served on national, state and local boards of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Before she died in 1945 she left to the people of this area her papers, the books she wrote, including 'St. Joseph in Homespun,' her home, and the memory of a life dedicated to public service." (Side two.)

This house is now under the auspices of the D.A.R.

From the Silliman House we travel north up Main Street through the second stop light and on the right we find the Carnegie Center for the Arts. This was formerly the Andrew Carnegie Library and used as a library until the volume of books made a larger building necessary. A plaque is found on the west side of the building with the following inscription:

"Old Three Rivers Public Library, built in 1904, this structure served as a public library for seventy-five years."

Financed by an Andrew Carnegie grant, it was designed by A.W. Rush



and Co. and built by H.V. Snyder and Co. Warren J. Willits donated the site. The exterior pink granite and the interior wood came from the local area. A mosaic skylight and four Grecian columns adorn the entrance room. The building is part of the Downtown Three Rivers Commercial Historic District."

This building is leased from the City of Three Rivers by the G.F.W.C. (Woman's Club of Three Rivers) who also maintain the building.

We still have several stops before we are through with our tour. We go back to the stop light at M-60 and Main and turn left. Continue on down East Michigan to River Drive, just beyond the River Glen Apartments, and turn right. Shortly down River Drive on the left one sees a small boulder with a plaque giving this information: "May 9, 1934." The inscription reads:

"Four walnut seedlings from Gettysburg, Mt. Vernon and the grave of President George Washington, were planted here under the auspices of Three Rivers A.T. VanAlstyn, Mayor, BSA and DAR. Address by Wm. J. Malcolm. Stone erected May 9, 1963 by members of Presbyterian Boy Scout Troop 112 of 1934, Charles Gross, Adam Armstrong, Fenner Ball, Douglas Stowe."



Back to M-60 and continue east to Armstrong Field and Stadium. At the entrance we find a boulder with this inscription:

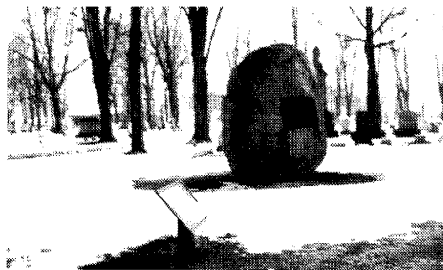
"Memorial Stadium Project dedicated October 5, 1951, to the men and women of this community who devotedly served their country in World War II."



We are nearly at the end of our journey. We will go back to Riverside Cemetery and not too far from the entrance we come to a huge boulder surrounded by four large iron tablets. The inscription reads:

"On this Memorial site forever set apart and maintained by Riverside Cemetery Association there has been erected this St. Joseph County native boulder by Ed. M. Prutzman, Post G.A.R. and Women's Relief Corps Citizens generously assisting. And on Memorial Day, May 30, 1903, Dedicated to the perpetual memory of the soldiers of all wars, defenders of the Republic."

Each large iron tablet is inscribed with a verse from O'Hara's "Bivouac of the Dead":



*The neighing troop, the flashing blade
The bugle's stirring blast
The charge, the dreadful cannonade
The din to shout are past.*

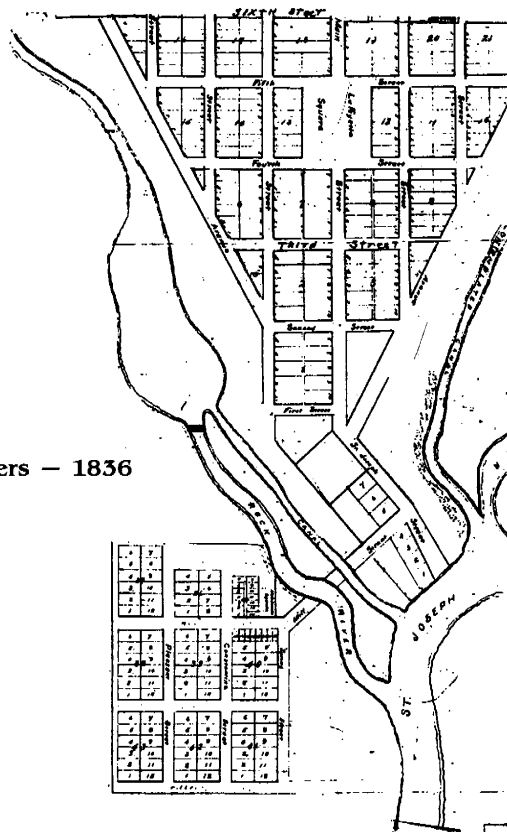
*No vision of the morrow's strife
The warrior's dream alarms
No braying horn, no screening file
At dawn shall call to arms.*

