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No. 38. The Political History of Kalamazoo to 1848

by

Richard S. Thomas

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Chapter I

Early Organization and the Democratic Party

The political history of Kalamazoo must necessarily start with the organization of Kalamazoo County by Governor Cass and the territorial legislature of Michigan on July 29, 1831. Up to this time, Kalamazoo was known only for its trading post established sometime in 1823, and a few settlers, among them Titus Bronson, who settled in Kalamazoo in June, 1829. Kalamazoo County was designated as the seat of judicial processes for Eaton, Calhoun and Barry counties and all organized counties to the north.

On March 12, 1831, Titus Bronson and his brother-in-law, Stephen H. Richardson, registered organized plots with the justice of the peace of Brady Township for the village of Bronson. This move seems to have been not only a transaction in land speculation but also was motivated by Bronson's real desire to establish a village which would be a leader of the territory. The plots themselves were organized in village form with provisions for public parks and plots for public buildings. Bronson's planning was instrumental in bringing the county


2 Kalamazoo Gazette, Centennial Edition, January 24,
seat to the village of Bronson.

Early in 1831, Governor Cass appointed a committee to investigate the most advantageous place for the county seat of Kalamazoo County. After investigation and greatly influenced by the position of Bronson on the Kalamazoo River and the village plan already set up by Titus Bronson himself, the committee recommended that Bronson be designated as the county seat. Governor Cass approved the choice officially on April 2, 1831.

The territorial legislature approved the organization of Arcadia Township on April 31, 1831. This township was laid on the present boundaries of Kalamazoo Township, and was soon to be known by that name.

The first record of the County Court is dated October 17, 1831, and names Bazel Harrison and Stephen Hoyt as justices.

On April 12, 1832, the first township meeting and election was held at the house of Titus Bronson. At this time and until 1843, the village was under the authority of the township government. There seems to have been no party-cleavage in this election, for only a dozen votes were cast and in all, twenty four different men were elected to various offices. The Justice of...

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3. 1937, sec. 1, p. 4.
4. Ibid., pp.33-34
5. Ibid., p. 36
6. Ibid., p. 36
the Peace, Issac Barns, called the first meeting to order. The election results were as follows: Supervisor, Caleb Eldred; Clerk, Leland Lane; Commissioners of Highways, A. Cooley, S. Brown and A. E. Mathews; Assessors, H. Homes, L. Lane and S. Miles; Collector, S. Taft; Constables, S. Taft and W. P. Giddings; Overseers of the Poor, J. Barns and Titus Bronson; Fence Viewers, J. Briggs, E. Ransom and E. Smith; Overseers of Highways, R. Tuttle, S. Miles, S. Eldred, L. Keys, E. Hunt, Wm. Logan and N. Harrison; Pound Masters, Titus Bronson and W. Mills; School Commissioners, E. Ranson, O. Barnes, J. Abbott, J. Hascall and W. P. Giddings.

The first village post office was established on July 14, 1832. Dr. John Abbott, School Commissioner, was appointed post master by President Andrew Jackson. The post office was opened in Hosea Huston's store.

The first session of the Circuit Court was held on November 4, 1933.

Early in 1834, the Federal Land Office for Western Michigan was moved from White Pigeon to Bronson. Abraham Edwards, Register of Deeds for the office at White Pigeon, remained in the capacity after the transfer of the office. The importance of this transfer for Kalamazoo can not be over estimated, for this was the period of the great Western land boom and placed Kalamazoo in the middle of this tremendous movement in Michigan.

The year 1835, saw the awakening of political movements in Kalamazoo. The Michigan Territory had been

Ibid., np. 37-38
approved for statehood and Kalamazoo was to take an important part in the organization of the state government. The Democratic national administration was under fire because of its economic policies and the all important 1836 national election was to be held in the near future.

On April 6, 1835, three Whigs, Hezekiah G. Wells, William Welch, and Lucis Lyon were elected as the village delegates to the convention at Ann Arbor, Michigan, for the purpose of forming a State Constitution. Also, in the spring of 1835 the county elections were held and two Kalamazoo Whigs won offices. John Marsh was elected to the Supervisor position and A. Cahill was elected County Clerk, while the Democrats were victorious in every other race.

