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NO. 20. SOCIAL LIFE IN KALAMAZOO BEFORE 1846

by

Patricia Treat
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"Philom's" verse

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Bibliography

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"Philom's" verse

"Come all ye Yankee farmers,
Bid your barren hills adieu,
And settle in the fertile West,
Come settle at Kalamazoo.
There is wild geese and turkeys
As fine as ever flew.
So, bring along your rifle, boys,
And settle in Kalamazoo.
Though we are in our youth, yet,
And most entirely new,
There is no place in Michigan
That vies with Kalamazoo.
What is it shines so brightly,
And of such a brilliant hue?
It is the Star of Michigan,
And that is Kalamazoo."

D. W.

1Kalamazoo, Gazette, June 17, 1857. One "D. W.", "Philom", corresponded with his girl back home. He was to send a letter to the Gazette, too. By some mistake in sending two of them at once he sent his girl's letter to the Gazette office and the Gazette letter to her. The editor liked the verse, so the story goes, and published it.
Bronson or Kalamazoo

In 1830 Bronson or Kalamazoo was hardly recognizable. In May of that year and for three more years the mail came from Detroit once a week by coach or wagon. The mail route was to and from Jackson and White Pigeon by a carrier who traveled on horseback or afoot. The roads in the spring and fall were especially bad because of high streams.¹

Until July of 1852 there was no post office at Bronson and the few settlers there were known by the postmaster at Gull Prairie and Schoolcraft and received their mail from the carrier as he was going to these towns.²

The postage was twenty-five cents for each letter. Money was scarce so there weren't many letters sent or delivered. The carrier could carry most of the mail in a coat pocket or in the crown of his hat. Darling, the first mail carrier, lived in Marengo.³

The Post Office was established on July 14, 1852 with Dr. Jonathan G. Abbott as postmaster. He received his commission, which sent him to Kalamazoo, bearing the signature of President Andrew Jackson. The Post Office was located on Main and Rose Streets in a wooden building. This was Dr. Abbott's residence and professional office besides.⁴

Trees and stumps were abundant in front and all around the building, and as Main Street West was thickly set with trees and undergrowth, and offered the traveler little more than a path or trail to guide him onward, we

² Ibid, pages vii and viii.
³ Ibid, page viii.
⁴ Ibid, page viii.
may conclude that the location was in the rural district. 1

Packages were sorted and letters put in a basket until the receiver came after them. The letters, Thomas says, were folded in odd shapes or in squares. "But rude or homely as they were, they brought tidings of 'the old folks at home' in the East, and told of events transpiring out in the world, [so that] they were welcome." 2

"The arrival of a letter was an event in any household and furnished topics for thought not only to the family but to the entire settlement. In those days there were no family secrets in Kalamazoo." 3

The mail was carried to the Bronson Post Office by Lucius Barnes, who worked for Dr. Abbott. Two horses hitched to a wagon when the road was clear and a sleigh when there was heavy snow provided transportation. 4

In 1836 Issac W. Willard became postmaster. The land sales in Michigan were great and there was a great deal of travel East to Kalamazoo. Thomas and Wadsworth's Coach line ran to here from Marshall. 5

The first day the coach arrived was one of great excitement to the villagers.

"On that evening of that day the entire population to the number of 150 poured into Main Street, below the Kalamazoo House, to witness the grand event. The approach of the coach as it descended the East hill was telegraphed

1 Ibid, page viii.
2 Ibid, page viii.
3 Ibid, page viii and ix.
4 Ibid, page x.
5 Ibid, page x.
by frantic gestures of impatient men and boys, at the river side to the more dignified, but not less impatient gathering at Kalamazoo House. The road across the river flat was bad and the progress of the coach was slow. The anxiously waiting throng shifted uneasily about, but all eyes were intently turned down Main Street. At last, the flat and the river were passed; and as the four horse coach came swinging around the lower bend in Main Street the coachman put his tin horn to his lips and blew one of those long melodious blasts by which only the approach of the stage coach can ever be properly heralded. Uncontrollable impatience now developed into irrepressible enthusiasm, and amid a chorus of laughter, shouts, and cheers The first coach rattled up to the door of the Post Office.

In 1858 the Mail Stage Coach Schedule was:

"Kalamazoo to and from Detroit— 1 everyday
" " " " Allegan— 2 a week
" " " " Grand Rapids— 2 a week
" " " " Niles— 1 a week."

The River crossing was probably the most difficult travel problem to solve in the community in those days. Nathan Harrison ferried settlers, loaded teams, and stages across the Kalamazoo River at Main Street before 1835. 

1 Ibid, pages x and xi.
2Kalamazoo Gazette, August 4, 1838.
"Nate Harrison's ferry- a scow for teams and a canoe or two for passengers," were manned principally by Mrs. Nate, Nathan preferring to hunt and fish, rather than pull the "barges" across the "tempestuous" river by the "cable line".\(^1\) Soon after the bridge was built, in 1855, Nate Harrison and his "dutiful wife" left for Illinois.\(^2\)

In 1855 the Government of the United States was willing to put a bridge across the River if the people would finance half of it. The total cost was $400. The "cost frightened the people" at first, but the bridge was completed.\(^3\)

"In 1836, at one time this place was covered with tents of people who had come to purchase land sold at the great sale of that year." Many of the fortune hunters bought worthless land.\(^4\)

Soon building in Kalamazoo began, when people began to settle here. The School House, one of the first public meeting places to be built, was built by Mr. Wood and Dr. Foster of Otsego. Elisha Hall, builder of the Kalamazoo House, probably helped in building the School, too, since one of the temperance meetings mentions having met in E. Hall's School House.\(^5\) The School House was a:""rude log hut on South Street". It was built in the "fall of 1853 or 1854, (both dates are claimed as correct by different pioneers.)" It was built by Smith L. Wood, Thomas says. Besides being used as a school and church the place was used for "public meetings, courts, debating societies, in fact for years it was the acropolis of the young village, and many a new fledged lawyer and public speaker, since

\(^1\) Ibid, page 23.  
\(^3\) Ibid, page 26.  
\(^4\) Ibid, page 50.  
\(^5\) Ibid, page 22.
become celebrated, here made his debut. 1

Elisha Hall built the Kalamazoo House partly of logs and partly of lumber. It was 50 X 40. Cyren Burdick was the first landlord. The hotel was "the scene for nearly all the township meetings and public gatherings—the home of the speculator, and the harbor for the wilderness-tossed adventurer, who had been at the mercy of all savage things. for weeks on the long, interminable road from Detroit to the interior. Many a time has its outer walls been besieged with a throng of settlers: who were refused lodgement, only because there was not another inch of floor unoccupied, and the tired and belated traveler was fain to take lodgings on the 'cold ground' with no other comforter than the promise of a breakfast in the morning. From this point claims and locations, and many a bubble, in which the projector saw his many-hued fortune beaming up bright in the future, here had birth. 2

The River House, built by Mr. Wilder in 1835, soon became a rival of the Kalamazoo House. It was on the River bank. Mr. N. L. Stout was proprietor; he advertised "cold and warm baths attached to this establishment, which has long been needed in our village, and we hope the citizens will not be deficient in giving it liberal patronage." 3

The Exchange headquarters for the Harrison party campaign of 1840 was the best in the State. Johnson Patrick, proprietor, had it filled up most of the time with guests. "Pat's" tables were "bountiful and splendid". The Whig conventions were held here and the practical jokers of Kalamazoo spent much of their time here. 4

6 Michigan Statesman, March 12, 1856.
2 Ibid., page 17.
3 Michigan Statesman, July 9, 1856.
Patrick's Restaurant was opposite the Court House. "The proprietor feeling desirous to aid in the march of Moral Reform, will keep no spirits in his bar, but at all times will be served up to order, hot coffee, soups of various kinds, Cold Ham, wild game, Poultry, Custards, and etc."

"Single Meals .25"
"Board one day .62"
"Board one week 3.50."

"His spacious hall is for large or small assemblies, dinner parties, etc., for which he will provide at short notice on most reasonable terms."
This was business for the owner of the "Sign of the Indian Chief". 1

The School House was the center of learning for "nearly one hundred children" in 1856. Another report on the village statistics was that only four adults had died within the "precincts [sic] since the settlement and one of them was an aged traveler who came here sick."

