

HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT KENTWOOD (PARIS TOWNSHIP) (Taken from *The Story of Kentwood*)

1. Government land in the Michigan Territory sold for \$1.25 per acre or \$100 for 80 acres in 1820.



2. Most of the property purchased by settlers in this area was processed through the White Pigeon land office.

3. Barney Burton was the first to pitch his camp and erect a house in Paris Township.



4. Many of the early settlers who purchased land came from the state of New York.



in the area

5. Rachel Patterson (widow of Robert Patterson) brought her family west and served locally as a midwife, nurse and cook.

6. In 1839 Paris Township was formally organized and named.



7. Hiram Allen served as Paris Township's first justice of the peace and over 35 years performed more than 60 wedding ceremonies.

8. Sluman Bailey built the Octagon House, which is located on East Paris Avenue, in 1855.



9. Division Avenue began its life as a well traveled plank road running along the western border of Paris Township.

10. The intersection at 44th Street and Kalamazoo Avenue has been known as Tanner Mills, Tannerville and Bowen's Corners.



11. The Kent County Agricultural Society purchased land in Paris Township for the first county fairgrounds in 1855. It later served as the initial encampment and training ground for the Third Michigan Volunteers during the Civil War.

12. Philonzo and Lucina Bowen transferred a portion of their farm to the township for the building of a school in July of 1856.

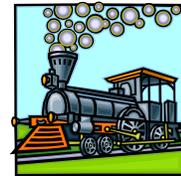


13. Captured by the Confederate Army, Eli S. Buck made three attempts to escape the stockade prison at Andersonville, Georgia.
14. George J. S. Chesebro became a soldier in 1863 and participated in General Sherman's "march to the sea".
15. The Patrons of Husbandry, more commonly known as the Grange, came to Paris Township in 1873. One of the most important accomplishments of the Grange was the promotion of the Interstate Commerce Act of 1887.

16. The Christie Hotel, which was located near the corner of present day South Division and 54th Street, served as a regular stop on the stagecoach run between Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids.



17. The Grand River Valley Railroad, completed in 1870, cut diagonally across the southwestern edge of Paris Township and stopped at a freight depot at Bowen's Corners.



18. The Paris Baptist Church (now the Kentwood Baptist Church), organized in 1864, first met as a Sunday school at the Smith School on Wing Road.



19. The True Holland Reformed Church (now the Kelloggsville Christian Reformed Church) began in the Blaak home on 52nd Street in 1875.

20. During blizzard conditions on December 26, 1903, the eastbound Pere Marquette train bound for Detroit collided head on with the westbound train coming from Detroit near present day 36th Street between East Paris Avenue and Patterson Avenue.