

Rose Township was originally populated by the Chippewa Indians. According to documents, Chief Tipsico frequented this area in the late 1800's. He has the reputation of being an accomplished athlete, strong ruler and a friend to the settlers. Tipsico Lake was formerly known as Long Lake. The name was changed as a memorial to this great chief. The earliest records of land ownership in Rose Township were made by Jacob N. Voorheis and Daniel Hammond.

The first log house was built in 1835 by Daniel Danielson. Records show that in 1836 there was a rush of settlers which included Baits, Coffin, Doty, Garner, Gage, Soper, Thomas and Wendell. This log house was located on Joel Road and was the first home of George and Sarah Pittenger. The Act of Legislature creating Rose Township was approved on March 11, 1837. Research shows the population of Rose Township to be 1,084 in 1874. In 1970 there were 2,000 people and, according to the 2010 census, Rose Township is home to over 6,800 people.

The act of the legislature creating the township of Rose was approved March 11, 1837, and appears in the session laws as follows: "All that portion of the county of Oakland designated in the United States survey as township 4 north, of range 7 east, be, and the same is hereby set off and organized into a separate township by the name of Rose; and the first township meeting therein shall be held at the house of David Gage, in said township."

The territory now in Rose formerly belonged to Pontiac township, and originally to Oakland. The surface is much diversified; portions of the township are rough and broken by considerable hills, while others are level or slightly rolling. The soil is generally a sandy loam, although in places heavy clay is found. The various grains common to this region yield prolific returns, and fruit is usually plenty. Wheat is the staple grain raised in Rose as well as in other portions of the county. Most of the township is well adapted to stock raising, and principal among the possessions of the farmer in this line are his flocks of sheep.

The water area of the township covers about nine hundred acres, and is included in some forty-five lakes and ponds. Around most of them are found belts of marsh, with occasional tamarack swamps. The drainage of the greater part of the township is through the various branches of the Shiawassee river, here an insignificant stream which can almost be crossed by a single step.

The principal sheet of water is Long lake, lying mostly on section 30. Its shores on nearly all sides are high and bold, and indented to a sufficient degree to make them exceedingly picturesque and beautiful. The lake measures nearly a mile and a half the longest way, and covers about three hundred acres. Its waters are clear and fresh, and abound in numerous varieties of fine fish, rendering it a pleasant place of resort for the angler. The other lakes vary in size from three to eighty acres, and the only ones named on the map (beside Long lake) are the Buckhorn lakes, on sections 22 and 27

The southern and southeastern portions of the township contain beautiful plains, the one in the southeast being an extension of the "White lake plain." These were originally covered with a scattered growth of oak, and today have a greater acreage of timber than when the town was first settled.

The population of Rose township in 1874, according to the State census compiled that year, was one thousand and eighty-four, and is substantially the same at present. From the census-tables we extract the following statistics, in order to give a relative idea of the agricultural wealth of the township

The total number of acres of wheat raised in 1874 was 3275, against 3322 in 1873. In the latter year there were also raised 906 acres of corn. The total yield of wheat for 1873 was 39,477 bushels ; of corn, 26,178 ; and of all other grains, 29,144; potatoes, 6796 bushels; hay cut, 2144 tons; wool sheared, 18,468 pounds; pork marketed, 43,793 pounds; butter made, 46,205 pounds; fruit dried for market, 2694 pounds ; cider made, 850 barrels

In livestock, the total number of horses owned in the township in 1874 was 506 ; work oxen, 22 ; milch cows, 537 ; neat cattle, one year old and over, other than oxen and cows, 503 ; swine over six months old, 524 ; sheep over six months old, 5421 ; sheep sheared in 1873, 4415.

The total number of acres of improved land in the township in 1874 was 11,920 ; total number of farms, 231, with an area of 22,357 acres, and an average area of 96.78 acres.

area of 96.78 acres. The Detroit and Milwaukee railway crosses the northeast corner of the township, having within its limits a length of about three and one-third miles. The Flint and Pere Marquette railway crosses the township from north to south, having a length of about seven miles. Money has lately been subscribed and preparations made to establish a station near "Buckhorn tavern," which will give the inhabitants of the township convenient railway facilities and a home shipping point, instead of obliging them to transport their produce to Holly or Clyde, as heretofore.

