



Jenison Historical Association Footnotes

Jenison Historical Association
Box 664—28 Port Sheldon
Jenison, Michigan 49429

September 2009

From the Archives

These articles are from the files of Virginia Timmer, however if you have a topic you would like to contribute (your family stories, etc.), please contact Ruth Lowing,. Virginia has kept detailed diaries of her research and contacts over the years, and these are her stories...

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Trustee

Beverly Potter (10)

Trustee

Anne Foote (11)

Township Rep

Del South

(##) = year this position will be re-elected

Contact Information:

To reach any board member, leave a message at 457-4398



Historical Association of Michigan

Find us on the registry of the Historical Society of Michigan:

www.hsmichigan.org



Newsletter Notice

If anyone would like to receive this newsletter electronically, we have an email option.

Please contact Ruth Lowing at rlowing@aol.com or call 616-896-1447 to e-subscribe

STORY OF HIRAM JENISON

Hiram Jenison was the oldest son of Lemuel and Sarah (or Sally) Sanderson Jenison. Lemuel and Sarah were married in 1806. Hiram's grandparents were Abijah Jenison, born Nov. 19, 1757, and Mary Robinson. Abijah served in the Revolutionary War in Benedict Arnold's division at the time he attempted to deliver West Point to the British.

Lemuel settled in St. Lawrence County near Canton, New York. He was a highly esteemed citizen and successful businessman. About 1830, Lemuel endorsed a paper of a leading citizen who failed and went away. It took most of Lemuel's property to meet the indebtedness. He had enough left to take his family to Michigan.

Hiram Jenison was born May 11, 1813 at Canton, St. Lawrence County, New York. At the age of majority (21), Hiram came to Ann Arbor, Michigan to consult with the husband of Lemuel's sister, Polly (Mrs. Daniel Brown) to advise and arrange for purchase of a large tract of pine land on the Grand River. This area was called El

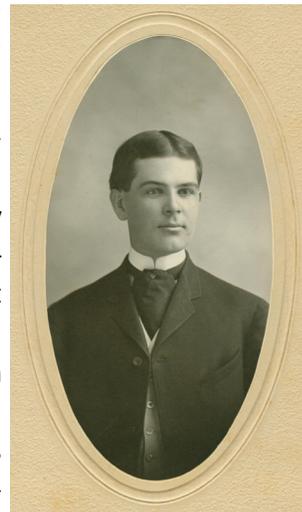
Dorado, the land of promise, and hope, the territory of Michigan. This territory was not in the union yet and had a population of only 90,000 people.

Hiram's parents Lemuel and Sarah along with twins Lucius and Luman and four daughters (one daughter died in New York State) arrived soon after. The family joined the son (Hiram) who had blazed the way. Hiram and Luman were the businessmen but Lucius preferred the farm although he did help in the brother's enterprises.

In 1835 Nathaniel Brown and Roswell Britton built a saw mill on Buck Creek, and Lemuel Jenison and son, Hiram, contracted to stock it with logs and to operate it. In this mill was cut the lumber that made up the first cargo of lumber that entered the city of Chicago in 1835. Lucius and Luman, Hiram's twin brothers were twelve years old at the time and did the work around home, while their father and Hiram were engaged at the mill or in the woods.

Due to the untimely death of the father, Lemuel, on September 24, 1837 after be-

(Continued on page 2)



Hiram Jenison

From the Archives (can't)

(Continued from page 1)

ing struck by a falling tree, the care of the family fell on the shoulders of Hiram and twins, Luman and Lucius who were ten years younger. Sarah Jenison died in 1840.

In 1837, Hiram Jenison, on behalf of himself and his younger brothers, purchased a tract of 1,600 acres of white pine-timbered land of the Michigan Lumber Company of Chicago paying \$1.50 an acre. In a small way the Jenison brothers began lumbering on their own account, Hiram at the head of the enterprise and general manager by reason of his seniority, and Luman and Lucius as operators. The land at that time was considered worthless for settlement and was sold in large tracts for the pine that was on it. Lumbering was the first occupation of the township.

On October 4, 1838, Hiram married Mary Beardsley who was born June 26, 1819. They had nine children: George, Francis (Frank) A., Mary E., Anson L., Sarah C., Delia A., Hiram Eugene, Willis O. (Willie), and Douglas Minet (Doug). (The name Minet stems from the brother of Lemuel Jenison, Minet, who at the age of 14 went with Lemuel and his new wife to pioneer in St. Lawrence County.) Bursley School is named after Beardsley.

Georgetown was organized as a township by the State Legislature in 1839, and at that time was made up of Jamestown, Georgetown, Zeeland and Blendon, but the only settlers were in Georgetown.

