



Newaygo County History

Quarterly Newsletter of the Newaygo County Museum and Heritage Center

Jan/Feb/Mar 2018



Mrs. Dailey - 1909



M. Titus - Volney

Early Europeans in Newaygo County



Stouts



Albert Haines - 1888

Homestead Act of 1862 - Denver Township

When Michigan became a state in 1837, there were vast areas available for purchase and speculators often purchased extensive holdings at \$1.25 per acre. The price then became so high that early settlers were often unable to meet the speculator's price.

In 1862, the Homestead Act was passed and signed into law by Abraham Lincoln. The new law established a three-fold homestead acquisition process: filing an application, improving the land, and filing for deed of title.

Any U.S. citizen, or intended citizen, who had never borne arms against the U.S. Government could file an application and lay claim to 160 acres of surveyed Government land.

For the next 5 years, the homesteader had to live on the land and improve it by building a 12-by-14 dwelling and growing crops. After 5 years, the homesteader could file for

his patent (or deed of title) by submitting proof of residency and the required improvements to a local land office.

One of the first selections of lands for homesteading in Michigan was made by John Manning who filed application at the Ionia Land Office for 160 acres in Denver Township, Newaygo County.

This included the S1/2 of the SW1/4, NW1/4, SE1/4 of Section 20 and the SW1/4 of Section 21, T14N, R14W. John's certificate bears the date of January 1, 1863, the date that the Act granting the homestead privilege became effective. After five years of occupancy, final approval was filed on January 1, 1868 and a patent was issued to John Manning in November of 1869.

- Homesteading in Michigan, Clarke ; U.S. Gov't .

Newaygo County History newsletter is part our mission to collect, preserve, and share Newaygo County's history.

To receive notice of new digital issue, opt in at: newaygocountyhistory.org/newsletters-1

NEWAYGO COUNTY MUSEUM AND HERITAGE CENTER

12 Quarterline Rd
P.O. Box 361
Newaygo, MI 49337

April thru October
Tuesday - Saturday
11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Memorial Day & Labor Day
Weekends Only
Sunday 11:00 - 4:00 pm

Phone: 231-652-5003

Website: newaygocountyhistory.org

Email:
museum@newaygocountyhistory.org



[facebook.com/newaygocountymuseum](https://www.facebook.com/newaygocountymuseum)

The Newaygo County Museum and Heritage Center is made possible by the gifts of individual donors, businesses, in-kind gifts, and by the generous support of the **Fremont Area Community Foundation**.

Field Trip transportation for Newaygo County elementary students is funded by the **Gerber Foundation**.

Ancestrylibrary.com is provided by the **Arthur Christian Nelsen & Virginia Faith Nelsen Fund of InFaith Community Foundation**.

Select equipment has been provided by the **Great Lakes Energy People Fund**. (Support the People Fund by rounding up your bill!)



EVERY GOOD CITIZEN SHOULD

BUY BUILD BELIEVE

IN WHITE CLOUD

BUY in White Cloud because your home town merchants and professional people offer good merchandise and conscientious service at honest prices. Be loyal to the business interests here, because they are largely responsible for the comfort, advantages and opportunities available to you and yours. It is far better to patronize your fellow citizens who are cooperating to advance the moral, physical and commercial welfare of your home town.

BUILD in White Cloud because it offers you the utmost in making a real home and surroundings which you and your family can enjoy. A home owner of the community is held in greater esteem by his fellow citizens and every home adds to the town's attractiveness and substantiality. No man "liveth alone" and your greatest opportunities for the pursuit of Life and Happiness are right here in White Cloud---among your friends and neighbors who have learned to like and respect you.

Believe in White Cloud, for the combined Faith of every person in our town is the most solid foundation for the accomplishment of every civic dream or plan to which this community looks forward. Back up your Faith with true cooperation in any movement that betters the town and its citizens. And, with everybody working hand in hand, the words a "wonderful place" will be the enthusiastic comment whenever White Cloud's name is mentioned.