*No rumors of the foe's advance
Now swells upon the wind
No troubled thought at midnight's
haunts*

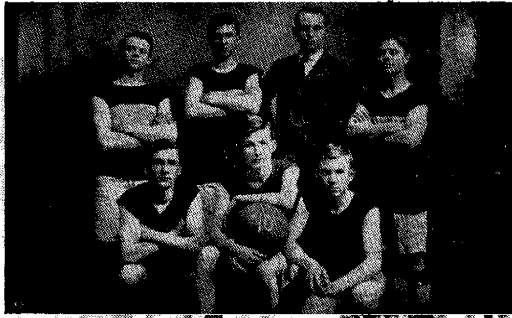
Of loved ones left behind

*On fame's eternal camping ground
Their silent tents are spread
And glory guards, with solemn round
The bivouac of the dead.*

This completes our tour of historical spots within the city. There are several more places marked outside of Three Rivers which we have not mentioned.



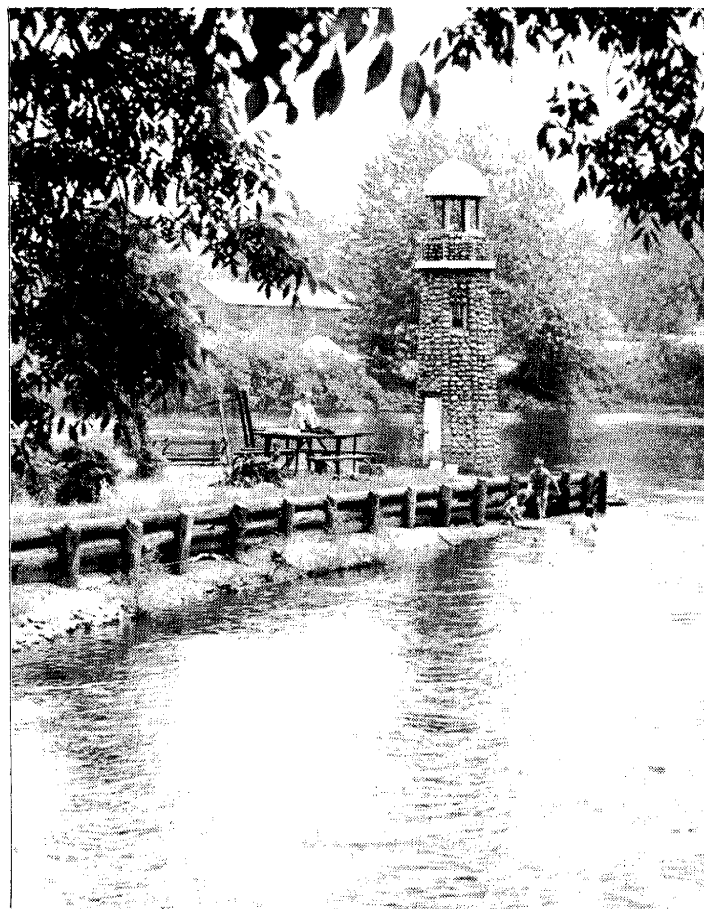
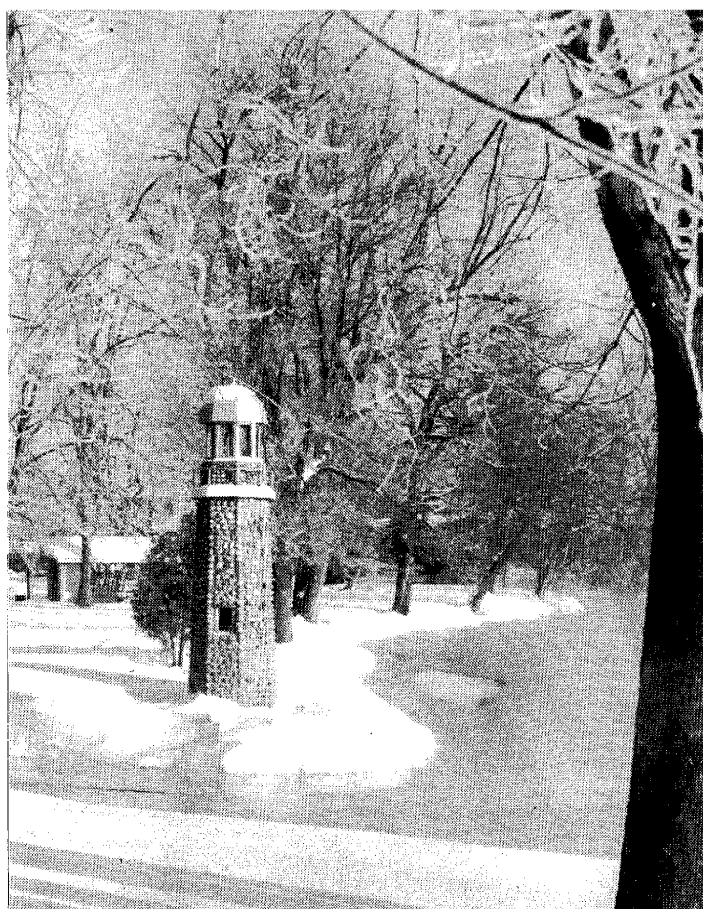
Village of Three Rivers — 1836



