# PAW PAW HIGH SCHOOL BEGINNINGS



#### ATTENTION ALUMNI

At the farewell party held by the Alumni Association of the Paw Paw High School last Friday night it was voted to have an oil painting of the old "Red Brick" painted by F. L. Van Ness, to be hung in the new school house as a gift from the Alumni Association.

About \$175 was raised for the painting, but it is desired to raise about \$125 more that the picture may be suitably framed and inscribed. Any alumnus who desires may make a contribution and send same to A. L. Free, who is chairman of the committee.

It is hoped that this additional sum may be received soon. HOME

## Schools Began in 1835 in Paw Paw

PAW PAW -- In the summer of 1835, the first village school was opened in Paw Paw and taught by Miss Roxanna Agard. Attendance reached to ten students, and at times dropped as low as four.

In the summer of 1836, Melissa Warner taught the village school in a log shanty on the west side of the river. Pupils ranged from 15 to 20.

William Mason and Joseph Royes built a schoolhouse during the summer of 1836, and in the fall it was ready for use. Lorenzo Cate was the original teacher, the first male teacher employed in the village. That building was not only used as a schoolhouse, but also as a courthouse and a house of worship on Sunday.

The first Union school followed, a two-story building constructed on the southeast corner of North Kalamazoo St. By 1868 it was badly overcrowded and in the winter, the district resolved to build a brick school house to cost \$25,-000 and to borrow the required money.

The result was an impressive structure standing at the head of Main Street, by far

LEDNORMENT, OUR SESSEE

the pride of the town. Cost of ground building and furniture was \$40,000. The school was open for use in September, 1870.

It held six departments, high school, grammer school, two intermediate and two primary departments, in which the number of students was 414.



Members of the school board were: E. O. Briggs, Josiah Andrews, G. J. Hudson, Andrew Richards, Aaron Van Auken and George W. Longwell.

The school bell rang for the last time 53 years later on a Friday afternoon, the "Old Red Brick" was closed, torn down and replaced with the present Middle School building.

of the Township of Lagarette, to the School Inspectors for the year 1857 District No. dux Amount receiv'd Whole am'nt of Purposes for which it was raised, and the amount raised for each particular purpose. Whole num- Average length Length of time ser that have of time scholars school has been Length of time kept by each, in weeks.

Wages paid to from township treasurer, apportioned by tax in the district.

Amount receive whole kin it of money raised by tax in the district.

Any other house.

To build school house.

Support of sch'l, including pay of teachers. Name of teacher. Amount rab attended between 4 and 18 taught during have attended the year by a qualified teacher. ring the year. Cts. | \$ Cts. | \$ 95 days 30 Weeks Eleanor Harrison 17 34 .. 10 Phoebe Harrison 13 39. 00 14.00 17.00 6.00

I certify that the above is a correct report for the school year next preceding the last Monday of September.