We, the undersigned, Believers in White Cloud, heartily endorse the above:

E. H. FREIBERG
E. Have Your Clothes Made To Order

ELI MILNE
Electrician and Electrical Supplies

SCHURGER'S HOME BAKERY
Good Goods Baked Fresh Every Day

SELIN'S LUMBER CO.
A Good Place to Buy Lumber

FIRST STATE BANK
Play Square With Your Old Age, Save Now.

W. S. BIRD
Try Voigt's Crescent Flour—"Mother's Delight"

PATTERSON'S MARKET
Meats and Groceries

BEACH MOTOR SALES
Chevrolet and Oakland Sales and Service

FRY'S GARAGE
Dodge Sales and Service

A. Q. ADAMS
Hardware and Building Supplies

THE WHITE CLOUD EAGLE
Printing and Publishing

KINGSTON'S WAYSIDE INN
Hunters' and Fishermen's Headquarters

W. B. REED
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CHARLEY'S CAFE
I'd Walk Ten Blocks For a Meal Like That

R. J. RIVAIT
Ford Sales and Service

BARNHARD MERCANTILE CO.
The Big Busy Store

CENTRAL MEAT MARKET
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BOSS GROCERY
Fresh and Clean Groceries

SUPERIOR OIL CO.
Gasoline and Oils

WHITE CLOUD GARAGE
The Original Service Station

WEBSTER AUTO SALES
Star and Chrysler Sales and Service

WHITE CLOUD CO-OPERATIVE ASSN.
The Farmers' Friend

WHITE CLOUD, FIRST, LAST and ALWAYS

Oldest Family-Owned Business

George Rosenberg, born 1857, was a timber buyer for Ryerson Hills Lumber co. of Muskegon. Deciding not to move to follow the timber industry, he purchased the hardware in White Cloud from A.Q. Adams on November 15, 1900.

Living with his wife Mary and son, Getty, George expanded the store to include a full line lumber yard and a construction division that built several of the buildings in the area.

George also sold Ford automobiles which arrived unassembled via the railroad and were transported by wagon to the store. Wes Hepinstall purchased the first car and George taught him how to drive it.

Getty was in the Army during World War I when his father, George, died. The store closed for a short time until Getty returned home and was able to take over.

Getty married Zella Mills in 1921. They lived above the store with their two children, Ginny and George.

Getty had a construction company which built several cottages on land around Sylvan and Pickerel Lakes and in The Woodland Park area in Merrill Township. Sheriff Robert "Bob" Hart was the main carpenter on these jobs.

During the depression of the 1930's, Getty phased out of the building business. He lost the land which he owned around several Newaygo County lakes to foreclosure.

To make ends meet, other services were added to the business in-

cluding Railroad Express, state license bureau, and renting space to the Post Office. Things were still very tight, so much so, that friends helped pay the property taxes in 1932 and 1933 so that the store would not be lost.

Many manufacturing jobs were created during WWII, so Getty was able to find work in Muskegon at Sealed Power to supplement their income. Meanwhile, Zella ran the store.

Their son, George, took over the store in 1952, after serving in the Navy and attending Ferris State College. George married Dorothy Kolk in 1950. They had two children, Linda and Bob.



In 1955, Rosenberg's became a True-Value affiliated store, and from 1955 to 1985, the store grew from 1,500 sq. ft. to 12,000 sq. ft.

Bob joined his father, George, in 1979. He took over in 1990, becoming the fourth generation to operate the store. He and his wife, Susan, had four children; Eric, Mark, Sarah, and Trent. After Susan's death, Bob married Chris Robinson in 2006.

The store was moved across the street to 1164 Wilcox, where the Big Chief Hotel and two other homes once stood.

In 2003, Bob purchased the Grant True Value hardware as a second location. The store has been operated by the Rosenberg Family for nearly 117 years.

- Excerpts from Newaygo County History and Biographies, Vol. 1

Newaygo's Growth

A new brick hotel, will be opened in November by W. Courtright, proprietor of the Brooks house destroyed by fire last spring.

