

foot, or \$2,500 a lot. I did not invest, and made no further inquiry about lots in Grand Rapids.

“In the winter, at Grandville, wishing to look for lands farther down the river, a Mr. White and some other Grand Haven men invited me to go down the river on the ice with them. They had a cutter and, the ice being smooth, we all rode. Arriving at Grand Haven, I stopped at Luke White’s, where I got acquainted with T. D. Gilbert, Rev. Mr. Ferry, Mr. Throop, Capt. White, and most of the then few inhabitants of the place. I then employed a half-breed man, a brother of Mrs. Oakes, to go with me into the woods, though it was mid-winter and the snow knee-deep. We went south, to and up the creek that falls into Port Sheldon Lake, and so about the woods for four or five days, and came out at the mouth of the Bass River. When night came on we encamped in the lee of some fallen tree, scraped away the snow, collected hemlock boughs for a bed, built up a rousing fire, and made ourselves very comfortable. But it was by the skill of my companion, an old hunter, who knew well how to make a camp. But I found no land that I thought it an object to purchase, so came up to Grandville, and went out into what is now Byron, where Nathan Boynton, with his brothers, Perry and William, as boarders, were the only inhabitants. There I found some 1,000 acres of good farming land, which I bought.

“I passed part of the winter in Detroit, going and returning by different routes. One time I went directly south from Ionia on a trail to Marshall, passing through Vermontville and Bellevue; stopped at the former place over night, finding there only three families. Gov. Mason, Mr. Schoolcraft, with his half-breed wife, and many members of the Legislature, boarded at the American, where I had taken up my quarters. Judge Almy was the member from the Grand River district.

“They legislated boldly that winter; passed the law for making the \$5,000,000 loan; for the survey of three railroads and two canals across the state, and the general wild-cat banking law.

“I returned by what was called the ‘Northern Route’; found Pontiac a little village. They were building a mill at Fenton. Elisha Williams was the only man in Shiawassee county, and Scott in Clinton. So it was a day’s journey from house to