In April of 1840, seven men met at Jenison and held the first township meeting. Hiram Jenison was elected Supervisor, an office he held from 1840-45 and 1848-49. He was a State Representative for Ottawa County in 1853-54. Hiram was delegate from Ottawa County to the Constitutional Convention of 1876. He was a Democrat. The Jenisons donated property for schools, churches, roads and the railroad.

In 1864 Hiram and brothers built a new grist mill on the site of one of their saw mills. Later, they built the side wheeler L & L Jenison. They called the town Jenisonville which they platted in 1885 on the 50th anniversary of their coming to the Grand River Valley. In 1872, they built the L & L Jenison Store--the same year the railroad came through directly behind the store.

Douglas was the last Jenison to live in the big square house. Hiram left everything to the twins, Lucius and Luman. He died in 1889, ten years before the twins. Lucius and Luman left identical wills leaving "all personal farm property, stock, horses, cattle, tools, implements of husbandry, machinery and fixtures on or belonging to the old homestead farm, I give devise and bequeath to Douglas M. Jenison and Hiram Eugene Jenison jointly, and to their respective heirs and assigns forever. And all the rest...of my said estate of every kind and nature ...I give devise and bequeath to Mrs. Bessie Husband Hanchett and Mrs. Margaret J. Husband." Bessie Husband had married

Benjamin S. Hanchett on April 19, 1896. Ben's mother was Betsey Jenison the youngest child of Lemuel and Sarah and sister of Hiram, Luman and Lucius.

Quite often when someone in the Jenison family was married, or someone passed away, the services were held in the home of Hiram Jenison, this continued, when Douglas Minet occupied the house. Lucius Jenison's funeral was held from the residence of his nephew, Douglas Jenison, according to newspaper accounts.

Although the date Hiram Jenison built his home is unknown, it is illustrated in the 1876 Ottawa County Atlas. One account states that all Hiram's children were born in the house--the first being born in 1840, the last 1861. The house stands at 930 Port Sheldon Road in Jenison, Georgetown Township, Ottawa County. After the war years, the house was divided into apartments and rented out. Standing empty for many years, the Millers purchased the house in 1994. The Millers have consulted with the Jenison family who remember how it was and have tried to restore its original splendor. They have added their own personal touches in keeping with the time period. The garage and exercise room were added by the Millers. [from the files of Virginia Timmer, revised 2001]

Meeting Minutes— August, 2009

Submitted by Nellie DeLaat

Present:

Association business

Review July minutes: Virginia moved to accept and Mike seconded

Treasurer’s Report: Mike moved to accept and Ken seconded. Aye’s approved.

Webpage: Got a look at the new webpage and there was talk about the content and the fonts. We need now a hosting site – Fat Cow. Ruth checked out 3 sets and picked this one. Ruth said it should be done in a couple of months

Museum business

Maintenance Report: Dehumidifier is installed and running. Musty smell is gone also. Basement is nice and dry. Bottles are cleaned and back in the safe.

September Open House: Mike has the maps done and him and Liz will be picking pictures to go with the display. Mike has Then and Now in Jenison. May add more maps, say Jenison in 65, 75 or 95, etc. Want the letters first about eminent domain and lastly about Mrs. Timmers letter that she won the battle with the state. Mike and Liz are getting together to finish up the details for Sept. Ruth has a person that would bring his car or cars to the museum for the open house. 3 cars would be good.

October Open House: Visuals will be old farm equipment, old farming pictures, dirt display, much shoes up stairs and bring those down. Has relatives that still do muck farming so he will check with them also.

Other business

Bring an idea for an open house for next year. Each person should bring in one idea.

Much discussion about this subject.

Liz is having trouble with the answering machine again. She can listen but she can’t delete. Many power outage messages. She will be looking at a new machine.

Nellie was wondering if anyone knew someone who might play the piano at our open houses. Joyce said that a Janice has played for us before. Nellie also suggested that the HS choir might sing.

Ruth has some mail. An invite to a conference to be held at Fort Mackinaw and another in the Land of Lincoln.

Ken reported that the Girl Scouts have really progressed on the stump fence. Have it put in the Advance.

Someone remembers a saddle that was always in the attic – someone have an old saddle we could put up in the attic.

Someone wants pictures of Gas Station Johnny’s store. Ken got him the picture he wanted, a couple of them. A night shot and one in the daylight (with the outhouse on top of the store), Ken removed the outhouse digitally Ken also met a person who had personal knowledge of the outhouse.

A man is coming to take a chair (he owns) to be appraised thinking about donating it to the museum.

Mike needs a few large pieces of cardboard. Ken suggested a bike shop.