The new house fronts on State and Quarter Line streets, having a total frontage of 1698 feet. It is two stories in height and is arranged in the most convenient manner for hotel patrons. When completed and furnished it will rank with the best hotels of the state.

The new Jarse house, also well under way, is a brick building, and will be an excellent house, although not on so large a scale as the Courtright.

Eight business places are now under way in addition to the hotels above mentioned and are being pushed as rapidly as possible. When the work now under way is done Newaygo will be as handsome a town as can be found and as prosperous. The new furniture factory is looming up and will soon give employment to 100 hands.

The brick business, which was an experiment necessitated by the fire, has proved to be a great success. The supply of clay is inexhaustible, and strange as it may appear, both white and red brick of the best quality are manufactured at the same yard. The red brick are especially fine in color and next year a specialty of making re-pressed red brick for fine work will be made, and the company are making preparations to manufacture five million bricks another season.

Muskegon Daily Chronicle, Oct. 13, 1883

Courtesy of Dr. Carl Bajema, Professor, Emeritus, GVSU



Brooks House



Courtright

Former Hesperia Lady Returns Home after Making Automotive History

FIRST WOMAN TO EARN K-F RETIREMENT

- SECOND IN UAW-CIO

A 65-year-old Hesperia woman, Mrs. Bertha "Libby" Dickinson, recently made automobile history and was written up in a national press release as the first woman to retire at Kaiser-Frazer and the second woman to receive a pension in UAW-CIO history. She is the wife of Philip Dickinson and the couple last fall bought a home in Hesperia where they will spend their retirement.



Mr. and Mrs. Dickinson are not strangers to this area – both were born and spent their childhood and early married life in Denver Township. Mrs. Dickinson was an O'Brien before her marriage in Fremont 46 years ago.

Twenty-six years ago the Dickinson's moved their family to Dearborn and after her children became self-sufficient, Mrs. Dickinson went to work at Graham -Paige as a sewing machine operator. She held that job for 20 years, through the company's change-over to Kaiser-

Frazer, and has been a matron for two years thus completing her retirement qualifications. She bade her co-workers goodbye July 27 when she punched the clock for the last time before her retirement,

Mrs. Dickinson is the mother of five children, grandmother of ten and great-grandmother of four, and she says she is mighty glad to get back to her old neighborhood where she can get a well-earned rest. Mr. Dickinson has "kept the home fires burning" and maintaining the Hesperia home until his wife could join him there. The two will now have plenty of time to do the many things they have missed doing.

Mr. Dickinson retired some time ago from the wholesale poultry business. He was one of 22 children, so the couple are looking forward to renewing old acquaintances and visiting their many relatives in this area. "One of the first things we wanted to do after getting situated in our home was to subscribe to the Times-Indicator," Mr. Dickinson said.

Times-Indicator, September 6, 1951

Mrs. Dickinson's retirement was covered in many newspapers throughout Michigan. The Battle Creek Enquirer reported, "Mrs. Dickinson will receive a monthly pension of \$33.90 from Kaiser-Frazer. Federal social security will boost her total income to \$80 a month." She stated, "I'm going up there to become a full-time housewife and to do some serious fishing, too."

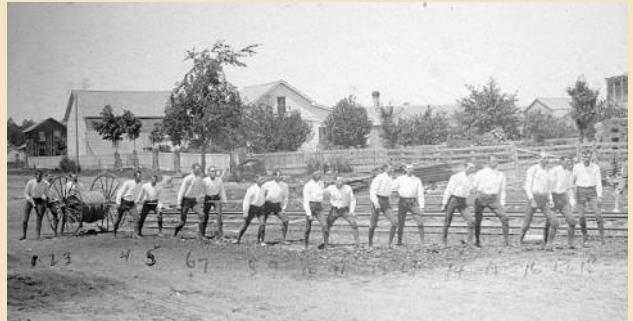
Libby's parents were Washington and Lucy O'Brien. Philip and Libby married in 1904. The couple's children were Luella, Lila, Laurel, Lennie Elizabeth, and Leonard. Libby died at Gerber Hospital, Fremont, MI March 16, 1955 and Philip died in Inkster, MI August 25, 1955.