In 1857, a year later, the Court House and Banking House were being erected. The expense of the Court House was between $8,000 and $10,000. Private residences were being built which must have started to relieve the crowded Kalamazoo House. 3

Kalamazoo had little trouble with Indians but there was one incident in which Indians were involved. On the outskirts of the village two Pottawatomies were given whiskey, either by shop keepers or someone else. One Indian after drinking it got into a quarrel with the other and stabbed him "just above the left clavicle". Dr. At Lee and Dr. Starkweather were called to the scene and found the knife protruding from his back. The subclavian artery was narrowly missed; the doctors dressed the wound. The

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1 Kalamazoo Gazette, April 8, 1842.
2 Michigan Statesman, April 2, 1836.
3 Kalamazoo Gazette, April 15, 1837.
The Indian "took to the woods without paying the medicine men's bill".\(^1\)

The citizens of Kalamazoo in the summer of July, 1840, were trying to improve the public square. They were to start working one July morning "equipped with implements suitable for exterminating the grubs and bushes now growing thereupon".\(^2\)

It is interesting to see what some of the peculiar characteristics the citizens of the village had. Luther H. Trask and Cyrus Lovell were running for the offices of county clerk and State Senator respectively. They were both "Federals" and the Gazette being a Democratic paper exaggerated all their faults, but they are amusing. The writer comments on: Luther's writing as being "most wretchedly illegible, and reminds us of Dogberry's signature, which he used to boast was taught him by nature and not by a 'contemptible schoolmaster'. It is said Luther is unable to decipher his own scrawl unless he is reminded of the subject it refers to."\(^3\)

Later Cyrus Lovell had moved from Kalamazoo to Grand River. The writer says in the article written to oppose Lovell "he was noted amongst his fellow-citizens for three things, viz: laziness, tobacco chewing, and catching flies. His laziness was rather mental than corporal. He was of that species of the genus loafer which may be termed ubiquitous; for, go where you would, Lovell the lounger struck your line of vision." Lovell visited stores, blacksmith shop, tailor shop, and shoe store. His "two-fold purpose" the people agreed was to secure "the privilege of spitting without being reproached, and indulging his innate propensity for fly catching". These were the squire's worst habits.\(^4\)

\(^1\)Michigan Statesman, August 20, 1836.
\(^2\)Kalamazoo Gazette, July 11, 1840.
\(^3\)Ibid, October 20, 1838.
\(^4\)Kalamazoo Gazette, October 20, 1838.
Kalamazoo Recreation:

Kalamazoo had many kinds of recreation, such as concerts, dances, and plays. Music in particular was popular. An amateur group was to meet at the School House for all who were interested in "the science of music both vocal and instrumental!" The meeting was "to take into consideration the propriety of forming a musical association in this village. All amateurs are particularly requested to attend." At the meeting "a committee was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws subject to the approval of those who wished to form themselves into a society, for the purpose of promoting the art of music. Reverend J. Hall, Luther H. Trask, A. P. Bush, G. P. Nuel, and M. Hydenberk were appointed to the said committee." The constitution was to be presented at the next meeting in "the singing school held at the Episcopal Church." On October 9, 1838 the Society was to hold its annual meeting in the School House.

In December there was to be a meeting to form a singing school. But in the next year this group held another meeting for the same purpose. Those interested in "public worship" were asked to come this time.

The Kalamazoo Band was to hold a concert on September 26, 1842 at the Court House. Tickets were priced at twenty-five cents and sold at J. Patrick's, Kalamazoo House, or B. M. Austin's.

Kalamazoo even had one musical concert under the direction of Mr. Henry H. Philbrick at the Methodist Church. Several choirs were to sing sacred music. Some pieces were the following: "Praise ye the Lord," "Wake, Isles of the South," "Jerusalem, my glorious home," "But in the last 1

1Kalamazoo Gazette, April 21, 1858.  
2Ibid, April 28, 1858.  
3Ibid, October 6, 1858.  
4Ibid, December 22, 1858.  
5Ibid, September 21, 1839.
days", "Land of our Fathers", "When as returns this solemn day", "Night of the Grave", and "High o'er the Heavens". Pieces by juvenile classes to show their "musical attainment" were also to be performed. Tickets for this concert were twenty-five cents.

One band concert at the Court House was to play "new and popular music".

An Amateur Thespian Society was to be considered by the young men of Kalamazoo, and a meeting to consider "establishing a Theatre in this village" indicate an interest in the drama, and in 1843 a travelling company appeared. The "Lady of the Lake" or "the Bold Outlaw" a "celebrated melo-Drama" was to be performed in the Court House by a New York Company managed by J. H. Powell. It was Sir Walter Scott's story of the "Lady of the Lake", but included such musical gems as the "Yankee Volunteer", "Honey and Mustard", and the "Sailors' Hornpipe".

Cotillion parties and balls were popular. In 1841 Griswold and Arnold were giving a cotillion party at the Kalamazoo House for two dollars, which included "refreshments and the team bill". In 1842 a January Ball was to be given at the request of the "elder class" of citizens, at Patrick's New "Assembly Room" at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Tickets for the afternoon ball were still priced at two dollars. Another cotillion party in this "Assembly Room" was $1.12 1/2.

Dancing schools in Kalamazoo started as early as October, 1838. Mrs Clark and Miss Deacon started a Ladies Seminary and along with it a dancing school. On Wednesday and Saturday afternoons at 2 o'clock.

\[1\] Ibid, September 23, 1842.
\[2\] Ibid, September 15, 1843.
\[3\] Ibid, September 22, 1843.
\[4\] Ibid, January 27, 1838.
\[5\] Ibid, March 9, 1839.
the school taught "ladies and young gentlemen" how to dance. Some years later Mr. S. P. Noyes had a school. His motto "Manners make the Man!" was expected to influence young ladies and gentlemen to meet at 3 o'clock on
Friday afternoons. Lessons were five dollars each.

Kalamazoo in July of 1837 tried to start a jockey club. A "large and respectable" meeting was held at the Kalamazoo House for this purpose and to improve the track used for training horses. General Burdick was the elected president.

Other interests, in the winter, were sleigh-rides. At such times: "joy seems to be sparkling in every eye. Ladies, fair as the rosy morn of spring, we believe are the happiest people in the whole western world."

The ladies in Kalamazoo had interests of their own. While the men were arguing at the Burr Oak Club and the Kalamazoo Lyceum meetings in October of 1842, the ladies were interested in a "fair". It was to be held at Patrick's Hall, to sell things they had made. Tickets were 12½ cents for admission.

A group which was trying to form a club, but failed, was one for those interested in science and who might want to collect "natural curiosities". A "crime detecting Society" was also called to meet at the Kalamazoo House, but, like the former, it did not last.

The most fun of all seems to have been had on the Fourth of July. The young men especially were invited to meet at the Kalamazoo House, June 12, 1840, to make arrangements for the program for the Fourth.

[^5: Ibid, July 21, 1843.]
[^6: Ibid, January 22, 1841.]
[^7: Ibid, January 14, 1842.]
[^8: Ibid, December 2, 1842.]
[^9: Ibid, October 13, 1838.]
[^10: Michigan Telegram, December 5, 1845.]
[^11: Kalamazoo Gazette, July 8, 1837.]
On June 11, 1842, another committee met, to arrange the program for the celebration of the Anniversary of American Independence.

In 1841, on the Glorious Fourth, Reverend Foote gave an "eloquent and forcible address, "The Throne of Grace." The anthem sung by the choir was said to have been surprisingly beautiful. Mr. Balch read the Declaration of Independence "in a feeling and emphatic manner," and Mr. Mower gave an oration which the audience cheered. The choir sang again. Then Reverend Hoyt concluded the program with the benediction. Everyone marched to Kalamazoo House, without riot or disorder, it was said, to celebrate.

The 1845 celebration of the Fourth was very different from the 1841 celebration. It became known as the "Hot Water Holiday of 1845." July 3rd was known as the "cold water celebration" due to the stress of the temperance people not to celebrate especially on holidays with "ardent spirits" and July 5th was known as the "hot water celebration" for everyone else. A. D. P. Van Buren, a pioneer who remembered the day, said that townsmen gathered at Jim Walter's grocery and passed the hat to raise money for a "pitcher of lemonade." The hat passed again to get a pailful, but enough to buy a washtub full was collected. Tom Sheldon's "beautiful sloping" lawn across from Kalamazoo House was where the party then went. The tub was filled and wines from Clapham's cellar were mixed with the lemonade. The band played and "Kalamazoo was really getting intoxicated over her 'new spring'."

A remark attributed to General William Stewart, who poured the
drinks ran: Gentlemen: as fast as you get drunk, fall back". "The command of General Stewart's became famous and was quoted in many parts of the country. During the day the revelers scattered in groups, and wandered throughout the town. As time wore on, the grounds were fairly covered with staggering, recumbent [sic], lounging revelers. Here were lawyer and student, merchant and clerk, doctor, dentist and draymen, artist, mechanic and laborer, men of business and gentleman of leisure, temperance men: [sic] teeter and toper, all on the highway of dreamy, happy Eldorado where cares and toils cease to torment the restless mind."

At the 'Old Branch' university the next morning, Dr. J. A. B. Stone gave a "severe lecture... on the evils of intemperance and dissipation" to those who participated in the celebration.

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1 Kalamazoo Gazette, approximately 1920, in the Scrapes Books of the "Social Life of Kalamazoo" in the Kalamazoo Public Library.
The Kalamazoo Lyceum

"The Kalamazoo Lyceum, an institution of considerable importance in the early days of our village history, held regular meetings at this time, at which questions of grave import were logically and eloquently discussed, and for ever settled," declared Thomas's Kalamazoo Directory in 1868.

The constitution of the Kalamazoo Lyceum was drafted by J. B. Guittian, John Hascall, Amos Brownson, A. Goodrich, and George W. Winslow. The name was later changed to the Kalamazoo County Lyceum. The purpose was "the acquisition and diffusion of knowledge".

The president was to judge all debates aided by two associates. What actually happened was that he appointed two associates (members) to decide either in the negative or the affirmative. In case they disagreed, he or the vice president cast a deciding vote. There were always two members on the affirmative team and two on the negative. But the members attending the meeting were given a chance to express their opinion through a "house" vote. Often this would prove to give a majority opposed to the judges' decision.

