

October, 1875; Henry M. Hinsdill, appointed October, 1878; Charles L. Fitch, appointed February, 1887.

Owing to increase of business in the courts, a Clerk was provided for each the Circuit and District Courts. Chester B. Hinsdill was the first Clerk devoting his entire time to the District Court, which commenced when Henry M. Hinsdill became Circuit Clerk. John McQuewan was appointed in January, 1886, and Charles J. Potter was appointed January 2, 1901.

The Master in Chancery for the United States Courts is John S. Lawrence.

The Special Examiners of the United States Pension Bureau has his office on the third floor of the Government Building. For 1905 the Special Examiner was Grant Sims.

Kent County Court House.

The seat of Justice for Kent County had a checkered and wandering career before it settled on its present site. July 31st, 1830, the Territorial Legislature of Michigan created the County of Kent and on November 8, 1833, three Commissioners, appointed by the Governor, James Kingsley, S. V. R. Trowbridge and Charles Lanman designated the Public Square or Fulton street Park as a site for the Court House. In 1838 the new county built a Court House and Jail on the Court House Square.

It was a two-story frame building, 30x40 feet, facing the west with a cupola over which was a gilt ball. Its cost was about \$3,000.00. On the evening of July 12th, 1844, it was destroyed by fire. The Board of Supervisors at once had constructed a temporary one-story building with a single room at a cost of about \$300.00, which was used as a meeting place for the Board of Supervisors and for holding the Circuit Court until 1852 when the Board of Supervisors and the Circuit Court moved to a hall on West Bridge street. From 1852 until 1876 the Circuit Court and the Board of Supervisors moved from place to place as temporary quarters could be secured, and during that period nearly every hall and large room in town was occupied at different times by the Board, or the Court, or both. In 1876 the county rented rooms in the Leppig Block on Lyon street next to the arcade and used them as a meeting place for the Board and for holding court for five years, when rooms in the