

HISTORY  
— OF —  
GENESEE COUNTY,  
MICHIGAN.

With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches

OF

ITS PROMINENT MEN AND PIONEERS.

PHILADELPHIA:  
EVERTS & ABBOTT.

—1879.—

The main avenue of the cemetery is fifty feet in width, and the paths from five to twenty-five feet; most of the lots, except fractional ones, are ten by twenty feet. The ground-plan of the cemetery is of exceedingly tasteful design, and so arranged as to coincide to the best advantage with its natural features of hill and dale. The officers of the association are: President, Charles H. Turner; Secretary, E. M. Adams; Treasurer, J. E. Bussey; Superintendent, Charles Rolland. Comparatively a small portion of the cemetery has at this date been utilized for burials.

#### DECORATION DAY—LIST OF SOLDIER DEAD.

Decoration day was for the first time formally observed in Fenton, May 30, 1878, when large numbers aided in the exercises, which were very impressive. A procession half a mile in length was formed, composed of the Knights Templar Band, Fenton Guards, old soldiers, fire department, village officers, officers of the day, schools, and citizens in carriages and on foot. Professor C. Van Dorn, of Fenton Seminary, delivered the address. Twenty-five soldiers "sleep their last sleep" in the Fenton cemeteries, the following being their names:

Revolutionary.—Altamont Donaldson.

War of 1812.—Benjamin Jayne, Abijah Rogers, Dustin Cheney, H. W. R. Donaldson, Hugh Hamilton, David Bentley, John Wilber.

War of the Rebellion.—Seth Ingram, David H. Colwell, J. W. Andrews, John Bell, M. M. Johnson, B. F. Hicks, Ransom Brown, Samuel H. Thomas, Levi Curtis, W. W. Booth, Chester D. Kinney, Reuben S. Terry, Theodore C. McOmber, Luman Van Wert, Miles T. Hall, Albert Dickinson, Levi Thatcher.

This list is but a small proportion of the brave boys who volunteered from this village and township. Fitting tribute has been paid them by a brother soldier, and the memory of the fallen shall ever be revered.

"In gory beds they're laid to rest,  
The nation's blue enshrouds each breast,  
And o'er their grassy graves  
By darksome swamp and rolling tide,  
By stream and mount, the nation's pride—  
A free flag—ever waves."

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The first school-house in the village has been mentioned by Col. Fenton as having stood on the corner north of the present site of the post-office, where now stands a brick dwelling. This building was used until a larger one became necessary, when a frame school-house was erected a short distance farther east, and is yet standing, although in use for other purposes.

District No. 1, or the Union School district, was organized in 1856, previous to which time the district was numbered two. The old part of the present main school-building was erected in 1859, and greatly enlarged in 1867. During the first three years after the organization of the Union District schools were held in the old frame building and in the second story of a building on the south side, the lower portion of which was used as a store. In 1864 two brick ward school-houses were built, one on each side of the river, and in September, 1878, it was voted to expend

\$3000 in constructing new ones, which will probably be done during 1879.

The number of children enrolled in the district is in the neighborhood of 700. The teachers for the present school year, which began Aug. 9, 1878, are: Superintendent, George E. Cochran; Principal, M. T. Gass; Preceptress, Miss Linna Schenck; A Grammar Department, Frank H. Thompson, resigned, and Ira Thompson appointed to fill vacancy; B Grammar Department, Miss Lizzie M. Jennings; A Intermediate Department, Miss Calista Conant; B Intermediate Department, Miss A. S. Gifford; C Intermediate Department,\* Miss Hattie Davis; South Ward, Miss S. C. Hamilton; North Ward, Mrs. S. Ingram.

The salaries paid to teachers are: superintendent, \$1000; principal, \$800; preceptress and grammars, \$400 each; A and B intermediates, \$320 each; total paid to teachers, \$4580. The estimated expenses of the district for the school-year are \$5580. The district-board is composed of the following officers, viz.: Moderator, Dexter Horton; Director, Charles H. Turner; Assessor, Josiah Buckbee; other Trustees, A. W. Riker, J. E. Bussey, B. F. Stone.

*Fenton Seminary.*—This institution is the property of, and is conducted by, the Baptists of the State of Michigan, and was founded with the intention of making it a feeder for the Kalamazoo College. A two-story frame building was at first used in which to hold school, one of the first teachers being Mrs. P. C. Dayfoot.

On the 25th of August, 1869, the new building was dedicated, and the first term within it opened with Mr. Wedge as principal. The building stands in the southwest part of the village, is four stories high, with a French roof, and is constructed of stone. Its cost was \$30,000. The site was donated by David L. Latourette, who also gave the greater portion of the funds necessary to erect the building. Prof. C. Van Dorn was for a number of years in charge, and prosperity lingered about the institution. At present, although entirely free from debt, its affairs are not in as flourishing a condition as could be wished by those who have its interests at heart. Its future, however, is hopeful. The present faculty consists of the following persons, viz.:

Prof. W. L. Moore, Principal and Professor of Classics, Mathematics, and Natural Sciences.

Miss Sarah E. Wason, Teacher of English Branches and French.

Mrs. Bertha Fitch (native of Germany), Teacher of German.

Mrs. Celestia A. Northrop, Teacher of Music, Painting, and Drawing.

Prof. Moore has been in charge a year. The number of pupils in attendance is about 30.

*Trinity Schools (Episcopal).*—In March, 1868, a proposition was made by the diocese of Michigan to the people of Fenton and vicinity to build in the place two edifices to cost about \$10,000 each, provided subscriptions to a certain amount were raised. Scholarships were to be sold at \$250 each. The design was to establish a seminary or high-school for boys, which should "afford facilities for a thorough English and classical education, and probably a

\* School held in basement of Presbyterian church.