In the fall election, in which the first governor of Michigan was to be elected, the Democrats carried Kalamazoo County by a wide Margin. Governor-elect Mason, Lieutenant Governor-elect Mundy, and Issac Cary, congressman-elect, all carried the county. Kalamazoo Democrats Cyren Burdick and Ed. Lothrop were elected to serve in the first state house of representatives and Horace Comstock of Kalamazoo was elected to the new state senate.

9 Ibid., sec. 1, p. 4.
10 James A. Thomas, on. cit., p. 41.
11 Ibid., p. 45.
In 1836 the village plots were owned by Cyren Burdick, E. Sheldon, Lucis Lyon and Titus Bronson. It has been commonly thought that the first three plotted together to have the name of the village changed from Bronson to Kalamazoo and as the result of this treachery, Bronson left the village with a broken heart. However, the truth seems to be that Bronson sold his interest in the village land to Burdick, Sheldon and Lyon for 12,000 dollars in order to move on farther west and increase his fortune made in Kalamazoo. After this sale, the name of the village was officially changed to Kalamazoo.

The annual spring township elections of 1836 showed a Democratic victory in which the chief feature was the election of Burdick as Supervisor. On April 20, 1836, Issac W. Willard was appointed postmaster to succeed Dr. Abbott. Willard, seeing the commercial possibilities, moved the post office to his own store.

In the fall of 1836, the popularity of the Democratic national administration in Kalamazoo was shown in the presidential election. Andrew Jackson's candidate, Martin Van Buren, received a majority of 213 over William

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14 Ibid, sec.1, p.4.
Henry Harrison in the county. But all indications had pointed to this Democratic victory, for business was literally booming in Kalamazoo. The village was growing at a tremendous rate. For example, the Kalamazoo Federal Land Office, in 1836, had sold 1,634,511 acres and received 2,043,866 dollars. Prosperity was in command and the local Democrats were riding the crest. They had yet to fall into the trough of panic, soon to come.

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15 Ibid., sec. 1, p.4
16 Kalamazoo Gazette, February 4, 1837, p.2.
Chapter II

Panic and the Ascendancy of the Whigs

The year 1837 showed Kalamazoo in the midst of party organization and political interest. On February 20, 1837, a meeting of the Kalamazoo mechanics was held at the Kalamazoo House. David Hubbard was elected chairman and the members resolved to send a petition to the state legislature protesting manufacturing in state prisons. This practice was declared state competition with private enterprise. It was further declared that the only proper punishment for convicts was solitary confinement.

The spring township elections were hard fought, but resulted in a decisive Whig victory which was due in great part to a spreading wave of depression. Except for Democrat Cyren Burdick's majority in the supervisor race and a Democrat winning one other minor office, the Whigs won in their whole ticket. On May 15, 1837, Whig Luther Trask, the new school commissioner, was elected moderator of the district school meeting. A. T. Prouty was elected school assessor and Walter Clark was chosen as school director at the meeting.

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1 Kalamazoo Gazette, February 25, 1837, p.2.
2 Ibid., April 8, 1837, p.2.
Also, 500 dollars was voted for a school building.

The first Democratic county convention was held on July 11, 1837, in Kalamazoo. The day before, the Kalamazoo Township Democratic convention had been held and F. W. Curtenius, Thos. Edwards, S. Y. Atlee, Alex. Buell and Walter Clark were chosen as delegates to the convention. However, no Kalamazoo delegate was chosen to the Democratic state convention held on July 20, 1837.

That same week, the Whig county convention was held in Kalamazoo with A. T. Prouty, W. H. Welch, A. Cahill, H. B. Huston, A. Cooley, R. Wood, B. Marsh, J. Patrick, G. C. Merill and F. Owen as Kalamazoo delegates. Hosea Huston was chosen as a delegate from Kalamazoo County to the Whig state convention, held on August 2, 1837.

At that Whig state meeting, H. N. Wells, of Kalamazoo, was nominated for Whig candidate for congress.

Results of the congressional election of August 22-23, 1837 showed Wells receiving a majority for 53 out of a total of 271 in the township. Wells also took the county by 288 but lost to Democrat Isaac Crary in the total

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3 Ibid., May 13, 1837, p.2.
4 Ibid., July 15, 1837, n.2.
5 Ibid., July 22, 1837, n.2.
6 Ibid., August 12, 1837, n.2.
In the fall of 1837, the parties started to form battle lines for the state elections to be held on the first Monday and Tuesday in November. Early in October, Cyren Burdick and E. H. Lothrop of Kalamazoo were chosen to be Democratic candidates for the state house of representatives from Kalamazoo County. Just before the elections, Burdick, the township supervisor and Kalamazoo's leading Democrat, died, and his nominative position was filled by Postmaster Willard at a special Democratic caucus.