The township is strictly agricultural, having no village within its boundaries, although small settlements have sprung up at Rose Corners and " Buckhorn Tavern," neither of which is probably destined to become a metropolis.

First Entries of Land, Pioneer Settlers, Incidents

The first entry of land in Rose township was made by I. N. Voorheis and Daniel Hammond, June 8, 1835. It included a mill site on section 11. No mill was ever built, however, and neither Voorheis nor Hammond ever settled on the place. The first improvements were made by John C. Garner, who now lives upon it. The first actual settlement in the township was made by Daniel Danielson, who located eighty acres on section 35 in 1835, and upon it built the first house in the township. His land was then covered with timber, and his log house stood on the west side of the Indian trail (now the "White Lake road"), upon land now owned by William P. Hicks. Mr. Danielson afterwards removed to Holly, where he died.

The next settler succeeding Danielson was Benjamin Hicks, who emigrated from Livonia, Livingston county, New York, with his wife, one son (Benjamin C. Hicks), and two daughters, early in the spring of 1836. Mr. Hicks and his son had been out the previous October (1835), and located land on section 35, and built a log house and a log stable. The house was the second one built in the township, and while erecting it Mr. Hicks and his son boarded with Daniel Danielson. The old Hicks place is the one where Mrs. Benjamin C. Hicks now lives. Mr. Hicks, Sr., stayed on his place during the winter of 1835-36, while his son returned to New York, and in the spring brought back the family.

Benjamin C. Hicks was afterwards married to Elizabeth P. Wendell, who had come with her father to the township in 1836. He died March 22, 1853, and had he lived until the 26th of the same month he would have been forty-five years of age. His father died August 16, 1850, aged nearly seventy-seven, and his mother in January, 1851.

As an example of the general experience of settlers in Rose township, or, in fact, the entire country, a

portion of the following, from an address delivered by H. C. Judd before the pioneer meeting in Pontiac, in 1875, will apply. He says: "I was born in Genesee county, New York, and was the youngest of thirteen children, left an orphan at a week old, raised by foster parents, brought up a bound boy, and received one hundred dollars at the age of twenty-one years; emigrated to the State of Michigan in 1836, and bought land in Oakland County, town of Rose ; cleared and fenced a small improvement without owning a team, giving hand labor for team labor, but eventually owned a team, and broke up four hundred acres of new land for other people, besides two farms for myself. The country was full of wild game, but as hunting was never my forte I killed but little, viz., three bears, two wolves, and two deer. But the marshes were full of massasaugers, which were my dread, having seen a child three years old bitten by one, just as its mother was returning from church, from the effects of which it died in seven hours. During the same Summer, while mowing upon the marshes, I killed nineteen full-grown massasaugers in one day. That night I would have taken four shillings on a dollar for all I owned in Michigan, but on the following morning I arose determined to carve me a home in the 'Peninsular State,' and have succeeded in so doing."

Among the old settlers of the county, although not of the township, is Franklin Gardner, who, in 1832, strode westward with the "course of empire," and took up his abode in the township of Lyon, Oakland County, Michigan, . He was accompanied by his wife and her mother, and lived in Lyon until 1852, when he moved to Milford, and afterwards to Rose, where he is now living on section 3. He was among the first settlers in the township of Lyon, although the first entry of land in that town was made in 1830, two years previous to the time Mr. Gardner settled. Within three months after he came he says there were as many as thirty families in it. Mr. Gardner is the father of nine children, of whom five are now living, two sons and three daughters. His mother-in-law, Mrs. Mary G. More, was a widow when she came with Mr. Gardner, and quite old at the time. She died October 22, 1845, having survived her daughter (Mrs. Gardner); the latter died July 10, 1842. On the 20th of February, 1843, Mr. Gardner was married to Catharine Dunlap, whose father, Alexander Dunlap, emigrated from Seneca county, New York, and settled in Lyon township in 1833. He was accompanied by his wife and nine children, and one son was born afterwards. Nine of the children are now living.

Herman Van Campen, a later arrival, is from the neighborhood of Seneca lake. New York, from whence he came with his father, John Van Campen, about 1845, and settled first in Waterford township, where he lived until the spring of 1852, when he removed to his present location in Rose. His wife accompanied her father, Owen Soper, to Michigan in 1836. They were from the town of Greece, Monroe county. New York, and settled in Pontiac. Mr. Soper brought his wife and four children with him. He died about 1858.

