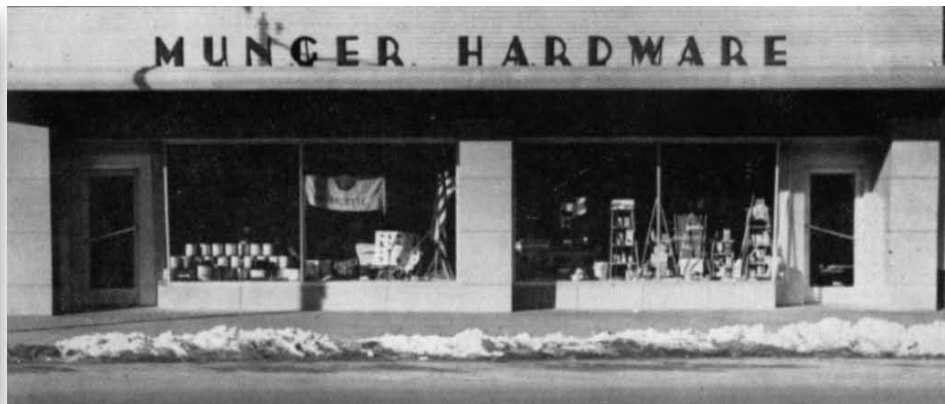


# THE LEDGER

## MUNGER BEAR RETURNS HOME



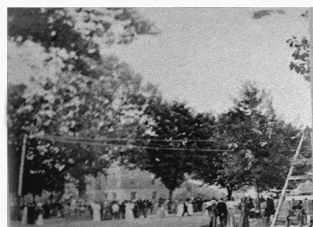
Recently the Courthouse Museum was contacted by Rick Munger, the last owner/operator of Munger Hardware Store in downtown Charlotte. Rick, along with his sisters had an interesting offer; Would the museum be interested in having one of the famous “Munger Bears” on display? First, I have to tell you my first reaction was “Oh yay we would!” I have heard the stories about these bears the entire 32 years I have lived in our community and was excited by the opportunity to have such an iconic piece of history come back home. Then I had to step back and say, maybe I should ask the board, it is a huge bear after all. Both the collections committee and the entire board weighed in and the bear was gladly accepted. The Polar bear was sold several years ago and is no longer available.



Rick very generously offered to transport the bear, along with several other amazing Munger items to the museum. Now, who do you get to move a bear? We reached out to Duane Vedder of Vedder Taxidermy who was delighted with the opportunity. Duane worked for Rick at the store many years ago and knew the bears well. As you can see this was a huge undertaking on behalf of the Munger family and we are so thankful they thought of the museum as a worthy recipient. So come down to the square and check out our mini “Munger Hardware Store” and welcome the bear back home!

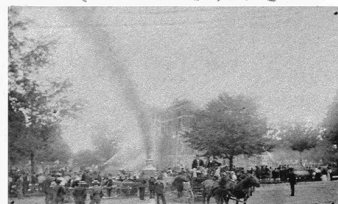
**Thank you Munger Family**

## EATON COUNTY COURTHOUSE FIRE 125TH ANNIVERSARY



View from Congl Church.

EATON COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
FIRE JULY 4<sup>th</sup> '94  
Corner Stone Laid July 4, '83.



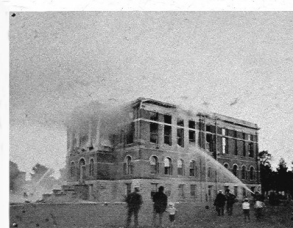
From Phoenix House steps.

After the fire July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Taken in Spring of '93.

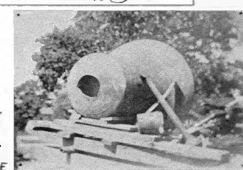
Court room July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Looking into the judges office.



From north east.

PHOTOS  
BY  
FOWLER  
123  
MAIN ST.  
CHARLOTTE,  
MICH.