Joyce reported that the head of the Grandville historical society Robert Beauvais – had died. A card will be sent to the family.

Ken got some items from Maggie Smedley for the museum and Ken told her we would take whatever she had. A thank you card will be sent to her.

Mike made the motion to adjourn and everyone approve.

2009 Meeting Schedule

Thursday, September 17 —Georgetown Library

Thursday, October 15 ——Georgetown Library

Thursday, November 19 – -Georgetown Library

No meeting in December, 2009

All meetings start at 6:45 PM unless noted.

2009 Museum Open House Schedule and Themes

September 19 from 2-4 p.m. – Jenison Transportation Thru the Ages – Mike/Liz

October 17 from 2-4 p.m. – Muck Farming & Harvesting -- Ken

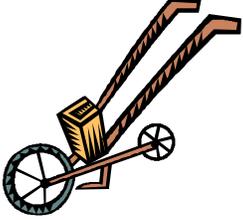
December 5 from 1-4 p.m. – Holiday Open House -- Grayce

January 9, 2010 from 2-4 p.m. – 2nd Holiday Open House

2009 Calendar of Open House Events

August
**Enjoy the
Last bit of
Summer**

September 19, 2009 2-4 PM
Jenison Transportation


October 17, 2009 2-4 PM
Muck Farming & Harvesting


December 5, 2009....1-4 PM
Holiday Open House


January 9, 2010....2-4 PM
2nd Holiday Open House


Cut out and Save!!
If you can help on any of these open houses, Please call the museum
457-4398

Treasurers Report – thru September 1, 2009

Submitted by R. Lowing



Cash on Hand	
Retained Earnings 2008	\$ 2,381.28
wrote off unpaid dues	\$ (70.00)
As of 12/31/08	\$ 2,311.28
Total Income 2009	\$ 825.59
Total Expenses 2009	\$ (428.30)
Total Equity	\$ 2,708.57
Receivables- Unpaid Dues	\$ (60.00)
Total Liabilities	\$ 60.00
Cash on Hand	\$ 2,708.57

Income:	8/2 thru 9/2/09	Year to date 09
Books	0.00	20.00
Donations	0.00	451.75
Memorials	0.00	0.00
Dues	0.00	325.00
Mill Print & Photos	0.00	0.00
Stationery	0.00	26.50
Sub Total	\$0.00	\$823.25
Interest	0.34	2.34
Total Income	\$0.34	\$825.59

Expenses:	8/2 thru 9/2/09	Year to date 09
Equipment Rental	0.00	0.00
Dues & Subscriptions	0.00	0.00
Fees	0.00	(40.00)
Postage	0.00	0.00
Repairs/Security	\$ -	(47.47)
Miscellaneous	119.59	(119.59)
Technology	78.99	(78.99)
Supplies	22.25	(22.25)
Insurance	0.00	(120.00)
Total Expenses	\$220.83	(\$428.30)
Due Grandville for books	\$	60.00

Volunteer Opportunities!!

Museum Cleaning: A cleaning schedule is being developed. This is a big job, as you can well imagine, that needs constant attention in order to have the Museum look it's best during the open houses. Contact any board member if you can lend a few hours.

Tour guides: The school tours are a great way of teaching the children about our history is such a rewarding experience. You won't regret being a part of this experi-

ence for our local children. Joyce Klawiter would love to hear from you.

Community Displays: An initiative is to get some displays out into the community, possibly to local banks, schools and businesses. What better way to get awareness out into the community than to bring the museum to them. Grayce Lancaster is heading up this project. She would welcome any help you might be

able to offer from finding the locations to picking display material and setting up the displays.

And the list goes on..... Monthly Open Houses, Theme's for Open Houses, Inventory, Museum Maintenance, board trustee.

You can come to a monthly meeting or reach out to any board member if you would like to volunteer in any particular area.

September Open House

Transportation in Jenison



Saturday, September 19

2-4 PM

Admission is Free

but donations are appreciated to help maintain the Tiffany House Museum, Jenison

For Sale at the Museum:

'Bend in the River' book

Mill Prints and stationary

Available during any open house, or call the Museum at 457-4398



1900's—Train in the depot near the Jenison Hotel



Jenison Historical Association
Box 664—28 Port Sheldon
Jenison, Michigan 49429

Jenison Historical Association Mission Statement:

Our mission is to learn about Jenison history, obtain artifacts relating to its history, and maintain the Jenison Historical Museum as a place to share and display our heritage.

Next Meeting of the Jenison Historical Association

September 17, 2009 6:45 PM

Georgetown Public Library

Members Encouraged and General Public Welcome