Peter W. Sutton, a native of the town of Mansfield, Warren county, New Jersey, left that place when about fifteen years of age, and removed with his father, John Sutton, to Genesee county, New York. Most of the time for the succeeding decade they lived across the line in Orleans county. In 1843, P. W. Sutton emigrated to Michigan, and lived in and around Pontiac until March 9, 1847, when he located on the farm he now owns on section 14, where his old house is yet standing, opposite the fine frame dwelling he now occupies. He purchased eighty acres on section 14 from William Crawford, and forty acres just north of it, on section 11, from Governor John Davis, of Massachusetts. He has since become the owner of additional land, and is now living on section 11. He made the first improvements on his place, and says that when he settled he "came to stay." He was accompanied to Michigan by his wife and four children, and all the family except himself were very sea sick during the rough passage up Lake Erie.

George Grarner, a native of the town of Hardiston, Sussex county. New Jersey, and later a resident of the town of Pultney, Steuben county. New York, settled in Rose in 1836, arriving at his present farm on the

third day of October in that year. His father, Thomas Garner, had located in June, 1833, in White Lake township, as had also his brothers John, Robert, and Thomas.

Henry Thomas, from the State of Connecticut, was one of the early settlers of the township, and now has a son, Ezekiel, living on section 9.

Phineas Baits, a native of Madison county, New York, and afterwards a resident of the town of Parma, Monroe county, settled on section 6, Milford township, Oakland County, Michigan, in 1834, with his wife and one daughter and his wife's father, Jesse Stowell. They arrived in the county in November, and located between them three hundred acres of government land. Five children were born in Mr. Baits' family after he settled, and three of his children are now living. His present wife has six living. Mr. Baits lived in Milford township until the spring of 1835, when he removed to his present location in Rose. He has resided forty-three years in Oakland County, and witnessed its growth from what was, when he came, almost a wilderness to its present rank in the State

John A. Wendell immigrated to Michigan from the town of Charlton, Saratoga county, New York, in 1836, arriving in Detroit in the summer, and staying till sometime in the fall of that year in the city with his family. He afterwards became a prominent man in Rose township. His son, Joseph C. Wendell, arrived in Michigan in July, 1836, and settled immediately in Rose township, where he purchased the west half of the northeast quarter of section 22, and located upon it with his family, then consisting of his wife and one child, a son. Six children have been born to him since, and of the seven there are five now living.

Mr. Wendell (Joseph C.) built a log shanty on his place, and lived in it about six years. He had during this time purchased the east half of the northwest quarter of section 22, and built a log house upon it, to which he removed. This latter building finally gave place to the frame dwelling Mr. Wendell now occupies. When he first came to the township the White lake road was complete to about the location of the present "Buckhorn tavern," and the old Indian trail which it followed extended westward towards Shiawassee

On his way from New York to Michigan, Mr. Wendell drove through via Canada with a team, while his father came up Lake Erie. Joseph C. Wendell has become one of the most prominent men in the township, as a reference to the list of officers will show.

The first white child born in the township was probably Daniel Gage, whose birth occurred in October, 1836. His father, David Gage, lived at the time in a shanty on land now owned by J. C. Wendell, the latter going through the woods to Fenton after a physician when Daniel was born, and finding his way with great difficulty. Among the early births was that of a child of Everett Wendell, which lived but one week.

David Gage settled in the township in the spring of 1836, and at once began to keep "public house" at his rude shanty. He had lived in Farmington township for some time before coming to Rose, and was formerly from the State of New York. When he first settled in Rose he broke up a small piece of ground and planted some potatoes, which were among the first planted in the township. Subsequent to 1836 he opened a regular tavern on his place, having built a larger and better house, his old shanty proving too small and uncomfortable. At the same time a man named Beebe was keeping a tavern near by, and one was soon after started at Rose Corners by a man named Nichols. Everett Wendell was also running one in a log house about two miles south, on the White lake road. He afterwards purchased the "Buckhorn tavern," which was built about 1846-48, by Ahasuerus W. Buell, who subsequently went to Holly village and opened a store.

At the time the "Buckhorn tavern" was built the mail route from Pontiac to Shiawassee was over the White lake road, and a line of stages was either in opposition then or began to run soon after. When the tavern was built the mail was carried on horseback

A post office had been established at Buckhorn as early as 1837-38, and the first postmaster was John A. Wendell. The office was named "Rose," after the township, which had recently been organized.