M. D. buddeback

Dated,

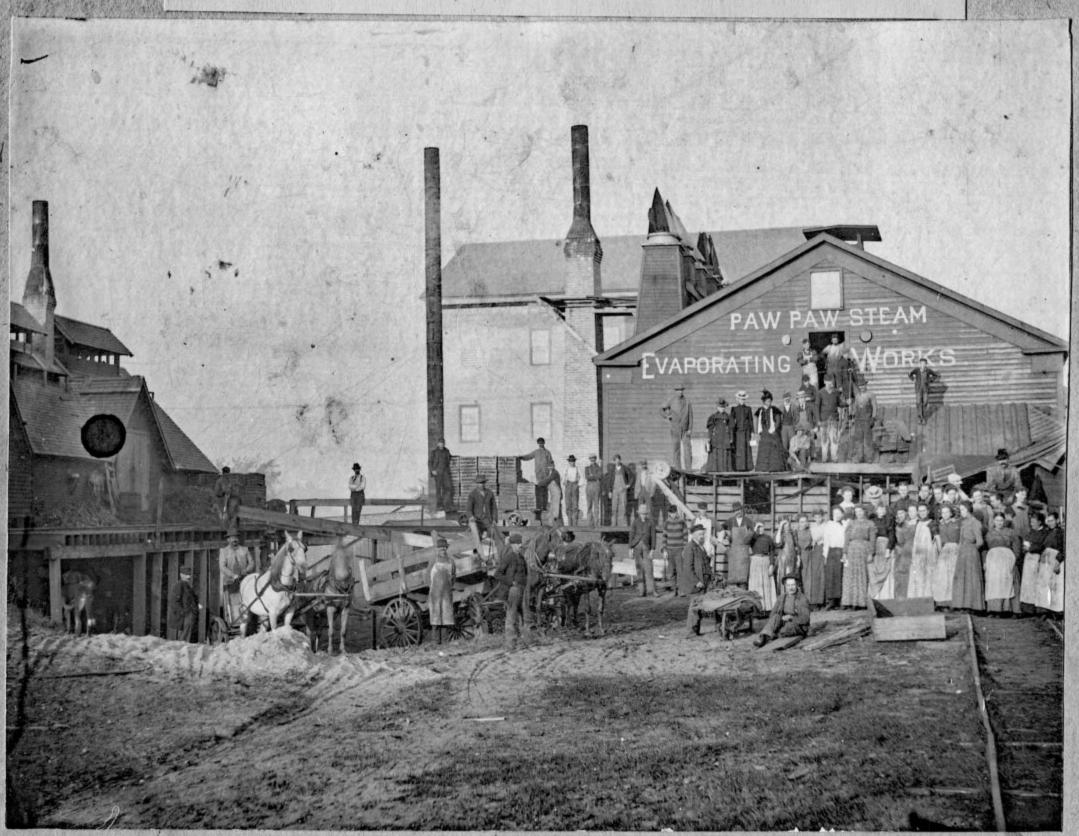
Soft 2 2 nd 1854.

Director.

Contract entered into this with day of clot 1801 between School district a to 6 of the township of Lafagett in the County of Vanduran States michigan and Lucy. V. Tilson a qualified teacher in Laid township the Laid lung I liter Contract and agrees with the Said School district that The will teach the primary Lehool in Said district for the term of four month commencing on the 11th day of November 1861 for the Lum of Sixteen dollars fer month which Shal be in full for her Lervices rendered and In consideration of the premises the Said Lehool district agrees with the Said to pay said Jucy I literathe Sum of Sixteen dollar her month within three months after The expiration of Said School term x It is understood between the Said Lucy A liter and the Laid School district that a month she consist of twenty Six days exclusive of Sunday but the the Said Lucy & him Shall not be reques to teach Laid School on each after nate Laturd or in hen thereof on the afternoon of every of February: New years: Christmas: or Thanksgire (Ligner) R. (D. Onoldeback Director Lucy I tilsen \ Jeacher John : Moderator? 1861 Teaching Contract between the Township of Lafayett (Paw Paw) and Teacher Lucy A.Nelson



PAW PAW STEAM EVAPORATING WORKS (apple drying plant) located on South Kalamazoo St. by Berrien Street S.W. corner. Paw Paw Flouring Mills located in background. The plant processed apples and peaches among other things. The Paw Paw Bait Factory later occupied the site.



### EARLY SCHOOLS OF PAW PAW

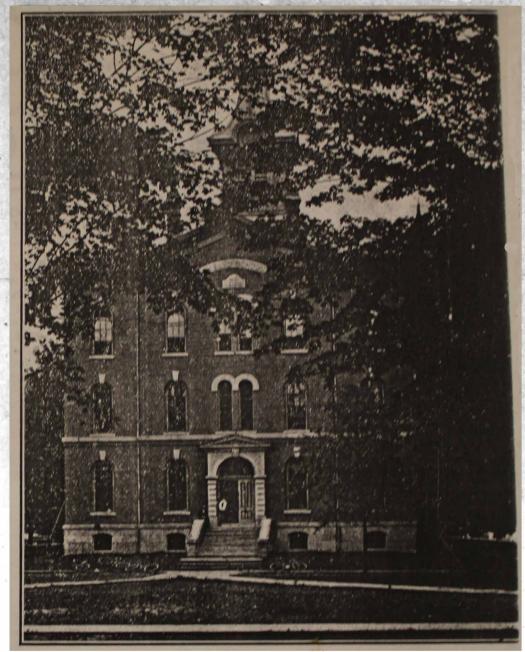
#### Education Has Attracted Attention in This Community Since 1835

By Belle Gremps-Johnson

The schools of Paw Paw township have ever been an outstanding feature of the civic life of the community. As soon as the settlers had hewn logs for their humble homes, they commenced to plan for a school. Only ten pupils were enrolled in the original seat of learning, that was instituted in 1835. The building had originally been used as a blacksmith shop, that was built by Rodney Hinckley. It stood on what is now the east bank of Maple Lake, on the premises now owned by Mrs. Lulu Sherman-Underhill. The building was small and very shabby, the seats for the most part being slabs of wood. The teacher of this primitive school was Miss Roxy Agard.

