

1933 Events From the Milford Times Files

February 17, 1933 When Milford Township Was Young

(All assessment rolls show that taxes were low in 1836 and that taxpayers were few. 1838 saw substantial increase.)

In going over old township records, preparatory to storing them away in the vault, Supervisor Tripp found some documents of more than usual interest on account of their age and the light they throw on conditions during the early days in Milford. Probably the oldest of the lot is the assessment roll for the township of Milford for the year 1836. The roll is signed by three assessors. If the office of supervisor was in existence at that time no name appears as such office on the roll.

The assessment book is a home-made one composed of four sheets of foolscap paper, folded and fastened with thread to make 16 pages 8x13 inches. The total assessment in Milford Township for the year 1836 was \$43,455, of which \$8,896 was assessed against non-residents, evidently people who had located land but had not moved in. The rate of taxation is given as 5 ³/₄ mills on the dollar and the total taxes on the book to be collected was \$229.99.

A glance through the book shows that Luman Fuller was the heaviest taxpayer in the township. His tax was \$15.14. His personal assessment was \$1,354 and his real estate \$1,280. Isaiah Hudson paid \$7.70. Aaron Phelps paid \$7.59. Most of the tax amounts were less than \$2.00. Cash values as rated by the assessors are shown by the following:

William Hale, on the east 1/2 of the northeast 1/4 of Section 11, same being the north 80 acres of the later John Hale farm just east of the Village, was assessed \$150 and his tax was 85c.

Philip Kingsley on 101 acres in the southwest corner of the township was assessed \$200 on the land plus \$70 personal and his tax was \$1.54.

Marvin Ladd, on the south one-half of the northeast one-fourth and the southwest one-fourth of the northwest one-fourth of Section 3, a total of 160 acres was assessed \$235 on the land and \$19 personal, his tax was \$1.45.

The roll was signed by William Peck, Elizur Ruggles and Nelson R. Hubbard as assessors and their deposition was taken May 13, 1836 before J.F. Stratton, Justice of the Peace.

A notation on the first page of the roll says "County of Oakland," assessment amounts of \$12,651.95.

As indicating the rapid influx of population and increase in taxable property, the tax roll only two years later had increased from 79 names of residents in 1836 to 141 in 1838. Non-resident taxpayers had increased from 44 to 69.

New names appearing in the 1838 roll included Ansley S. Arms, Job Austin, John Armstrong, Patrick Downey, Truman Fox, Dows Fox, James Kinsman, Phineas Lyon, J.M. Mead, James Mendham and David Stephens.

In 1838 the tax levied in the township was \$800.55, apportioned as follows: County and State \$419.27, for the poor \$104.66, Township \$275.65.

William A. Peak, Elizur Ruggles and Phineas Bates were the Assessors and Truman Fox, Justice of the Peace took their deposition.

A few of the descriptions in 1838 were given as village lots, showing that at least one plot [sic] had been made at that early date.

The largest taxpayer in 1838 was Mead & Arms, evidently owners of a general store which was forerunner of the present Arms Brothers Store. The book says that [they] were assessed \$5,000 personal and paid \$40.64 tax.

Luman Fuller's assessment had increased to \$4,591 and his tax to \$37.33. Isaiah Hudson's tax had gone up to \$24.35, Aaron Phelps' to \$21.62, William Hale to \$3.17, Philip Kingsley's to \$4.92, Marvin Ladd's to \$3.62. These represent tax increases from more than one hundred to upward of 300 percent in two years on the same descriptions.

The names of residents [sic] tax payers are:

William Ashman, John Atkins, Morris Andrews, Phineas Bates, Jonas Bowers, Job. G. Bigelow, Eunice Bennett, Lyman Bennett, Cromwell Bowen, Michael Bird.

Thomas Bourns, Levi Clark, Robert Crawford, Alanson Crawford, Stephen Clark, Dort Curtis, Jehiah Culver, Ancil Cears, John Clark, Isaac Denison, John Davis, Isaac Denison, John Davis, Jabes Denison, Jonithan M. Ellis, Calvin Eaton.

William Forman, Luman Fuller, William Gardner, Mendrit Gardner, William Grayham, Alfred Hayes, John Hayes, Christopher Hosner, John L. Hayes, Horace Hayes, Daniel Houghton, William Hale, Samuel Hubbard, Nelson Hubbard, Abner Hubbard, Isaiah Hudson.

Philip Kinsley, John Kesby, Marvin Ladd, Peter Lambert, Daniel Morgan, Martha Morgan, Nelson Morgan, James Middough, John Mann, Moses Newman, Joseph Openo, Abel Peck, Jos. Palmer, William Potts, Aaron Phelps, Frederick Prior, Robert Pearson, Jr., Richard Pearson, John Pearson, Plinney Phillips, Leonard Phillips.

Robert Rutherford, Henry Ruggles, Stanley Ruggles, Elizur Ruggles, Richard Sutton, James Seaton, Harvey Steel, William Stephens, Jesse Stowel, John Vincent, Everet Woodruff, Daniel Whitaker and Thomas J. Wheeler.

Listed among the 45 non-residents land owners were such latter well-known names as Charles Andrews, Alfred Crawford, Robert Crawford, Jr., Henry K. Foote, Reuben More, Jabes Mead and Horace Therber.