Times-Indicator, Battle Creek Enquirer, census records

Newaygo County Firefighters Through the Years



GRANT FIRE DEPARTMENT



HOSE LINE



WOODVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT



FREMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dedicated to Richard Robinson, retired Fire Chief of Grand Haven. Dick retired a number of years ago to Brooks Twp. with his late wife, Shirley. He is now a resident of Fountain View in Grant.

Thank you, Dick, for all the time you gave to the NCMHC as a Greeter over the last four years!

The Newaygo Republican

Article Written in 1884

"This is the pioneer paper of the county, being now 27 years old. It was established in the fall of 1856, by James D. Maze, now of Grand Rapids, and by him published for about nine years. Considering all the unfavorable circumstances, Mr. Maze succeeded remarkably well, in making a popular and valuable county paper. The *Republican* under his management was one of the best country papers in the State of Michigan. Before the war, it was one of the most ardent supporters of Salmon P. Chase for the Presidency in 1860. In 1864 it also favored Mr. Chase; but of course it heartily supported Lincoln both years, after he was nominated. During the four dark years of the rebellion, the paper was enthusiastically patriotic, and never relaxed in its support of the Government. In the fall of 1865 the office was purchased by E.L. Gray. Most of the time for the next four years, the name of James A. Banister appeared as local editor and publisher, and that of E. L. Gray as editor. In 1869 Edwin O. Shaw, the present editor, leased the entire outfit of the *Republican*. At the expiration of his first year, he purchased it. In 1877 he associated with himself as partner his brother W. A. Shaw. The paper is now a six-column quarto in size. It is one of the staunchest *Republican* sheets of the country.

Twenty years ago the *Republican* was not the prosperous, profitable paper that has of later years rendered such service to the Republican party. The following stirring appeal appeared Oct. 31, 1861, on Mr. Maze's return from a month's visit in Ohio; it was doubtless a serious matter then, but can be read lightly now:

4 chickens	\$1 00
1 turkey	50
4 small sun-fish	13
151 promises	0 00

Now, gentlemen, this is abominable. There is no excuse for such cussed tardiness, or willful negligence, in paying the small sums due us on subscription. There is not a man who takes this paper who is not perfectly able to pay for it in something. We suffered ourselves, in times past, for the want of our pay, because our patrons were poor, and their crops poor. But for the last two years crops have been good, and yet we are oppressed for the want of that which every delinquent has in abundance. This fall we are cramped. And this fall, "by the eternals," we will have our pay. Those of you who have not paid for your paper may now begin to make your calculations accordingly. We will have either our pay or a judgement for what is in arrears, and our pay in advance for the coming year, if we do not have a circulation of

over 50 names. We know that our delinquents can pay, and now we mean they shall do it.

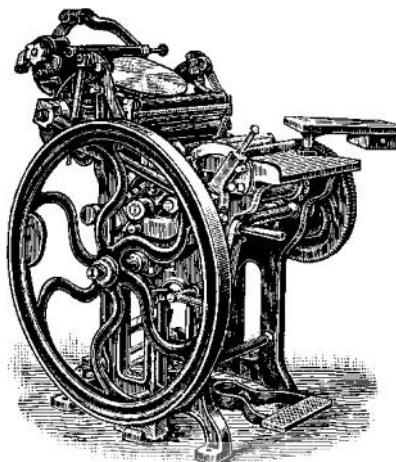
We have been so lenient in times past, that instead of reciprocating the favor with prompt pay now when you are able, you seem to think it a matter of little consequence whether you pay at all. We have, as all acknowledge, published as good a country sheet as is found in the State; we have done as well by our subscribers as they could ask., had they paid us promptly. And to ask us to continue this paper without any pay is asking a little too much. We will take almost any kind of grain, at a fair price. But we do not want you to rush in your buckwheat, and rye, or any other article that you cannot sell or give away. We want some of these articles, true, but we want wheat, oats and corn, principally. When you kill your beef or pork, bring us a piece amounting precisely to our subscription. Don't be hogs. Men will gladly and promptly pay their shoe bills, grocery bills, blacksmith bills, fiddler's bills, studhorse bills, and the like, with the best article of produce they have got; but if they pay the printer at all, they want to pay in something that they can make no other disposition . Now, these things have become intolerable; and by the Holy Ghost we will not endure it longer.