In 1836 the b'acksmith shop was abandoned as a school house and Miss Melissa Warner taught the village school in a log shanty which was situated on the west side of Main street bridge, north of the present tourist park. Fifteen or twenty pupils were enrolled that summer, but during this year Williamson Mason and Joseph Royes built a school house on north Gremps street. Lorenzo Kate was the first teacher to preside over this school, being the first male teacher to be employed in the village school. This building was a'so used as a court house and on Sunday's used as a house of worship.

This building, however, was soon too small and a more commodious school house was erected on Kalamazoo street on the corner where the Decker residence now stands. For the first time in its history, Paw Paw owned a bona fida school. The history of the next few years was hectic. Superintendents came and superintendents went and it was left to Professor Harrower to bring order out of choas and in fact establish an high school. In 1867 this building was wholly inadequate and in 1868 work was commenced on "The Old Red Brick", which when completed was both elegant and imposing for those years. This building served its purpose well until 1924 when it was maintained in this vicinity. A small



THE PAW PAW UNION SCHOOL A. D. 1869

Work commenced in the winter of 1868-1869 and opened for school in September 1870. Cost of ground, building and equipment \$40,000.

wrecked to make way for the modern structure which ranks with the best in Michigan.

It is an hundred years since the first small pupils dangled their legs from the old slab seats in the blacksmith shop but the spirit of determination for education still lives forever young. Year after year has the work gone on until the Paw Paw school stands pre-eminent in educational circles.

Several private schools have been

and exclusive school for children was conducted by Mrs. Van Dusen in her home which was situated west of St. Mary's Catholic church. Mrs. Charles Batchelder of Paw Paw has many happy recol ections of this school, having attended it when eight years

In 1883, Miss Abbie Barker, daughter of the Rev. Darius Barker, an Episcopal minister of the Paw Paw St. Mark's church, established Oak Park Seminary, a select school of higher education. Courses offered were a combination of the fine arts and business. The venture was successful, approximately 100 pupils being enrolled. After two years, the superintendent decided to move the school to Three Rivers, Mich. Mrs. Emma R. Smith, now a resident of Paw Paw, was an instructor in this school, teaching German and mathematics. Mrs. Ida M. Hudson and Mrs. Hattie Bitely Dunning were in charge of the music department. Mrs. Hudson now resides in Everett. Wash... and Mrs. Dunning has been dead for many years.

Paw Paw Courier-Northerner 28 December 1923

#### THE FIRST THREE CLASSES FROM THE OLD RED BRICK

1869-Ellen Coleman-Thompson, Los

Angeles.
-N. A. Earle, deceased. Mary Rice-Saunders, deceased. Amelia Munger-Hillaird, Glendora, Calif. Clara Hall, deceased. Mary Andrews, deceased.

Emma Andrews-Baker, Evanston, Ill. Emma Cumings-Paige, deceased. G. A. Briggs, deceased.

Charles G. Hudson, deceased. E. A. Annable, deceased. Julius Clapp, deceased. Roscoe W. Broughton, Paw Paw. Amanda Briggs-Andrews, Paw Paw. Eva Longwell-Kelley, Paw Paw.

Claribel Thompson, deceased,

The first record of the amount of tuition received from foreign pupils was that of the year 1876 when the report of the secretary of the board of education was to the effect that \$290 was received from this source.

In contrast we may state that E. C. Hawley, secretary of the present 1922 the foreign tuition amounted to about \$8,000,



Red Brick High School, Paw Paw. The site for the school was purchased February 1, 1867, from Peter Gremps who was one of the village's founding fathers. The final cost of construction and equipment was \$40,000. The building was demolished in the winter of 1923-24 and together with additional land purchased on the east end of the block, was replaced by a new school at a cost of \$225,000.