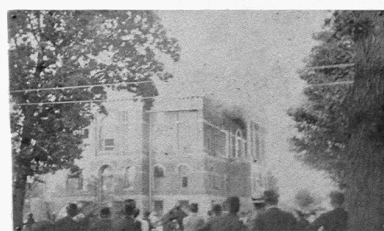
The Bell.



Supervisor's room.



From Probate office door.



From Dr. Green's.

Downtown Charlotte, Michigan suffered one of the most spectacular fires in the City's history when the Eaton County Courthouse caught fire just before 6:00 p.m. on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1894. This anniversary may have come and gone without notice, however the newspaper scanning project completed by the Eaton County Genealogical Society (ECGS) provided a means of research. One of the papers scanned by ECGS was the July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1894 extra edition of the Charlotte Tribune. A souvenir copy of the paper is enclosed with your copy of the Ledger. The front page article of the paper gives us a sensational description of the fire and other details of the disaster. For example: the origin of the fire was under debate, the building was underinsured, the Charlotte water system was inadequate, bravery was met with prudence and Fire Chief Donovan was recognized along with all of the other firefighters. Another individual mentioned in the article was George H. Fowler and his "Kodak". His photographs were published on a 5" x 7" souvenir card which is duplicated below. Another eyewitness account of the fire was written by Vera Maynard Osborn some years later in her book titled There Were Two of Us.

The book details her life growing up in Charlotte, Michigan with her brother Horace. Ms. Osborn was a little girl at the time of the fire and lived on South Bostwick. Based on her description she was standing on the south side of Lawrence Avenue and gives a short but emotional account of the bell striking six for the final time and the acrid heat stinging her eyes and nose. Vera and her brother were very familiar with the Courthouse since their father, Horace S. Maynard was a practicing attorney. Along with their family they had visited the courthouse many times and recognized the building's importance in the community. They were shocked and saddened by the fire. If you are interested in reading There Were Two of Us, it is available in the Michigan Room at the Charlotte Community Library. Please tell the librarian that you heard about the book from Courthouse Square.

If you liked this article, please let the folks know at Courthouse Square by calling 517-543-6999. If you are not already a member of the Courthouse Square Association memberships are available at various levels.



## SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT CSA

### 2019 History Camp



As you can probably tell, history camp is one of my favorite times of year. I love the opportunity to share interesting history and the fun that surrounds it with kids of all ages. We also have a wonderful mix of people, 90 years young to 6 and just starting kindergarten. This year our campers traveled to Roseacres and learned about the history of this outstanding Charlotte Business and enjoyed planting from some of their early cuttings. We were also hosted in the beautiful 53-year-old garden of the Diane and Chuck Rabey. Then we had the unique opportunity to visit the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Crosswalk Teen Center, a beautiful apartment untouched in 60 + years. The Eaton County Recreation Van visited us on Tuesday, and we explored the Congregational Commons along with treats by Red Rosie Bakery. By Wednesday we were studying the history of the Theater and performing in small skits, generously run by Hollie Auten, director of CPAC plus enjoyed ice cream provided by Faye's. Thursday found

### *History Camp Continued*

us traveling to Fisher's Cove in Vermontville, a slice of paradise and history created by Gene and Mary Fisher. Friday our final day we went to Maple Hill Cemetery for a preview of the "Mysteries of Maple Hill" cemetery tour and a lesson on the cemetery and proper stone care by Chuck Brandon. Our trip home was polished off by a stop at the old historic Central Michigan Depot in town and a light lunch provided by Tequila's restaurant. All transportation was provided by Charlotte Public Schools. Thank you to everyone who helped and volunteered this year. Our students get to learn the important lesson of enjoying history in a fun and wonderful way!

