

United States, landing at Cleveland, Ohio, in 1856, where he remained eighteen months, after which he went to Canada, where he remained six years, at the end of which time he came to St. Clair County, Mich., and settled in Section 19 in the township of Emmet, with his parents, where he remained until he was eighteen years of age; he then acted as engineer in a saw mill during the summer for twelve seasons, working in the lumber woods during the winter season. At the end of this time he returned to his present farm, where he has since resided, raising grain and stock; he is Treasurer of School District No. 3; he is a member of the order of the Grange; he also assisted in organizing the Lutheran Church. In 1873, he was married to Miss Rachael Wagoner, of Germany. They have two children—Minnie and Charles. Mr. Miller is a noble specimen of our German friends, being a sober, industrious, frugal and estimable citizen, and in every respect a self-made man. He is the third son of the late Charles Miller, who was born in Germany in 1831, and emigrated to the United States in 1856, and settled in Ohio for a short time and then went to Canada, where he remained six years, at the end of which time he came to St. Clair County, Mich., and entered and improved a farm on which he lived until his death, which occurred in 1880; he was a member of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Charles Miller was married to Miss Mary Hontz, of Germany, by whom he had four children—Charles, Joseph, Fred and Christopher. His wife died in the passage to this country; he married for his second wife Miss Sophia Goodman, of Germany, by whom he also had four children—William, Mary, Annie and Herman.

JOHN O'CONNOR, farmer, Section 21, P. O. Emmet, in Ireland, in 1831. At the age of fourteen years, he emigrated with his parents to Canada, where he located in Strothroy, and lived there till he was twenty-two years of age, at which time he came to the United States, locating on his present home of 120 acres, which he has opened up; he has 100 acres under cultivation; is a grain and stock farmer. Mr. O'Connor has also been a contractor, having built a wagon road for the State, and also spent some portion of his time in the lumber business. Mr. O'Connor is a gentleman of culture and fine feelings, and has aided largely in building up schools and other educational opportunities. He was married to Miss Catharine Sheehan, of Ireland, in 1858, and has nine children—Mary A., James, Helena, Hannah, Louisa, Michael, John, Edward and William. Mr. O'Connor is a gentleman of fine attainments, business qualities and unswerving integrity, an ornament to any community and an honored citizen of his adopted country. He is also extremely genial and kindly in disposition, and his hospitality, like that of most self-made men, is proverbial.

JOHN F. RYAN, proprietor of Emmet House, and farmer, was born in Springfield, Ill., in 1852; was raised on a farm and received a liberal education. At the age of twenty-one he began working on railroad as foreman on construction, at which he continued seven years in Ohio; was then four years in same business in Michigan. Mr. Ryan took charge of the Emmet House January 9, 1883. Mr. Ryan was treasurer of the Temperance Society four years; is a member of St. Patrick's Society. Owns an eighty-acre farm, which he improved. Was married to Mrs. Galliger, of Emmet, Mich., January 9, 1883; Mrs. Ryan is a graduate of the high school of Detroit.

GEORGE VAN ORMAN, lumberman and farmer, Section 1, P. O. Brockway, is a native of La Colle, Lower Canada, and was born April 29, 1847; his parents came to this county and settled in the town of Brockway, when he was only eleven years old. When he was seventeen, he went to work in a saw-mill, and the following year enlisted in Company K, Second Michigan Cavalry, and served fourteen months, and was discharged on account of sickness. After the war, worked in the mill and on the river. Has been in this mill most of the time for the past twenty years, and has run the mill for several years past. Also owns the farm where he lives. In 1867, he married Miss Julia Burnham, a native of this State; they have four children—Herbert H., Fred, Charlie and Rufus.

NATHAN VAN ORMAN, farmer, Section 1, P. O. Brockway, is a native of New York State, and was born November 4, 1832. His parents, Jacob and Sarah Van Orman, removed to Canada during his early boyhood, and he grew up in the upper and lower provinces. He came to this county in 1856, and settled at Brockway, and worked in a saw-mill several years. He afterward entered a store as clerk, and remained there several years. He then settled on the place where he now lives. It was all covered with timber. He cleared the land and made his farm, and since then has resided here and engaged in farming; owns 100 acres of land. Has held school offices many years. In 1861, he married Miss Mary Ann Shannon, a native of Watertown, N. Y. They have three children—Chester, Agnes and Arthur. They lost one daughter, Alice.