Also, the Democratic senatorial convention was held at this time to choose their candidate for the second senatorial district of Michigan. Kalamazoo's delegates aided in the nomination of Vincent Bradford of Berrien. The Whig county convention nominated A. Cooley and S. Vickery of Kalamazoo for state representatives and also endorsed the Whig candidate for governor, C. C. Trowbridge of Detroit, who was chosen to run against the incumbent, the Democratic "boy wonder", 10 Stephen T. Mason.

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7 Ibid., August 26, 1837, p.2.
8 Ibid., September 2, 1837, p.2.
9 Ibid., October 7, 1837, p.2.
10 Ibid., loc. cit.
The results of this important state election show the Whigs carrying Kalamazoo easily. This Whig victory, as all the Whig victories in 1837, show the results of the deepening financial disorder in the nation. Rotten and uncontrolled wild-cat banking practices along with the results of a false prosperity carried on the wave of an enormous land-speculation boom had plunged the Kalamazoo area, as the nation, into a disastrous panic. As it had happened so many times, the administration party at the time of the panic received the full blame for the disorder and suffered setbacks at the polls, both local and national. Jacksonian Democracy was becoming increasingly unpopular in 1837 as purses were becoming increasingly empty.

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Ibid., November 11, 1837, p.2.
Chapter III

The Whig Era

Political movement started in 1838 in a sober vein. In March 1836, the Kalamazoo Temperence Society was founded under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church. This movement had gained strength in 1837 and on February 27, 1838, a Kalamazoo County Temperence Convention was held in the village, at which time the virtues of total abstinence were expounded.

On March 10, 1838, a county meeting, advertised as non-partisan, was held at the home of Edward Hawley of Kalamazoo. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a bill, under discussion by the state legislature, which would make a man unfit to serve as a juror because of certain religious beliefs. It was resolved by the members of this meeting that the Church and State must be kept separate and that the bill then under consideration violated that rule.

Annual township conventions were held in late March, 1838. The Democratic ticket was headed by Theo. Shelden, supervisor candidate; Alex. Edwards, clerkship candidate and Fletcher Ransom, running on both tickets for Justice

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1 Kalamazoo Gazette, January 20, 1838, p.2.

2 Ibid., February 10, 1838, p.2.

3 Ibid., March 10, 1838, p.2.
of the Peace. The Kalamazoo Whigs backed Hosea Huston for supervisor and Amos Brownson for clerk. The Whigs finished the township election of April 1, 1838 with a complete victory. They elected the afore mentioned candidates, along with the balance of their ticket.

The Michigan State Bank issue was cause for a non-partisan town meeting held in the third week of April, 1838. Every citizen was feeling the effect of the panic at this time and was interested in seeing the currency policy of the nation and the state reformed. The citizens of Kalamazoo at this meeting voted for a state bank with large capital and stable currency.

Kalamazoo's first practicing physician, Dr. Nathan Thomas, was instrumental in forming the Kalamazoo County Abolition Society in 1838. The first organizational meeting was held on July 4, 1838. Future events were to prove that Dr. Thomas, long one of the leading abolitionists in Michigan, had planted the seed of the Michigan Liberty Party.

The Democratic County convention was held in Kalamazoo on August 25, 1838, to choose delegates to the state convention. Support for a powerful state bank

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was voted at this meeting. One of the Kalamazoo delegates, Abraham Edwards, was elected president of the Democratic state convention of 1838.

Results of the 1838 November elections for state senator from the second district, two state representatives from the county, and county officers were tabulated in the first week of that month. Again, it was the Whigs who carried their whole slate in Kalamazoo and elected the greater part of the county officials, as well as two state representatives. The Democrats had to be content with putting their candidate into the state senate.

In 1838, the state legislature passed an incorporation act for the village of Kalamazoo. However, this act was mechanically defective in providing no way for the first election. Early in 1839, another incorporation act was passed, but there seems to have been very little interest in the village about the matter. The Kalamazoo Gazette makes a very small mention of the election of the seven village trustees headed by President Hosea Huston (Whig). However, the whole project did not seem to "take" in the village. No evidence

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8 Ibid., September 1, 1838 p.2.
9 Ibid., September 22, 1838, p.2.
10 Ibid., November 10, 1838, p.2.
11 Ibid., March 1, 1839, p.2.
can be found which shows that this body transacted any business and the fact that another incorporation act was passed in 1843 seems to indicate that this second attempt had failed.

