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1832 The Early History of "Cohoctah" 1915

When the rigor of the winter of 1832-33 had been subdued by the ever higher mounting sun of spring, and the soft-falling rains and balmy breezes began to wake to renewed life the long dormant energies of Nature, an adventurous pioneer, – one of those genuine videttes of an advancing host, whose energetic, restless, impatient, nature forced him to the front in anything he was led to undertake, -- made his appearance in that part of the country now known as the township of Cohoctah. That man was an Indian trader, named Gilbert W. Prentiss, and he was the first settler in this township. In the entering of his land he was preceded three days by Lyman Boughton, who made his entry of the north-east quarter northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 34, on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, while Prentiss made his on the 9<sup>th</sup>, and a second entry on the 15<sup>th</sup>. His first entry was 40 acres, -- the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 22, and his second was of 80 acres, it being the east half of the same quarter section.

At that time the whole extent of the territory now comprising the town of Cohoctah was an unbroken wilderness, a wild of low-lying marshes, dark, gloomy tamarack swamps, sunny plains, and beautiful openings with a bordering of heavier timber, reaching almost entirely around its outskirts. The foot of the wandering Indian hunter, the white hunter, trapper, had alone trod the mazes of its forest, and forded its water courses. The wild game wandered at pleasure beneath the inviting shade of its spreading oaks, or fearlessly quenched their thirst from the sparkling waters of its meandering stream, not yet having learned to fear the presence of man, as the death-dealing rifles of the pioneers soon taught them to do when the settlement began.

Township 4 north, of range 4 east, as this town was designated by the United States survey, comprises a territory nearly six miles wide from east to west, and a little over six and three-eighths miles long from north to south, containing an area of 24,588 acres. It is the west central town on the north line of the county, and centrally distant, eight and three-quarters miles from the county-seat. The town of Burns, Shiawassee Co., adjoins it on the north, the town of Deerfield on the east, the town of Howell on the south, and the town of Conway on the west. Its surface is generally quite level, lightly rolling in some parts, and was originally badly cut up by numerous swamps and marshes, many of which have, by the clearing up of the country and the improvements made in the drainage system of the town, been reclaimed and made tillable and productive. Probably from one-seventh to one-twelfth of the township was originally covered with these marshes and swamps. At present the largest marshes are in the south part of Section 33, along the course of the outlet of Cook's Lake, and along Teller's Creek in section 21.

The lakes of Cohoctah number but seven and none of them of any considerable size. The largest of them, on section 32, from the peculiar formation of its bottom, is named Sand Bottom Lake. It is connected with Cook's Lake, which lies south of it, and which is of nearly the same size. It however, unlike the former, has a muddy bottom, and a good deal of marsh about its shores. The outlets of both join the Shiawassee River, on Section 34. Another lake of nearly the same size lies on section 19, and is called Devil's Lake. It is surrounded by wide marshes and has a muddy bottom. Its outlet is Sprague's Creek. Lime Lake is a small body of water lying on

section 14. It derives its name from the fact that its shores and bottom are composed of a kind of marl that, by burning, can be converted into an indifferent sort of lime. It has a bolder shore than any of the other lakes. Its outlet connects it with Mud Lake, lying a few rods south on the same section. This lake has a muddy bottom, a marshy shore, and its waters have a peculiar turbid look, which gives the lake its name. Its outlet enters the Shiawassee, near the southwest corner of the section. Thatcher's Lake is a small body of water on section 4. It covers an area of about four acres, and was named after Michael Thatcher, who settled near it at an early day. Its outlet runs southward into another smaller lake, lying across the south line of the section, which is called Crawford's Lake. It then continues south till it joins Sprague's Creek. There is also one artificial pond at Oak Grove on section 36, covering several acres, and affording a fine water power.

The principal stream is the south branch of the Shiawassee River, which enters the town from Howell about fifty rods east of the southwest corner of section 4, and runs northerly through wide-spreading marshes on sections 34, 27 and the south half of 28, where its banks rise abruptly to a considerable height above the stream, and so continues along its course until it reaches the quarter line of section 21, and again finds a marshy bed which continues throughout its onward course through the town into Deerfield. Its current in this is quite sluggish, and its entire course quite tortuous and some miles in extent. Its principal tributary is the second stream in importance in the town. It is commonly called "Bogue" Creek, a corruption of the Indian name "Bo-bish-emung." It enters this town near the southeast corner, and runs a northerly course of about three miles till it joins the river, in the north part of section 4.

At Oak Grove, or Chemungville as the old timer used to call it, affords a fine water-power. Sprague's Creek, the third stream in importance, is made up of two branches, the principal one being the outlet of Devil's Lake; the united streams flow in a variable southeast and east course through sections 9, 10 and 15, and empty into the Shiawassee in section 22. Teller's Creek on section 21, the outlets of Cook's and Mud Lakes, and a tributary of the "Bogue," on section 25, constitute the remainder of the streams of Cohoctah.

