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STREETS OF DETROIT

MANY NAMED AFTER GREAT
MEN AND OLD CITIZENS,

BUT MOSTLY LAND OWNERS.

A Way of Perpetuating the Mem-
ory of People Who Would
Otherwise Be Forgotten.

Last Sunday the News-Tribune printed the commencement of an article on the "Streets of Detroit." Due credit was given to Silas Farmer, who spent five months in digging out the history of the city's various streets and avenues. This installment completes the story.

AFTER A NEWSPAPER MAN.

Bagg street was named in 1854 after A. S. Bagg. It was formerly named Arch street, after Arch McLean, a friend of Albert Crane. Mr. Bagg was an old-time newspaper publisher, and was connected with the Free Press as proprietor, in whole or in part, from 1837 to 1849, during most of which time he was a bookseller. He served for years in the common council for the old fifth ward, was inspector of the house of correction from 1873 to 1876, and was commissioner of the boulevard for Hamtramck in 1883, his home at that time being in that township, out Woodward avenue.

Conant avenue was named after Shubael Conant, an old bachelor merchant who was identified with the early history of Detroit. He built the Michigan Exchange in 1835, and was the uncle of Harry A. Conant, of Monroe, ex-secretary of state, and Mrs. Alpheus S. Williams, of this city.

Concord avenue is named after the battle of Concord, in the revolutionary war.

Congress street was opened in 1827 for a short distance through the military reserve, and was named in honor of congress, which gave the reserve to the city in 1826.

Clifford street was named in 1835 by John Farmer in his first published map of the city. There was a tavern on the west side of Woodward avenue, just above what is now Clifford street, which was kept by Thomas Cliff. A branch of May's creek crossed Woodward avenue at this point and was sometimes swollen by the spring rains and from which circumstance it was named Cliff's ford.

Columbia street was named by John R. Williams after a street in Albany, on which he lived.

Clay and Calhoun streets were named after the two celebrated southern statesmen.

Church street was named after St. Peter's episcopal church on that thoroughfare, for which Gov. Woodbridge donated the lots.

Cass street and avenue was named after Lewis Cass, the "great Michigander," and second governor of Michigan territory.

Chase street, which is a one-square street, running from Russell to Riopelle and parallel with and between Congress and Larned streets, was named in 1869 after Thomas Chase, the owner of the land. He was the father-in-law of Senator Casgrain, of Windsor, Ont., and grandfather of ex-Prosecuting Attorney Casgrain, of Detroit. Chase street was formerly closed at the Russell street end, and for a long time was named Private street. It was opened to Russell street about three years ago.

Dalzell street was named after Capt. Henry Dalzell, a British officer, who came here with troops to reinforce Maj. Gladwin in 1763, while the Detroit fort was besieged by Pontiac. He headed a sortie against Pontiac, but was defeated with great loss and was killed at Bloody Run.

Duffield street was named after Rev. George Duffield, pastor of the First Presbyterian church from 1838 until his death, in 1865. He was the father Gen. Wm. Duffield, D. Bethune Duffield and Henry M. Duffield.

Elmwood avenue was named after the cemetery.

Ferdinand avenue was named after Ferdinand Williams, son of John R. Williams. He still survives at an advanced age, in Waterford, Mich., near Pontiac.

AFTER A MAP PUBLISHER.

Farmer street was named after John Farmer, first map publisher of Michigan, and father of Silas Farmer, the historian, of Detroit.

Farrar street was named after John Farrar, old citizen.

Frontenac avenue was named after Count Frontenac, the French governor-general of New France.

Grand River avenue was so named because it led to Grand Rapids, which is on Grand river.

Gratiot avenue leads to Fort Gratiot, above Port Huron, and was named after Col. Charles Gratiot, of Harrison's army, who, as an engineer, drew the plans for the fort.

Gilman street was named after Mary Gilman, the maiden name of Gen. Cass' mother.

Griswold street was named after Gov. Roger Griswold, of Connecticut, a friend of Gov. Woodbridge, of Michigan.

After the old Moran farm was divided between Judge Charles Moran and his brother, Louis Moran, a street was opened in 1826 between the two properties, which now runs as far as the boulevard, a distance of three and a half miles. The two brothers, who each gave half of the roadway, agreed to call it after their mutual friend Eurotas P. Hastings. The latter came here from Geneva in 1825, and until 1842 was connected with the old Bank of Michigan, and was a man of estimable character, prominent in educational, charitable and religious affairs.

