

ton society, when Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren were the chief executives of the nation.

Nathaniel O. Sargeant was the contractor for digging the mill-race, and had an interest therein—the beginning of the east side canal. He came here from Massachusetts in 1835 with a company of men for that work. They marched in with their picks and shovels on their shoulders. At their head was Alanson Cramton, playing a bugle. Cramton was a teamster, stage driver and mail carrier, and assisted many pioneers over the rough roads. He afterward settled in Ada and became a thriving farmer in that town. Hearing the noise and the music when the canal men came, Chief Noonday thought the company were enemies, meaning mischief to Louis Campau, and sent a message to the latter, offering aid to drive the invaders away. Among the men in this company was Leonard G. Baxter, from Montpelier, Vt., who settled here, married Emily Guild, and spent his life in the city and in the country near by. He died in 1866. The coming of these men for that work marked an important era in the improvement and development of the place. Mr. Sargeant died a year or two after he came.

John Almy and wife came in 1835. He was a native of Rhode Island, a finely educated man, a civil engineer and practical surveyor of eminence. He platted for Lucius Lyon and N. O. Sargeant the "Village of Kent," in which Charles H. Carroll afterward purchased a half interest.

Mr. Almy about two years later was in charge of the improvement of the Grand and Kalamazoo Rivers. He held during his life many important positions of official trust, was a lawyer by profession, and a trusty counselor, but did not practice law after coming to Michigan. He was of fine physical form, a representative gentleman of the early days, genial, courteous, hospitable, and beloved by all with whom he came in contact. He was very methodical and exact in his business, and a scientific man of much general information. He died September 29, 1863, leaving a memory fondly cherished by all the early residents of the valley. In religion he was an Episcopalian.

Among the pioneers of 1835, was **Amos Hosford Smith**, who with Simeon P. Smith, B. Walter Smith and Edward P. Camp, left New York City in November, 1835, and arrived here December 2. They came by the Erie Canal to Buffalo, where