The secretary took minutes of the meeting and posted notices in the newspaper. All resolutions were posted. Speakers or debaters who were absent were fined twenty-five cents. For those who were absent four weeks in a row, the collector was to collect twenty-five cents. At the annual of December 1858, the secretary was instructed "to erase [all names of] out

2 Kalamazoo Gazette, December 21, 1839.
3 Michigan Statesman, February 13, 1836.
5 Ibid, February 13, 1836.
of county members".

Members were to be assessed taxes and could be fined or expelled if they were guilty of misdemeanor. Admission to the association was to be approved by the executive committee, on payment of twenty-five cents. Members were required to sign the constitution.

The Lyceum usually started in October of each year, except in the fall of 1856, for which a record of the meetings is lacking. The School House was the meeting place, and the time was 6:00 or 6:30 in the evening. Perhaps the School bell would ring, as it was to have at the first meeting in October, 1838. Between ten and thirty men might come. Judging from the house votes each week (in 1832, 1839, and 1840) more than thirty people seldom came. For the 1838-1839 session ladies were invited by President Luther H. Trask, but none ever participated in the meetings.

After assembling the members might listen to some of their own members "deliver and address" on some subject. Or they might even have a visitor like David Alden, Principal of the Kalamazoo Institute, speak on "Animal Magnetism [sic]" or Reverend Hoyt of the Presbyterian Church speak on "Intellectual characteristics and tendencies of the present age. After the address, the "disputants", two for the affirmative and two for the negative, would start the debate. A revision of the Constitution held that "no disputant [sic], selected or general, can speak more than once, and is restricted to fifteen minutes, unless by

3. Kalamazoo Gazette, October 6, 1838. In: the February 20, 1836, the meeting was held at six-thirty in the evening.
5. Ibid, March 9, 1839.
permission of the Lyceum." After the debates and discussions there would always be "in weight of the measure" the decision of the judges and by the merits of the question" a vote of the house. A question for the next week would be proposed, members selected as "disputants!" and judges would be appointed by the president. Then the meeting would be adjourned. Meetings would be held every week from October to April, with annual elections in December. Sometimes questions were postponed, as in November of 1858—"owing to the bad state of weather, and the excitement of 'whiggery'!". Luther H. Trask, the President of the Lyceum, the "Federal" for County Clerk won against "Democratic" opponent Walter Clark. This he did in spite of his "wretched handwriting".

The Lyceum in 1859 made plans for building a meeting house of their own. Cameron, Carlisle, and Stuart were on a committee "to report a plan and probable expense of" such a building. A committee of five other members, J. H. McBride, L. F. Starkey, E. N. Colt, Amos Brownson, and W. G. Dewing were to find "the best plan for a library".

Besides these interests, a group of young men of Kalamazoo, the bachelors, wished to organize an interim Lyceum society for the summer. They were to meet at the School House by "early candle light to take into consideration the propriety of" doing this.

The Lyceum had met the need of the young men of the village to gather and discuss problems of interest to them. Perhaps they tired of debates and debaters, for in October of 1842 the last meeting of the Lyceum was to be held. "The institution so long know as the Kalamazoo
Lyceum has remodeled", it was stated, "and has assumed the above name [Burr Oak Club]. Several radical changes have also been made in the proceeding, and it is hoped that under the new organization it may go on [with] renewed vigor. A notice for the meeting Wednesday evening next, at Mr. Patrick's Hall, will be found in another column."

I have compiled a list of ninety-seven members who took part in the Kalamazoo Lyceum programs, some of the speeches they gave, and offices they held. I also have included questions debated in meetings and what the decision on the question was—if recorded in the Michigan Statesman or Kalamazoo Gazette. The group was in session nine years, with the exception of the winter of 1856 and 1857. It had approximately ninety-three different questions to debate.

Members

1. Guittian, J. B.
2. Hascall, John
3. Brownson, Amos
5. Winslow, George W.—Collector in 1839.
6. Cameron, Alexander—Vice President in 1839; collector in 1840.
7. Owen, Hiram—Secretary in 1836.
8. Browning, George—Secretary in 1838; gave an address on "atmospheric

3 Kalamazoo Gazette, October 20, 1838, and record of his being county clerk, September 11, 1840. The Gazette of October 20, 1838, had the story of his handwriting.
5 Ibid, December 14, 1839.
Ibid, July, 1840.
6 Ibid, October 28, 1842.
8. [sic] air. (April 7, 1838; Kalamazoo Gazette); "The depravity of Human Nature" (April 6, 1839, Kalamazoo Gazette); "The principles of vegetation" (January 11, 1840, Kalamazoo Gazette); "The Science of Chemistry" (February 29, 1840, Kalamazoo Gazette); "a valedictory address" (April 18, 1840, Kalamazoo Gazette); "Human Happiness", (December 15, 1838, Kalamazoo Gazette); "Imagination, Genius, and Taste", (February 2, 1839, Kalamazoo Gazette).

9. Ransom, Samuel F.

10. Hammond, S. M.

11. Tuttle, Lyman

12. Warner, John P.

13. Cobb, Merret D.


15. Barnes, S.

16. Green, James — Treasurer in 1840; "Prose dissertation on 'War'", (December 7, 1839).

17. Case, O. S.

18. Newell, G. P.

19. Atlee, Thomas S. — The "advantages to be derived from the establishment of Lyceums" (April 17, 1838, Kalamazoo Gazette); "Duelling, its impolicy and cowardice" (March 16, 1839, Kalamazoo Gazette); read an"address of Philander Nichodemus Diddler, M.D., Poet" (April 6, 1839, Kalamazoo Gazette); "the equal cultivation of Letters and Wealth" (October 19, 1839, Kalamazoo Gazette); Secretary 1839; Vice President, 1840.
20. Giddings, E. D. G.


22. Reverend Fenton, J.

23. AtLee, E. A.

24. Allard, Ross

25. Balch, Nathaniel A. — President in 1841; "Read a dissertation touching the origin and progress of music" (February 8, 1840, Kalamazoo Gazette); As president the "valedictory address" (April 9, 1841, Kalamazoo Gazette).

26. Barnes, L.

27. Cahill, Abraham


29. King, D. C.

30. Starkley, L. F. — President in 1859; delivered an address on "Slavery" as a reply to W.C. Dewing's speech. (December 29, 1859, Kalamazoo Gazette). Both slavery speeches were published by the Lyceum. Dr. Starkley gave two speeches on the "Science of Phrenology". (December 14, 1859 and March 21, 1840, Kalamazoo Gazette).

31. Dewing, William G. — Treasurer in 1858; President in 1840; "Slavery" (December 22, 1858, Kalamazoo Gazette); "objects, advantages, and pleasures of science." (February 9, 1859, Kalamazoo Gazette); "Conscience" (March 25, 1839, Kalamazoo Gazette); He proposed that the Lyceum study community problems (November 30, 1859, Kalamazoo Gazette); read a prose discourse on "Slavery" (December 7, 1859,
31. Kalamazoo Gazette; "Nautical Astronomy" (February 15, 1840, 
Kalamazoo Gazette).

32. Carlyle or Carlisle, John

33. Ransom, James Wells, — The members of the Lyceum attended his 
funeral and published a memorial to him (February 22, 1840, 
Kalamazoo Gazette).

34. Hubbard, David

35. Nicholson, Anson A. — "A Legend of Kalamazoo" — a poem, 
(January 5, 1839, Kalamazoo Gazette).

36. Hascall, Volney

37. Stone

38. Sutton, Ruben H. — from Comstock, was honored at the first meeting 
in January of 1839 (January 5, 1839, Kalamazoo Gazette).

39. Wood, Rollin

40. Taylor, Andrew — Treasurer in 1842.

41. Hubbard, Rollin C.

42. Taylor, James

43. Dr. Axtell, S. — "Valedictory Address" for the season 1858-1859, 
(April 6, 1859, Kalamazoo Gazette); his address was "Utility of 
Natural History".

44. Platt

45. Clark, George Thomas

46. Storrs

47. Bonnycastle

48. Hubbard, Silas

49. Montague, H.

51. Sherman, Caleb

52. McIntosh, Robert

53. Rice, Edmund — "Test Oath" (February 25, 1839) and "the well educated; many more necessary in preserving our institutions than the highly educated few!" (March 30, 1839. Both the above addresses were announced in the Kalamazoo Gazette); President in 1842.

54. Miller, Joseph, Jr.

55. Eastman, G. B. — "The mutual influence of the learned and common mind" (February 25, 1859, Kalamazoo Gazette).

56. Cooley, Anthony

57. Howard

58. Krause

59. Cook, D. B.

60. Dunhan, S. E.

61. Durkee, E.

62. Edwards, T. A. H.

63. Russell, A.

64. Smith, E. S.

65. Burr, E. D. — "Female intellect and importance of its cultivation" (January 25, 1840, Kalamazoo Gazette). It was published by the Lyceum.