After Buell built his tavern he carried it on for a year or a year and a half, and sold it to Everett Wendell, after which he built a store on the opposite side of the road. The store proved a profitable investment, and Mr. Buell had plenty of business. He also had a small tannery, in which he tanned buckskins, and made them up into mittens. In a building which he had erected for a tannery, but never used for that purpose, he opened a small shoe shop. After his removal to Holly he was finally elected to the legislature, and died in office.

"Beebe's tavern" was kept by Anson Beebe, and was between Rose Corners and Gage's tavern stand. He settled in the township in 1836, and opened his tavern the same year.

Travelers are now kept occasionally at the old "Buckhorn tavern," although its proprietor, William Burt, does not get custom enough to pay him for taking out a license. The building is used as a place in which to hold the township meetings, etc

Rose post office is now kept by Warren A. Breed, on section 26. The first postmaster, John A. Wendell, held the office nearly to the time of his death, which occurred in 1858, when he was sixty-nine years of age. After his decease his son, Everett Wendell, was appointed, and held it until the beginning of Lincoln's administration (1861), when the office was given to Abel K. Crosby. The latter had charge only about six months, after which Mr. Breed was appointed, and has held the position to the present. The mail route is between Rose and Holly, and the mail is delivered at Rose semi-weekly. Van Dyke Wendell is the carrier.

Alvah Coffin settled in the township of Waterford in 1836, a few weeks after Mr. Wendell located in Rose. He brought his wife and three children with him, and at the time of his daughter's death was visiting Mr. Wendell. In 1838 he sold his Waterford property and moved into Rose.

Elias Doty settled in Rose township with his father, Isaac Doty, in 1836. The family was from the town of Solon, Cortland county. New York. The elder Doty brought his family, consisting of his wife and six children, three sons and three daughters, to Michigan in 1828, and settled at Ypsilanti, Washtenaw county, where he built one of the earliest woolen mills in the State. It is said to have been the first by some, but the fact of there being woolen mills in Oakland County as early as 1824-25 places a damper on that assertion.

Elias Doty, when he first settled in Rose, purchased the farm next east of his present one, lying partly on section 36, and afterwards exchanged with his oldest brother for the place he now occupies, on the same section. Mr. Doty possesses a finely-improved farm, a view of which will be found in this work.

Hiram A. Wheeler came from Cattaraugus county. New York, in October 1838, with his wife and two children, a son and a daughter, and settled in Rose township. In the year 1840 they located on the farm where Mr. Wheeler now lives, section 29. Mr. Wheeler was the first settler on the place, and made the

first improvements, although the land had been entered by a man named Whitehouse. Mr. Wheeler built a log shanty on his property, and for a door hung up a stable door he had procured of a neighbor. In this shanty he lived for a short time. He cleared some land and sowed a couple of acres of wheat, from which he harvested enough to thrash out forty-eight bushels, using an old fashioned thrashing machine.

Mrs. Wheeler wove the first woolen cloth that was made in the town of Rose the material having been brought to her from Farmington. Mrs. Wheeler's mother (Mrs. Merrill) and her three sons lived near by, having settled about eighteen months previously. They first located in Monroe county, in 1833, afterwards came to Milford, Oakland County, and finally to Rose. They were originally from Caledonia county, Vermont, and had also lived in the State of New York. Joshua Merrill died in Milford township.

A man named John Gardner lived in a small log hut half a mile north of Mr. Wheeler's, and had about two acres cleared when the latter came.

Almont Heath was also an early settler of the neighborhood. Edward Chase is an old settler of Michigan, though not long a resident of Oakland County. One of the early settlers of the township was Asa Reynolds, Esq., now residing at Fenton, Genesee county. He was a prominent citizen and held many positions of public trust, which he filled with great satisfaction to all.

Caleb Everts, now living on section 20, is a native of Rutland county, Vermont, and removed from there with his parents to Washington county, New York, when quite small. They afterwards settled in the town of Wheatland, Monroe county, where Mr. Everts' father, Gilbert Everts, died in 1827. In the fall of 1836, Caleb Everts made his first trip to Michigan, and located land in Hillsdale county. He returned to New York, married, and in the spring of 1837 came again to this State, but stayed only a short time. In the fall of 1840 he purchased the place where he now lives of Warren Hitchins, who had made the first improvements upon it, and in October, 1841, removed to it with his family. He has since accumulated a large property.