### THE EARLY SCHOOLS

#### OF PAW PAW

The first village school held in Paw Paw was organized in the summer of 1835. There being no better chool house available. Rosiney linckley's blacksmith shop was utilized for that purpose. The appointments of the building consisted chiefy of a few slab seats. Ten pupils were enrolled, but there were many limes when only four or five were in attendance. The teacher was March 20xa Apard.

In the support of 1836 the village chool was taught by Meliss Warner in a log shanty on the west side of he river, just north of the present ourist park on West Territorial road. During the summer of 1836 Mason ind Royce built a school house on fremps street on the property now wined by the John Sherman estate. This building was much larger and setter equipped. Lorenzo Kata being he first teacher to hold classes in the new huilding, and being also the first nale teacher employed in the village.

This building was also used as a court house and on Sundays it be-

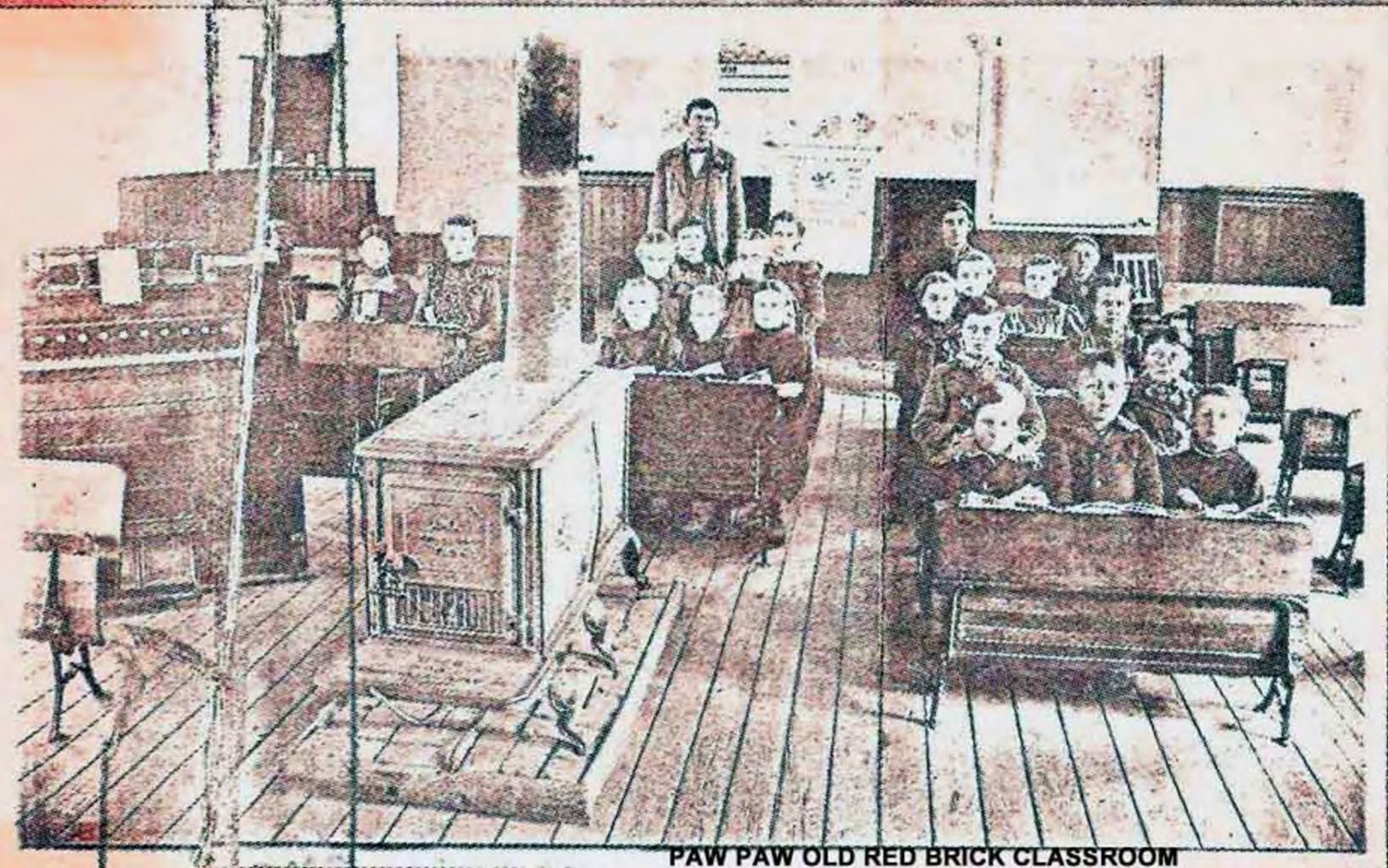
was a period which was very interesting as well as exciting.