The history of the aboriginal owners and inhabitants of the town is hid beneath the enshrouding mystery of the past. At the time of the settlement no Indians were permanently residing in the township, though many were frequently seen on their way to Detroit, or on hunting excursions. Time was, however, when they had homes, and probably a village here, for traces of their former occupancy were found in abundance by the white settlers. Aside from the usual relics in the form of arrow and spear heads, stone hatchets and knives, there were other and more striking tokens of their presence in the shape of Indian orchards, gardens, cemeteries and dancing grounds. On section 22, in the southeast corner of the northwest quarter, where the buildings of Thomas Brown are now standing, was a piece of ground containing about a quarter of an acre which had been leveled and trod down until the surface was hard and smooth as a floor. It was circular in form, about eight rods in diameter, and surrounded by a ring of earth which was elevated a little above the general surface, and appeared to have been formed from the earth removed in the process of leveling. It was a subject of great curiosity to the early settlers, and they only learned its use when they made inquiries regarding it of the Indians whom they met. Here the stalwart savages celebrated their "war-dances," before departing on some bloody errand of conquest or revenge or when returning successful with bloody trophies of their prowess they celebrated the occasion with the riotous "scalp-dances;" or being unsuccessful, mourned with blackened faces and shrouded forms, and slowly trod the melancholy measures of the "death-dance!"

The Indian burying ground was situated on the north bank of the Shiawassee River, near the west line of section 27, on land now owned by Marcene Peckens. It covered one half-acre of ground, and contained some fifty or sixty graves, all marked with two tamarack poles, placed one at the head the other at the foot, their tops drawn together and crossed, being fastened together with strips of bark. The orchards and places bearing marks of cultivation were in different places, but all in that section of the town.

There was but one trail of any prominence, through this town. This was a branch of the Detroit and Grand River trail, that left the main trail somewhere in the neighborhood of Howell, and reaches this town a quarter of a mile west of the southeast corner of section 34. [undecipherable] at point of the present road [undecipherable] which is a portion of what is now called the Byron Road, to the center of section 10, where it turned towards the northwest, and at the east quarter-post of section 5 turned a little to the northward and ran on till it reached Shiawassee town. On section 5 the trail forked, the other leading westward across sections 5 and 6, running to Dewitt, and thence to the Grand River. Neither of these were main trails, but were frequently used and their course well defined.

When the territory we have endeavored to describe was thrown upon the market, the lands were bought up by two classes of purchasers. The first thought not the most numerous, were those who bought with a purpose in view of settling on their purchases and assisting in the development of the country; the second class were those men of means who thought that money invested in these lands would eventually pay a large interest and would be safer, than if used in the speculations then so rife, and which were driving the financial American world into the current which, in 1837, swept it into the vortex of the panic of that year. The first class steadily pursued their purpose, while the others were wary purchasers until the thickening crowd of on-coming settlers seemed to assure the success of the undertaking, and then with a grand rush they swooped down upon the country and seized upon all the available and valuable land they could find. This is shown by the fact that three-fourths of the land in this town was taken up within the space of one twelve-month, beginning with May, 1836, and that more than three-eighths was taken up on the two months of May and June, 1836.

#### THE FIRST SETTLER

The first settler in Cohoctah was Gilbert W. Prentiss. Some time in the season following the entry of his land he erected a small shanty near the northwest corner of his purchase, about eighty rods north and a little east of the middle of section 32, and there began the business of an Indian trader, doing a little trapping and hunting to occupy his spare time, for of course, customers were scarce, and the demands of the business did not take up all the time of even one person. But little is known of this man, his character, or career. We know he flourished here for a brief period, possibly a year or more, then vanished. Regarding the reason of his departure, which was very suddenly taken, and was not, in a true sense entirely voluntary, we are informed that, in his trading operations, the Indians invariably demanded what was due them should be paid in "shu-ni-ah" or silvery money, the only kind they were acquainted with and would receive. There seemed to be no lack of "Shu-ni-ah" in the Prentiss treasury, and all demands were promptly met with a ready supply of the shining metal coins. But, alas for the honesty of the trader and the confidence of the Indians, it soon transpired that those coins would not pass current at other stores and trading posts. In short, the Indians discovered that they were counterfeits. Then the savage blood began to boil, and the savage spirit to demand revenge. A plan was concocted for a decent upon the trader's cabin and the despoilation of its contents and [undecipherable] trader might not have passed unscathed through the ordeal, had not he got wind of the proposed visitation and hastily fled from the threatened danger. The Indians came, but their game had gone, and they were disappointed in their scheme of revenge and reprisal. The cabin was, however, committed to the flames, and so perished the last token of the residence of the first settler in the town. The land was afterwards owned by Nathaniel Prouty, who also owned adjoining lands on the west, making his whole possessions on that section 240 acres. He lived in Detroit and once came here with his family and goods, intending to settle on his land. But one night's experience in the new country was enough for them, and with the rising of the morning sun, they returned to their home in Detroit.