66. McBride, John Holden — "an address on a popular scientific subject" (April 14, 1840, Kalamazoo Gazette)

67. Kendall, Lyman

68. Gage, Richard S. — Treasurer in 1841
69. Colt, E. N.
70. Stewart, C. E.
71. Barger, B. S.
72. Marsh, Fletcher
73. McCamley, R.
74. Eliakim
75. Murphy, William
76. Gibbs, Charles
77. Hays, John C.
78. Rawls, P. W. H.—Secretary 1841 and Vice President 1842.
79. Lycan, J. N.
80. Joy, Milford N.
82. Orcutt, B. F.—Secretary 1842.
83. Gran, James
84. Sherman, William L.—"the relation of Husband and Wife" (December 18, 1840, Kalamazoo Gazette).
85. Dutton, William
86. Cooper, J. M.—Collector in 1842.
87. Hammond, S. J. M.
88. Trask, Luther H.—President in 1838.
89. Holman, George
90. Gilbert, H.
91. Rice, H. M.
92. Parker
93. Cooley, Marshall
94. Burrell, D
95. Foot, E. A.
96. Beckwith
97. Adams, A. W.

Questions

The following questions were found in the Michigan Statesman:

1. "Is Slavery a greater evil than Intemperance?" On January 20, 1856, the question was "discussed and lost".
2. "Do females exert a greater influence in society than males?" On February 15, 1856, it was decided in the negative.
3. "Ought Michigan to assume State sovereignty without the further action of Congress?" On February 20, 1856, it was decided in the affirmative.
4. "Is it a National policy to admit foreigners under existing Naturalization Laws?" It was to be discussed, but there is no record of its decision; February 20, 1856.
5. "Are manufactures of more profit to the United States than commerce?" No record of this decision is recorded; March 12, 1856.
6. "Is there sufficient evidence in nature to prove the immortality of the soul?" The discussion was decided in the negative; March 19, 1856.
7. "Ought capital punishment to be inflicted in any case?" The decision on March 19, 1856, was negative and in the Kalamazoo Gazette of February 3, 1858 a decision on the same question was still negative.
8. "Ought a person to be excluded from giving evidence before a court on account of his belief or disbelief in the existence of a Supreme Being?" On March 26, 1856 it was decided in the negative.
9. "Ought imprisonment of debt to be abolished?" The question on April 2, 1856 was decided in the affirmative, as it was again on February 10, 1858 in the Kalamazoo Gazette.
10. "Is it policy for Michigan to accept the proposition in Congress in relation to her admission in the Union?" The question probably was decided in the Lyceum's last meeting of the year, but no record is reported in the *Michigan Statesman*. The question was proposed for discussion April 2, 1856.

11. The following questions are recorded in the *Kalamazoo Gazette*:

11. "Would the annexation of Texas be beneficial to the Union?" No record of the decision was given, only the proposed question; December 16, 1837.

12. "Is it beneficial to the people of these United States for the free States to agitate and discuss the subject of immediate abolition of slavery?" George Browning, the Secretary, wrote that the question was of "general interest" to all. President Luther H. Trask had to cast a deciding vote, which was negative. The members also voted a majority of two nays on the question recorded January 6, 1838.

13. "Would the affect of extending to females the right to vote at elections be beneficial to them and to the Institutions of our country?" The judges decided in the negative and the members voted a majority of five nays. This was on January 13, 1838.

14. "Is War ever justifiable?" The judges decided in the affirmative and the house had a majority of yeas. This on January 20, 1838.

15. "Was the adoption of the Treasury Order, otherwise called the Specie Circular, a proper measure, and are its effects beneficial to these United States?" The judges decided in the affirmative, but the house had a majority of three nays on January 27, 1838.

16. "Ought freedom of Speech and of the Press to be tolerated on all sub-
16. "Which is best adapted to the promotion and cultivation of arts, science and literature, a Monarchial or Republican government?" The "Monarchial" debaters, E.A. Atlee and Ross Allard, lost to the "Republican" debaters, N. A. Balch and William G. Austin. The house voted 25 to 2 in favor of "Republicanism", as did the judges. This was February 17, 1858.

17. "Would the repeal of the Usury Law promote the general welfare?" The judges and house members decided in the negative. This was March 3, 1858.

18. "Ought an individual to be procluded by law from giving evidence in a court of justice, solely on account of his opinion and belief concerning matters of religion?" The question was decided in the affirmative by the judges, but the house vote was 2 yeas and 4 nays. This was on March 31, 1858.

19. "Which is most conducive to the happiness of mankind, too high or too low an opinion of one's self?" Wells Ransom and David Hubbard, the affirmative debaters, won against Anson Nicholson and Volney Hascall, the negative. The judges were Cameron and Stone. The house, however, voted 2 yeas to 15 nays. This was on October 13, and 20, 1858.

20. "Is marriage more conducive to the happiness of mankind than celibacy?" The President, Luther H. Trask, cast the deciding vote, in the negative. This was on April 7, 1858.

21. "Does mankind act more from custom than reason?" Judges D.L.F. Starkley and Lyman Tuttle decided in the negative and so did the house members. This was recorded on October 27, 1858.
25. "Ought the Independent Treasury, as recommended by the present administration, to be sanctioned by the American People?" The judges decided in the affirmative and so did the majority of the house. This was on November 5, 1858. T. A. H. Edwards and A. Russell, the judges on the same question on October 26, 1859, decided also in the affirmative, but the house voted 9 yeas to 18 nays.

24. "Has the Christian Religion been productive of more good than evil?" A. Cameron and Lyman Tuttle decided in the affirmative. This was on November 17, 1858.

25. "Should a man's belief or opinion respecting matters of religion, render him incompetent to testify as a witness in a Court of Justice?" Dr. Axtell and Mr. Sutton judged the question in the negative on November 24, 1858.

26. "Is novel reading beneficial?" Judges Dewing and Platt decided in the affirmative and the house voted 16 yeas to 4 nays. This was on December 1, 1858.

27. "Would it be politic for Congress to prohibit the transportation and opening of the Mail on Sunday?" The judges, Cahill and Allard, decided in the negative. This was on December 8, 1858.

28. "Do Men exert a greater influence on our National character than Women?" Judges Axtell and Dewing decided in the negative, but the house voted 11 yeas to 8 nays. (December 15, 1858.)

29. "Is immediate abolition of slavery in the United States expedient?" Storrs and Bonnycastle, the judges, decided in the negative, but the house was a close vote of 8 yeas and 7 nays. This was on December 22, 1858.
29. In 1859, (December 7) the house vote was 6 yeas to 2 nays with no judges' decision.

30. "Ought the sale of ardent spirits 'as a beverage' be prohibited by law?" It was judged in the negative. This date was December 29, 1858.

31. "Does the hope of reward have a greater influence on the action of man, than the fear of punishment?" Judges Robert McIntosh and O. S. Case decided in the negative, but the house votes were 14 yeas to just 1 nay. This was on January 5, 1859.

32. "Is the civilized state more conducive to the happiness of mankind than the uncivilized?" Proposed but no decision appeared in the Gazette. The date of proposal was January 5, 1859. Judges Tuttle and Gage decided in the negative, but the house voted 8 yeas to 5 nays on December 28, 1859.

33. "Has dancing a tendency to corrupt morals?" It was decided in the negative by the vote cast by vice president Cameron. The house vote was a tie of 8 to 8 January 19, 1859. At the following meeting Cameron's vote was altered and placed the decision in the affirmative.

34. "Should capital punishment be abolished?" Judges McIntosh and Samuel F. Ransom decided in the negative. The question was proposed again on December 24, 1840.

35. "Is duelling ever justifiable?" Judges McIntosh and Case decided in the negative on February 2, 1859.

36. "Ought the Resolutions offered to Congress, by Mr. Atherton relative to slavery, to have been adopted?" Judges Sherman and Stone disagreed. No casting vote by the president or vice president was given. The house voted yeas 7 to nays 8 on February 8, 1839.

37. "Has knowledge been a greater influence than Wealth?" It was proposed
... but no record of the decision was given February 9, 1859.

38. "Are the intellectual faculties of Woman equal to those of Man?" Judges Bonnycastle and Axtell decided in the affirmative. The house voted 9 yeas to 11 nays, however. This was on February 23, 1859.

39. "Is Lynch Law ever justifiable?" Judges Austin and Howard decided in the affirmative. This was March 9, 1839.

40. "Are Theatres in the United States beneficial?" Judges Cooley and Cahill decided in the affirmative, but the house voted 8 yeas to 13 nays on March 16, 1839.

41. "Would it be policy for the United States Legislature to abolish the license law with respect to ardent spirits?" Judges Howard and Krause decided in the negative on March 23, 1839.

42. "Have Negroes received greater injury from the people of the United States than Indians?" Judges James Taylor and Edmund Rice decided in the affirmative. It was proposed on January 1, 1841 a second time.

43. "Does the study and practice of law debase the mind?" Wells Ransom and D. B. Cook, acting as the judges, decided in the negative, April 6, 1859.

44. "Have the French Infidel writings of the last century benefitted mankind?" Judges H. Gilbert and H. M. Rice decided in the affirmative on April 20, 1859.

45. "Should our Government afford protection to American manufactures?" Judges James Taylor and E. Durkee decided in the negative, while the house voted 10 yeas to 6 nays. This was on October 19, 1839.

46. "Ought a man to vote who can neither read nor write?" Judges Lyman Kendall and Edmund Rice decided in the affirmative and the house voted a tie of 6 to 6. This was on November 9, 1859.
47. "Ought women to be allowed the same political right as men?" Judges Silas Hubbard and Merret Cobb decided in the affirmative, but the house voted 5 yea to 11 nays—November 16, 1859.