In 1867 the school house was onable to accommodate the papils. The school district decided to build a brick school bease to cost \$25,000 and to borrow the money required.

> BELLE GREMPS-JOHNSON Class of '90.



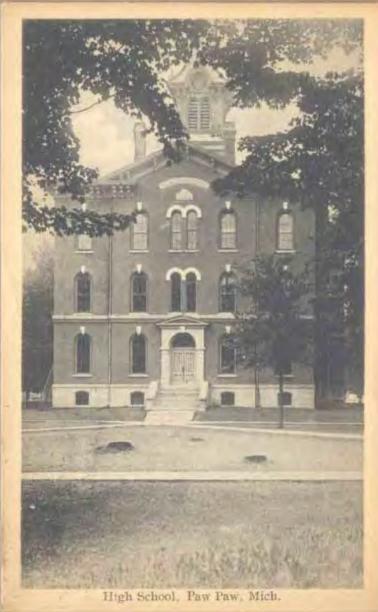
PUBLIC SCHOOL 1869 Paw Paw, Mich. "The Old Red Brick"





Old Red Brick Classroom, Saturday, January 20, 1900 per blackboard note





POST CARDE JULIS

BROAM

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Mise Luna Shirtymann

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Beloit

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### Palm Paln, Michigan.

First town in the state to introduce the enjoyable
HOME COMING WEEK.

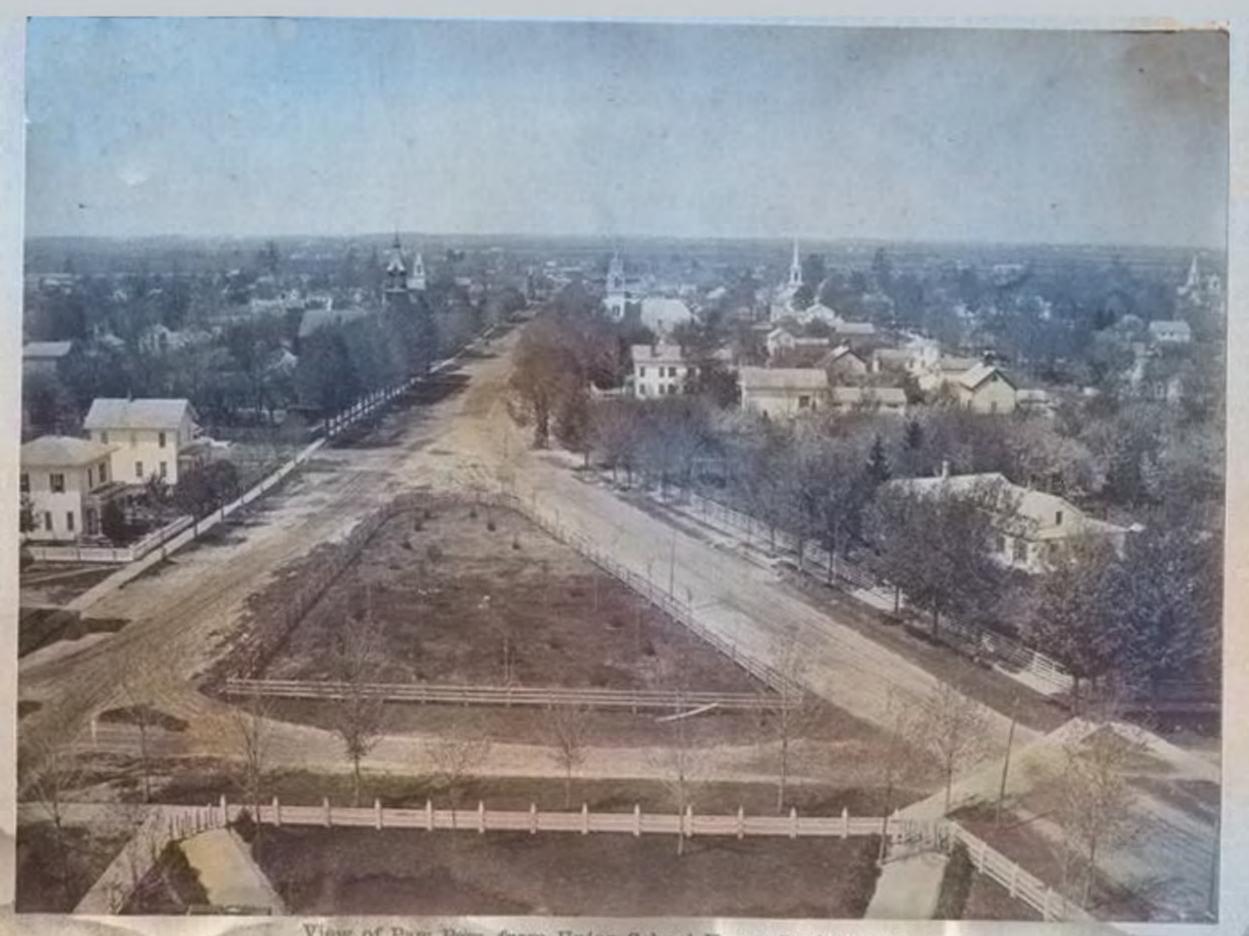
"YOU ARE ON AMERO." Make the winning "Home Run" on August 9-16, 1905 Special invitation extended to all who love their old home and beautiful Paw Paw, to come and enjoy our Third Home Coming Week