The second settler and the first permanent residence, was John Sanford, who came from Wayne, Steuben Co., N. Y., in 1832, and remained two years in Salem, Washtenaw Co., before coming to Cohoctah, in the summer of 1834. He commenced what was known as the Sanford settlement, on section 27, and which was for some time the center of population of the town. Before leaving Salem he engaged a man named Ira Walker to come with him to assist in clearing and breaking up his farm, so that the party that started from Salem consisted of John Sanford and wife, their son James, their daughter Mrs. Antony Clark and her husband, and Ira Walker and his wife, and two children. While on their journey Mrs. Sanford fell from the load of goods, and was so severely injured that when they arrived at William Bennett's, in Hamburg, she remained there with her daughter, who was Mr. Bennett's wife. The rest of the company continued their journey and arrived safely at their destination. They immediately set to work on a house, and soon had one ready for their accomodation. It was a fair sized log house, and stood on the west side of the Indian trail, close to the south line of section 27. It was the first real dwelling erected in the town, and for a time furnished a home for this first colony of settlers, eight in number. Soon after their arrival, Mr. Clark built a house on his land, on section 28, and with his wife went there to live. In the fall or winter following Mrs. Sanford recovered sufficiently to enable her to join the family in their new home. In 1835, Mr. Walker built a house about three-eighths of a mile west of the center of section 27, just west of the small creek that runs southward across the quarter line of section, and after living there about a year, left for some other part of the country. John Sanford lived the life of a pioneer farmer until he saw the developement of this part of Michigan well begun, and then, having reached a good old age, was gathered to his fathers in November 1845. He was an energetic and successful farmer, and brought his land to a good stage of cultivation in the ten years of his life here. He accumulated a fine property, and added to his original purchase till he owned 1,000 acres of land, besides what he distributed among his children. His wife survived him many years, and remained a widow to the time of her death. She lived to the age of ninty-two years, and died in April, 1877, at the house of her daughter, Mrs. William Bennett, in Hamburg. James Sanford remained here several years, and then went to California.

The Sanford family was originally from the state of Pennsylvania. The progenitor of this branch of the family which settled here was Ephriam Sanford, father of John and Ezra, who was a patriot during the Revolutionary war, while his two brothers were Tories of the most bitter type. After the close of the war he removed to the state of Vermont, and afterwards to Steuben Co., N. Y. He was a Baptist preacher, having a wide reputation for his eloquence and piety. The New York State Gazetteer says of him, that "he was a silver tongued preacher who used to pass the sacrament in pewter tankards," and adds the misanthropic remark, that "nowadays the order is often reversed, and many churches have silver tankards and pewter preachers." His wife was a cousin of the famous Maj. Moses Van Campen whose name and fame are so intimately connected with the history of Southwestern New York, where he was several times a captive of the Indians and forced to run the gauntlet.

#### REMINISCENCES

The first white child born in this town was a daughter of Ira and Eliza Walker, who was born in September, 1836. She was christened Anna, and removed with her parents to Milford, Oakland Co. Of her subsequent history nothing is known now.

The second white child, and the first white male child born in Cohoctah, was John H., son of William and Emily Stroud. He was born in 1837, grew to manhood in the town of his birth, married Louisa Ward, and died in the town in the fall of 1867, leaving a wife and two children.

The first and only marriage license recorded is the following, no date being given:

“Marriage License has been applied for on the sixteenth day of April, by James Litchfield, of the town of Lima, County of Washtenaw, to be joined in marriage to Miss Almira Pitt, of the town of Tuscola, in the county of Livingston, State of Michigan,--therefore License was granted by me.

“Mason Phelps, Town Clerk.”

The first wedding celebrated in this town was at the house of Ezra Sanford. The parties most deeply interested in the ceremonies incident to the occasion were William Stroud and Emily Sanford. The ceremony was performed by Amos Adams, Esqr., a justice of the peace in the town of Howell, on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1836. It was a rare circumstance in the infant settlement, and great pains were taken to honor the occasion with the best the country afforded. The groom furnished a bountiful supply of wine, and aside from the more substantial articles of food, the table was supplied with an excellent appetizer in the shape of sauce made of the wild gooseberries found in the clearings.