48. "Should our Representatives be governed by the will of their constituents?" Judges Winslow and Gage decided in the affirmative. There was only one negative vote from the house on November 23, 1859.

49. "Should Ministers of the Gospel be eligible to civil office?" Judges Browning and Cobb could not agree and vice president Cameron cast an affirmative vote on the question on November 30, 1859.

50. "Ought the right of suffrage be extended to the colored population of the free States?" Judges Browning and Cameron disagreed and "the casting vote of the President was waived". The house voted 9 yea to 2 nays. This was on December 14, 1859.

51. "Is the Christian Religion, as taught by Orthodox believers at the present day, founded on justice, reason, and humanity?" Judges Axtell and Hascall decided in the negative, but the house voted 12 yea to 2 nays. This was on January 11, 1840.

52. "Is there sufficient evidence, exclusive of Divine Revelation, to prove the immortality of the Soul?" Judges Barger and Marsh decided in the negative, but the house vote was tied 7 to 7. This was on January 25, 1840.

53. "Do Rail-Roads conduce to the wealth of the State?" Judges Axtell and Marsh decided in the negative, but the house vote was 10 yea to 1 nay on February 8, 1840.

54. "Will the promulgation of the Roman Catholic Religion endanger the civil and religious institutions in our country?" Judges Barger and
Hascall disagreed and the President's casting vote was in the negative. This was on February 29, 1840.

55. "Is the present course of the Abolitionists of the north, with regard to southern Slavery unjustifiable?" Burr and Newell, Judges, decided in the negative—on March 14, 1840.

56. "Is the course pursued by the majority in Congress with regard to the reception and reference of abolition petitions, justifiable?" Judges Colt and Eliakim decided in the negative, but the house voted 8 yeas to 7 nays—on March 21, 1840.

57. "Ought Congress to prohibit the transportation and opening of the United States Mail on Sunday?" Judges Rollin C. Hubbard and William Murphy decided in the negative and the house voted 1 yea to 11 nays—on April 11, 1840.

58. "Ought the 'Currency Bill' as passed by the Legislature of this State, during its last session [to] receive the approbation of the people?"

59. "Would a high protective Tariff be beneficial to the American People?" Proposed on October 2, 1840.

60. "Does man exert a greater influence in society than woman?" Proposed on October 16, 1840.

61. "Is concealment in trade justifiable?" Proposed on October 23, 1840.

62. "Are all men created free and equal?" Proposed on October 30, 1840.

63. "Are the Anti-Slavery Societies of this country calculated to hasten the abolition of slavery in the United States?" Proposed November 13, 1840.

64. "Have the wars of Napoleon been more injurious than beneficial to mankind?" Proposed November 6, 1840.

66. "Can the title claimed by right of discovery be justified upon the principles of reason and natural justice?" Proposed December 4, 1840.

67. "Should persons who are deprived of Elective franchise be subjected to taxation?" Proposed December 18, 1840.

68. "Should the License Law of this State be abolished?" Proposed January 8, 1841.

69. "Is Man capable of greater mental attainments than woman?" Proposed January 15, 1841.

70. "Ought the law to preclude an individual from testifying on account of his opinion or belief concerning matters of Religion?" Proposed January 22, 1841.

71. "Ought Phrenology to be entitled to rank with the sciences?" Proposed January 29, 1841.

72. "Ought our Legislature to pass an act granting another suspension to the banks of the State?" Proposed February 5, 1841.

73. "Were the nullification Acts of South Carolina justifiable?" Proposed February 12, 1841.

74. "Would the immediate emancipation of the slaves of the United States be expedient?" Proposed February 26, 1841.

75. "Is it probable that the United States will continue as long as the Roman Republic?" Proposed March 19, 1841.

76. "Would more morality than exists among the citizens of Kalamazoo promote their interest?" Proposed April, 1841.

77. "Can President Tyler be justified for vetoing the bank Bills?" Proposed October 8, 1841.
78. "Ought the veto power of the President to be abolished?" Proposed October 22, 1841.


80. "Would it be more expedient to depend upon a standing army than upon the militia for defense?" Proposed November 5, 1841.

81. "Ought Missionary efforts to be extended beyond the limits of our country?" Proposed November 19, 1841.

82. "Does Government derive its power from the People rather than from the States?" Proposed December 3, 1841.

84. "Should there be any law regulating interest?" Proposed December 10, 1841.

85. "Ought Foreigners be allowed to vote?" Proposed December 17, 1841.

86. "Does the benefit derived from the study of the classics, recompense for the time employed in study of the same?" Proposed December 23, 1841.

87. "Ought our manufactures to be protected by law?" Proposed December 31, 1841.

88. "Should the Bankrupt Law be repealed?" Proposed January 6, 1842.

89. "Does the Banking System in the United States have an immoral tendency?" Proposed January 21, 1842.

90. "Is a Republic more likely to be durable than a monarchy?" Proposed January 28, 1842.

91. "Is a Republic more likely to succeed than a Monarchy?" Proposed February 4, 1842.

92. "Is it expedient for the Abolitionists to form a third political party?" Proposed October 7, 1842.
93. "Is the Washingtonian system the best for the advancement of Temperance?" Proposed October 14, 1842.

Burr Oak Club

1. "Is the Washingtonian System the best for the promotion of Temperance?" Proposed October 28, 1842.

2. "Is the credit system injurious to the morals of the Nation?" Proposed November 11, 1842.

3. "Do our Naturalization Laws operate beneficially upon our political institutions?" November 18, 1842, date proposed.

4. "Is there reason to believe in the existence of Ethereal Spirits?" Proposed November 25, 1842.

5. "Ought the exemption Law of this State to be repealed?" Proposed December 2, 1842.

6. The resolution "That an international copyright should be established." Proposed December 2, 1842.

7. The resolution "That an international copyright law should be established." Proposed January 6, 1843.

8. "Does the Press, at the present time exert an immoral influence?" Proposed January 20, 1843.

9. "Should an international copyright law be established?" Proposed January 27, 1843.

10. The resolution "That a perpetual copyright should be established." Proposed February 5, 1843.

11. "Has Congress the right to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia?" Proposed February 17, 1843.

13. "Ought the right of suffrage to be extended to the Ladies?" March 10, 1843, proposed.

The Burr Oak Club started two weeks after the Lyceum unofficially ended. Thomas S. AtLee (as "speaker") and B. F. Orcutt (as "clerk") started the group, with Patrick's Hall as a meeting place. The group was made up of old Kalamazoo Lyceum members. They had the following men as speakers: Volney Hascall, P. W. H. Rawls, E. A. Foot, Thomas S. AtLee, B. F. Orcutt, N. A. Balch, Mr. Cleveland of Marshall, Reverend O. P. Hoyt, Reverend Kelly, Mr. Horace Mower, and Dr. Lamborn. Dr. Lamborn's speech was entitled "Intemperance in connection with the Philosophy of the mind".

On the tenth of February 1845 the Burr Oak Club seems to have changed speakers, because Alexander Cameron is listed as being the "speaker" and August W. Adams, the "clerk". The group changed meeting places, too. On December 30, 1842 the group met at the Court House instead of Johnson's Hall.

One thing this group did that the Kalamazoo Lyceum didn't do was to pass a resolution allowing women to become members. The members "Resolved," That the Ladies be admitted to all rights of members of the Burr Oak Club, on causing their names to be submitted to the clerk.

2. Ibid, November 11, 1842.
3. Ibid, November 12, 1842.
4. Ibid, November 13, 1842.
5. Ibid, November 25, 1842.
The Maternal Association of Kalamazoo

The Maternal Association of Kalamazoo was the only women's organization. According to an article in the Gazette on June 17, 1857, the Society held regular meetings through the year. This, however, was the only meeting recorded. The first annual report was presented at this time and the members spent time in "prayer, conservation, and reading extracts" which would be of help in training up children: "...the way they should go."

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Temperance was a burning issue in the lives of the villagers of Kalamazoo. It can be noticed that questions 1, 30, 41, and 95 of the Kalamazoo Lyceum deal with temperance. Dr. Lamborn's speech too as has been mentioned emphasized the subject of "temperance" in the clubs. Besides all these discussions and the address of Dr. Lamborn, other temperance agitation was going on. Johnson: Patrick's Restaurant was helping the Moral Reform group of the Baptist Church of whom one prominent member was Volney Hascall, the secretary. Johnson: Patrick advertised that "the proprietor feeling desirous to aid...will keep no spirits in his bar".

Early speakers on temperance were Mr. Hall and Mr. Woodbury, who spoke to "a large and respectable audience". "The addresses were peculiarly interesting, by the private anecdotes and statistical accounts drawn from their own observation, and the new and original view taken on the subject."

Jeremiah Hall was to deliver another address on "Temperance" in July of 1841 in the Baptist Church and Reverend O. P. Hoyt lectured on temperance in September of that year.