William Fillingham emigrated to the United States from Lancashire, England, in 1843, and settled in Pontiac, Michigan, where he lived for twelve years, and afterwards removed to his present location on section 16, Rose township. He owns land also on section 17. He brought his wife with him from England, and they have had eight children born to them, of whom seven are now living. The farm which Mr. Fillingham owns was entered by Joseph Fuller, who had made but few improvements upon it when Mr. Fillingham purchased it.

Silas Newell is a native of Greenville, Greene county, New York, and resided there until he was twenty-two years of age, when, in 1826, he removed to Sodus, Wayne county. Here he lived until 1838, when he emigrated to Michigan, and on coming to Oakland County settled in the town of Rose with his wife and six sons. He had in 1837 purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land on the northwest quarter of section 10 from Elder Samuel Jones. It was entirely unimproved, and Mr. Newell found it necessary to bare his arm and begin the work of building him a home and carving for himself a fortune where all was as nature had left it. He purchased additional land in the neighborhood, and in 1867 sold his farm and removed to Fenton, Genesee county. After settling, his family was increased by the birth of two daughters. All his children are yet living except two sons, who died in 1841.

When Mr. Newell and family came west, they followed the route usually taken by immigrants, viz., to Buffalo on the canal, and from Buffalo to Detroit via Lake Erie. They arrived at their new home in Rose on the 1st day of June, 1838. Mr. N. is now living in Rose township with his daughter, Mrs. Daniel W. Oren.

Rose is one of the latest settled townships in Oakland County, and is wanting in many incidents of pioneer life which characterize the Settlements of older townships. Yet the first who ventured into its limits to make themselves homes had many hardships to bear and a long succession of difficulties to surmount. A first settlement in any part of the country ten miles or more from a village or ready market, meant in those days that the settler must undergo many trials which are unknown in older regions. Wild animals abounded and game of all kinds was plenty, so that with a good rifle, plenty of ammunition, and a steady hand the settler need not want for meat. At certain seasons of the year the people were nearly all sick with the ague, that dread disease which seems indigenous to a new country. Frequently the number of persons exempt from the "shakes" was scarcely adequate to care for those who were afflicted.

The Indians who lived in the region were usually quiet and peaceable, and many an instance is related of their bringing supplies of food to the settlers and attending to the wants of the sick, as if they were indeed brothers. Many are the Indian reminiscences yet preserved by those of the pioneers now living, and the memory of the "red man" is cherished with generally pleasant feelings of regard and gratefulness for favors received at his hands

The name " Buckhorn," given to the lakes, creek, and tavern near the central portion of the township, is said to have been bestowed by Isaac I. Voorheis, of Waterford township, who was through here at an early day hunting land. He found a pole about twenty feet long laid across the creek, and upon it were hung a large number of the antlers of the buck, which undoubtedly had been left there by the Indians.

Cemeteries

The cemetery on section 27 was laid out in 1837, on land taken from the farm then owned by John A. Wendell. The first burial in it was that of the previously mentioned child of Everett Wendell. The lot contains a trifle less than three-fourths of an acre, and is the property of the township. Its location is high and dry, and quite picturesque.

The one on section 20 was laid out about 1840-41, and is also township property. Another one is located on section 13, the first burial in it being that of Harriet, a daughter of H. and Ruth Seaver, who died March 30, 1851, aged six years and a half.

The First Death

The first death in the township was that of a child of Alvah Coffin. The child was but a year old, was named Melissa, and was a sister of Mrs. J. C. Wendell. It was buried on Mr. Wendell's farm.

The First Town Meetings

In the township of Rose was held on Monday, April 3, 1837. John A. Wendell was chosen moderator, and M. W. Easton clerk ; Benjamin Hicks, Samuel Jones, and Jonathan Bennett were appointed inspectors of election. The following township officers were duly elected, viz.:

Supervisor, John A. Wendell ; Town Clerk, Henry Phelps ; Justices of the Peace, Henry Phelps, Pardon Hicks, Jonathan Bennett, John A. Wendell; Assessors, Joseph C. Wendell, Pardon Hicks ; Highway Commissioners, J. C. Wendell, Abraham Wortman, Pardon Hicks ; Poor masters, John A. Wendell, Eber

Weed ; Board of School Inspectors, Jonathan Bennett, Eber Weed, Benjamin Hicks; Collector, Everett Wendell; Constables, Everett Wendell, William J. Lane, Stephen Hovey ; Path master, David Gage.