The first death in town is believed to have been that of Mrs. William Northrup, in 1837. She was buried in what was called the Boutell burying-ground, on section 24.

The pioneers had much to contend with in their work of building up the prosperous community that has resulted from their perseverance and enterprise. The distance traveled in going to market to sell produce or purchase needed supplies, was by no means the least of their disadvantages. Detroit, Pontiac and Ann Arbor were the nearest points where trading and milling could be done, and the journeys especially in times when the roads were bad, involved great expense of time and labor. Wild animals abounded and not of the most peaceful description. As illustrating this, we mention a couple of incidents that transpired in the early days of the settlement.

Abram Kanouse lived on what is called the Sand Hill, on the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 10. One night, after the family had retired, the noise of a fierce conflict, in which their dog was evidently taking a part, fell upon their ears. Mrs. Kanouse hastened out and found the dog and a large wolf engaged in a fierce conflict. Near the scene of the fight work had begun on a well, and a hole, some five or six feet deep had been excavated. Into this Mrs. Kanouse succeeded in forcing the wolf, and there kept him until help arrived and he was killed. At another time Mr. Thatcher's family was startled at hearing a loud squealing in the woods, a little distance from the house, where the old sow, on whom they depended for their future supply of porkers, was feeding. Mr. Thatcher hastened towards the scene, and seeing it was a bear that had attacked his pig, shouted for the others to bring the axe. Arrived at the scene, he found the bear standing with his forepaws on the prostrate, squealing animal, and vigorously masticating a piece of fat and tenderloin that he had bitten from his back. As the rest of the family arrived his bearship became alarmed, and, taking a parting bite from his prostrate victim, turned and plunged into the forest.

The wonderful part of the whole performance was that the torn and bitten porker, though unable to walk to her pen, was placed in a sheltered position behind a large log, and there was cared for until she recovered from the effects of her adventure. And, though not thereafter particularly elegant in form, she lived to bring into the world a numerous progeny, and performed all her maternal functions as successfully as though she had not met with so narrow an escape and furnished a bear with a breakfast.

The first bridge that spanned the waters of the Shiawassee in this town was built in the spring of 1836, near the fording place on the line between sections 15 and 22. Dyer Rathbun, who was moving to settle in the town of Burns, Shiawassee Co., arrived at Ezra Sanford's and found the river swollen so greatly by the freshets as to be impassable. So he and his sons assisted by Mr. Sanford and his hired man, set to work during the four days of their enforced stay and built the bridge which enabled them to cross the stream and pursue their onward

journey. It was a rude structure built of poles and logs and after serving the pioneers as a place of crossing for two or three years, was abandoned in favor of a new permanent bridge nearly on the site of the present one.

The first public house was kept at John Sanford's. The house was, however, known as James Sanford's house, and the first town-meeting was held there in 1838. At Ezra Sanford's, too entertainment was furnished for man or beast but no liquor, as was the case at John Sanford's. The second town-meeting was held at the house of Zibba Stone, for two reasons: it was nearer the center of population, and there no liquor would be furnished, and the settlers who were principally temperate men, preferred to have the election conducted without the demoralizing influence of drinking attending it. At a later period there were two taverns in town, known as Davenport's and Jackson's taverns. At these, liquor was freely dispensed and they became pestilential in the eyes of the moral people of the community, who at last rose in their might and crushed them out.

### A TRIP ABOUT TOWN

The following was composed and ready by O. J. Lare of Deerfield to the members of the Cohoctah Gun Club as an entertainment in the Bank Hall at Cohoctah last winter:

I begin with Mrs. Olsen, a lady of renown,  
And as fine an old lady as there is in town;  
Mr. Westphal next, the lightening-rod man;  
Who deals in fine horses, and autos when he can.  
Mr. Pickens comes next, with hammer in hand;  
He will work for awhile, and then he will stand  
He makes you believe, (and he talks with a grin)  
That a quart of water will turn into gin.  
Mrs. Johnson, the next who lives on the street  
Is as fine a lady as you wish to meet;  
Mrs. Perkins next, whom no one should snub  
As one of her boys belongs to the Club.  
And Snyder, I believe a carpenter by trade,  
Has made a good name by the buildings he's made,  
And now we come to the 'phone Exchange,  
With all in order and nothing to arrange;  
The manager is often cussed and given a bad name;  
They talk till they ring off—he smiles just the same.  
Mrs. Martin and son, they live next door;  
I boarded there once. How Bill did snore!  
He and I went out one night for a stroll;  
They accuse us of stealing, but we never stole.  
Mr. Ketchum comes next with a mansion fine;  
He attends to his business a good share of the time;  
In his business house across the way  
You will find him there most every day.  
Now comes the Bank in a building grand,  
And one of the best there is in the land;  
If you drop in there for a little loan  
You are met with a smile and not a groan.