JOHN WALTZ, farmer, Section 19, P. O. Capac, was born in Romeo, Mich., in 1857, and was reared as a shoemaker. At the age of twenty-four years, he started as a farmer on his own account, opening up a farm of 120 acres, and has also eighty of timber. He was married to Miss Matilda Grant, of Canada. Mr. Waltz is a young man of great energy, a faithful representative of those who build up all sections of our country worth living in, and has bright and flattering prospects before him.

## RILEY TOWNSHIP.

RILEY Township was settled by the Ochipwes of the Riley band of Indians originally. In 1836, the American land buyers flocked thither to purchase the United States lands then brought under notice. In 1835, the Wells, Mansfields and others located on the southern limits of the town and must be considered the pioneers of Riley. The equalized valuation of real and personal property, in 1882, was \$477,280. The population in 1845 was 234; in 1850, 311; in 1854, 593; in 1864, 1,075; and in June, 1880, 2,002. The area of the township is 23,800 acres; number of school children, 596.

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The following were assessed as resident taxpayers with property not village lots, although in many cases the land is now within the city limits:

- Sec. 19 Rice & Barber, Sanborn & Smith, John M. Wade.
- Sec. 20 J. S. Kimball, G. F. Boynton.
- Sec. 21 John Randall, S. Hudin, Michael Hand, John Applegate.
- Sec. 22 E. B. Clark, H. Whitecomb.
- Sec. 29 James M. Geel.
- Sec. 30 P. & J. Harder.
- Sec. 31 L. Carlisle.
- Sec. 32 John Moores.

Population statistics: 1830, 376; 1837, 824; 1840, 1,113; 1850, 718; 1860, 1,494; 1870, 832; 1880, 1,010; 1890, 1,407; 1900, 1,666; 1910, 1,934.

Supervisors: 1827, Martin Peckins; 1828, Jeremiah Harrington; 1829-32, John Kenelly; 1833, John Doran; 1834, Ralph Wadhams; 1835, John Kenelly; 1836, Cummings Sanborn; 1837, Ira Porter; 1838-41, County Commissioners; 1842, John S. Heath; 1843, Peter F. Brakeman; 1844, John S. Heath; 1845-6, Peter F. Brakeman; 1847, John Thorn; 1848, John Wells; 1849-50, Joseph P. Minnie; 1857-9, Alex F. Ashley; 1860-4, James Demarest; 1865, Alex W. Clark; 1866-80, James Demarest; 1881, John L. Newell; 1882-8, Gage M. Cooper; 1889-95, Charles A. Bailey; 1896-08, Peter Schweitzer; 1909-11, Charles A. Bailey.

#### RILEY

This township—town 6 north, range 14 east—was detached from the township of Clyde and organized by act of March 6, 1838. It was named for John Riley, the half-breed Chippewa Indian who lived for several years on the reservation at Port Huron, and was in the habit of going regularly to the woods in what is now Riley township for making maple sugar and for hunting. In October, 1836, the same year the Indian Reservation at Port Huron, upon which John Riley lived, was bought by the United States. Riley's father bought the southwest quarter of section 27 in this township and a few days later gave to John a life lease of it at the rental of 6 cents yearly. It is said that John opened a store but extended too much credit to his white friends with the result that he lost his goods, and money, and first mortgage and then sold his property.

