

“Of course, there were no bridges over the river, but there was a fording place between Islands No. 2 and 3, or below the G. R. & I. railroad bridge; and when the water was too high for fording, a ferry boat was used.

“And now the effect of the break-down of the wild speculation of 1836, and the high hope of the first half of this year, began to be seen. Faces began to indicate thought and care. Business flagged, and Mr. Campau’s laborers and mechanics, lacking occupation, began to seek labor elsewhere. No sale for corner-lots, and money, to pay for bread to eat, grew scarce. In Kent county, not half enough grain, of all kinds, was raised to feed the horses, and all else had to come from Ohio or New York—for to the west of us, they had raised as little as we. As another trouble, our wild-cat money would not buy things beyond our own limits.

“Monroe street follows the trail to Campau’s Indian trading post, on the bank of the river. It kept along close to the impassable swamp, extending north from the corner of Monroe and Division streets, then wound along at the foot of an abrupt hill from Ottawa to Pearl street. This same hill connected with the (now disappearing) hill between Pearl and Lyon streets. Beyond these hills the trail descended to Bronson street. South of Monroe street, the descent was steep, and the ground was so low as to be deeply covered at high water. The boat channel of the river was between the island and the main land, and the landing was where the blocks of stores now are on the south side of Monroe street, at the foot of Canal street. West of the foot of Canal street, north of Pearl street, was Mr. Wadsworth’s saw mill.”

In April, 1836, Mr. Myron Hinsdill wrote to a brother-in-law at the East:

“I have applied for five lots of pine land up Grand River, but there is such a press of business at the Land Office, one cannot know under six or eight days whether he can get it or not; and if two ask for the same land in one day, they must agree which shall have it, as it is set up at auction. There have been four or five hundred people at Bronson for the week past, all waiting to get lands. If I get the pine land it will cost about \$2.25 per acre, and a great bargain at that. If land buyers increase as we have reason to expect when navigation opens, there