Mr. Miller comes next with his wares for sale;  
He sells pop, ice cream and jinger ale;  
He also handles the U. S. mail.  
Thomas Kelly, the next, you're all aware  
Married a lady by the name of Thayer.  
I knew Thomas a long time ago  
When he and I had a hard row to hoe.  
Mr. Locke, the last merchant that came to town,  
Keeps everything in tools from a threshing machine down.  
His stock of hardware is always complete,  
His wife and he are nice people to meet.  
(The editor here wants to add a line:  
That its Cox 'o Cohoctah who is boss at this time.  
He purchased the interest of the well-liked Locke  
And is handling a bigger and better stock.)  
We now arrive at the railroad station;  
A busy place in a good location.  
The freight that is handled in this little town  
Is not to be equalled in the towns around.  
We now go over the track a ways  
And find the place where Cora Ball stays.  
This street you all know has got two sides,  
And across the way Mr. Hadsall resides.  
Mr. Hadsall, they tell me and 'tis very well known,  
Sends away for goods which he could buy at home.  
We now drift back to the Cohoctah Hotel,  
Which is known far and wide and liked very well;  
The meals served there are fit for a queen  
And the beds they sleep in are spotlessly clean.  
Across the track is the general store  
Of the H. G. Ketchum I spoke of before.  
Now we come to the store of Ed Pratt & Son,  
Where the people flock in about sixteen to one.  
The way they meet you is not in disguise.  
And he gets the worth of his money who buys.  
Wrigglesworth John, the next down the line,  
Sells salt, coal and tile, cement and white pine.  
Sell him your beans, your grain, wool and hay,  
For he is the man in Cohoctah to stay.  
Wrigglesworth Nancy, the next on the street,  
As fine an old lady as one wishes to meet;  
Think of her kindly, speak of her the same,  
For she raised a large family with a very long name.  
"Push" Wrigglesworth's next to come within range;  
He was mentioned before at the 'phone Exchange.  
Dave Ackerman's place comes next in the row;  
He works in Flint where he rakes in the dough.  
Dave visits home every once in a while,

And always wearing a good natured smile.  
"Little" Joe Brower is the barber in town  
Who will shave you upward and then come down;  
He goes to work with scissors and blade,  
Steps back and views the balk he's made.  
Joe's a good fellow and can take a joke,  
And will pass a dime to a man that's broke.  
Mr. Sandford is rich in houses and lands,  
And heartily greets you with outstretched hands.  
He's a pretty good man to have in town  
For he makes the wheels go round and round.  
(There's a little addition, just out of town,  
Sprang up in the night when no one was round.)  
Jake Hunt is the first who comes to my mind.  
He runs a feed stable and livery combined.  
Just hand him the price and sit down awhile  
And he'll come and get you in rather fine style.  
Roy Ketcham and family live over there –  
As happy a family as you'll find anywhere;  
He's a help to his grandmother who lives next door.  
And also helps in his father's big store.  
There is Eugene Fay, who works for his bread,  
Not by the sweat of his brow but by what's in his head.  
There's the doctor, too, unaquainted with me,  
If you're sick he'll visit you readily.  
He will feel your pulse and take your tempt., too,  
And probably give you a pill or two.  
There are a few young people that live in town  
And as nice young people as you'll find around;  
Speak of them kindly, they would wish you to,  
And I'll end my story and bid you Adieu.

#### COHOCTAH VILLAGE

The thriving village of Cohoctah was first thought of and made possible by the construction of the Toledo, Ann Arbor and North Michigan railroad, in the winter of 1886-7. At that time none of the business places or pleasant homes that now dot the place surrounding the crossing of the Main street by the Ann Arbor tracks were standing.

The first building, the elevator, was erected during the summer of 1867 by Frank Wrigglesworth, who was assisted in the work by his father, Richard Wrigglesworth, and the interested farmers of the surrounding territory. Two years later, in June 1889, Frank Wrigglesworth died at the age of 23. During his brief career in the elevator business he also acted as agent for the railroad company with offices and waiting room for the traveling public located in the elevator building. After his death the business was conducted by his father and younger brother John until the older Wrigglesworth was stricken with paralysis when John took over the active management of the business with his father acting as his advisor. In 1890 the father succumbed to the disease throwing the whole responsibility of the business upon the shoulders of the young lad just completing his high

school course at Byron. His youth and inexperience in the ways of the business world coupled with the close confinement to his work made it necessary for him to retire at the end of three years, when the elevator was rented for like period to the Ann Arbor Milling Company.

