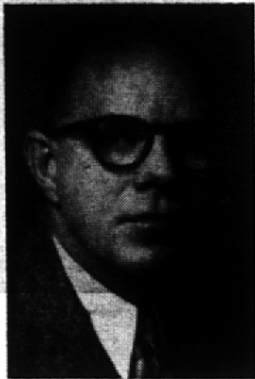


Cass Aided Democrats



DRAPER ALLEN
Ran for Congress.

By **DOTTY BREIDENBACH**
Special Writer

The role of the Democrats in this predominantly Republican county has been a struggle for survival, but the workers of the Democratic Party are hanging on with bulldog tenacity; and at this moment one of Michigan's senators in Washington is from the County of Oakland and City of Birmingham, Philip A. Hart.

An early eminent Democrat, Gov. Lewis Cass, proclaimed the original boundaries of Oakland in January, 1819, and in March, 1820, established the county seat at Pontiac.

According to Mrs. Donald E. Adams, president of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, in the early history of the county, party lines were not strongly drawn; but in 1829, with the election of Andrew Jackson, who appealed to the pioneers, party affiliation became more pronounced.

A BIRMINGHAM resident, Dr. Ebenezer Raynale, Democrat, was elected to the 1835 constitutional convention and served two years as state senator. He again served in the 1850 constitutional convention.

In the early years, it was customary for newspapers to be political organs and they published only news relating to their own party. The first newspaper in Oakland was The Oakland Chronicle, published from 1830 to 1831 by Thomas Simpson, a Jeffersonian Democrat.

THE DEMOCRATS bounced back when elected national hero Republican Gen. Grant was not so prominent. The Oakland County Post in April, 1893, reported: "The election in this city Monday proved what every enthusiastic Democrat has predicted — a Democratic victory."

The Democrats formed in the late 1880's the Oakland County Jefferson Club. During World War II it was consolidated with the national and state group which sponsored the annual Jackson Day banquet, now the Jefferson-Jackson Day banquet.

In 1931 delegates for the state Democratic convention listed no one from Birmingham and only one from West Bloomfield. At that time a former governor took to task county Democratic members

time and the smokehouse was given a window and an attractive entranceway.

THE HUGE stone barn was turned into a three-car garage with an apartment above.

when he told them that due to long years of overwhelming Republicanism the Democratic Party had lost initiative.

It was at the Jefferson Club meeting in April, 1940, that Murray D. VanWagoner, who in June would announce his candidacy for governor, summarized the recent history of the Democratic Party in Oakland County.

HE SAID, "This is the 51st consecutive banquet of the Oakland County Jefferson Club. Its motto might well be '51 years without a dull moment' for we never stopped scrapping the other fellow between banquets even if we could not win at the polls. Draper Allen of Birmingham was elected president at that meeting."

In the Thirties the Birmingham Democratic Club came into being, holding meetings at the American Legion hall on S. Woodward. Draper Allen from Birmingham made the run for congress in 1936 and '38, and Dorothy K. Roosevelt of Birmingham ran for Congress from the 17th district in 1942. Dur-

ing World War II the club was inactive.

In 1948 the Oakland County Democratic Convention was held at the Birmingham Community House. A battle was in the making between Brewer and John Franco for chairman of the county committee. The Birmingham Democrats reorganized and threw their support to Brewer, who won the post.

WITH A Democrat, G. Mennen Williams, occupying the governor's chair for 12 years, the Democratic strength in the county improved. The organization had a winner and a healthy organization provided talent for Williams' appointments: Edgar Pugh, James G. Allen, Philip A. Hart, Murray Van Wagoner, Mrs. Anne Garrison, Mrs. Herbert Fisher, William H. Merrill, Draper Allen and C. Allen Harlan.

In 1950 Hart ran unsuccessfully for secretary of state, but in 1954 he went to Lansing as lieutenant governor, and again in 1956. Hart advanced to United States Senator,



MRS. D. K. ROOSEVELT
Sought House seat.

defeating Charles Potter in 1958, and will come up for re-election this year.

A Democrat from Birmingham, Irene E. Murphy, ran and won in 1957 a nine-year term on the University of Michigan Board of Regents. And in 1961 Democrat C. Allen Harlan was elected to the Michigan State University Board of Trustees.

Vaughan Cabin Dates Back to 1828

At the top of a hill on Lahser, close to the Vaughan road corner, stands a lovely stone home with massive white pillars. The oaks that shade it have been there for many years, the house itself since 1849.

When John Vaughan first settled here in 1828, he built a log cabin just south of the present home.

His son Clark built the stone house, and it was here the late Perry Vaughan was born. When he married the former Mabel Ives in 1906, they bought 100 acres on Vaughan Road. Here they had a big dairy farm.

A DAUGHTER, Mrs. John B. Hammond lives close by. Mrs. Vaughan and another daughter, Mrs. W. A. Guthrie, live on Oakleigh, a part of the original land grant. Mrs. Donald Egbert lives in Birmingham, and a son, Perry Jr., is a resident of Union Lake.

