

In the early months of 1846 concerts by a newly organized brass band, conducted by Prof. Marston, were among the amusements, and lyceum discussions were prominent as intellectual feasts. Mild weather with muddy streets prevailed, with the ice broken in the river in February, and navigation opened March 11. On June 24 John Post, a painter, was killed by falling from the top of the Congregational church belfry with the iron cross which he was engaged in removing. A daily mail from Battle Creek, established in August, marked a new era in postal facilities.

Toward spring in 1847 there was excitement over the purchase of lands in Ottawa county for a colony from the Netherlands. There was an expectation that many Hollanders would also settle in the village. Lansing was selected for the state capital in February, and a legislative grant for the construction of a canal around the rapids further raised the hopes and stimulated the enterprise of the villagers. March 24 an "Irish Relief Meeting" was held, the first of the kind here. "Liberal subscriptions" were made, but their exact measure does not appear of record. Up to this season it had been the custom of boats plying between Grand Rapids and Grand Haven to land almost anywhere along the route where a handkerchief or a hat was waved as a signal. This spring the announcement was made that they would stop only where dock facilities were provided. A delegation of thirty-six persons from this village attended the River and Harbor Convention held at Chicago July 5, 1847. The laying of the corner stone of St. Mark's Episcopal Church took place on the 9th of June, and the church was consecrated November 18, Bishop McCoskry officiating.

In 1848 the electors voted in May on the question of license or no license for the sale of ardent spirits. The vote stood: For license 80, against license 11. There were a few cases of cholera in July. In September a bell ringer was engaged to ring the Congregational church bell morning, noon and night at a salary of \$50 a year. October 27 the agricultural society of the town of Walker held a fair at the west end of the bridge. It was the beginning of agricultural fairs in the county. The payment of the Indian annuity occurred on the 15th of November. About \$20,000 in coin was disbursed, and a large part of it went into the coffers of the village traders. A building was this