E. E. Hadsall and John D. Blanck were among the earliest residents of Cohoctah, occupying farms on the west side of the railroad, which are now occupied by Mrs. Cora Ball. "Doc" Blanck, as he was familiarly called, went west during his youth where he struck it rich and came back and purchased the farm mentioned and left a comfortable competence at his death.

The second building to be erected in the new Cohoctah village (the original Cohoctah village being now called Cohoctah Center or Sprungtown), is the one now occupied by William Cox, and formerly occupied by E. H. Westphal, E. D. McNeven and Locke Brothers. Thomas Kelly and Dr. John Judson built homes in 1887, the one built by the later having been rebuilt since and is now occupied by Mrs. Cynthia Martin. H. D. Gilland built the next house which is at present occupied by Nancy Jane Wrigglesworth. These buildings are all located on the east side of the railroad station. In 1888 George Ball erected a store on the west side of the tracts where he conducted a store for several years finally selling out to N. E. Miner who moved the building across the tracks, built an addition to it and continued in business for a period of ten years. Edwin Pratt, ex-county sheriff, purchased the business in 1912 and has since been the proprietor of this excellent property.

The D. D. Ackerman house and Peckens blacksmith shop were erected in the early nineties and were followed in rapid succession by H. G. Ketchum's store and house; the H. J. Randall house, now occupied by Schuyler Wrigglesworth; John Wrigglesworth's residence; J. W. Brower's confectionary store and billiard parlors, built by Fred Ketchum and at present owned by W\_\_ Miller; the Perkins' and Peckens residences; the Westphal home; the house occupied by Jake Hunt and family; Mrs. Mary Ketchums' house; and Roy Ketchum's and Eugene Fay's houses in the south part of town. In 1911 the solid brick structure now occupied by the Cohoctah Bank was erected by John Wrigglesworth and in 1914 the house now occupied by Dr. Cruice was built; about this time also, the beautiful Sanford home was built.

Cohoctah's excellent hotel building was erected by its present proprietor, H. D. Gilland, on the west side of the railroad in 1901. The W. E. Miller store building and postoffice was built by Schuyler Wrigglesworth in 1897, in which he conducted a general store for several years. Alex Noble of Argentine, was the first to conduct a blacksmith shop in the new building now occupied by Smith and Sanford, and later sold to Mr. Sanford. Wm. Owens erected the store occupied by William Cox, where he conducted a general store for some time. He was also the town's first postmaster, receiving his appointment in 1887. George Ball, John Wrigglesworth and Schuyler Wrigglesworth were postmasters in the order named, and now Mrs. Ruby Miller is the appointee. The building occupied by the telephone office was erected for an office for Dr. Welch and was later purchased by the Telephone Company. In 1902-3 a portable sawmill was erected by Stephen Butler, who purchased timber and cut ties and dimension stuff for the manufacture of railroad freight cars.

The volume of business transacted in this little town on the Ann Arbor railroad is astonishing and its future prospects are bright and promising.

## BETHEL M. E. CHURCH

By Rev. E. H. Wilcox

On the seventeenth of June the cornerstone of the new Bethel M. E. church at Cohoctah was laid. Present was a large number of people from all parts of the township and neighboring villages to celebrate the occasion. Dr. A. B. Leonard, superintendent of the Flint district of the Detroit conference, delivered an address during the afternoon. Rev. E. H. Wilcox, the local pastor was master of ceremonies. Rev. G. F. Tripp of Byron and Rev. J. E. Lewin of Flushing, former pastors on this charge, and Rev. Littlejohn and Rev. Kotesky of Howell, were also present. The Ladies' Aid Society served supper in the basement of the church at the conclusion of the services, of which over two hundred people partook. About three hundred dollars were added to the subscription list on that day, making the total of thirty-three hundred dollars toward the four thousand dollars necessary to complete the building.

Dr. Leonard's address was very inspiring and emphasized the importance and value of a church to a community and the obligation of the people of a community to such an institution.

For quite a number of years, Cohoctah has been supplied from the Byron charge with a preaching service every two weeks. The charge becoming self-supporting made it necessary to transfer Cohoctah to the Oak Grove charge, Rev. E. H. Wilcox, pastor. Services have been held in the hall in the Bank building, which is reached by a long flight of stairs at the rear of the building, and has proved inappropriate and illy-suited to the needs of the pastor and the people. Following the course of public desire Rev. Wilcox launched the project of building a church home early in the spring and it was received with great enthusiasm. A meeting called; Eugene Fay, cashier of ninety per cent, of the male population was called and attended by fully the Cohoctah bank, was chosen temporary secretary, committees were appointed, and the proposition given considerable impetus. On the building committee were Messrs. Ketchum, Pratt, Houghton, Hosley, Gilland, Phanet, Richards, Peckens, and Wrigglesworth, and the soliciting and purchasing committee was composed of Messrs. Ketchum, Houghton, Pratt, Hosley, Gilland and Wrigglesworth. Two weeks later a special conference was called at Deer Creek, presided over by Dr. Leonard, when a legal board of trustees was elected as follows: Messrs. Pratt, Gilland, Ketchum, Houghton, Ho Tyndale, Killen and McCook, and two others were to be elected at the next conference. Shortly after this the work was started and has made steady progress up to the present time, and it is expected the building will be completed and ready for use by the end of August.

