

HISTORY  
OF  
WASHTENAW COUNTY,  
MICHIGAN;

TOGETHER WITH SKETCHES OF ITS CITIES, VILLAGES AND TOWNSHIPS, EDUCATIONAL, RELIGIOUS, CIVIL, MILITARY, AND POLITICAL HISTORY; PORTRAITS OF PROMINENT PERSONS, AND BIOGRAPHIES OF REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS.

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HISTORY OF MICHIGAN,

EMBRACING ACCOUNTS OF THE PRE-HISTORIC RACES, ABORIGINES, FRENCH, ENGLISH AND AMERICAN CONQUESTS, AND A GENERAL REVIEW OF ITS CIVIL, POLITICAL AND MILITARY HISTORY.

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ILLUSTRATED.

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CHICAGO:  
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some years after. A full reference to this pioneer is made in the biographical sketch following this history.

Orrin Parsons was a noted person in this town. He was born in the town of Sandisfield, Berkshire Co., Mass, in 1794. In 1802 his parents removed to Windham, Greene Co., N. Y. At 22 years of age he married Miss Rebecca Fuller. In May, 1826, in company with his brother Chester, he purchased 160 acres of land on section 12. The next year, 1827, they erected the first saw-mill in the town, which was of great benefit to the early settlers of all the surrounding region. The grist-mill was erected soon after. At the second annual town meeting in Saline, in 1831, Mr. Parsons was chosen supervisor, to succeed Mr. Davis, and was re-elected in 1832, 1833, 1835, 1837, 1838, 1839 and 1840. He also served as justice of the peace and in other town offices. In 1846 he was a member of the State Legislature. Mr. Parsons died at the early age of 57. His life was one of great activity and enterprise. He was public-spirited in a remarkable degree, and the poor and suffering were sure to receive from him sympathy and aid. As the owner of a grist-mill no one can recount the number and extent of his benefactions. Brought up to no particular trade, as occasion required he displayed a remarkable degree of ingenuity and mechanical skill, surpassed by very few men, even among the first settlers of a new land.

Another prominent and public-spirited citizen of the town was Julius Cruttenden, who was born in Poultney, Vt., in 1791, and in 1831, with his father, Thomas Cruttenden, came to Saline and purchased several hundred acres of land. In 1842 he was elected supervisor, but died in September of that year, before the expiration of his term. He was remarkably genial and popular. In mentioning the early settlers of the town, there are three that deserve special mention, from the fact that they were soldiers in the Revolutionary war, in which each bore an honorable part.

Timothy Cruttenden, in company with his son Julius, of whom mention has been made, came to Saline in 1831, and died September, 1832, nearly eighty-five years of age. He was born in Guilford, Connecticut, in 1747. While residing in Lenox, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, he enlisted in the Revolutionary army. In 1776 he went to Montreal and Quebec. From the latter place our forces retired on the approach of the British transports. In the autumn of 1777 he shared in the notable campaign against Burgoyne; was in the battle at the ford of the North river, near Fort Edward, where Burgoyne, after the last battle of Saratoga, attempted to force his way back to Canada. He afterward witnessed the surrender of Burgoyne.

Archibald Armstrong was born about 1753, in one of the lower counties of the Mohawk Valley, New York. He was in Fort Schuyler, now Rome, when it was besieged by the British. He was also in the battles at Cowpens, Monmouth, Germantown, and finally at Yorktown, where he saw the surrender of Cornwallis.