Hastings street was named after Eurotas P. Hastings, prominent banker and citizen.

Harrison avenue was named after President William Henry Harrison.

Harriet street was so called after the wife of Dr. Douglass Houghton, Michigan's first state geologist, and mayor of Detroit in 1842.

Humboldt avenue was named in 1866 after Baron Von Humboldt, the great German scientist.

Henry street was named after Gen. Henry H. Sibley, son of Solomon Sibley, chief justice of the Michigan territorial supreme court.

Hancock avenue was named after John Hancock, president of the continental congress.

Irving street, which runs between Crawford and Eighth streets, in the sixth ward, was named after Washington Irving, the celebrated author.

Jefferson avenue, one of the two principal thoroughfares of Detroit, was named in 1807 after President Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States, and the father of democracy.

Joy street was named, in 1866, after James F. Joy, leading citizen, who is still living.

Jones street was named, in 1852, after De Garmo Jones, who, it is said, came here as a drummer boy with Harrison's army, and afterward became a leading citizen. He was proprietor of the Jones farm and mayor of Detroit in 1839.

Ives avenue was named, in 1857, after Albert Ives, the well known citizen and banker.

AFTER A PRESIDENT.

Lincoln avenue was named after President Lincoln in 1871.

Lansing avenue, after the capital of the state.

Ledyard street, after Col. Henry Ledyard, son-in-law of Gov. Cass, and mayor of Detroit in 1856. He was the father of Henry B. Ledyard, general manager of the Michigan Central railroad.

Lovers' lane, now Junction avenue, was a favorite trysting place in days gone by.

Lady's lane, in the Fourteenth ward, just north of the Wabash railway track, was also a favorite meeting place for lovers.

Lewis street was named after Lewis Cass.

Lexington avenue was named after the battle of Lexington, "where the embattled farmers stood that fired the shot heard round the world."

Larned street was named after Gen. Charles Larned, who came to Detroit with Gen. Harrison in the war of 1812. He lived at the southwest corner of Larned street and Woodward avenue, and died there of cholera in 1834.

Lafayette avenue was named after the Marquis de Lafayette, commander of the French contingent of the American army in the revolution.

Leib street was named, in 1863, after John L. Leib, chief justice of the county court in 1822, and owner of the Leib farm, who died in 1838. He was the grandfather of Cleveland Hunt, attorney, of this city.

Lothrop avenue was named, in 1893, after G. V. N. Lothrop, ex-minister to Russia.

Madison and Monroe avenues were named in 1807 after Presidents Madison and Monroe.

Macomb street was named after the Macomb family, early English settlers, one of whom, Gen. Alexander Macomb, was commander-in-chief of the United States army.

Mullett street was named after John Mullett, the oldtime surveyor.

Meldrum avenue was named in 1857 after George Meldrum, of the Meldrum farm.

Montcalm street was named in 1835 after Gen. and Marquis Montcalm, commandant of Quebec, who was killed in the siege of that place, on the Plains of Abraham, in 1759.

Maybury avenue, now Maybury Grand avenue, was laid out and named after Thomas Maybury, father of Wm. C. Maybury.

McDougall avenue, after George McDougall, born on Belle Isle, under British rule. The island was then owned by his father. George was a leading attorney in after years, and sheriff in 1860. He was brother of John Robert McDougall, owner of the McDougall farm.

McClellan avenue, after Gen. George B. McClellan, U. S. A.

Moran street, after Judge Charles Moran, proprietor of the Moran farm, and father of Wm. B., Fred T. and John V. Moran.

Orleans street is a natural name for the thoroughfare of an old French city.

Pitcher street, after Dr. Zina Pitcher, an oldtime, esteemed physician, prominent citizen, regent of the state university and mayor of Detroit in 1840, 1841 and 1843.

Putnam avenue, after Gen. Israel Putnam, of revolutionary fame.

Pierce street, after President Franklin Pierce.

Porter street was named in 1835, after Augustus S. Porter, lawyer, who was United States senator for Michigan from 1840 to 1845.

Palmer avenue was named in 1874 after Senator Thomas W. Palmer.

Parsons street was named after Philo Parsons, prominent citizen and landowner.

AFTER A LANDOWNER.