The people of Cohoctah township have been very generous thus far in supporting the proposition and it is expected that the church will be dedicated out of debt. We are trusting that everyone in this territory will rally about this great institution and boost in every way they can for its success. We need your help and you need the benefits of the church, the value of which, to the people of the community cannot be fully estimated. We believe the Church to be the best and greatest institution in the world, and indispensable to the needs of the people of Cohoctah.

The membership of Bethel church now numbers less than thirty, but a large class is expected to be admitted to membership before the close of the conference year. Anyone desirous of joining with us will be heartily welcomed and your presence and help in the effort to make the town we live in morally and spiritually better will be appreciated.

There are over forty members enrolled in the Junior Epworth League and the presence of your children will be welcomed at these very helpful services which are held every Tuesday evening at 7:30 o'clock. Preaching services Sunday afternoons at 2:30 and evenings at 7:30. At these services we have a very good attendance and

invite everybody to come. Splendid work has been done by the Ladies' Aid society which is still active in doing its part toward building the new church. A good deal of credit is due them for their untiring efforts in raising funds for the construction of the building. For a number of years they have been toiling, adding, little by little, to the store in their treasury, that some day they might see a church in Cohoctah. Their labors have not been in vain and their donation has approximated \$1,000, the greater part of which has been placed in the building fund.

We need the interest and prayers of all the church-going people in this effort to build up the Kingdom of God.

#### DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS

Candies, Per Lb., in bulk, 15c to 40c Fancy Box Candies Per Lb. 25c to 50 c Soft Drinks I've got an excellent stock of Soft Drinks – in quality equal to the best that can be found anywhere. There's nothing that can quench that intolerable thirst so quickly and satisfactorily as a cool, sparkling bottle of gingerale right off the ice! Drop in when you're hot and tired and thirsty and get refreshed. Tobacco and Cigars The Best Stock in Town Barber Shop and Pocket Billiards in Connection J. W. Brower

Joe H. Olrich Notary Public Byron, Michigan Dealer in Wool, Fur and Livestock "Look out or I'll beat you!"

Huntress Queen [with photo of Holstein dairy cow] Butter 29.28 Lbs. Seven Days Milk 592 Lbs. Seven Days Butter 82 Lbs. Twenty-one Days Milk 1,711 Lbs Twenty-one Days At Five Years of Age Elder Lawn Stock Farm Holsteins of Quality Herd Sires Flint Hengerveld Pearl DeKol from 35 Lb. Grand Dam Elder Lawn Pontiac Butter Boy, Son of Huntress Queen A son of one of these Sires will add to the value of your next crop of calves. Visitors are Always Welcome W. B. Jones and J. F. Lutz Oak Grove P. O., Residence Just East of Cohoctah

Established 1896 The Pioneer Implement Dealer in Cohoctah Having been in business here for nearly twenty years, I take a just pride in the substantial business I have built up during these years, and the satisfaction my patrons have always experienced as a result of their dealing with me assures me of their permanent patronage. Today I handle one of the most complete lines of Farm Tools and Implements in the county, including the Perkins and Weber Wagons and Noyse Carriages; the Moore and Banner Plows; Butcher & Gibbs Plows, Harrows and Rollers; the International Harvester Company's goods; McCormick, Milwaukee, and Deering Haying and Harvesting Machinery; Keystone Rakes; American Cultivators; Thomas Mowers and Grain Drills and Fertilizer and Lime Sowers; Tecumseh and Dickerson Hay and Stock Racks; Armstrong & Graham Single and Double Harness, Blanke[t]s, Robes, Whips, Collars, Pads, etc., and Mogul Gas and Kerosene Engines. A. J. Peckens

The Grain and Bean Season for 1914-15 is practically ended and I wish to thank all for the generous patronage we have enjoyed. We sincerely hope that our dealings have been conducted in such a manner as to merit your continuance with us when you have grain, beans or hay to sell, or when you are in the market for feed, coal, lumber, salt, cement, lime or drain tile. Come in and see us when you are in Cohoctah as we are always pleased to meet old friends and customers and to make the acquaintance of those who have not as yet had the pleasure of doing business with John Wrigglesworth