These were a few of the activities outside the temperance societies. In connection with such societies, many meetings and conventions in the village, County and State were being held. There were three societies. They were the Arcadia Temperance Society, the Kalamazoo

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1. Kalamazoo Gazette, July 1, 1842.
2. Ibid, July 17, 1842.
3. Ibid, April 8, 1842.
Total Abstinence Temperance Society; and The Kalamazoo Juvenile Total
Abstinence Temperance Society or the Kalamazoo Young People's Temperance
Society as it was later called. The societies worked together, having
meetings together and planning County and State Conventions.

The Temperance Society of Arcadia held its meetings in the School
House in the spring and summer of 1856. Hiram Owen was president and
Luther H. Trask secretary.

Both the Arcadia Temperance Society meet with the Kalamazoo T. A.
Temperance Society twice in 1857. Once to elect officers and once to
hear F. J. Littlejohn of Allegan speak.

The Kalamazoo Total Abstinence Temperance Society, with Amos
Brownson as president and J. P. Marsh as secretary, seems to have been
the more active of the two.

The first notice of the group is of a meeting at E. Hall's School
House on a Sunday evening by "early candle lighting". Col. Curtensius
of Grand Prairie was expected to give a temperance address. In December
of 1857 the Society was to have a Christmas Evening meeting, when the
ladies and gentlemen were invited to the Presbyterian Church at 7 o'clock
to hear an address by Nathaniel A. Balch, A. B., Principal of Kalamazoo
Instituté. A. T. Prouty had become secretary of the group but Amos
Brownson was still its president.

On January 19, 1858, at 6 o'clock in the evening at the Presbyterian:

\[\text{References:}\]

Church, the Society was to meet to discuss "matters connected with the temperance cause". The village and vicinity were invited.

This meeting proved to be very interesting. There was presented the Second Annual Report which stated that

The Kalamazoo T. A. Temperance Society was formed, and the Constitution adopted in March 1836; up to the time fixed for the annual meeting it numbered 37 male and 32 female members in all 69. The number added since the last annual meeting, is 39 males and 30 females—total now belonging to the society, is 158, which is a small number when compared to our population.

There are in this town eleven retailing stores and groceries, and only three of them are on temperance principles; two are determined to discontinue the traffic in ardent spirits when their present stock is exhausted.

The amount sold by five of the retailing establishments, (as near as can be estimated by the retailers themselves), is 915 gallons brandy, 865 gallons gin, 1225 gallons rum, 300 gallons wine, and 1070 gallons whiskey—total 4375 gallons, or nearly 1000 gallons to each retailer.

It may be safely calculated that the nine retailers above mentioned, including one who has discontinued the traffic but not taken into account, would amount to 9000 gallons of intoxicating drink the past year.

The population of this township according to the late census, 1857, of that number 619 are females, of the males 281 are under 15 years of age; and it is presumed that the female part of our population and the males under 15 years are nearly or quite temperate, which would give to each male inhabitant, 181 gallons and 27 one hundredth [the article asserted] of something more than 60 gallons to each male and female of every age in town.

But this being the county seat of Kalamazoo co. and a place where the surrounding towns resort to for supplies it is fair to suppose that a large portion of the above sales are not consumed by our citizens.

There are four licensed taverns in the township, which together with the above number of stores, pay into the treasury $80 for the privilege of selling liquor; the amount

7 Michigan Statesman, March 12, 1856.
8 Kalamazoo Gazette, December 16, 1857.
9 Ibid, February 17, 1857.
10 Ibid, January 15, 1838.
expended for the support of town poor, is $109—forty-three of it is directly caused by intemperance, and two-thirds of the balance may be indirectly traced to the same cause.

The cost of the various kinds of ardent spirits sold, may be estimated at not less than $1.50 per gallon, which would amount to the sum of $13,500, and the time spent by the consumers is conceded to be the cost of liquor, which would amount to the enormous sum of $27,000! enough to pay also the entire expense of our primary schools the whole year.

What a field is here for the Philanthropist and Christian? Who can doubt the facts, that the license system is a curse and a scourge to any community; let our citizens ponder well what is done by the monster Intemperance [sic], it is a monster we should all as one man, resolve to drive from the land.

A. T. Prouty furnished the material for publication, so perhaps he wrote the article.

Evidently the Kalamazoo T. A. Temperance Society wanted to continue the discussion of their resolution made at the January 19th meeting. The group was to meet at the Presbyterian Church and "general attendance" was requested.

Temperance Conventions were always big affairs, whether county or state conventions. Plans were made to have a large gatherings of people. Thus, all the temperance societies in the county were to meet on Tuesday, February 27th, 1858, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, to form a County Total Abstinence Temperence Society. Delegates were requested to come from the societies.

At six-thirty P. M. on February 27th in the Presbyterian Church, four addresses were to be given:

1. "Intemperance [sic] as it is"—Col. Curtenius.

1 Ibid, January 20, 1858.
2 Ibid, January 27, 1858.
3 Ibid, February 10, 1858.
2. "Its effects upon [the] human system — Dr. E. N. Colt.

This was announced by A.T. Prouty.

Reverend Jeremiah Hall called the meeting to order, Ezekiel Ransom, Esq., was called to the chair, A. G. Hammond was appointed secretary, and A. T. Prouty stated the objects of the meeting.

A committee of three — Luther H. Trask, Jeremiah Hall, and A. G. Hammond — examined delegates' credentials. There were 13 from the Kalamazoo Total Abstinence Society, 5 from Richland Temperance Society, 1 from Galesburg Temperance Society, 5 from East Prairie Temperance Society, 1 from the Comstock Temperance Society, and 9 from the Youth Temperance Society of Kalamazoo. Each delegate participated in the convention. Each resolved to form a County Total Abstinence Society.

Nathaniel A. Balch, L. H. Jones, and A. H. Stevens of Galesburg were to draft a Constitution and Pledge for the group. Reverend Silas Woodbury, Rufus A. Royce, and Simeon Mills from Richland were to "draft resolutions expressive of the sense of this convention". The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

The resolutions were: (1) "that our laws ought to be so regulated that the dealers in alcohol should be accountable for all the damages that individuals or the community may sustain by the use or sale of it."

(2) "All those who professed to be friends of the temperance movement yet spent their time around places that sold alcoholic beverages "ought to be branded as immoral." (3) Members of the society "who habitually patronized persons who traffic in intoxicating drinks are guilty of violation of the

Ibid, February 10, 1858.
spirit of the total abstinence pledge." (4) an agent for the State Society was felt to be needed to support the temperance cause. The county society would pay a portion of the salary for such an individual. (5) A county society was set up to meet annually on the last Tuesday in February. Ezekiel Ransom was president. Other prominent men were Caleb Eldred, A. G. Hammond, Jeremiah Hall, Luther H. Trask, A. T. Prouty, and J. P. Marsh.

If the State Society didn't "send an agent into the field", the Kalamazoo County Society would send an agent to lecture "in all the towns of this county, under the direction of the Prudential Committee of this Society." These were the resolutions made at the convention.

A reporter from the Gazette, who attended, stated that the meeting was held on Thursday, not Tuesday, at the Presbyterian church. "We attended the celebration. It was large and respectable, the proceedings were interesting and marked with much spirit and good feeling."

The Kalamazoo T. A. Temperance Society was to hold a meeting at the Presbyterian meeting house "by order of the board of managers". This was the only meeting held since the Convention in February.

In April of 1840 the Temperance Society was to meet at the Presbyterian Church on Tuesday at 7 o'clock to make arrangements for the "Quarterly State Temperance Convention" to be held the first Tuesday in May. The group planned to have the Convention at the Court House on May 5th at 1 O'clock.

Men from all over the State were coming as speakers and the different

1 Ibid, March 10, 1838.
2 Ibid, March 3, 1838.
3 Ibid, December 29, 1838.
The "committee of arrangements" consisted of David Alden, A. T. Prouty, Luther H. Trask, Nathaniel A. Balch, and S. H. Ransom.

In August of the same year, Elisha Taylor, the Chairman of the New York State Temperance Society, was to deliver a speech on "temperance" in the Presbyterian Church, Sunday evening, at 6 o'clock. By 1841, the stir of large temperance meetings had quitted down somewhat. One Society meeting was held in June of that year.

In 1842, however, a "Mass temperance meeting" was to be held, when the Michigan State Temperance Society was to meet the 4th of May in Kalamazoo. The following were members on the "committee of arrangements": Charles E. Stuart, Fredrick W. Curtenius, Theodore P. Sheldon, David Swazey, Samuel R. Ransom, Horace Mower, and Nathaniel A. Balch. "The public, without respect to age, sex, color, religion, politics, or any other peculiarity, are invited to attend. Local Temperance Societies of all kinds are expected to send delegations, and it is earnestly hoped that 'our beautiful West', especially will pour in in her hundreds."

The last big mass meeting was held in Niles, not Kalamazoo. Reverend J. P. Cleaveland, president of the Michigan Temperance Association, was to speak and Nathaniel A. Balch, Reverend Hoyt, and Judge Stevens were going to take part in the meeting.

1-2 Ibid., May 2, 1840.
3 Ibid., May 2, 1840.
4 Ibid., August 7, 1840.
5 Ibid., June 11, 1841.
6 Ibid., March 11, 1842.
6 Ibid., January 6, 1843.
An offshoot of the Kalamazoo T. A. Temperance Society was the Kalamazoo Young People's Temperance Society. The secretaries mentioned for this group were Milo M. Barrows, S. J. M. Hammond, Fletcher Marsh, David Hubbard, jr., and August W. Adams. Generally the group met in the Branch University Building to hear some speaker. Addresses were given by J. M. Cooper, William G. Austin, Fletcher Marsh, Reverend Dr. R. P. Stevens, Horace Mower, Volney Hascall, and Mr. Stevens.