The supervisors from 1838 to 1877, inclusive, have been as follows: 1838-40, John A. Wendell; 1841, Chester Buck; 1842, John A. Wendell; 1843, John Galloway; 1844, John A. Wendell ; 1845-46, D. Burrows; 1847-49, Moses B. Jones; 1850-51, Asa Reynolds; 1852, James Brownell; 1853-57, Joseph C. Wendell; 1858-59, Asa Reynolds; 1860,, Joseph C. Wendell; 1861, Charles F. Hadley; 1862-66, Asa Reynolds; 1867-72, Charles F. Hadley ; 1873-77, Joseph C. Wendell.

Township Clerks; 1838, Asher B. Webster; 1839, John A. Wendell; 1840-44, Joseph C. Wendell; 1845, Daniel W. Hollister; 1846-47, Joseph C. Wendell; 1848-49, Ahasuerus W. Buell; 1850-51, Everett Wendell; 1852-53, A. W. Buell ; 1854, L. D. Jennings ; 1855-60, Everett Wendell ; 1861-62, Solomon C. Skidmore; 1863-64, Charks Sullivan ; 1865-66; Everett Wendell ; 1867, S. C. Skidmore; 1868, Thomas E. Boget; 1869-70, Mr. D. Lapham; 1871, William W. Slocum; 1872, S. C. Skidmore; 1873-77, William G. Miller

Justices of the Peace; 1838, Asa Reynolds; 1839, John A. Wendell, James K. Wortman; 1840, James K. Wortman; 1841, B. C. Covert; 1842, Asa Reynolds; 1843, John A. Wendell; 1844, John A. Wendell, James K. Wortman; 1845, M. W. Easton ; 1846, Asa Reynolds; 1847, William R. Webster, James Brownell; 1848, John Hadley, Jr.; 1849, William R. Webster; 1850, John Galloway ; 1851, James Brownell ; 1852, Moses B. Jones; 1853, John Hadley ; 1854, Asa Reynolds ; 1855, Abel K. Crosby ; 1856, Gerdiom G. Everts; 1857, John Hadley, Jr.; 1858, John Hovey; 1859, Abel K. Crosby; 1860, Herod A. Kinney; 1861, John Hadley, Jr. ; 1862, Noah G. Kelsey; 1863, Benjamin S. Pier; 1864, H. A. Kinney, Merchant E. Ruggles; 1865, Joseph C. Wendell; 1866, Noah G. Kelsey; 1867, Merchant E. Ruggles; 1868, Milton M. Burnham; 1869, Henry V. D. Boget; 1870, William W. Slocum, John Highfield; 1871, Patrick Gordon, D. Hollister ; 1872, Phineas Baits; 1873, Thomas Alder; 1874, Milan Perry; 1875, Robert C. Stiff; 1876, David W. Snover; 1877, Edmund Fillingham (two others not sworn).

Schools

Probably the first school house in the township was built near the site of the present frame school building in district No. 4. The original was also a frame, and was erected in the summer of 1837. The first teacher was a young lady named Lucinda Beebe, whose father, Anson Beebe, has been previously mentioned as having kept a tavern as early as 1836.

In the winter of 1837-38 a school house was built in what is now district No. 2, and was the second one in the township. The sammer fallowing (1838) two school houses were erected, one at Rose Corners, now district No. 3, and the other in the Hadley neighborhood, now known as district No. 1

The old school house in district No. 1 was built of logs, and stood nearly on the site of the present frame building. The timber for ,the school house now standing, in this district was cut by Peter W. Sutton, about 1856—57, and this house is now one of the best in the township.

At present there are seven school buildings in the township, all good and substantial structures, and the facilities for obtaining a common school education which are here afforded are probably equal to those of any other township in the county. The school houses of Rose are all located on high land dry ground, thus being healthful and pleasant.

The early schools were hardly such as would compare with those of the present in many cases, and yet

they supplied the wants of the settlers, and in their day were all that was required. Many who received their first rudiments of an education at these schools have since become "powers in the land," and made for themselves marks which are worthy of emulation by those who shall come after them.