Mrs. B. F. WARNER, Sec'y.

I. JAY CUMINGS, Pres.







View of Paw Paw, from Union School House, Looking West.
J. H. PRATER, Photographer.

Looking east of Michigan Avenue. On the left is the Episcopal Church and in the center is the top of "Old Red Brick" school. Right side is where Michigan Avenue splits into Main Street.



### THE COURIER-NORTHERNER

COUNTY SEAT NEWSPAPER-ALL HOME PRINT

SEVENTY-NINTH YEAR

Paw Paw, Michigan, Friday, December 21, 1923

NUMBER 51

### HOLD FINAL MEETING IN "RED BRICK" TONIGHT

# SHORT INFORMAL PROGRAM PLANNED

### High School Alumni Association Will Gather In Old School For Last Time.

The Paw Paw High School Alumni Association will hold a farewell party this Friday evening that all who desire may pay a last visit to the institution which in past years has meant so much to them and where, under competent instructors, they received their high school education.

The affair has been planned very hastily and will be very informal, but it is hoped that many former graduates and their friends will be present.

A short informal program has been arranged, several of the older graduates taking part, and the high school band will render music. Refreshments will be served and a general good time had in inspecting the old building which on Saturday will be in the hands of the weekers to make room for the west half of the new school building.

An article relative to the building, its history and a splendid cut of it will be published in next week's issue of the Courier-Northerner, and we desire to announce that if there are those who desire extra papers, as some have already signified, they should get their orders in early.

## THE COURIER-NORTHERNER

COUNTY SEAT NEWSPAPER-ALL HOME PRINT

SEVENTY-NINTH YEAR

Paw Paw, Michigan, Friday, December 28, 1923

NUMBER 52

## "RED BRICK" WILL LIVE LONG IN MEMORY



NINETEEN SUPERINTEND-ENTS HAVE SERVED IN THE OLD RED BRICK

Nineteen men have been superintendents in the old Red Brick and they were as follows: Messrs. H. D. Harrower, N. A. Earle, G. Allen Briggs, Isane Adams, G. S. Baker, Orin Dunham, Charles Hitchcock, J. W. Cupples, F. N. Russell, H. H. Higgins, J. W. Roberts, E. A. Wilson, H. C. Wilson, John O'Leary, E. J. Martin, P. F. Mc-Cormick, A. H. Robertson, V. R. Hungerford and O. W. Kaye,

HAVE SERVED AS

BOARD MEMBERS

To the best knowledge of the writer, the following men have served this district as members of the board of education during the existence of the present building. If we have omitted any member, it is only because we could not find a record of his service.

