

Cloverville, Its Founding and Its Father!

submitted by Bill Hansen

Just one year after the announcement of the founding of MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, in May of 1890, came the announcement of "the new town" of CLOVERVILLE in May of 1891.

Developed by L. N. Keating of Muskegon. Loftus Nano Keating was a well-known attorney in Muskegon. Mr. Keating was born at Monroe, Michigan in 1840, and came to Muskegon in 1875. Besides his legal work, he helped bring the Muskegon, Grand Rapids and Indiana railroad to Muskegon, now known as the Musketawa Trail. He served on the Muskegon Board of Supervisors, was the first president of the Muskegon County Bar Assoc., founded the Odel subdivision near the Brunswick-Balke-Collender plant, and advocated for the building of the Maple Island bridge across the Muskegon River.

"Mr. Keating was an orator of well-known ability, possessing a charm of delivery, an eloquence and quaint wit that made him a popular speaker," as can be seen from the following article published in the Muskegon Daily Chronicle, Saturday, October 25, 1890:

BIDS WANTED TO CLEAR SIX AND ONE HALF MILES OF HIGHWAY.

The mayor of Montreal says he is not hunting up wives for men who cannot do their own hunting. A man who buys one of these forties does not have to do any hunting, *the girls all like a fellow who has the sand.* "If it wasn't for our breaths we would all die as we sleep." This leads me to remark that it makes me tried to think of that chap who would not buy one of my forties and went to Dakota. He breathed so hard that the rest of the county moved out.

W. B. Hale, trustee, wants bids made in my care to clear six and one half miles of highway three rods wide due east from Ravenna st. at North Fruitport the center of sections 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 to town line between Fruitport and Ravenna (this would be Hts. Ravenna rd.) and a half mile of highway due north from north Fruitport to Black Creek.

Bids not to include stumping, I will attend to that, for stumping is a picnic to me. When these three highways are opened up, first Ravenna road to North Fruitport, thence by highways now opened into Muskegon by way of Mona Lake and Jefferson street through Muskegon Heights.

Second, town line road from Fruitport on Spring Lake to North Fruitport.

Third, town line road north of Fruitport to Grand Rapids highway into Muskegon with a *brand new railroad station at North Fruitport painted in peacock colors*, I shall be quite busy next year selling forties south of North Fruitport on the town line road, to the chaps who have always made money in buying land of

L. N. KEATING, The Hustler.

In the above article, Cloverville is still being called 'North Fruitport,' until changed the next year.

Although most people today may have never heard of L. N. Keating, they probably have driven on Keating avenue.

CLOVERVILLE was located about one-mile northeast of where Cloverville is today. To the east of CLOVERVILLE is Sullivan township. Today, the site of the original location of CLOVERVILLE would lie just to the north of Clover Estate Mobile Home Park.

There was really no place in the layout of CLOVERVILLE for anything other than the small train station, school/church and the lots for home construction, so when the Grange was built near heights Ravenna and Brooks, it soon became the new center of Cloverville as we know it today.

Articles about Cloverville from the Muskegon Daily Chronicle 1890 to 1922

discovered and submitted by Bill Hansen

CALLED CLOVERVILLE NOW. THAT'S THE NAME OF THE NEW POST OFFICE IN FRUITPORT TOWNSHIP.

L. N. Keating, while in Washington recently, made arrangements for the establishment of a post office at once at North Fruitport. The department objected to a name so nearly resembling Fruitport, as it leads to complications in delivering mail matter, so the new town has its name changed to Cloverville, and will hereafter be known by that euphonious title. The new depot there is nearly completed and arrangements are being made to have a school house erected, and later probably a

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church, on blocks reserved for them. The town has now been platted, by Messrs. Keating & Hale into 121 lots, each 66x132 feet, with a park also reserved. Around it are the 3,000 acres to be sold in forties, and to the purchaser of each one of these town lots will be given. Work on the road from Cloverville to Fruitport is progressing, and another road is being made to run from Ravenna through Cloverville to Muskegon Heights and this city, the road entering Muskegon Heights at the east end of McKinney avenue [now called Broadway]. The whole enterprise is one calculated to develop the farming country tributary to Muskegon and bring it into closer relations with the city.

Muskegon Daily Chronicle, Thursday, May 14, 1891

CLOVERVILLE BOOMING.

L. N. Keating is pushing and developing the interests of Cloverville. Work is going on upon the roads to connect it with Fruitport and other points, and the highway to Muskegon Heights will soon be opened. Plans have already been completed for a \$1,200 school house to be erected at Cloverville by the company, and it will also build a post office, warehouse, etc. The Cloverville Land Company was recently organized under the new law. It takes in the village and 1,000 acres of outlying farming lands and has a capital stock of \$14,000. L. N. Keating as president and treasurer, N. Friedman vice-president, A. A. Whipple, secretary with L. N. Keating, M. A. Keating, N. Friedman and C. L. Whitney, directors. The plan is to sell these fertile lands on easy installments, to encourage the growth of celery, fruits, mixed farming, and especially the production of the Osage melon, which has proved such a source of profit at St. Joseph and Benton Harbor. Here these can come direct to the dock at Muskegon, reach Chicago and Milwaukee by the boat lines, and be distributed by the Adams Express company over all the Milwaukee & St. Paul R. R. lines, the whole northwest and the resorts of northern Michigan as well. The company offers premiums for the most successful raisers of various crops, and to those buying the company lands will furnish Osage melon plants free, these to be raised at C. L. Whitney's greenhouse and to be distributed by him with full instructions as to their proper cultivation.