“Nothing Lives Long — Except The Earth, The Mountains, The River”

The Indian lodges are gone now, the French explorers lost in the midst of time, traders no longer ply the river with their loads of fur, the black robed missionaries with their religious zeal have vanished; the early pioneer lives only in memory and faded pictures.

The river has suffered deep injury — dams, irrigation, channels, pollution — but the river is still here. It still flows on, a thing of beauty for those who see and make it so.



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Prepared by
ROEBERTA SHINGLEDECKER
1987

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Immaculate Conception School.....	42	"Kitty Kiddungo"	3	MC ELROY E. M.	71
Indians.....	2,89	KLINE "Tris"	61	MC INTERFER	9
Initial Toe Pad Company.....	46	KLOCKE Carl	33,36	McInterfer Cabin.....	69
"Invincible Vibrating Thresher"	11	KLOSE Caroline.....	53	MC INTERFER Catherine	6
I.O.O.F.	63	KNAPP Allison.....	75	MC INTERFER Cathryn	2
IRWIN Sam	32	KNAPP A. N.....	34	MC INTERFER J.....	8
JACKSON Andrew	5	KNAPP Chub.....	68	MC INTERFER Jacob	2,3,4,5,6,7,8,21
JACKSON J. J.	71,73	Knause Harness Factory.....	40	MC INTERFER Sophia	5
JACOBS William.....	74	Knights of Pythias.....	51	MC JURY James	49
JACOBS William J.	71	Knights of Pythias Three Rivers Lodge No. 43.....	63	MC KEE John.....	10
JACOBS Zach	16	"Knobs The,"	54	MC KEE William	38
JACOT Caesar	16	KNOWLES Fracaela.....	77	MC KEY J. P.	20
Jake & Jack's Grocery	33,37	KNOWLES L. D.	46,49	MC KEY Lee W.	75
Jesuit Mission.....	9	KNOWLES L. D. Dr.....	53	MC MURTIE Fred J.	50
J & K Florist Shop	87	KNOWLES L. D. Mrs.	77	'Maccabee Day'	50
Johnny Cake (School)	86	KORTH A. J.	78	MACK Warren	78
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JOHNSON O. O.	50	Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad.....	41	Maranatte House.....	2

