

The Eastern Star, Odd Fellows, Gleaners, and Grange all have been well represented, but the Gleaners and Grange have no present organization.

The Edward Dwight Post G.A.R. was fittingly named after one of the old Dwight family here, and a W.R.C. did fine work for many years.

The village also boasted a Woman's Club and a Musical Society, the latter having its own rooms for a time, and giving excellent amateur programs for many years.

One of our great sources of pride is 300 acres of virgin forest, still owned by the Barber family. The Rev. Sylvester Cockrane's wife wrote back to her sister in Vermont in 1838 that the sight of these primeval trees was the grandest thing here, and that his public-spirited family have preserved for us.

While the Academy provided a chance for the higher branches of learning until the first brick school was built here in 1869, the public schools for the primary grades had started early.

An addition was built on the back later and in 1927 our present \$75,000 plant was completed. It is modern and a proper source of pride to every citizen.

The roster of faithful and efficient principals and teachers is long and honorable. We call to mind Charles McKenny, who married a resident, Minnie Alderman, and later served as president of our Ypsilanti State Normal until his death.

Our opera house and town hall was built in the 90's. The carpenters were Rawson & Cross Bros., Moses and Henry Cross and Edgar Rawson, three men of exceptional character and life-long residents.

When we contemplate the fine character and integrity of our village forbearers we feel she has a trust given to her.

#### ARTICLE IX

In giving consideration to a town's development and growth, the increase of business opportunities becomes a prime factor and after seventeen years during which Bellevue, Marshall and Battle Creek were the principal trading points, the opening of a store with a fair-sized general stock, by the firm of Hale & Frink, was an important event of 1853. This was followed by a succession of business places and the names of Wells R. Martin, Homer G. Barber, D. F. Barber, Henry J. Martin, James Fleming and W. H. Benedict are prominently connected with mercantile activities during the twenty years from 1855 to 1875, while some of them continued in business for years after that.