

back to Troy, having been absent two years, instead of a few months, as I expected when I left there.

“After visiting for a time, I picked up my law library rather scattered through the offices of the city, and returned to Grand Rapids, to the surprise of some; for it had been reported that I was not going to come back, otherwise they said I should have been again nominated to the Legislature. As it was, they had just put in nomination N. H. Finney. I was afterward, in 1840, put in nomination for the Senate, to be beaten by H. P. Bridge, the opposing candidate.

“When I first came to Grand Rapids Louis Campau was said to be worth \$100,000; but when the change of times came, he made an assignment of all his property for the benefit of his creditors, except the Old Congregational Church, which he deeded to his mother. He had built that church for the Catholics, and they held meetings in it for some time. After a time she sold it to the Congregational Society, reserving, however, the iron cross. I drew the deed for Mrs. Campau. Mr. Ballard was present, and urged not to have the cross excepted in the deed, saying that he could worship under the cross. But she would not consent. When they wanted to take it down, men were sent up to remove it. They built a staging, and tried to lift it out of the timber in which it stood. When they found they could not they sawed it off. Owing to a defect in their arrangements it fell to the ground, and in falling carried with it one of the men, a Mr. Post, who, of course, was instantly killed. [This was June 24, 1846.] At the time I was standing on the steps of the National Hotel with D. V. Bell, who remarked of the man being killed: ‘It has only knocked the shell off.’ This was by no means said in a thoughtless manner, but to express his religious views, that the body was not the real man.

“Mr. Campau had erected a number of other buildings, among them the Eagle Tavern, the yellow store, and a dwelling for his brother Toussaint, on the corner where Luce’s Block now stands. He had started Toussaint in business, and becoming surety for his goods probably occasioned the necessity of his making an assignment. Still he had considerable left after all his debts were paid. His brother Antoine, C. I. Walker and Judge Martin were his assignees.