Beginning with the year 1869 the members were: E. O. Briggs, Josiah Andrews, C. S. Maynard, Thomas Ross, Gilbert Hudson, G. W. Long- 194, president of the Alumni Associawell, A. Van Auken, O. W. Rowland, Chandler Richards, L. W. Van Fossen, John W. Free, Edwin Martin, O. N. Hilton, K. Y. Noyes, R. W. Broughton, A. T. Hall, E. F. Parks, L. H. Titus, Dr. W. C. Y. Ferguson, E. B. Longwell, T. J. Cavanaugh, Dr. J. C. Maxwell. David Anderson, H. L. McNeil, M. H. Young, E. C. Hawley, H. C. Waters, C. W. Van Tassel and T. A.

The present board of education having in charge the construction of the new school building is composed of Mesers. David Anderson, chairman; E. C. Hawley, clerk, and T. A. Smith. C. W. Van Tassel and H. C. Waters.

More Than Two Hundred Gathered in "Red Brick" for Last Time.

Nearly two hundred and fifty members of the Paw Paw High School Alumni Association and their friends gathered, for the last time, in the "Old Red Brick" last Friday evening to enjoy an evening in fellowship in the building which during more than fifty years has been the seat of learning for Paw Paw and vicinity and which on the next day was given over to the contractor to be wrecked to make additional room for the new \$225,000 school building now being erected on the same site, together with additional land purchased on the east end of the block.

The evening was very hastily planned, for it was not known long shead that this would be the last available evening for this function, Mrs. Jessie Hewson-Cooley, class of tion, was in charge of the evening's program and after selections by the local high school band, which were greatly enjoyed, called the assemblage to order and after a few introductory remarks called upon Roscoe W. Broughton of the class of '71 for some remarks. Mr. Broughton was the oldest graduate present in point of time of his graduation, but with him in the class of 1871 were Mrs. Amanda Briggs-Andrews and Mrs. Eva Longwell-Kelley, who were not present on account of absence from town.

Mr. Broughton gave many reminiacences of early school life in the old Red Brick, noting that down through

(Continued on page



"THE OLD RED BRICK" 1869-1922

Facts Concerning Erection and of Interesting Subsequent Events.

It has been very difficult to gather much definite information relative to the building of the old "Red Brick" and the writer has spent many hours delving through the files of the Paw Paw newspapers, the True Northerner and the Van Buren County Press, to locate some accurate account of the matter, but the files being very incomplete, nothing much has been

From what information has been gotten together it appears that on Feb. 1, 1867, the present school site was purchased from the late Peter Gremps, grandfather of Mrs. Belle Gromps-Johnson, and was held by the board of education for future school

The school at that time occupied a site on North Kalamazoo street now occupied by the Presbyterian manae and the Decker residence and the building thereon being entirely Inadequote in the latter part of 1867, althought there were but two hundred scholars in the school, it was decided to build on the new site.

In December of that year \$25,000 was voted for the building and the poard of education was authorized to borrow the money.

The board of education at that time consisted of Dr. Josiah Andrews as chairman and Mesary Gilbert Hudson, Thomas L. Ross and Emery O. Briggs. The building and contement cost, when completed, more than \$40,000 and a tawautt resulted between the school board and the contractor.

It was started in the winter of 1848 and 1869 and was used first in the winter of 1870.

From PASE

The compactor for the bullding wasv A. R. Wildey, father of our towns-

OLDEST GRADUATE OF RED BRICK

Mrs. Ellen Coleman-Thompson was the only member of the first class to be graduated from the old "Red Brick" in 1869 and it will be learned with pleasure by her old friends that she is at present living at 726 North Kenmore avenue, Los Angeles, Calif. 13 10 10 1

man, E. A. Wildey; the architect was G. P. Randall of Chicago; the superintendent of works a Mr. Van Arman of Jackson, and inspector for the board of education, the late Joseph

Davey. The flat-iron shaped piece of property just in front of the school house was, we have been informed, presented to the school district by Asa C. Glidden and others. Mr. Glidden

now resides in Cedar Springs and was a Paw vistor not long ago. During all these years since 1870 the old Red Brick has taken care of the educational interests of our community in a splendid manner, being repaired, altered in arrangement, to accommodate the increasing attendance, etc., until the past few years,

to facilitate matters. The basement has been made over into rooms for work, the coat rooms in the high school assembly have been removed, the teachers' platforms in all the rooms have been taken out and the desks in some places done away with that more students might be accommodated,

when its capacity was overcrowded

and no more changes could be made

For many years it has been an impossibility to gather the school in the assembly room for chapel exercises such as were held in years gone by every Monday morning, for seating space could not be provided. The recitation seats in the high school room, where many class recitations were heard and where visitors always found seating space, have all, years ago, been removed; in fact, every inch of available space has been used.