In spite of the fact that the town had four taverns and a brewery, it always was interested in temperance in these early years and spent a great deal of time discussing the subject.

1 Ibid, March 24, 1858.
2 Ibid, April 30, 1841.
3 Ibid, October 29, 1841.
5 Ibid, December 30, 1842.
6 Ibid, April 30, 1841.
7 Ibid, May 28, 1841.
8 Ibid, October 1, 1841.
9 Ibid, December 51, 1841.
10 Ibid, December 5, 1841.
11 Ibid, December 30, 1842.
12 Ibid, April 1, 1842.
13 Ibid, February 3, 1843.
14 Ibid, April 15, 1837.
Kalamazoo Agriculture and Horticulture Society

Kalamazoo tried to start an agriculture society, which didn't seem to have lasted longer than the summer of 1857. No other club notices were mentioned in the Gazette.

The citizens were invited to attend a meeting at the School House to form the Kalamazoo Agricultural and Horticultural Society. Roswell Ransom was made chairman and George A. O'Brien secretary of a first meeting in the Kalamazoo House. Five men, A. G. Hammond, Alexander H. Edwards, Issac Willard, P. Grey, and Luther H. Trask were to draft the constitution. It was to be presented July 11 in the School House. Election of officers and a board of trustees were appointed. H.H. Comstock, G. Torrey, E. B. Anderson, Luther H. Trask, J. H. Smith, and Caleb Eldred were the appointees.

The next meeting at the School House was to have been devoted to the discussion of suitable by-laws for the society. The trustees were to have drawn them up before the meeting.

People in Kalamazoo were interested in agriculture besides just having a club. Hiram Owen in his obituary notice is said to have been interested in farming, and E. Hawley, who lived in the Kalamazoo House in the summer of 1857, had a cauliflower which measured "three feet six inches in circumference." The reporter commented, "the soil of Michigan against the world!" Hawley also raised two pigs, which after being killed and dressed weighed 1,050 pounds. This was in 1859. The pigs were only seventeen months old.

1 Kalamazoo Gazette, April 29, 1857.
2 Ibid, June 2, 1857.
3 Ibid, August 16, 1857.
5 Ibid, August 11, 1858.
6 Ibid, July 22, 1857.
7 Ibid, April 12, 1859.
Evidently the summer of 1857 was an unusually good summer for growing crops, especially corn, grass, and fruits such as strawberries. After 1836 people were looking forward to "better times" just ahead.

**Mechanics' Society**

One Society so far not mentioned is the Mechanics' Society. This group met starting in February of 1857. They wanted "to take into consideration the propriety of petitioning the legislature of this state, not to enact any laws regarding the management of the state penitentiary which will conflict with the mechanics' interests of this state."

At this meeting at the Kalamazoo House, David Hubbard was called to be the chairman and A. T. Prouty was appointed secretary. A committee of men, Abraham, Cahill, A. T. Prouty, John Everland, Edmond Le Graff, D. K. Davis, Samuel Stopher, and Ross Allard were appointed.

The group resolved "that we consider the recommendation of the Governor for the State Prison discipline, as highly oppressive to the mechanics, and unconstitutional, and that the fact of placing funds of the State in competition with individuals (in prison manufactures) is intolerant and highly oppressive."

This group was to meet at the School House to establish a "Mechanics' Institute" and in May to form a "Mechanics' Society". The only other meeting that was announced, however, was one to be held at the Kalamazoo House for the planning of a program to celebrate the "anniversary of American Independence on the Fourth of July."

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1 Ibid, June 24, 1857.
2 Kalamazoo Gazette, February 25, 1857.
3 Ibid, March 11, 1857.
5 Ibid, April 1, 1857.
7 Ibid, June 25, 1857.
Kalamazoo Mutual Insurance Company

A fire insurance company was founded in Kalamazoo. It was to hold a meeting to elect a board of twelve directors at the Kalamazoo House in 1856. The Kalamazoo Mutual Insurance had been incorporated two years before in 1834. It was "a voluntary association of individuals, pledged to bear each other's losses in just, equitable proportions—that no combination of wealth or money-making scheme can possibly influence its operation or divert it from its legitimate and proper course."

"The mutual insurance systems" don't seem to have originated in Kalamazoo, but the Kalamazoo Insurance Company had agencies in Michigan cities for protection against fire. Every man who insured in the company became a member and a stockholder. The mutual insurance systems had been tried in Vermont.

Cyren Burdick was secretary in 1836, Z. Platt in 1837, and A. T. Prouty from 1837 on. Prouty was still serving in 1843.

There were two bad fires in Kalamazoo. There was a fire insurance company, but no fire protection. Perhaps if it had had it, "the insurance rate of six percent would have been lower even with the poor protection offered against fire a hundred years ago. General Burdick on Thursday morning (February 7, 1839) found his house on fire. It had started on the roof and someone seeing the fire cried out for help. The citizens came immediately and put out the fire before it did much damage. The editor commented that the village should have a better way of "preventing destruction by fire. If we can not have an engine, let us at least have ladders in readiness."

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3. Ibid, February 18, 1837.
4. Ibid, July 22, 1837.
5. Ibid, February 18, 1837.
Amos Brownson suffered even more in May of 1845. The citizens helped save his house and "many valuable goods" in his store which he thanked them for.

6 Ibid., July 8, 1837.
7 Ibid., November 16, 1839.
8 Ibid., June 30, 1843.
9 Ibid., July 22, 1857.
10 Ibid., February 9, 1839.
11 Ibid., May 26, 1845.
Weddings and Funerals

One of the customs that grew up in the village of Kalamazoo in connection with weddings was the giving of wedding cake to the printers in return for having the bride's and groom's name in capital letters in the announcement of their marriage.

The first couple to have theirs announced this way was Mr. THOMAS S. ATLEE and Miss MARY H. EDWARDS. The couple was married by Jeremiah Hall. After the wedding, in the evening the "village band" played some new popular music "which had been selected for the occasion," the groom reports in the Gazette.

The printers received "a large slice of wedding cake." They appreciated it and continued "We wish the happy pair every enjoyment that this world can afford. A piece of wedding cake! only think of it! We told our devil to put their names in capitals which he cheerfully did, and says whenever he gets a little of the wedding cake, he will always do the like. While we are writing, we hear him uttering blessings on the new married couple, and as the last mouthful is fast disappearing, he says he don't care how soon there's another wedding, providing the printers are remembered!"

Mary and Thomas Atlee would settle down in the village of Kalamazoo, he to become a prominent citizen of the village.

All "fared sumptuously on Cake and Wine and our Devil has not done smacking his lips over the luxurious feast, and eagerly inquired, 'when will there be another wedding?'" This was after the wedding of Mary Hubbard and Caleb Sherman.

1 Ibid, June 10, 1837.
2 Ibid, June 10, 1837.
3 Ibid, October 21, 1837.
Another important wedding that the Gazette reports is the marriage of Stephen Vickery, Representative to the State Legislature, to Miss Stanley, daughter of Elisha Stanley of White Pigeon. The couple were married April 26, 1838, by Reverend Jeremiah Hall at Anthony Cooley's residence in Kalamazoo. "Numerous happy friends" were present at the wedding and the printers received wedding cake. It was said of Zila Stanley that "female influence among the politicians was feared."

A beautiful illustration of this has been quite lately exhibited in this place, as will be seen by the following announcement:

John P. Warner, a member of the Kalamazoo Lyceum, and Sarah Ann Hydenburk were married March 27, 1859 by Reverend Silas Woodbury. "It is worthy of remark that we, printers, in this case were not forgot for we received a bounteous supply of rich and most delicious cake from the hands of the fair bridge."

Probably the most exciting wedding of the early days of Kalamazoo was that of David Alden and Tirzah M. Hart, instructors at Kalamazoo Institute. Students and people from the village, including a reporter from the Gazette, gathered at the Presbyterian Church for the examination of students by Mr. Alden and Miss Hart.

All the ladies and gentlemen "appeared well grounded in the principles of what they had learned, and gave proof that a love for knowledge had taken hold of their minds." The women read "excellent compositions" while the men "concluded with declamations."

1 Ibid, October 21, 1857.
2 Ibid, March 30, 1859.
3 Ibid, February 23, 1859.
"The best scene of all was reserved for the last. Just before the audience retired, the Rev. Mr. Hall requested their attention to witness the marriage ceremony between the teachers. Though taken completely by surprise, we had the pleasure to hear their vows, and see consumated the union of intellectual and moral worth."

The Aldens may have remembered the printers too, because their names were in capital letters.

There were several other amusing articles written about the receiving of wedding cake by the printers. One of the weddings Thomas W. Merrill performed was between Miss Francis Hopkins and Alpheus Rood. After receiving a "delicious loaf of wedding cake" which the "whole typoral corps" of the Gazette office thanked them for, the printer's devil is said to have given a soliloque which went:

"O, may such wedding's come ev'ry day -
The Bride as sweet as the Queen of May,
I wish her joy and ev'rything good,
And happiness measured all by Rood."