### 2019 Golf Scramble Championship



*Pictured l-r: Jake Herrera Art Trost, Rob Lisk and Bobby Herrero*

The 2019 Courthouse Square Golf Scramble was held July 27<sup>th</sup> and crowned new Champions! The winning team of Captain Robert Lisk included Jake Herrera, Art Trost and Bobby Herrera. They scored 11 under par at The Centennial Acres Course tying a team captained by Tom Desantis. The Lisk team was awarded the championship based on lower scoring for the more difficult holes. The Robert Lisk Team was presented the Courthouse Square antique golf club traveling award signifying their victory from the Steve Rohdy Team, winners in 2017 and 2018. As the event ended, a member of the Steve Rohdy Team said, "We'll be back in 2020 to win that trophy!"

A total of 16 teams participated in the Golf Scramble supported by 36 sponsors and numerous door prize donors. Courthouse Square expresses appreciation to entire community in its support of the Golf Scramble. Funds raised from the golfing event will be used to repair concrete light pole bases on the south entrance of the historic 1885 Courthouse.





## HISTORIC COURTHOUSE COLLECTIONS

*This page will feature some of the historical donations to Courthouse Square Museum*

### Pet Milk company located at 421 Merritt Street in Charlotte



Pictured above, upper left is a model created by Richard C. Fleming and upper right is a photo of the original Pet Milk company located on Merritt street in Charlotte. The photo to the right is Don Stanke & dog Skippy standing by Pet Milk Company truck says 'Don Stanke and Skippy after making a Pet Milk delivery circa 1953. Don was Suzette Weaver's father and Skippy, her favorite dog.' Don is standing, holding the dog, outside an open door of a Pet Milk Company truck that also has 'Owned & Operated By Don Stanke' on the truck.



Don Stanke and Skippy after making Pet Milk delivery circa 1953. Don was Suzette Weaver's father and Skippy her favorite dog.

## The County Journal

241 S. Cochran Suite #1  
Charlotte MI 48813

Phone: 517-543-1099 Fax: 517-543-1993

### DAILY DELIVERY TO

Charlotte	Olivet
Bellevue	Pottersville
Eaton Rapids	Sunfield
Mulliken	Vermontville

# A BIG Thanks to our Sponsors!

Charles L. Green



*Your friends  
across the Square*  
206 W. Lawrence Ave.  
Charlotte, MI 48813  
Phone (517) 543-3160

Kiwanis of Charlotte



*Proudly Serving our Community*

430 S. Cochran Ave.  
Charlotte, MI 48813  
517-543-6794

*Kiwanis is a global organization of  
volunteers dedicated to improving  
the world One child and One  
community at a time.*

Charlotte Lions Club



100 W. Lawrence, Suite B  
Charlotte, MI 48813  
517-543-4240 or email  
Charlottelionsclub@gmail.com

*Lions meet the needs of local  
communities and the world everyday  
because they share core belief to serve  
their community."*



# EATON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## Fran Fuller shares her Centennial Memories



Fran Fuller brought in the "prairie" dress she wore back in 1963 when Charlotte was celebrating their Centennial Celebration! Below she is pictured, along with her family, wearing this same dress. It almost looks like a scene from "Little House on the Prairie" Thank you Fran for sharing!

Frank Pawli Family



## WWII Submarine Hammock



The hammock pictured above was issued to Charlotte native, Elwood King upon his service in WWII. He was a diesel mechanic on the USS DACE SS247 participating in 7 patrols and sank a Japanese heavy cruiser off Leyte in 1944.

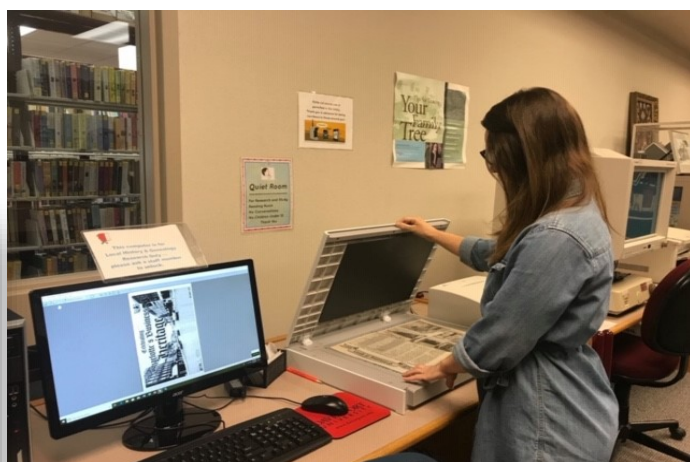
## 2019 Grant Recipient *Charlotte Area District Library*



Charlotte  
Community  
Library

The Eaton County Historical Commission is pleased to announce its second grant gift for 2019 is The Charlotte Public Library.