The 1839 spring township elections were again taken by the Whigs. However, no detailed results are available. Also, the fall election to elect a governor and state and county officials was marked by a Whig victory. Governor-elect Woodbridge and the rest of their state candidates carried Kalamazoo and Whig candidates won all county posts.

Later, in November of 1839, the President of the Michigan Anti-Slavery League paid a visit to Kalamazoo. When he tried to address a meeting of the local abolitionists, a riot, instigated by anti-abolition elements ensued, demonstrating the unpopularity of the abolition movement Kalamazoo at that time. It was the feeling of many residents that the anti-slavery proponents were just stirring up unnecessary trouble.

Thus, an eventful decade came to a close for the village of Kalamazoo. From a rough trading settlement founded by and supporting Jacksonian Democracy, a settle-

12 Ibid., April 6, 1839, p.2.
13 Ibid., November 9, 1839, p.2.
14 Ibid., November 30, 1839, p.2.
ment which joined the Democratic Republican Party in
wresting control of the national government from East­
ern financial power, the community had changed to a rather
conservative village which had seen prosperity come
and go, a village which had seen the frontier move
farther west leaving in its wake small business interests
which were as demanding and conservative as the forces
which it helped over-throw ten years before. The
Democrat had now bowed to the Whig and more of the same
was to follow, for "log cabins and hard cider" were to
sweep the country.
Chapter IV

The Return of the Democrats

The new decade started with a flurry of political activity in Kalamazoo when a town meeting was called in order on January 18, 1840, at the County Court House. According to previous announcement, the meeting was organized in order to bring pressure to bear on the state legislature to formulate some type of action which would ease the economic plight of Michigan. After choosing D. C. Deming as chairmen, it was resolved to petition the legislature to cut government cost, and to keep more money in circulation. The theory of government spending being used to keep money in circulation had not gained notice in 1840. However, the situation was serious. Hard money had virtually disappeared and paper notes fluctuated in value from day to day, not to mention the thousands which proved absolutely worthless in collection.

The 1840 spring township election resulted in a complete Whig victory. The Whigs won every township office except one highway commissioner position and one constable office.

1 Kalamazoo Gazette, January 11 1840, p.2.
3 Ibid., April 11, 1840, p.2.
May 30, 1840, was the date for a township Democratic caucus in order to elect five members to the county Democratic convention held the following week. At that county convention, held in Kalamazoo, after the election of four delegates to the state Democratic convention, a rough party platform was formed which the four delegates were to uphold. The members resolved against a high tariff, against excessive state spending, and flatly against a National Bank. Finally the Kalamazoo Democrats voted for the nomination of Martin Van Buren for president.

By the middle of June both local parties were whipping up enthusiasm for the coming national elections. The town Democrats had started a policy of holding weekly meetings in the court house for the purpose of electioneering and general spirit-raising. At the same time, construction on a log cabin had begun in Bronson Park by the local Whigs. This cabin was typical of the hundreds of others springing up over the nation to remind the voters that they could not go wrong with "Old Tip", William Henry Harrison. The Kalamazoo cabin was finished late in June and a gala dedication ceremony took place.

4 Ibid., June 6, 1840, p.2.
5 Ibid., June 13, 1840, p.2.
6 Ibid., June 20, 1840 p.2.
7 Ibid., June 27, 1840, p.2.
on July 4, 1840. F. W. Curtenius was in charge of the affair and arranged for Governor Woodbridge to be the principal speaker of the day and organized a huge parade. Of course, hard cider was very much in evidence and in all it was the biggest political rally Kalamazoo had ever seen. And the Whig rally evidently was not in vain, for the results of the November election showed a Whig landslide in Kalamazoo, following the national trend. In Kalamazoo County, Harrison received 954 votes to 744 for Van Buren. The Whigs won all county offices except probate judgeship, sheriff, clerkship, register and surveyor and in addition 24 votes were polled for the Abolition congressional candidate and 27 votes were polled for Abolition electors in the county. In the village itself the Whigs failed to carry the county offices mentioned above and the offices of senator, state representatives and congressman. The basic reason behind the Whig victory of course, was the poor economic conditions in the region. However, in an election conspicuous in its lack of real issues, the influence of the Whig drum-beating can not be discounted.