Belle river runs southeasterly through the township, and the incorporated village of Memphis lies partly in section 35 and partly in the adjoining township of Richmond, in Macomb county. The Almont

gence than the full Indian. He, with many of his tribe, made annual visits to the woods near the village, for the purpose of making maple sugar, coming in February or March and returning when the season was over. In the spring of 1836, he came early for this purpose, and one pleasant Sunday, as he would not allow any work to be done that day, he took a walk in the woods, accompanied by a boy. Coming upon a large hollow log which had the appearance of being the home of some animal, he said to the boy, "*Abs-co-in, Hash-a-pun!*" (John! a raccoon) directing the boy to crawl in the log and investigate. The young *Abs-co-in* soon came out with great speed shouting "mo-q-wash! mo-q-wash!" (a bear! a bear!). Riley drew his hatchet, and as the bear's head appeared, struck her a powerful blow with the edge of the weapon, burying it in her brains. She weighed over 400 pounds, and furnished material for a continuous feast. The Indians gave names to the whites to correspond with some habit or to commemorate some gift. The elder Mr. Wells they called *mo-quash* (bear), because he was a hunter of that animal. Abram Wells, was *cutw-ke-chee* (porcupine), he had given them a porcupine, the flesh of which they relish. Anthony Wells was *mish-a-wah* (Elk); William Wells, *wah-wo-cash* (deer); Mr. Welch, *mas-co-clause* (Indian hole or clearing), from the fact that he bought land on which there was an Indian field, on which there were bearing apple trees when the whites arrived. Riley afterward retired to the Saginaw country, where he died in 1862.

His first wife was buried on land since known as the "Fitz Patrick" place, and as the roads came to be straightened and worked, her body was exhumed and stolen away. One of the chiefs of this tribe, Macompte, went to England previous to this time and performed the feat of shooting an apple held in the fingers of one of the royal family, with his rifle. The bullet pierced the apple, and the hand was unhurt. *Tip-se-co*, an Indian well known to the settlers of Macomb, also made a visit to the same country. He was a man of great speed and skill in wrestling, his principal feat being to run to a stake ten rods away and return before a horse and rider could make the like trip. This Indian is still living in Isabella County.

The next family in the place was that of Potter, then Welch, Moore, Slater, etc. The first death was that of Bird, the first school teacher, who was buried in a lot a little south of the Congregational Church, which Mr. Wells had designed for a cemetery. The wife of Joshua Eaton was the next to be buried here. Her body was afterward removed, but that of Bird still lies where it was placed.

In the winter of 1836-37, an Indian went out hunting and did not return. A heavy snow storm prevailing at the time, obliterated all trace of him, and although a thorough search was made, he could not be found. One day in spring, 1837, as Hartford Phillips was piloting a few lumbermen through the woods, a gun was discovered standing by a tree, and near by the body of the missing Indian, crushed beneath the fallen tree, which he had chopped down. The Indians identified the body and buried it. Three years later, the little settlement was called to mourn its first fatal accident—the death of Anthony Wells. About this time Carleton Sabin purchased of Wells the 80-acre lot on which the southwest corner of the village is located, and lots were generally sold over the plat. It was discovered that an excellent water-power existed here, which was developed in 1840 by Oel Rix and Dr. Sabin. The latter built a saw mill, while the former built a flouring mill. The nearest post office was six miles distant, at Phillip Cudworth's; but now the Memphians sought for an office of their own, which they did not succeed in obtaining until eight years later. The naming of the village was then taken up. Belle River passes through the northern portion of the village, and so some of the inhabitants urged the adoption of the name "Bellevue," others, who admired James G. Birney and his party, desired it should be named "Birney," while others urged the name "Riley," in honor of the Indian chief who resided there. The name Memphis was suggested at length and adopted.

The first physician was Dr. Sabin, who came in 1844, and remained there until 1854. He was succeeded in practice by Dr. Cole.

The first religious services held in the "Wells settlement" was at the house of Mr. Wells, and was conducted by Mrs. Chilson, whose son now lives in the village. This woman was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and having the ability to address an audience in public, she thought herself called to preaching, which she did on many occasions. This was

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## EARLY LAND BUYERS.