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MARVIN Ryald.....	61	MUNCY J. T. News Agency.....	41	'Pioneer Day'.....	50
Masonic Lodge No. 57.....	22	MURPHY Edward.....	22	PLACE Lester B.....	38
MATTSON Betty.....	1	Nashotah House.....	22	Plantation.....	6
MAURER A. R. Mrs.....	77	National Fur Tanning Co.	49	PLAYFORD, Grace CARRICK.....	52
MAY J. Colonel.....	26	National Guard.....	78	PLUMBER Peter.....	16
Mayors.....	76	National Pulp Board Co.	12	POE Ossy.....	66
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"Menthol Inhaler".....	45	Nattowa-seppe Reservation.....	2	POFFENBERGER Ray.....	60
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MERRILL Warren.....	61	NEWBERRY Charles W.....	26	PORTER Clark Dr.....	45
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Michigan Central Air Line Station.....	41	Ninth Street United Methodist Church.....	42	Pottawatomes.....	2,89
Michigan Central Depot.....	32,49	Normal College.....	39	Pottawatomi Indian Trail.....	90
Michigan Central Railroad.....	12,43,47	North Street.....	31	POTTER Clark.....	34
Michigan Central Railroad Depot.....	30	NORTON Arvid E.....	70	Potter's.....	33
Michigan Central Tracks.....	58	NOTTINGHAM B. C.....	49	PRANGE Louis.....	34
Michigan National Guard.....	40,78	NOWAK Wence 1.....	17	Pratt Company.....	54
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Michigan Southern Railroad.....	6	NULL Issac.....	44	Predmore Band.....	59,64,75
Michigan Wood Pulp Co.....	12	N.Y.A.....	67	PREDMORE Mrs.....	87
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MILLARD J.....	17	O'DELL John Dr.....	45	Presbyterian Church.....	6,48,56,65,74
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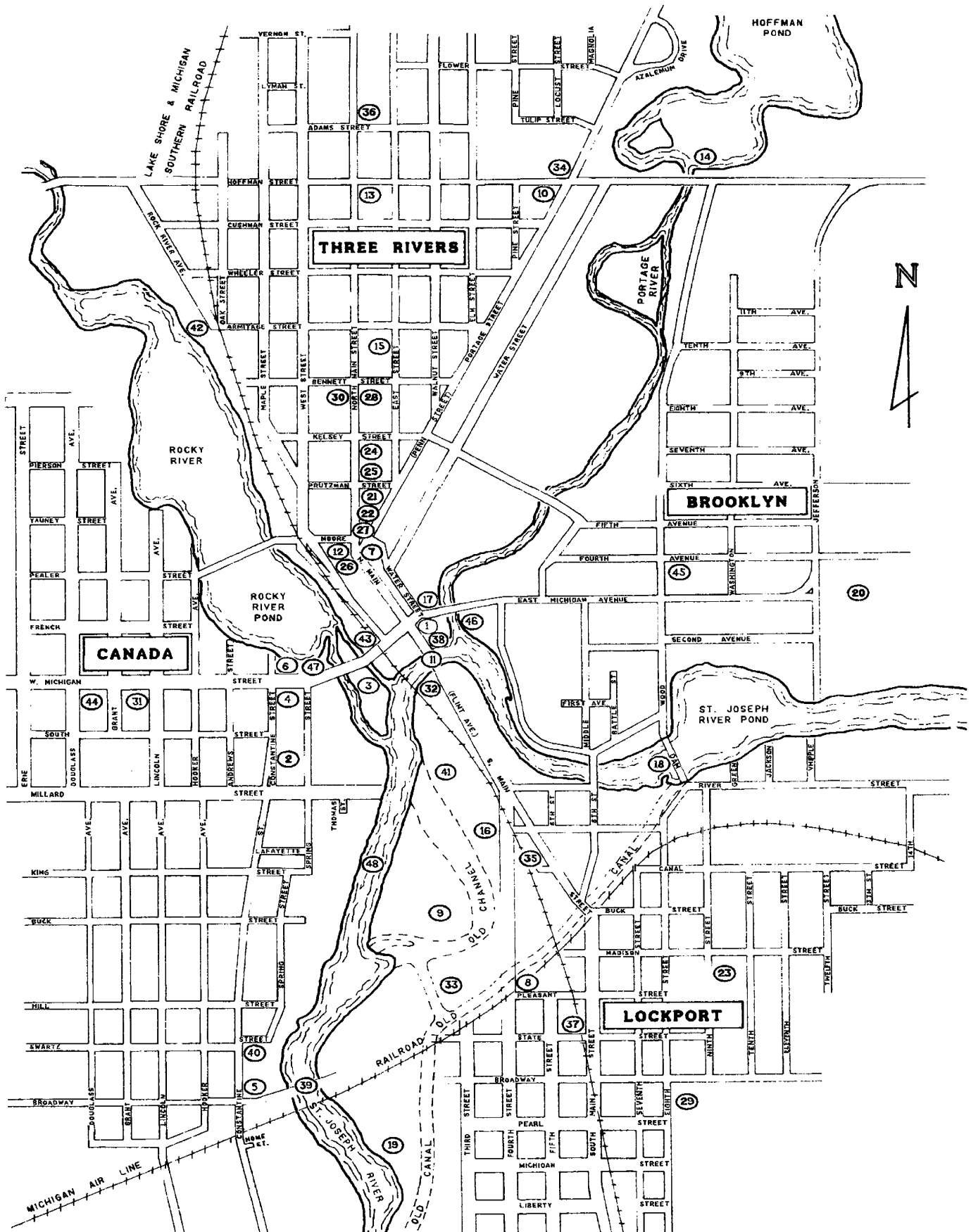
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Three Rivers Rotary Club	56	WALLACH Sally	79	WILLITS Mr.	40
Three Rivers School Board	43	WALLET Josiah	75	WILLITS Warren J.....	90
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TROY Elishia.....	9	WEBER Lynn	1	YOUNTS Jesse.....	80
TROY George.....	9	WEBSTER E. E.....	71	Zierle Farm	85
TROY Sylvester.....	9,14	WEINBERG Dorothy	79		