As to legal advertisements, some of those that are in arrears will perhaps be promptly paid; others' will be paid at the end of that kind of trouble, as the publishing of those notices without our pay in advance is at an end.

Some may not fancy this article, but we do not care a "cuss" whether they do or not. We mean what we say, and say what we mean, and the sooner the cause of such articles is removed, the better it will be for all parties concerned. That's all.

Not long afterward an incident occurred (probably in consequence of the above heart-rending appeal) which was thus described by Mr. Maze:

We were not a little taken aback the other morning when a neighbor of ours stepped into our office and informed us that he wanted to subscribe for our paper. We took down the name and address, and were waiting for the usual promise to bring the rye or buckwheat straw in a few days, when we discovered that he ran his hand into his side pocket. Pistols and bowie knives ran through our head in a moment. Finally he drew out a large wallet. Summons and warrants then flashed upon us, when our agitation became even more intense. But imagine our consternation when he deliberately handed us the amount of the subscription in cold cash!"



Platen Press

Thank you for supporting our mission!

Jim & Elsie Akershoek	Ron & Gail Graeser	Joe & Holly Moon	Ellsworth Stay
Bob Alighire	Merrit & LaVon Guerne	Harold & Joan Myers	Stuart Stone
Bill Alsover	Pamela Grienke	Luanne Nelson	Deborah Storbeck
Bill & Judy Anderson	Betty Harmsen	Gail Norquist	Rosemary Strohpaul
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Donna Friar	Mary Melville	Carol Spangler	Newaygo Insurance Agency, Inc
Kimberly Gellise	Terrance Mercer	Nancy Springstead	Terry's Flooring Center
Terry & Starr Gleason	Mark & Marci Miller	James Staples	(Our apologies for any errors or omissions.)
Larry Gouine	Tressa Mills	Leon Staples	

Your history is our mission!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**Greeters to welcome guests.**

If you enjoy people, love our history, and like learning new things, consider supporting our mission by welcoming guests as a Greeter.

A fun activity for couples or friends to do together! Between guests, you are welcome to explore Newaygo County's rich history by browsing the artifact catalog and exploring our research materials. Who knows, you may just come up the next great exhibit idea!

The exhibit gallery is open April through October; Tuesday through Saturday, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. A commitment of two five-hour days per month, for three months is appreciated. Training provided.

Call 231-652-5003



Oquesimus Harrington and Wife

Greetings!

Thank you to our donors for making it possible to receive our entire \$10,000 matching grant for operations from the Fremont Area Community Foundation!

Eighteen months ago, I shared with our Board that I would be retiring in February of 2018. Now, it is time to express my gratitude to all that have supported the work to this point.

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, and donors; thank you to the FACF, Gerber Foundation, and the City of Newaygo; and thank you to all of the businesses that have worked so closely with us in everything from sewer repair to exhibit creation. You are all to be commended for your vision and belief in our mission to collect, preserve, and share Newaygo County's history. Thank you!

Providence always provides. So, I am not surprised in the least that the Board has selected **Mr. Steven J. Radtke** of Muskegon as the new NCMHC Executive Director.

Steven brings twelve years of experience with the Tri-Cities Museum in Grand Haven, including four years as Executive Director. He has extensive experience in all facets of museum operations including exhibits and fundraising. He holds a BS in Psychology with a focus in Museum Studies from CMU. Steven will join us on January 22. **Welcome, Steven!**

A few changes with our part-time staff.