The whole plan is a good one, and calculated to develop the good farming lands available tributary to Muskegon.

Muskegon Daily Chronicle, Thursday, June 20, 1891.

Only twelve (12) forties of the Cloverville Land Company's low lands left which can be bought on long time with small payment down., balance at six per cent interest. They will all be sold soon and the public will not know the names of the buyers as they will not have time to pose for tin-types such as candidates for congress have in the newspapers.

Cloverville Land Company,
By L. N. LEATING, Treas.

Muskegon Daily Chronicle, Saturday, October 13, 1894.

Louis Langlois, aged 16, living four miles out of the city on the Cloverville road, was thrown from a horse which ran away Thanksgiving morning and sustained a fracture of the left arm at the wrist. Dr. A. B. Clement attended him.

The Muskegon Chronicle, Thursday, December 7, 1899.

CHURCH AT CLOVERVILLE. REV. MR. LAWTON, OF COOPERSVILLE, WILL CONDUCT SERVICES THERE HEREAFTER.

The people in the northern part of Fruitport township will now have an opportunity to attend church. Rev. Mr. Lawton, of Coopersville, has been given by the Cloverville Land Company, the use of its school house, and will hold church meetings and a Sunday school every Sunday at Cloverville. He is a Free Methodist, and noted as a revival speaker with a good deal of ability. He has met with such success in his revival meetings through the county that he will organize a permanent church at Cloverville.

Muskegon Daily Chronicle, Thursday, July 11, 1895.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TAKEN UP-Sunday, Aug. 4m a red and white spotted cow, rather old, one hip lower than the other. Owner can have her by paying charges. Herman Junk, half mile southeast Cloverville station.

Wednesday, August 8, 1900

SEES IN CLOVERVILLE, BIG FUTURE POSSIBILITIES. - FEBRUARY 4, 1913

That Cloverville seven miles from Muskegon, is coming to the front as a community rapidly,

yet steadily, that its population is increasing from year to year and that a freight station there is very probable next spring was the statement of John Frederickson, a resident there, this morning. Among other things Mr. Frederickson points out the following facts concerning Cloverville:

Seven miles from Muskegon.

Rock road to connect with Sullivan, and Cedar Springs (Apple Ave.) roads, Ravenna, etc., as soon as completed.

An average of ten new settlers every year.

The average farmer has five acres of fruit planted.

The Cloverville grange expects to build a hall in the spring.

If this is done at Cloverville station we have promise of the freight agent of the G. R. & I., railroad to build a siding and warehouse for freight.

Individuals have also promised to establish a general store and blacksmith shop.

The farmers realize the advantage received from fertilizer and a large quantity is used every year.

Many carloads of fruit and farm produce are raised every year and a permanent freight house would be a big advantage.

HOLIDAY SPENT BUILDING HALL. CLOVERVILLE GRANGERS PUT IN TIME ON BUILDING BEING CONSTRUCTED AS LODGE HOME.

(SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 1913)

Cloverville, Mich., June 7. - As a result of a holiday spent by the men of Cloverville grange putting in their memorial day working on the new grange hall, that structure has been considerably advanced toward completion. The frame was gotten up during the day. About 18 men participated in the work.

Mrs. E. Paulson acting as hostess, the women of the grange served dinner to the men. In the evening dancing was enjoyed by the party, all of the families of the members being represented at the occasion.

GRANGERS PICNIC AT CLOVERVILLE BIG ANNUAL EVENT TO BE HELD TOMORROW, M. A. C. PROFESSOR MAIN SPEAKER (JULY 23, 1913)

With Cloverville grange as the hosts, the big annual picnic of Muskegon County Pomona grange will be held at Cloverville tomorrow. Professor W. H. French of the Michigan Agricultural college (now known as Michigan State University) will be the principal speaker. An entertaining program of music has been prepared.

The Cloverville grange will serve a big 25 cent picnic dinner for the benefit of its building fund. A long list of games and sports has been arranged, so that everybody will have a good time. A big crowd is expected at the event.

CLOVERVILLE GRANGE - (JANUARY 6, 1914)

Because of the great success of the dance given Saturday evening at the Cloverville grange hall and the request for the date of the next event of the kind, it is expected that another will be announced shortly. The dance was attended by a party of young people from the Shaw-Walker factory in Muskegon and another party from Muskegon was brought out by Wallace Young. The Shaw-Walker party was entertained until time for the morning train at the home of Miss Verna McCormick.

Mrs. Hubert Thoma suffered a severe injury last week when a horse hitched to a wagon which she was about to enter started up suddenly, throwing her to the ground where the hind wheel of the wagon passed over her shoulder and chest. She is recovering from the effects of the accident nicely.

Max Paulson is confined to his home with a severe cold contracted while rabbit hunting.

Mr. and Mrs. O. McCormick, who have just returned from assisting in the installation of officers at Casnovia and Sullivan granges report having had a most pleasant time and that they found the granges in these two places in flourishing condition.

CLOVERVILLE NEWS. - (DECEMBER, 2, 1914)

The ladies' Aid Society of Cloverville held its last regular meeting at the home of Mrs. Oliver McCormick. After the meeting a lunch was served.

Arthur Paulson of Chicago spent Thanksgiving with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Paulsen of Cloverville.

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