A few years ago the building formerly occupied by the Free Will Baptist church was purchased and the kindergarten and first grade placed there to give the room taken by these grades or other students.

For fifty-three years the old school bell has called the young people of Paw Paw and vicinity to their studies in the old Red Brick and this bell was rung for the last time as a school call last Friday afternoon, Dec. 21, at 1:15. During the years it has called many within its walls who after their graduation have gone out in the business of life and have made names for thmselves and who are a credit to Paw Paw and to those who have provided the educational advantages which our young people have always enjoyed.

Paw Paw is proud of the record made within these walls and as they are taken down to provide additional room for the erection of a new school building it is a pleasant thought to know that many of the same brick will be used in the interior construction of the new building.

ALUMNI HELD FAREWELL PARTY (Continued from page 1.)

the years many men and women, graduates of this institution, had more than made good in the business of life and urged all members of the association to greater interest in the educational matters of our city.

Earl L. Burhans, class of '02, was the next speaker and he, too, paid a tribute to the part the old building and its scenes of days gone by had zenship of the community. Meadames Cleo Stevens-Maxwell, class played in the development of the citi-

Miss Caroline Johnson, class of '19, and a great granddaughter of the late Peter Gremps, who owned the property where the school now stands, was called upon and gave some inthe old school.

Harry L. McNeil, of the class of Red Brick. '89, made a plea for the preservation children and their children to the old complete success. "Red Brick" and that many of these children had more than made good and that the bell should be preserved in the new building, not that it must necessarily be rung as in former days, but that it might be ready to respond to the touch of the hand if so desired. His appeal was enthusiastiacally received by all the old graduates and it seemer to be the consensus of opinion that it should be taken care of.

Miss Frieda Snow, class of '14, rendered several piano numbers in her usual splendid style, much to the delight of the large audience.

A. Lynn Free, class of '86, was introduced and after making some interesting remarks of bygone days,

suggested to the Alumni Association that a picture of the old Red Brick be secured and presented to be hung in the halls of the new building. Mr. Free had had some correspondence with Frank L. Van Ness of Chicago, well known to all as an artist of ability and a former Paw Paw man, who offered to make a big reduction in cost of an oil painting for the purpose mentioned. Mr. Free explained the matter thoroughly and it was the sense of all graduates present that the matter be undertaken and My. Free was appointed as chairman of a committee to be selected by himself to attend to the arrangements for the securing of the painting. The cost of the painting suitably framed, with a proper inscription in bronze, will be about \$300, and nearly \$200 was subscribed at the close of the meeting, and it is the hope that many of the Alumni members in other cities and towns and those residing in Paw Paw who were not present will want to have a part in this presentation and will send their donations to Mr. Free.

Remarks were also made by Glenn E. Warner, William L. Fitzgerald of Kalamazoo, Judge David Anderson and others. .' ..

After the program the balance of the evening was spent in an inspection tour of the building from basement to garret and the serving of refreshments in the domestic science department under the direction of

of '97 and Mattie Cooley -Abbott, class of '94 assisted by several other graduates A &

teresting remarks concerning her idea Kalamazoo, Porter, Lawrence, Decaof the value of an education and some tur and other nearby towns were preshumorous sketches of former times in ent to spend the evening with the boys and grls of other days in the fold

To the committee in charge of the and use of the old school bell, saying evening is due the thanks of all forthat for half a century it had called their efforts in making this affair a

### LETTER OF GREETING

A letter of greeting to the Alumni Association and all friends of the old "Red Brick" was received from Miss Mary Park, who was a teacher in our school many years ago. Miss Park is a resident of Highland Park and visits Paw Paw each year to keep in touch with her old home town. When she lived here with her parents and their family, the house recently sold by George Ernsberger was the family home.