The annual spring township elections of 1841 showed

8
Ibid., July 11, 1840, p.2.

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10
Kalamazoo Gazette, November 13, 1840, p.2.
a definite Democratic gain. Although Whig Silas Townbridge was elected supervisor and Whig Charles Sheldon won the town clerk post, the remaining offices were evenly split between Whigs and Democrats.

A further indication of increasing Democratic strength was shown in May. In a special township election, held to fill the justice of the peace position, Democrat Richard Gage was elected to fill G. A. O'Brien's post. Also in May, Anthony Cooley was removed as postmaster and replaced by E. N. Colt. Both men seem to have been Whigs and it was a mystery as to why this move was ordered.

The first real political move of the Kalamazoo Abolitionists took place on August 7, 1841. A county meeting was held at that time with M. J. S. Porter, chairman and R. P. Stevens, secretary. It was resolved that immediate emancipation should be enforced. It was also decided to call a convention in the fall to nominate and support nominations of Abolition candidates on national and state levels. It was also decided to call a convention in the fall to nominate state legislators and county officials.

11 Ibid., April 9, 1841, p.2.
12 Ibid., May 14, 1841, p.2.
13 Ibid., May 21, 1841, p.2.
14 Ibid., August 12, 1841, p.2.
Following this, the Kalamazoo Democratic convention was held to elect delegates to the state convention. It was resolved at this convention that slavery was a detriment to the nation and therefore they were resolved to elevate men to office who would abolish slavery.

On October 1, 1841, the Liberty (Abolition) Party slate appeared, listing J. P. Marsh for state senator, Del Duncan for state representative, and J. S. Porter and A. Tower for county commissioners. A. H. Edwards received the nomination for representative but after some thought refused it.

The Whig trend of the past five years in Kalamazoo was reversed when in the 1841 fall election, the Democrats carried most of the county offices. However, the Whig candidates for governor and state senator were victorious in the village. Also, in the village, the Liberty party failed to receive more than five votes for anyone candidate. In the county as a whole, all Democratic candidates were elected or carried the county. The Liberty Party ran a poor third.

15 Ibid., August 27, 1841, p.2.
16 Ibid., October 1, 1841, p.2.
17 Ibid., September 3, 1841, p.2.
18 Ibid., November 5, 1841, p.2.
A special election ended the old and started the new year. Governor-elect, John S Barry resigned his post as state senator and in the election held December 31, 1841, the Democratic candidate, George Redfield, carried Kalamazoo easily. The Whig candidate was second again, followed by the Liberty man, John Marsh. Redfield won the election while Marsh was second in the entire district.

In March of 1842, Tom Sheldon was removed as receiver in the Federal Land Office and Luther Trask was appointed in his place. This seems to have been a purely political "spoils" move, since Sheldon was a Democrat and Trask was a Whig. The Democrats of the area were quite upset about it, for it seems that they had forgotten that their hero and leader, Andrew Jackson, was a chief proponent of the spoils system.

In the township election of April 4, 1842, the first real democratic victory in the village since 1836 was recorded. The election was held during the township meeting at the school house and the Democrats seized every office except town clerkship, one assessor and two highway commissioners. Mitchell Hinsdill led the way by winning the supervisor post. This post was more important than ever before at this time because in 1842

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19 Ibid., January 14, 1842, p.2.

20 Ibid., April 1, 1842, p.2.

21 Ibid., April 8, 1842, p.2.
the county commissioners were replaced by the County Board of Supervisors, a body made up of the supervisors from each of the fifteen organized townships in the county.

August and September in Kalamazoo meant party convention time and 1842 was no exception. The Liberty Party met first and made their nominations for the fall county elections on August 26, 1842. They also held their senatorial convention at the same time and nominated their candidate for the fifth district. The Kalamazoo Democrats held their township convention on September 24, 1842, to elect delegates to the county convention. The following week both Whigs and Democrats held conventions to chose county candidates and two state representative candidates, as well as two state senatorial candidates.

The candidates for state senator were of special interest to Kalamazoo. Lewis Starkey of Kalamazoo was chosen by the Democrats while F. W. Curtenius was chosen to run on the Whig ticket. Stephen Vickery and John Marsh, both of the village, were chosen to run on the Liberty slate.

