

lively. The bell in the Congregational meeting house became cracked in November, and there was sighing among those who had depended upon its ringing to know when dinner was ready. At the time of the Indian payment, October 22, it was remarked that the Indians were from year to year growing worse in poverty, dissipation and general demoralization. From August 24 to December 22, there was not a death of an inhabitant of the village. A notable incident of this year was the holding of the first agricultural fair of the County Society on the Public Square.

January 14, 1850, a building on Monroe street, just below the then new Catholic Church, used in part as a chapel and in part as the priest's residence, was burned and two women—the mother and sister of the Rev. Mr. Kilroy—lost their lives. It was the Richard Godfroy house, built in 1835. The village had only a small hand engine, and two lines of men with pails were formed from the fire to the river, even ladies joined in the line, and passed back the empty pails. A public meeting was held February 18, at which a draft of the proposed city charter was submitted and adopted. Harvey P. Yale was delegated to proceed with it to Lansing and lay it before the Legislature. The city was incorporated April 2, 1850. The first annual ball of the firemen, February 22, was set down in newspaper chronicles as "a very brilliant affair." The dam across the river was an obstacle to the upward passage of fish. Consequently there was that spring an unprecedented catch upon the rapids, of sturgeon, pickerel, bass, suckers, and other members of the finny tribe. The river boats started in the latter part of March, with lively traffic. A breach opened on March 23 in the embankment between the guard gates and the east end of the dam, on the river side of the canal, by which about 150 feet was carried away; the mills were shut down till the breach could be repaired. Two or three companies of gold-seekers left Grand Rapids for California about this time, but their places were more than filled by incomers who became residents. On Monday, May 1, occurred the election, at the Bridge Street House, on the adoption of the city charter. The vote stood 252 for to 91 against, giving 161 majority for the charter. Under it the city was organized by the first election of municipal officers May 11, 1850, and the village of Grand Rapids belonged to the past.