- **Shawna Smith** (BS Psychology) is now our Artifact Collections Manager. Shawna transitioned into the position after serving as assistant for over a year.
- **Diane Rhoads**, formerly Artifact Collections Mgr. is happily serving as Artifact Technician.
- **Scott Looman** (MA Education) our "Work-Based Learning Opportunity" Project Developer, will become our Education Coordinator in April.
- **Luanne Nelson** (MA Learning Disabilities) will oversee field trips as Field Trip Manager, a new position provided by the Gerber Foundation.
- In June, Luanne will serve as Archaeology Dig Coordinator.

Thank you, Luanne, Scott, Shawna, Diane, Toni, and Joan for always going above and beyond in your duties for the NCMHC. It has been gratifying to work with such a great staff. Thank you!

Thank you to our steadfast volunteers. Your heart for Newaygo County's history is awesome! We could never have come this far without you! *To the best-ever Volunteer, my dh, Todd, THANK YOU! (Now, let's go get that new puppy!)*

In appreciation,
Roxanne

2018 - \$7,500 Matching Grant Opportunity!

Yes, I/we want to support the NCMHC's mission to collect, preserve, and share Newaygo County history.

Enclosed is my/our gift of: \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other: _____ Ck# _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

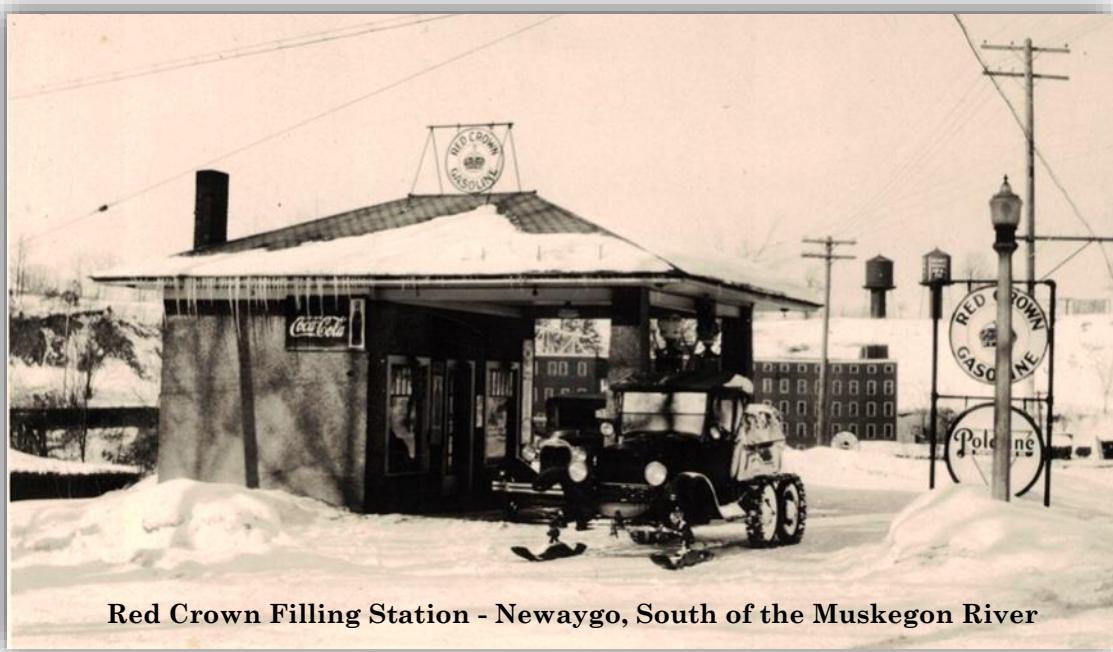
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please mail by December 31, 2018 to: **NCMHC P.O. Box 361, Newaygo, MI 49337**

Donate online at: newaygocountyhistory.org Thank you for your support!



P.O. Box 361
Newaygo, MI 49337



Red Crown Filling Station - Newaygo, South of the Muskegon River



The Newaygo County Museum and Heritage Center is made possible by the contributions of individuals, businesses, the Fremont Area Community Foundation, The Gerber Foundation, and the City of Newaygo. Thank you!

The Gerber Foundation
Enhancing the quality of life of infants and young children



We are a
Blue Star Museum
newaygomuseum.org/bluestar

