

Eccentric Presents Historical Collection

Pictures Pass Along Near-Forgotten Facts

By WILLIAM H. THOMAS

The history of an area comes to light by bits and snatches, if at all.

The more intimate details of a region—those connected to personalities—many times are filed away in someone's attic trunk or passed along from one generation to another until the information is lost forever or finds its way into the public records.

These pictures on this page, while almost unrelated, are a part of that "passing along" process until now they are part of this area's permanent record, on paper at least.

THE ECCENTRIC would like to point out that, in one of a series of recent articles about Southfield history, we misquoted one of our sources of information, Mrs. R. M. Larges, 24680 Larges, Southfield.

Mrs. Larges informed us that the first Presbyterian church north of 10 Mile and Lahser was not a log church but of a frame construction.

For those who followed this same series, the letter received from Julia A. Michael will be of interest.

AND WE ADMIT to having a red face for stating, in another historical story, that James Monroe was U. S. president in 1828 when he actually held office from 1817-25.

As we stated before, this page of historical information is to bring past articles up to date and is intended as much for the records as it is for the interest of our readers. However, we are sure that you will find the collection interesting.



Golden Wedding 80 Years Ago

This photo was taken in front of the G. H. Priggen, Jr. home, 4601 Echo, Bloomfield township over 80 years ago. The occasion was the golden wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. John Greer who posed with their 16 children about

1885 at the Greer's 320 acre farm. The Greens were the grandparents of the Charles G. Parks, 555 Merrill. Parks' mother is seated second from left.



Clothes over 125 Years Old

Marion "Mame" Daniels Blakeslee, grandniece of Southfield's first settler, John Daniels, and Chan Smith, Mrs. Blakeslee's neighbor, model clothing worn by John Daniels' mother and father who followed their son to Michigan in 1831. Both passed away in 1832. The clothing is homespun, handwoven, and the buttons on the coat are hammered brass. Smith is sporting a "beaver top," which at the time was quite popular. Mrs. Blakeslee resides in Waterford.



Ancient Broadhead Axe

Charles G. Parks, 555 Merrill, Birmingham, exhibits a broadhead axe which his grandfather, John Parks used to trim timbers in the 1820s when he was foreman of a crew constructing docks on the Hudson river in New York. John Parks was killed in 1838 on Woodward (the old curoroy road) when a wagonload of hay he was taking to Detroit overturned on him.



One-Grave Cemetery

Samuel D. Beckman, born Sept. 9, 1795, came to Michigan in 1830 and purchased land in the northwest quarter of section 12 (southeast of the 13 Mile-Southfield road intersection). When he died Jan. 30, 1868, he was buried on a piece of land on his own farm and that lone grave and 2 10ths of an acre around it, constitutes a cemetery in the center of Fons Trailer Park. Off to one side of the park, the grave is on a cutaway hill surrounded by a group of ancient pine trees.

To Teach Program At Wayne State

David Finnen of 1842 Maryland blvd., Birmingham has been named to teach in Wayne State university's program in retail education. Finnen will teach a course in buying principles and practices.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Julia Michael Recalls Presbyterian History

TO THE EDITOR:

Your articles in The Eccentric were sent to me by Miss Sara Enniss. I was surprised to learn that my grandfather, Rev. Daniel Michael preached in the old Presbyterian church.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Actually there is no proof that Michael was the Presbyterian church's pastor. We could only assume this since he was buried in the church's cemetery northeast of the 10 Mile-Lahser intersection.)

My father, Mahlon Michael was always under the impression that he preached somewhere around Redford, but my father was only 12 years old when his father died (in 1868), so he may have been mistaken.

I DO NOT REMEMBER all the ministers we had but I know a Mr. McFadden preached there. Also a Mr. Ray. I have a bible with a certificate in it that Rev. J. K. MacGillivray signed in Aug. 5, 1900 that I had perfectly memorized and recited the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

I was then nine years old. I am now past 75 years.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: If Miss Michael's 1900 date is correct she would have been 18 at the time.)

Also I have an autograph album that the Rev. Benjamin Jones signed in Aug. 13, 1901 so he preached there about that time.

THE PHOEBE RUSSELL you mentioned in your paper was my grandmother's sister and Halsey Stephens was her brother's son. (My grandmother's maiden name was Stephens.)

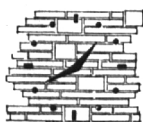
Halsey Stephens was superintendent of the Sunday school when I received my Bible.

I remember attending my grandmother's funeral. I was only five. My sister, Abbie was three.

The one thing that stands out in my mind was the doors on the pews. The family always sat together and the door closed.

Julia A. Michael,
Goodrich, Mich.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We wish to thank Miss Michael for her letter which was a result of The Eccentric's search for information about Southfield's old Presbyterian church, which is no longer in existence.)



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The Birmingham Eccentric

A wedding, to be sure, should be a joyous occasion . . . though to many adults, it often is seasoned with a bit of sadness. Sadness not for the immediate occasion, but for the future problems (some of them heartrending) that will confront the newlyweds. Therefore the actual marriage ceremony should be a solemn affair.

SECTION D

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