

boat captain for many years. His homestead was on the west side of the river, near the old Indian village.

Simeon S. Stewart was one of the settlers of the spring of 1836. With a span of horses and wagon he drove through from Detroit, bringing his family and household goods and \$1,800 in cash. He settled on the north side of Bridge street, and lived in a slab house a little below Ottawa street. Slab shanties were among the makeshifts for dwellings in many instances. He was a mason by trade, did some of the earliest stone work. After about ten years he moved to a farm a few miles out on the Cascade road, where he spent the remainder of his life.

William I. Blakely was born in Huntsville, Otsego county, N. Y., June 29, 1810. He came to Grand Rapids June 6, 1837, and here resided continuously till his death in 1889. His business for some years was that of carpenter, joiner and house builder. During his school days he was, for some time, a pupil of Millard Fillmore. In 1841 he was appointed a U. S. Deputy Marshal and served four years. At various periods he held local offices of trust and responsibility, and performed the duties pertaining thereto honorably and faithfully. In early life he was a Whig, and later a Republican. In religious views he was liberal and tolerant. He was quiet and unostentatious and generally beloved for his domestic virtues and his integrity.

Nehemiah White, a chair-maker in the village days, lived on Division street at the Lyon street corner. He was a citizen with whom it was a pleasure and a luxury to be acquainted. In person he was tall and slim, straight as an arrow, and in deportment a gentleman of the strictest integrity and Christian kindness. He died in 1859, at the age of 76 years, and was buried with Masonic honors. He was a highly esteemed communicant in St. Mark's Church.

John W. Gunnison was born in Goshen, N. H., November 10, 1812. He graduated at West Point in 1835, and was appointed Lieutenant in the United States Artillery. In 1841 he married Martha Delony, of Georgia, and between that time and 1849 was in the topographical department of the regular Army, engaged in the coast survey of the great lakes. In 1844 he entered a tract of land south of West Fulton street, and made Grand Rapids his family home. After 1849 he was engaged in the topographic survey of the basin of the Great Salt Lake, Utah, where, on