The Library requested money to purchase high quality scanning equipment to allow the contents of the Michigan Room to be digitized. This room contains a wealth of historical information that the library has worked years to accumulate and care for. Two scanners totaling \$ 2,465 will be located in Michigan room to facility the project. The commission is honored to be a part of this preservation effort.



Pictured above is the scanner purchased for the Michigan Room at the Charlotte Library

*If you know of an Eaton County non-profit who is actively preserving history and would like them recognized or possibly apply for a 2020 grant, please have them contact csamuseum@yahoo.com*



## FALL AND WINTER EVENTS

### COURTHOUSE SQUARE ANNUAL CEMETERY TOUR

Saturday October 6, 2019 - Tours at 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm



This years theme will be "Mysteries of Maple Hill", where you we will attempt to answer questions so many of you have asked during our other tours. We will also have a rare glimpse inside a historic vault. Tickets are \$5 per person with proceeds going to historical preservations.

Contact [csamuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:csamuseum@yahoo.com) or 517-546-6999 for details



*Lions Club, Courthouse Square & Charlotte High School Present.....*

## CHARLOTTE CHRISTMAS

**SATURDAY**

December 21, 2019

When: 4:pm-7: pm

**Come Join us at Courthouse Square for a night of Christmas cheer !**

\* Meet Santa

\* Snowballs

\* Live Reindeer

\* Walk around the North Pole



\* Horse Drawn Wagon Rides

\* Stories by the fire

\* Hot Cocoa

\* Fun for the entire family





*Let us help you make your dream of a perfect wedding down memory lane come true!*



Above is the restored Circuit Courtroom of the Historic 1885 Courthouse which is a perfect setting for a wedding! The Courtroom has a capacity for up to 180 guests as well as a dressing room for the bride. There are also other rooms available from one room to the entire building and grounds for your special event.

#### **RENTAL PRICING**

\$250 Historic 1885 Courthouse ( Above)

\$100 Historic 1845 Courthouse ( Below)



This Historic 1845 Courthouse offers a \$100 Wedding Special ( weekend access.)

This location is in a beautiful setting located next to Bennett Park and has a capacity for up to 80 people.

*Contact the CSA office today for reservations at:*

**Courthouse Square Association**

**100 W. Lawrence Ave. Charlotte, MI 48813 P.O. Box 411 Phone 517-543-6999**



**Eaton County's Museum at  
Courthouse Square**  
100 W. Lawrence Avenue  
PO Box 411  
Charlotte, MI 48813

WWW.CSAMUSEUM.NET



*Keeping History Alive on The Square!*

Courthouse Square Association is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Other times can be arranged for special events and by appointment.

**Museum Admission**

\$1.00 pp

Children 12 and under free

CSA Members Free

Group & Family rates available!

We are happy to make special arrangements with sufficient notice. Please call the museum office at 517-543-6999 for more information. You can always email us at [csamuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:csamuseum@yahoo.com).

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Eaton County Genealogical Society is also located in the 1885 Courthouse and is open Tuesday thru Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Call ECGS at 517-543-8792 for more information.

Other businesses located in the 1885 Courthouse include:

- ♦ ***Johnson's Framing***
- ♦ ***Ann Prater Attorney & Counselor at Law***
- ♦ ***Alpha Video & Computer Services***

Located inside the 1873 Sheriff's Resident adjacent to the Courthouse are:

- ