

next that of Major Britton. Osgood & Blake kept a tavern—Osgood was a lawyer. Charles Oakes was there, and a number of others; and they claimed that, as the navigation of the river was so much better up to that point than it was above, Grandville would compete with Grand Rapids. Then some half dozen settlers had begun in the woods south of Grandville. On Buck Creek, Haynes Gordon and Wright had saw mills. Near the mouth of Rush Creek, the Michigan Lumbering Company had a saw mill, and a Mr. Ketchum, of Marshall, one a little above. A little beyond, in Ottawa county, were Hiram Jenison and brothers. Beyond these few settlers all was deep forest, to the lake, and to the then new little village of Allegan.

“Going down the river, three miles from Grandville, was a Mrs. Burton. The next house, on the other side, was that of a Mr. Yeomans, where is now Lamont, squatted on the newly purchased lands. Then, on the south side, below Bass River, were Rodney and Lucas Robinson. No more in Ottawa, until Grand Haven. There were Mr. Ferry, who, with Rix Robinson, owned the village plat. The three brothers White, Mr. Throop, and a few others, were residents. This place, being the grand harbor of the Grand River, soon to become a big city, its lots, corners and all, were held at high prices.

“The lands north of the Grand River, in Kent and Ottawa counties, had only been purchased from the Indians the preceding year; were not in the market, and were not even yet surveyed. Still, settlers began this year to go on them, and to make preemptions, as they called it. They erected log cabins in which to live, as all the farmers in the valley did; and many of the houses in the villages were of the same construction. Still, then, as ever, these pioneers were hopeful, and seemed quite happy.

“All the impression the white man had made on the country was but a cipher. The largest clearings had but a few acres. The old Indian clearings were of greater extent than the white man’s. The Indians had quite a tract cleared at the junction of the Maple and Grand Rivers, at Ionia, Flat River and Thornapple. At Grand Rapids their clearings extended along the river from Mill Creek down to a short distance above the Plaster Mills, but not extending far back from the river. At Grandville was the Little Prairie.