Riopelle street was named in 1850, after Dominick Riopelle, proprietor of the Riopelle farm.

Rose street was named in 1868 after Rose Porter, youngest daughter of George B. Porter, who was governor of Michigan territory from 1831 to his death from cholera in 1834.

Rowena street was named by Alfred E. Brush, after his wife, Rowena Hunt.

Rowland street was named after Maj. Thomas Rowland, a soldier of the war of 1812, who settled here and held several important offices, including United States pension agent and county clerk.

Randolph street was named in 1828 after John Randolph, of Roanoke, the eccentric Virginia statesman.

Sheridan avenue and Sherman street were named after Gen. Phil. Sheridan and Gen. W. T. Sherman, respectively.

Shelby street was named after Gov. Isaac Shelby, of Kentucky, who greatly aided the territory in the war of 1812.

Shady lane is a two-square street, intersected by the Grand boulevard, north of Porter street. It was opened through the woods in 1880, and hence its name.

Scott street was named after Gen. Winfield Scott in 1826.

St. Aubin avenue was named in 1847 after Francis St. Aubin, proprietor of the St. Aubin farm.

Sibley street was named after Judge Solomon Sibley, and Sproat street after Ebenezer Sproat, his father-in-law.

St. Antoine street was named by Antoine Leaubien after his patron saint.

St. Joseph street was named by Oliver Bellair after one of his sons, whose patron saint was St. Joseph. St. Joseph and St. Antoine streets existed in Detroit as early as 1782, and are the only street names of the old town that have been preserved.

Sargent street was named after the first secretary of the Northwest Territory.

AFTER A JUDGE

Trumbull avenue was named in 1858 after Judge John Trumbull, father-in-law of Gov. Woodbridge, and the author of "McFingall," a patriotic poem written during the revolutionary war. He died in Detroit in 1831.

Vinewood avenue was laid out and named in 1856 through a forest overgrown with wild grapevines.

Wayne street derives its name from Maj.-Gen. ("Mad") Anthony Wayne.

Woodbridge street was named in 1826 after William Woodbridge, secretary of Michigan territory, and afterward governor and United States senator.

Washington Grand avenue was named after the father of his country.

Woodward avenue, now the principal street of Detroit, was named by, and in honor of, Augustus B. Woodward, who was judge of the territory from 1805 to 1823, and who laid out the plan of the city after the great fire in the former year. When afterward charged with egotism in naming a leading thoroughfare after himself, he heterophemized by saying that he named it Woodward, because it led to the woods. He further added a statement that Woodbridge street was not named after the territorial secretary, but after a wooden bridge over the Savoyard, on the line of the street.

Winder street, which was laid out through a portion of Col. John Winder's property, was so named in 1852.

Wilkins street, which runs along the north side of the house of correction to Gratiot avenue, was named after Ross Wilkins, one of the judges of the territorial supreme court, and judge of the United States district court from 1826 to 1870.

Williams avenue was named in 1833 after Gen. A. S. Williams, soldier, editor and congressman.

Witherell street, which circles around part of East Grand Circus park, is named after James Witherell, one of the territorial judges, and maternal grandfather of Thomas W. Palmer.

HOW STREETS WERE NAMED

Judge Woodward Laid
Out Detroit as it is.

AN ECCENTRIC GENIUS

Silas Farmer Talks of the 700
Streets of Our City.

Did you ever ask yourself the question as you strolled along Woodward-ave., "How did the street get its name?" Did a curiosity, as to its significance, ever cause you to wonder whether the name commemorates some well-known individual of the past, or if the name is simply of

geographical origin? If not, it will, perhaps, be interesting to you to know that it was named by and in honor of Judge Augustus B. Woodward, the first judge of the territory of Michigan, and who, with Gov. Hull, was appointed by congress to plat out the nucleus of the present metropolis in 1806.

Every vantage of the original town save one house, which has long since fallen a prey to time and progress, had been wiped off the map by fire the preceding year. Detroit at that time had grown from a log hut or two in 1749 to a rising community of five streets and three alleys, besides a sort of boulevard, known as the Chemin du Ronde, encircling the three land sides of the town.

Only one of the original street names exist to-day, that of St. Joseph-st., but the street itself is far removed from its original location, which lay between what is now Griswold and Wayne-sts., at a point midway between Larned-st. and Jefferson-ave. The present St. Joseph-st. is now a thoroughfare running east from Russell-st., between Rowena and Illinois-sts.