The Strong sisters' weddings, Harriet's and John Parker's, and Achsah's and Hezekiah G. Wells', at J. Moffat's residence, was performed by Reverend Hoyt. The editor of the Gazette wrote, "accompanying the above we received the 'welcome offering'!" In the height of political excitement, it seems that these gentlemen have found leisure to cultivate the strong -er affections. Opposite in politics, -each candidate for an elective office- should either be defeated in the field, he is prepared to aver5 its evils

1 Ibid, February 23, 1839.
2 Ibid, July 11, 1840.
Perhaps Reverend O. P. Hoyt would have been shocked the day after he read this next wedding announcement, for he was the minister who performed Joseph Daniels' and Charlotte Hubbard's wedding. The Gazette wrote that "Jo" had given the printers a "loaf of 'stomach tickler'" and "a bottle of throat wash".

One Richland couple also gave the printers cake.

"Not quite forgotten", flitted across his desponding mind, as his gratitude was re-awakened by a sudden introduction: to a conspicuous quality of the 'staff of life' doubly refined. Our poor devil—more sin'd against than sinning'—dropped upon his knees, for the first time in many a day and solemnly supplicated for more weddings.3

The rival of the Gazette, the Michigan Telegram, also liked to receive wedding cake. In announcing the marriage of Mr. Liberty H. Bailey of Van Buren County to Miss Sarah Harris of Kalamazoo, the printers write "Wedlock is considered by some the embracing of slavery, but in this case the bride embraced Liberty as her portion through life."4

While Kalamazoo villagers were generally full of good humor, many of them contracted tuberculosis and died at an early age. Children's deaths, especially during the first year of life, were most numerous.

The first funeral service mentioned by the Michigan Statesman was that for Dr. Seth I. Porter, who died at the age of 51. "A large concourse assembled at his late residence to perform the

1Ibid, September 11, 1840.
2Ibid, January 22, 1841.
3Ibid, October 9, 1840.
4Michigan Telegram, November 21, 1845.
funeral ceremonies, where an appropriate sermon was preached by Rev. Mr. Jones.

Alexander Evans, an immigrant from Broncos, North Wales, came to the United States at the age of 18 and died in Kalamazoo after suffering from an illness for nine months. He seems to have impressed the people as being very cheerful in spite of his suffering.

Ann Mackintosh AtLee, wife of Samuel Yorke AtLee, died at the age of 23 after suffering a long illness. A funeral procession was to assemble at her father's, Col. Edward's house, and proceed to the Presbyterian Church for the service.

Some, like Hiram Owen, suffered only a few days but died at an early age. Owen was only 34.

The saddest time came in one week of February 1840. During that week James Wells Ransom, Abigail Buckley (both of whom suffered from "consumption") and Mrs. Amanda Cahill, wife of Abraham Cahill, died. The Gazette wrote "the individuals whose deaths we are called upon to announce, were bright ornaments in the social circles, and possessed of all those endearing virtues which render society profitable, and life a blessing".

The members of the Kalamazoo Lyceum at Thomas AtLee's suggestion attended Ransom's funeral and published a memorial to him.

But one of the saddest incidents of death was the death of Mrs. David Alden, who a little over a year ago, as Tirzah M. Hart had married Alden. She passed away after a "painful sickness".

1 Michigan Statesman, September 6, 1854.
2 Ibid., July 30, 1856.
3 Kalamazoo Gazette, June 2, 1858.
4 Ibid., August 11, 1858.
Another young wife, Mary Sherman, Caleb Sherman's wife, and David Hubbard's daughter died in April 1842. She was only twenty-five years old.

5 Ibid., February 29, 1840.
6 Ibid, February 22, 1840.
7 Ibid, July 18, 1840.
8 Ibid, April 15, 1842.
The Church Life of Kalamazoo

The first building used for worship was the School House. Mr. Robe, the Methodist circuit rider, held services here. Later Abner Jones, the first Presbyterian minister, preached his sermons to the congregation here before the Presbyterian church or "meeting house" was built.

Martin Heydenburk built this "meeting house" on South Street between Rose and Burdick Streets; it was used by the Presbyterians until 1849, when a new church was built. Reverend Silas Woodbury was the first pastor.

In July of 1837 the Church had "a large bell, sent from Boston, and designed for the Presbyterian meeting house in this village." The editor wondered "would it not be well to employ a person to ring it three times a day at 6 a.m., 12 m. and 6 p.m.? Our mechanics and villagers generally would be benefited by doing so."

The Presbyterian Church was the only church built up to April of 1837. The Gazette states that Kalamazoo had two ministers but the article does not state whom they are referring to. Actually it seems as though there were three; Silas Woodbury, Jeremiah Hall, and Charles B. Stout. Both Jeremiah Hall and Silas Woodbury had given temperance addresses in March of 1836, and had taken an active part in the life of Kalamazoo. Charles B. Stout is also known to have been in Kalamazoo in March of 1837. "The Reverend Charles B. Stout of the Episcopal church, will by Divine permission, preach in the Presbyterian church on Sunday.

3 Kalamazoo Gazette, July 29, 1837.
4 Ibid, April 15, 1837.
5 Michigan Statesman, March 5, 1836.
afternoon next." Kalamazoo in 1856 had "two settled clergymen." Perhaps Charles B. Stout had recently arrived in Kalamazoo to take charge of the Episcopal Church, which was being planned.

The summer of 1857 seems to have been a great season for building, especially of churches. The Baptists building committee was to meet in the School House to make plans for a Baptist meeting house, to cost $4000. The other church building was of course the Episcopal one. The building committee, or those interested in the church building, met in the School House, too. Anthony Cooley was chairman and Richard O'Brien was appointed secretary. Theodore P. Sheldon, William H. Welch, and Anthony Cooley were appointed to the building committee "for the purpose of erecting a vestry room thirty feet long and twenty feet broad on the northwest quarter of the Public Square, in the village of Kalamazoo, appropriated to churches." The probable cost was to be considered at the next meeting. In July the building was finished.

At the Presbyterian Church, pews were to be rented for a year and the "sale" was to take place at the church in October of 1858. With a growing population and a desire for religious worship, perhaps it was hard to find a seat on Sunday morning for the latecomers.

The Methodist Episcopal Society organized and had a meeting at 4 p.m. at A.P. and H. Bush's shop for the purpose of organizing a society for the Methodist Episcopal Church." Reverend Jacob Colclazier and William E. White were the "presidents" and A.P. Bush was secretary of the meeting.
The dedication service took place in December of 1842. Reverend Colclazer of Ann Arbor was to deliver the "Dedication: Sermon" and at 2:30 in the afternoon Reverend Hoyt was to preach a sermon to which all citizens of Kalamazoo were invited.

The different churches had outside pastors come in. Reverend Hoyt was to preach in the Presbyterian Church on Sunday morning, April 11, 1840. He later settled in Kalamazoo, to become probably the fourth minister. Reverend Charles Fox of Jackson was to preach a sermon in the Episcopal Church on Sunday, December 8. In November of 1845, the Reverend Dean of the Missionary Board of China of the Baptist denomination spoke in the Methodist Episcopal Church on converting the Chinese to Christianity, and read from a Chinese Testament. The members of the congregation collected twenty dollars as a contribution to his mission work. Another speaker in Kalamazoo was Mr. E. M. Webb, an Elder of the "Church of the Latter Day Saints, commonly called Mormons," who was to deliver a lecture at the Court House.

The two earliest permanent ministers were given contributions of money by the people in gratitude for their services. Silas Woodbury was given fifty dollars by the members of his Gull Prairie congregation "to constitute him a Director for Life of the American Tract Society." Later, Reverend and Mrs. Hall were given ninety dollars donated by the men and women of the village.

1 Ibid, December 2, 1842.
2 Ibid, April 4, 1840.
3 Ibid, December 7, 1839.
4 Michigan Telegram, November 14, 1845.
5 Kalamazoo Gazette, January 6, 1845.
6 Michigan Statesman, April 2, 1836.
7 Kalamazoo Gazette, February 10, 1838.
Indirectly, the churches in town were related to the work of the Kalamazoo Institute and the University Branch. The Branch Building was used by the townspeople for Temperance and Lyceum meetings along with other events. Jeremiah Hall, a member of the "executive committee" for Kalamazoo Institute, saw that money was not forthcoming from subscribers in the area to meet the payment for the "large and beautiful farm" with buildings erected on it for classes which had just begun in the new building in September. Therefore, when many of the subscribers that he had solicited did not pay, he paid "more than six hundred dollars" for the needed improvements. Donations were to pay for the farm and buildings as well as build a "boarding house".

In April of 1841, at General Harrison's death, Reverend Hoyt was to deliver a commemorative sermon in the Presbyterian Church at two on Sunday, and the following Wednesday the citizens were to meet at the Branch building to mourn his death. This was just one of the many uses which the University Branch Building did to serve the people of Kalamazoo.

On the whole, worship in Kalamazoo didn't seem to be much of an issue between the denominations represented here in the early life of Kalamazoo. Generally the churches seemed to have served the needs of the people in the village without much friction between the groups.

1 Michigan Statesman, April 2, 1856.
2 Kalamazoo Gazette, January 25, 1857.
3 Ibid., April 16, 1841.
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