

THE BEGINNINGS OF MILFORD TOWNSHIP

First land Entry in 1827. First Settlers came in '32

The year 1932 has been looked on as properly the centennial year, because it was in that year the first settlers appeared to dispute the possession of land with the aborigines, although entries of land had been made previous to that time. The first entry of land in the present township, then a part of Novi Township, was made by Lyman Pettibone Aug. 27, 1827 and by Amos Mead in 1830. There are records of a number of entries by 1831 and tradition has it that Elizur Ruggles and his brother, Stanley, walked through this section in the fall of '31 looking for a likely mill site. This they found on the Huron river near what is now River Drive near East Huron street. In the spring of '32 they returned and built on this site the first saw mill. The name, "Milford," is supposed to have arisen from the ford at this mill site on the Huron.

A few other settlers came in '32 and in 1833 the tide of immigration brought many others from the eastern states. Many years ago the late James Crawford prepared for a pioneer meeting the following list of the first settlers on each section, taking the data from county and family records.

- Section 1—Daniel Houghton—1834
- Section 2—Aaron Phelps--1835
- Section 3—Calvin Eaton—1832
- Section 4—Stephen Armstrong—1834
- Section 5—Wm. Corgill—1832
- Section 6—Phineas Bates—1834
- Section 7—Alden Sears—1836
- Section 8—Ansil Sears—1833
- Section 9—Nelson Alport—1833
- Section 10—Luman Fuller—1832
- Section 11—Elizur Ruggles—1832
- Section 12—William Potts—1832
- Section 13—Moses Newman—1832
- Section 14—Morris Andrews—1832
- Section 15—Luman Fuller—1832
- Section 16—[State section]
- Section 17—Edgar Smith--1835
- Section 18—Edward Thornhill—1836
- Section 19—Alexander Stephenson—'34
- Section 20—Robert Rutherford—1833
- Section 21—Isaiah Hudson—1832
- Section 22—John Vincent—1832
- Section 24—Robt. Thompson—1832
- Section 25—Wm. Ashman—1834
- Section 26—Henry Moore—1833
- Section 27—Elizabeth Morgan—1832
- Section 28—Daniel Morgan—1832
- Section 29—Richard Sutton—1834
- Section 30—Joseph Rider—1833
- Section 31-32—Philip Kingsley—1834
- Section 33—Job G. Bigelow—1833
- Section 34—Jonas Bowers
- Section 35—Alfred Hayes
- Section 36—Walter Hubbard