

few years he moved to Ada, where he died in 1851, aged 74 years. He was a man of character—set in his ways, with positive likes and dislikes, bluntly outspoken, yet was universally esteemed and admired.

Billius Stocking came to this place from St. Lawrence county, N. Y., in 1834 (on foot from Kalamazoo); made but a short stay, when he left on foot for St. Joseph and Chicago, thence returning to his early home. In the fall of 1836 he started again for Grand Rapids, coming by water to Fairport, below Cleveland, and walking the rest of the way. He chopped wood and split rails during his first winter here. In 1840 he purchased the northeast quarter of section twenty-three in Walker, now within the city limits, where he has since resided. He and his brother ran, without compass, the line for the road which is now Stocking street. He was prominent in the development of that part of the city, and held a number of offices of trust and responsibility. Mr. Stocking and his wife, who was Mary Hunt, were the first couple married here by the Rev. James Ballard. He died May 28, 1893.

Loren M. Page was a painter by trade, came here in 1837 from Vermont, and followed that occupation throughout his long life, which was one of incessant labor; indeed he was never happy without work. An unpretentious, companionable, and social man, he had a warm place in the hearts of all who knew him, comprising almost the entire community in which he lived for fifty years.

Robert Hilton once characterized as “a stanch-made, thorough-rigged, live-oak individual, with several knots and branches on him”—was born in Mt. Vernon, Maine, December 2, 1799. Coming to Grand Rapids in 1836, a carpenter by trade, he first selected a piece of land for a farm, on the right bank of the river, some miles below the Rapids. He paid \$2 per bushel for seed wheat, bringing it from Gull Prairie, and when he harvested his crop it would only bring 50 cents per bushel. While on the farm he worked much of the time in the village at his trade, coming and returning by canoe on the river; also superintended the erection of the light-house at Grand Haven, going down in the morning and returning in the evening by steamer. There were many Indians about him, but as a rule they were friendly. An incident illustrating his quickness in