

HUDSONVILLE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE



Gary Byker Memorial Library
3338 Van Buren Street
Hudsonville, MI 49426



LAUNCHING A NEWSLETTER

In an effort to make you aware of the interesting history of our area - Hudsonville and the surrounding townships of Georgetown, Jamestown, and Blendon, we have decided to embark on a bi-yearly newsletter.

It will contain some of the history of the area, portion of records, and excerpts from local stories that we have in the History Room at the Gary Byker Memorial Library.

The object is to make you aware of the records that are available, to tell you a little about what happened in years past and to seek your help in adding to our collection. Perhaps you have an untold story, some old photos, church or family records, or a history of a local business that you would like to share. Our committee will make copies of your information and return the originals to you.

We would also like to receive your opinions on this our first newsletter what you liked about it, subject s you would like to see covered, etc.

Beaverdam Christian Reformed Church

In April of 1882, 28 people signed a petition that was sent to the Classis of Grand Rapids. Among those who signed were the ??Schut, Roelofs?? families whose descendants who still attend.

This petition asked for permission to become an

Historic Photographs

The Historical Committee is trying to complete the collection of Hudsonville High School Graduation Classes, We need the class pictures for the following years: 1911-1916, 1918-1920, 1922, 1923, 1925, 1926, 1928, 1929, 1932, 1934, 1937, 1938, 1946-1950, 1953, 1954, 1956-1958, 1960 and anything after 1961.

If you are willing to lend us your class picture, we will make a copy of it and return it to you. Copies will be placed in the Historical Room at the Gary Byker Memorial Library in Hudsonville.

We have four different categories of Historical photographic collections: Businesses, Churches, Families, and Schools. There are well over 700 photographs in our collections.

New Acquisitions

If you haven't visited the History Room in the Gary Byker Memorial Library lately, we have acquired a number of new books,.

1. The Great War by C. K. Schaefer
2. Directory to Collections of New York Vital Records by Bowman/Lynch
3. A Surname Guide to Massachusetts Town Histories by Longver/Oesterlin
4. Dutch Immigrants in U.S. Ship Passenger Manifests, 1820-1880 by Robe Swierenga
5. Dutch Emigrants in U.S., S. Africa, S. America, SE Asia, 1835-1880 by Robert

organized congregation of the Christian Reformed Church. Permission was granted and this was the beginning of the 118-year history of Beaverdam Christian Reformed Church. Many challenges faced this new congregation, including the building of a new church. This they made plans for that first summer when 34 members subscribed \$515.00 for the project. After the church was built and they obtained their first parsonage, the congregation felt ready to call a pastor to serve them.

What patience and perseverance was shown by our forefathers in these years. For eight and a half years they struggled along without the services of regular pastor, but in December of 1890 Rev. H.H.D. Langereis became the first pastor to serve this small flock.

This interesting historical sketch about one of our local churches is available for you to read along with other church information at the library.

Swierenga

6. Dutch Households in U.S. Population Census in 1850, 1860 and 1870 by Robert Swierenga
7. Genealogical Handbook for New England Research (NEHGS)
8. Genealogy Address Book (4th) by E. Bentley
9. Directory of Family Associations by E. Bentley
10. A to Zax (3rd) Dictionary for Genealogists and Historians by Barbara J. Evans
11. Printed Sources of Published Genealogical Records by Kory Meyeririk

If you haven't ever visited our History Room, come and see what we have!

How Hudsonville Got its Name



Homer Hudson was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1827, the son of William and Delphia (Sherwin) Hudson. He had learned the trade of nurseryman in Ohio and came to Michigan in 1848. He resided in Grand Rapids for a short time and worked for Elisha Kellogg. Then he moved to Holland, Michigan and was in the nursery business with Albertus VanRaalte, the founder of the Dutch Colony that came from the Netherlands and founded Holland, Michigan. In 1859 he purchased land in Georgetown Township. Among his purchases was 40 acres in section 33 which he bought from Luman and Lucius Jenison. The original name given for this area in 1868 was South Georgetown. In 1872 the Chicago and West Michigan Railroad was built through the village and Mr. Hudson was appointed the first Postmaster, and the village name was changed to Hudsonville. In 1873 Homer Hudson platted 20 acres of the northwest corner of section 33 for the village. Along with the schoolhouse, which had been built in 1855, there were several businesses established near this corner of Main Street (now VanBuren) and Division Street (now 32nd Avenue). Horace Hudson, son of Homer, opened the first grocery store, Spencer Oatman had a cheese factory, the Cunningham Brothers and Curry and Bennett had saw mills in this vicinity. In 1881 a Hudsonville Lodge, 1.0, O.F. was organized and Mr. Hudson was a charter member. Religious services were held in the schoolhouse for a number of years. In 1877 the

Congregational Church erected a building on land donated by Mr. Hudson. He also donated a lot for Hudsonville Grange Hall #112 to the east of the church.

Besides the nursery business and his other interests, he was a member of the grange, trustee in the church and a member of the school board for many years. He was a man of many talents. He and his first wife, Clarinda Burt, and a daughter who died young, are buried in Georgetown Township Cemetery. His other children were Horace, Stella, Homer, Eugene, Belle Pompe and Delphia Barnaby.

Hudsonville Historical Committee

We are a small group at present, and we invite you to join us in preserving the history of the Hudsonville/Georgetown area whether through working on a project, contributing ideas, or donating to our collection - the more involved, the better the collection we will have.

Shirley Krombeen, Betty Schut and Evelyn Sawyer