HISTORICAL MAP OF THREE RIVERS

PREPARED FOR THE SESQUICENTENNIAL -- 1986

By WILLIAM & ROBERT McDONOUGH



1. JESUIT MISSION (LATE 1600'S)
2. CASSOWAY & GIBSON TRADING POST (LATE 1700'S)
3. INDIAN BATTLEFIELD (1802)
4. MCINTERFER'S CABIN (1829)
5. MOAB PLATTED VILLAGE (1830)
6. BEADLES MILL (1831)
7. BURROUGH'S MOORE HOTEL (1833)
8. BUCKS TAVERN (1830'S)
9. BUCKS FERRY (1830'S)
10. 1ST SCHOOL (1837)
11. 1ST BRIDGE (1838)
12. LUTHER CARLTON HOTEL (1838) - LATER, THREE RIVERS HOUSE
13. CEMETERY (1839)
14. HOFFMAN MILL (1845)
15. UNION SCHOOL (1845) - 1ST HIGH SCHOOL (1859)
16. ROBERTS THORPE & CO. (1848)
17. THREE RIVERS CARRIAGE FACTORY (1850'S)
18. 1ST DAM - LOG & DIRT (1851) - CEMENT DAM (1879)
19. THREE RIVERS PULP CO. (1853) - LATER, G.W. FRENCH (1881)
20. RIVERSIDE CEMETARY (OAKDALE) (1858)
21. LANTZ HOTEL (1858) - LATER, SAGE BUSINESS COLLEGE
22. ARMORY - OPERA HOUSE (1860'S)
23. METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH (1861)
24. METHODIST CHURCH (1862)
25. BAPTIST CHURCH (1863)
26. FIRST NATIONAL BANK (1864)
27. FIRE COMPANY (1866)
28. EPISCOPAL CHURCH (1867)
29. UNION SCHOOL (1868)
30. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (1869)
31. GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH (1870)
32. MAGNETIC SPRINGS BATH HOUSE (1870)
33. SHEFFIELD VELOCEPEDE CO. (1870)
34. HOFFMAN HOME (1870)
35. BONNIE CASTLE (1870)
36. FIRE COMPANY (1870'S)
37. LUTHERAN CHURCH (1872)
38. ARTHUR SILLAMAN HOME (1876)
39. BROADWAY BRIDGE (1878)
40. CREAMERY (1880'S)
41. VOSSBURGH LUMBERYARD (1880'S)
42. ESSINGER BROS. BREWERY (1880'S)
43. EMERY GRIST MILL (1882)
44. THIRD WARD SCHOOL (1883)
45. WOOD ST. SCHOOL (1884)
46. INITIAL TOE PAD CO. (1886)
47. MUNICIPAL WATER WORKS (1888)
48. ST. JOSEPH RIVER CHANNEL CHANGED - (1925)

Note:

Neither the Index nor this map with legend were part of the original printing of Three Rivers, The Early Years. Instead, copies of both have been offered by the Three Rivers Public Library as separate items, accompanying the book.

When it was decided to include the map for the second printing, the original CAD files were no longer available. Consequently, it was necessary to work from a rather worn 17 X 22 inch paper copy. The copy was first cut into six pieces and each piece was scanned at 720 dpi into a grayscale bitmap format. Using Adobe Photoshop to correct minor alignment errors, then PanaVue ImageAssembler, the six files were "stitched" back together into a single bitonal bitmap file for editing.

Unfortunately, the paper copy appeared to have been displaced, by several generations of photocopying, from the original pen-plotted version. The resulting distortion meant that reducing the size of the 17 X 22 inch document to 8 1/2 X 11 inches rendered all of the lettering illegible. Again using Photoshop, most of the original CAD and hand lettering was manually reconstructed, albeit not perfectly.

In addition, to accommodate the 8 1/2 X 11 inch format, considerable cropping has been done to the original image, but done with care to preserve all of the historical references.