The fall election turned out to be a setback for

22 Ibid., September 2, 1842, p.2.

23 Ibid., October 28, 1842, p.2.
the Democrats. In Kalamazoo township the Whig slate carried all the way except in the case of the office of register. However, in the total county vote the Democrats elected the treasurer, register, surveyor and two coroners. For state senator, Democrat Redfield and Whig Gurtenius were elected. Again the Liberty Party failed to show much strength.

The 1843 township election proved that the Democrats were placed firmly in power. Democrat Justice Burdick defeated Whig Hosea Huston for supervisor. Democrat Volney Hascal triumphed over the Whig candidate for town clerk, G. T. Clark. Theo. Sheldon defeated Whig Nelson Gibbs in the treasurer race and Richard Gage, Democrat, beat Seth Taft, Whig, for justice of the peace. In all, every Democrat but one was victorious and Justice Burdick was one of ten Democrats against five Whigs on the county board of supervisors.

Early in 1843 the Michigan state legislature passed a third and final incorporation act for Kalamazoo. This time, the idea appeared to gain some interest in the village. The first village election was held on the first Monday in April, 1843. Six trustees were elected, with the one receiving the highest number of votes designated

24 Ibid., November 11, 1843, p.2.
25 Ibid., April 7, 1843, p.2.
as village president. The first man to receive this honor was Hosea B. Huston, one of the first settlers in the village, a respected business man and long a leading Whig in the community. H. Arnold, Ab. Cahill, Caleb Sherman, Warren Burrell and L. R. Davis filled the remaining five posts. On April 22, 1843, the council passed the first village ordinance, making it unlawful for swine to run free in the village streets. Shortly thereafter, an ordinance was passed requiring all houses to be equipped with a ladder and two pails. However, it must be noted here that the new village government caused little sensation among the citizenry of Kalamazoo. Main emphasis remained with the township governmental organization.

In 1844, another leading Whig, Luther H. Trask, was elected village president and the new council found it necessary to pass an ordinance making it unlawful to fire a cannon within the village limits. Meager information on the 1844 presidential election shows Clay receiving 932 votes to 838 for Polk in Kalamazoo County.

27 Ibid., sec. 2, p.6.
28 Ibid., loc. cit.
29 Ibid., loc. cit.
30 Ibid., loc. cit.
Elkanah Walter was elected president of Kalamazoo in 1845 and reelected in 1846.

The number of county offices held by Democrats was lowered to a great extent in 1846. The Whigs captured all county offices in Kalamazoo County with the exception of sheriff and two minor offices. Also, N. A. Balch of Kalamazoo was elected to the state senate from the fifth district.

In 1847, Abrahm Edwards was elected village president. Edwards was connected with both the Whig and Liberty parties. The Democratic state convention nominated Epaphroditus Ransom, of Kalamazoo, for governor in September of the same year. Ransom had previously served on the state supreme court and was made chief justice in 1843. He subsequently was elected governor in November, 1847, and has proved to be the only Kalamazoo man to this time so honored. In late September, 1847, Charles E. Stuart of Kalamazoo was nominated by the Democrats for United States representative. Stuart was elected to

31 Ibid., loc. cit.
32 Kalamazoo Gazette, October 30, 1846, p.2.
34 Kalamazoo Gazette, September 17, 1847, p.2.
35 Ibid., October 1, 1847, p.2.
Congress in November and later was elected to the United States Senate. The Democrats swept to victory in Kalamazoo in November, 1847, despite a Whig-Liberty combination.

The political history of Kalamazoo is not a story in itself but only a small piece in the political history of the United States. Such a study of a small bit of the whole shows that the events of the nation were not responsible for the happenings in Kalamazoo but rather, the events in the small units were responsible for the direction taken by the nation as a whole. The story of early Kalamazoo is the story of the United States between 1830 and 1848. The story of the hard working settlers, of tremendous population growth, of land boom and speculation and economic disorder resulting from this boom and of conservatism displacing frontier radicalism is the story behind Jackson's fight against eastern financial influence, Van Buren's panic ridden administration and conservative elements regaining control in Washington following Van Buren's defeat. It was the political movements in the Kalamazoo's of this country which forged the political movement of the United States.

36 Ibid., November 5, 1847, p.2.
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