The land buyers of 1836 were Stephen H. Web, William Blakely, Oliver Tuttle, Supply Case, Theo. Romeyn, George E. Hand, James Edgerly, George Whiting, Jacob Winter-son, Moses N. Griswold, John Lown, Jeremiah Thorp, Nathan Thorp, Justin Corey, Charles Sherritt, Ira Babcock, William Butler, R. Seaman, Edward Smith, J. C. Chittenden, Nath and Elizabeth Hubbard, Alex. Henry, Ann M. Kendrick, William Dunn, J. C. Roberts, Daniel Maginnis, Eliza Ann Hart, Josiah Snow, Julius Day, John LeClair, Andrew Youngs, D. Walsh, J. Eldrick, David Mansfield, William Wells, Israel Amsboy, Jeremiah Thorp, Mediah Welder, R. McMullan, Isaac Garfield, Delos Conklin, Charles Chartrand, Otho Bell, W. Wilcox, Lyman Granger, Andrew Sutherland, Levi Parsons, Charles Collins, A. G. Underbilt, W. H. Whipple, J. E. Lathrop, William Dake, Jacob Winn, N. Tallmage, Henry V. R. Hankins, Benjamin Thornton, Syl. DeLand, Susan Thompson, Sarah Francis, and Daniel Hewitt, E. Chamberlain, Ransom Hullier, Lucius Oakes.

## SUPERVISORS.

Oel Rix, 1842; Amasa S. Welch, 1843; John Lown, 1844-45; Amasa S. Welch, 1846-47; John Lown, 1848; John P. Gleeson, 1849; A. S. Welch, 1850; Henry Rix, 1851-53; Oel Rix, 1854; Henry Rix, 1855; Oel Rix, 1856; Ezra Hazen, 1857-59; A. S. Welch, 1860; Ezra Hazen, 1861-64; Henry Rix, 1865-66; Ezra Hazen, 1867; William Eaton, 1868; Ezra Hazen, 1869; William Eaton, 1870; Constant Simmonds, 1871-82.

## JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

Daniel Hewitt, 1839; Hugh Gregg, 1840; John Grinnell, 1841; John Lown, 1842; Daniel Hewitt, 1843; Erastus W. Cross, 1844; John Grinnell, 1845; John Lown, 1846; Daniel Hewitt, 1847; Harry Rix, 1848; Nicholas Meyers, 1848; Henry Rix, 1849; Robert Stewart, 1850; Azel Day, 1851; George W. Chilson, 1853; Henry Rix, 1853; Josiah G. Gooding, 1854; George W. Chilson, 1855; Ezra Hazen, 1857-73; E. Ramsay, 1857; Henry Rix, 1858; John House, 1859-66; Francis Hewitt, 1860; George W. Chilson, 1860-64; Sherman Bishop, 1868; William Eaton, 1868; Joseph H. Dutton, 1868; Benjamin Filker, 1872; Henry C. Mansfield, 1874; Aaron Smoker, 1873-74; Peter Cantine, 1875; Ezra Hazen, 1877; Henry C. Mansfield, 1878; Peter Cantine, 1879; Martin Ellenwood, 1880; Ezra Hazen, 1881; Peter Toley, 1881; Constant Simmonds, 1882.

## MEMPHIS.

Memphis was settled in 1835, and incorporated as a village in 1865. In 1878, its population was stated to be 800, while at present it is only 600. This village is prettily located on Belle River, on the line between Macomb and St. Clair Counties, twenty-seven miles northeast of Mount Clemens, twenty-two miles southwest of Port Huron, seven miles north of Richmond, and about the same distance northeast of Armada. There are three churches in the village, viz.: The Congregational, Methodist and Adventist, with a graded school.

The first effort to reclaim the land now occupied by the village of Memphis was made by the Wells family, one member of which still lives just north of the village. James Wells, the father, was born in Albany, in 1772, a descendant of one of two brothers who emigrated from England and settled in New York shortly prior to the war of the Revolution. His family consisted of three sons and three daughters, of whom one son and one daughter are living. Their house, a comfortable log one, covered with shingles, was the first structure of any kind to succeed the wigwams of the Indians, and in good old pioneer style, for all purposes of hospitality or for meetings, the "latch string was always out." The family had dealings to considerable extent and learned much of their ways and bear testimony that in nearly all instances they were honest in their dealings and faithful in their promises. Especial mention is made of the good qualities of John Riley, the Chippewa chief. His family and that of Black Cloud with some others were leading spirits among them. At this time (1835), the former owned a tract of land granted by Government, at what is now Port Huron, on the south of Black River. Only two houses, one log and one frame, were to be seen at that point. John Riley was born in the Mohawk Valley, of a German father and Indian mother, and possessed greater intelli-