The history of the past in all parts of this region is replete with adventures which would of themselves fill many a volume of goodly size. Yet, as it is impossible here to give the reminiscences of all, that task is left for other hands to perform. Many interesting facts are already given, and in most localities.

"The veil of years is lifted from the scenes of long ago. When wild beasts gathered menacing and the red man met his foe; Ere forest aisles re-echoed to the 'tread of pioneers,' A race of sturdy yeomen where one and all were peers; When curled the silvery waves before the light and swift canoe, And the Indian's children sported in the waters deep and blue; When the red deer roam in freedom the hills and woods among, And o'er the lakes and valleys the wolf's fierce outcry rung."

To the following named persons we are indebted for much valuable assistance in gathering the history of this township : Joseph C. Wendell, Elias Doty, Caleb Everts, William G. Miller (town clerk), Mrs. B. C. Hicks, Phineas Bates, George Garner, Peter W. Sutton, and others.

A Place Called Rose - In Search of the Naming of Rose Township

Like the Wendells, Pardon Hicks, Henry Phelps, and Abraham Wortman also owned original land patents in Rose Township. Stephen Hovey was an original land patent owner of a small parcel in Highland Township, but did not own land in Rose Township. Jonathan Bennett was not an original land patent owner in Rose Township, but he lived on the land of his half sister Charity Miller who was an original land patent owner in the township. David Gage did not own land in Rose Township, but ran the tavern where the first meeting of elected township government officials was held.

Pardon Hicks and his father Benjamin Hicks were original land patent owners and were some of the very first very early settlers in Rose Township. Pardon served as a Justice of the Peace, assessor, and as highway commissioner in the township's first government. Records indicate Pardon Hicks was born in Massachusetts. His wife, Desire Jayne, was born in Locke in Cayuga County, New York which is adjacent to Wayne County, New York. His brother Benjamin married Elizabeth Wendell, daughter of John A. Wendell. In 1840, Pardon moved to the settlement of White Lake where he worked as a blacksmith. In 1850 he moved to Fentonville (Fenton) and continued working as a blacksmith. He died there in 1855 and is buried there. Records did not indicate or hint to any connection between Pardon Hicks and the naming of the township.

Abraham Wortman was a large original land patent owner of a number of land parcels (over 530 acres) in the township. He and his wife lived on one parcel in the township and their children James Wortman, who had been a soldier in the War of 1812, and daughter Margaret and her husband Horace Ballard lived on other parcels. On the 1840 census, Abraham Wortman and his wife are listed as being in their 70's making him the oldest elected official of the first Rose government. After his wife died, at the age of 81, Abraham Wortman married 54 year old Catherine VanEvery. He died a few years later. It is unclear as to where he is buried. Records indicate Abraham Wortman was from Tompkins County in Upper New York State, but there are no records indicating he had any influence over the naming of Rose and no records connecting him to Rose in Wayne County, New York were found.

Not much is known about the officials William J. Lane, Eber Weed, and David Gage. None of them were landowners in the township and not much is known about them and of their connection to the township. Only David Gage's brother Myra Gage was an original land patent owner in the township.

David Gage was elected to the position of path master. Gage ran what is believed to be the first tavern in the township and it is where the first township meeting took place on April 3, 1837. By October of 1837, the Gage Tavern became a post office when the government officially awarded a post office to the township. Soon after it became a stage coach stop as mail began to be carried by stage coaches.

William J. Lane was elected as a constable. Eber Weed was elected as poor master. Lane does not appear on the 1840 census for Rose Township nor are there other records mentioning him.

The only Eber Weed found living near Rose Township was in the 1840 census which listed him as living in Fentonville (Fenton) with his wife and small child. Weed died in 1850 and is buried in Fenton. After Weed's death, his wife is shown running a small hotel in Fentonville in the 1850 census. This was likely the business Eber Weed was running prior to his death.

One interesting coincidence with these three men is that these family names of Lane, Weed, and Gage, are all mentioned in the book: *Rose Neighborhood Sketches: Wayne County, New York*. Alfred S. Rose. (1893) which describes influential families in Rose, New York. The Weed family was significant enough that a port village on the Erie Canal was named Weedsport in Cayuga County, New York after the Weeds who were merchants there and helped found the village. Records did not connect these families to those with the same name in Wayne County, New York. No records indicating any of these officials had any influence over the naming of Rose Township were found.