Responsibility \$150,000.00 Bank of Cohoctah A Co-Partnership Bank Doing a General Banking Business  
Officers: J. Fred Smith, President Frank Crandall, Vice Pres. R. S. Houghton, Secretary John Wrigglesworth, Cashier Eugene A. Fay, Ass't Cashier 4 per cent interest paid on deposits Directors and

Owners: John Wigglesworth Frank Crandall Fred Schrepfer Thomas Robb R. S. Houghton E. G. Westphal John B. Stelzer Henry Bohm J. Fred Smith W. B. Jones We appreciate past favors and solicit a continuance of your patronage. No account too small to receive our attention and none so large but what we can handle it for you. Our Vault is strictly up-to-date fire proof; our Safe a burglar-proof of the latest model. We are fully insured against fire, burglary or day-light holdup losses.

Mid-Summer Sale We have had a much better sale on Tools and Implements this year than we expected and it is our desire to sell every tool and implement on hand and will give you the lowest price possible. We handle the best goods that money can buy. Don't compare our prices with cheap, inferior lines; compare our prices with the prices others make on the same kind and same make of goods.

Oliver Cultivator, Regular at 28.00, our price during this sale \$25 Dayton Cultivator, Regular at 28.00, our price during this sale \$25 John Deere Cultivator, Regular price 32.00, our price during this sale \$28 Second-Hand Little Willie Cultivator, in good condition, for only \$10 Five-tooth Cultivator, Regular at 5.00, our price during this sale \$3.50 Seven-Tooth Cultivator, Regular at 6.00, our price during this sale \$4.50 Thomas five-foot Mower, Regular at 48.00, our price to close out at \$48 Osborne five-foot mower, Regular at 45.00, our price to close out at \$40 Foot Dump Rake, Regularly sold for 25.00, our price to close out at \$19 Good Second-Hand Side Delivery Rake, to close out at only \$25 Good Second-Hand Gale Sulky \$10.00 Eight-foot Roller, new, only \$20.00 100-Gallon Feed Cooker \$13.50 Three Lawn Mowers, 16 inch cut, guaranteed to do good work, to close out at \$2.75 Bicycle Grindstone, 5.00 value, sale price \$4.00 Fire Extinguishers; you cannot run the risk of losing your buildings or your automobile for 1.00 or 1.25; Regular 3.00 value, automobile size, 1.00; large size \$1.25 Tool Grinder, 4.00 value, sale price \$3.00 Wagon, worth 50.00 to close out at 40.00 Five Foot American Bunchers, regular at 12.00, sale price 10.00 Six Foot American Bunchers, regular at 14.00, sale price 11.00 Wagon worth 60.00, to close out at 50.00 Combination Hay and Stock Racks, Extra Heavy, and worth more than any rack you have seen; Regular at 22.00, sale price 19.00 The Hays-Dayton Side-Delivery Rack is the new left-hand and up-to-date Rake with truss rods under each bar, all roller bearing, hard oil boxes, lever for tilting the reels for hay or beans under any condition, lever for raising the head end of reel, and levers on each castor wheel for raising and lowering. a combination which makes it the strongest, easiest draft, and the easiest to operate of any rake made. Regular at \$60; cash discount of five per cent We sell pure, long-fiber Manilla Rope at but little higher price than others ask for a cheaper grade. We have sold the Plymouth Twine for ten years and although Twine is higher now we are selling it for less money than ever before. It will soon have to go higher. The Boss Oil Stove gives more heat than other wick oil stoves because the wicks are larger and directly under the cooking utensil. A short time ago we sold a "National" Vacuum Washer without the balance wheel through mistake and it gave good satisfaction; after they got the balance wheel it run three times as easy. It is certainly a wonderful machine and does the work quicker and easier than any other and will not tear the clothes. Gasoline and Kerosene We have many new customers who buy all their gasoline of us. Why? Because we have installed a new Bowser underground tank which strains and filters the gasoline five times before it is put into your can or car. You simply can get nothing but pure gasoline drawn from a cool underground tank which does not lose its strength and is of uniform temperature whether the weather is hot or cold, and for these reasons you get a better grade of gasoline and also better measure. Many consider gasoline drawn from an underground tank worth 2c per gallon more than from other tanks. Our price is only 10c, cash. We also keep the Red Star Kerosene in a Bowser Tank in the cellar where it is cool, which we drawn with a Bowser pump, guaranteeing a better quality and full measure which we also sell at 10c. Standard Kerosene only 8c per gallon. If you are having trouble with your gasoline stove or lamp try a gallon of our high test gasoline. No one else in town handles it. We have put a good many old stoves back into use doing as good work as ever. We have many other Cash Bargains not mentioned. Why not buy of us now and save money? A. M. Chapel, Byron, Michigan