Mrs. Adolph J. Weissmiller has lived in this 17-room stone house since 1948. The grounds are spacious, the rooms light and airy. The chandelier in the dining room sparkles in the light, hinting of parties held here.

A grandfather clock that was brought from England by Mrs. Weissmiller's 19-year-old grandfather nearly 140 years ago stands in the parlor.

The house has been added to, the barn and smokehouse remodeled, the last time in the mid-Twenties by the Vernors. It was them the west wing was torn down and a new one built. The music room was added on the south side at this

Hersey Descendants Among First B'ham-Troy Settlers

By **BARBARA UNDERWOOD**
Special Writer

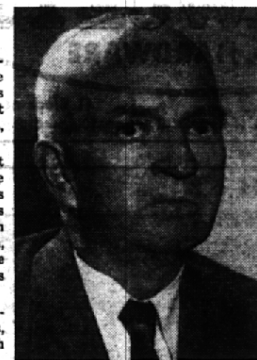
A framed map of the city of Birmingham in 1881 is one of the many treasured family heirlooms and antiques owned by Mrs. Scott Hersey, of 460 West Maple Road, Birmingham.

A descendant of one of the first pioneer families to settle in the Troy area, Mrs. Hersey also has two chests and two wall hangings which were brought to Michigan in 1820 by Reuben Castle Beach, her great-grandfather, and the man for whom Beach Road was named.

There is a story told in the family down through the generations, whether true or not, that Beach was found on the Atlantic seashore of Connecticut as a baby, in 1796, presumably washed ashore after a bad storm during which a ship was known to have gone down off shore.

THERE WERE no other survivors, and the baby was taken to a founding home where he was named. The surname of Beach was given him because he was found on the beach, according to the tale.

One of the children of Reuben Beach and his wife, Maritte, was Esther, born in Troy in 1835. She



SCOTT HERSEY
Ex-city commissioner.

and her husband, Hiram Chatfield, were Mrs. Hersey's grandparents.

The original Beach homestead is now the home of Victor Koch, 4800 Beach Road, Troy, and the original Chatfield homestead, of Hiram's father, is now the home of Dr. Fred Gasow, 4031 North Coolidge Road, also in Troy.

Hiram and Esther Chatfield built a second home on the property in Troy and later moved to the house which still stands at 460 West Maple. The Beaches raised sheep and the Chatfields raised cattle, and when Hiram moved into town he brought his best cow with him.

AT THAT TIME he paid \$100 for two to three acres of property along the Rouge River for pasture for his cow. The Hersey family still own part of the property, now the location of Valley View Lane, just south of Maple Road by the river.

Mrs. Hersey at one time fell heir to 83 hand-pieced quilts made by her grandmother, many of which she still has. A hand-woven coverlet, part of Esther Beach's dowry and made before 1850 from wool carded from the family's own sheep, also hangs in the Hersey home. Another hand woven coverlet was recently made into draperies for their home.

Although some sources say there were no unfriendly Indians in this area when the first settlers came, Mrs. Hersey remembers her grandparents telling her when she was a little girl, that her great-grandparents always kept cookies on hand to give to the Indians who came along.

The pioneers were afraid of the Indians, even though they were not particularly savage, and the Indians seemed to be contented to leave them alone if they were fed.

THE TWO DAUGHTERS of Esther and Hiram Chatfield were Emma and Carrie Louise. Emma married Joseph Robinson, of East Tawas, and they were the parents of Mrs. Hersey; Mrs. Alfred T. Lowes (Winifred), also living in Birmingham, and Glen, of California.

The Hersheys have three children, all living in Birmingham at the present time. They are (Carrie) Louise, named for her aunt; Shirley, and Warren.

Scott Hersey, a native of Maine, is a former Birmingham city commissioner and building inspector. A builder by profession, he pioneered the building of the Quorton Lake Estates.

Mrs. Hersey was born in East Tawas, but the family came back to Birmingham when she was four and she lived in the house at 460 West Maple with her grandparents, still owned by the Hersheys, the 125-year-old house has been converted into two apartments and the present family home is directly in back of the old house.

THE TWO-FAMILY house at 584-588 Bates Street, also owned by the Hersheys, is another landmark of Birmingham's earliest days. The house, about 125 years old, was restored by Hersey when he acquired the property in 1936 from the estate of Annie Hall, daughter of the original owner.

Mrs. Virginia Cook, 31605 Mayfair Lane, Beverly Hills, a descendant of the original owner, tells that there formerly was an inside room in the house where the early occupants hid when the Indians came near. When the house was restored, the hidden room became part of a bedroom.

Among their mementos of an earlier day in Birmingham, the Hersheys still have the first oil lamp used in Troy, a school bell and clock used in the Hill school when Mrs. Hersey's mother taught there in the 1880's, and a doll and doll carriage which belonged to Alvina Chatfield, sister of Hiram, in the 1840's.

In addition to their treasures of the local area, the Hersheys also have an early McGuffey reader and a black silk dress worn by a relative to Lincoln's inaugural ball.



SPACIOUS 17-ROOM HOUSE BUILT BY CLARK VAUGHAN
Mrs. Weissmiller has occupied remodeled house since 1948.