Judge Woodward has been termed by Silas Farmer, a well known authority on Detroit and Michigan history, the most eccentric man who ever held a public office in the United States.

"No one but Dickens could do him justice," said Mr. Farmer. It is recorded of the judge that he was in the habit of eating luncheon and imbibing large draughts of whisky on

the bench during the progress of a trial, and even while he was handing down important decisions. Whenever he went on an extended trip, it is said, he would take one extra shirt along to put on over his soiled one, whenever he entered a port, taking it off again when he was about to resume his journey. Thus, he often wore his shirts until the number on his back reached five or six, and then he would buy a new supply.

The old man was very fond of ladies' society, and often made afternoon calls. To humor his female admirers he would partake freely of tea which they made expressly for him. On one occasion he is reported as having drank 19 cups.

In his writing and in conversation the judge was very bombastic, and had an inordinate fondness for coining new words. He was also exasperatingly slow, a characteristic which caused many protests from early Detroit settlers, when he was mapping out the plan of Detroit practically as it exists to-day. This process occupied months and months of Judge Woodward's attention, he having scoured the heavens for many days and weeks in succession for suggestions which, incorporated in his plans, he believed would make Detroit the finest city in the world as far as the arrangement of its streets were concerned.

In those days Woodward-ave. was known as such only as far as the Campus Martius. From there up to Adams-ave. it was Congress-ave., and from there on Witherell-st. It was also known to many even as late as 1875 as the Pontiac road, and the Saginaw turnpike. Judge Woodward had a pet pun about the avenue which bears his name. He said he named it Woodward-ave. because it led towards the woods.

Of the streets in the town as plotted by Judge Woodward, many were still in the wilderness when named. Most of the town lay south of Jefferson-ave., named in honor of the third president of the United States, and extended from about midway between what are now Griswold and Shelby-sts. to a short distance west of Shelby. Woodward was then east of the limits and not a part of the city in any sense of the word. The other streets plotted and named, though not settled, in 1806 and 1807, were: Miami-ave., named after the Miami tribe of Indians; Adams, Monroe and Madison-aves., all in honor of United States presidents.

Larned-st. was named in 1826, after Gen. Charles Larned, who came to Michigan with Gen. Harrison's army in the war of 1812, and settled in Detroit. Fort and Cass-sts. were both named in 1827, the one from old Fort Shelby, which was demolished about the same time the street was opened; the other from Lewis Cass, the memorable second governor of Michigan

territory. The same year Congress-st. was named after the congress of 1826, which granted to Detroit the military reserve through which the street lay. Griswold-st. was so designated by Gov. Wolbridge in honor of Roger Griswold, then governor of Connecticut.

Several streets were named in 1835, among them:

Grand River-ave., because it led to Grand Rapids on the Grand river; Gratiot-ave., because it was a direct line to Fort Gratiot, near Port Huron; John R-st., after John R. Williams, a prominent land owner of that time.

Clifford-st. also derived its name at this time from Thomas Cliff, who kept a hotel on a branch of May's creek, which intersected Woodward-ave., where the street now intersects. Near this intersection the creek was rather deep and was therefore known as Cliff's ford, hence the name.

Perhaps the oddest name ever given a street in this city was Apple Plest. This was a short street near the western limits of the city and appeared on many city maps. It is now a deserted thoroughfare, however, and is heard of no more. "Lady's Lane" is the name of a short street running toward the river from River-st., between Swain and Minnie-sts. Bela Hubbard, a formerly well-known Detroitier, named the street and was author of the following ingenious pun:

"'Twas ever thus, the sighing 'Swain' Would seek his love in 'Lady's Lane.'"

An unusual percentage of the 700 streets in Detroit take their names from persons of more or less local or national fame. Almost every public official of any note whatever has been thus honored. Silas Farmer, who is without doubt, the best living authority on matters affecting the city's streets, has himself furnished nearly 100 names.

Mr. Farmer believes there is room for much reform in the names of Detroit's streets, and makes some very tart criticisms. He advocates the abolishment of all duplicate names, of the east and west idea, of street names bearing the prefix "saint," of the terms "place" and "court," of the prefix "grand" applied to boulevards, on the ground that such street names are confusing, and in no way serve the public use.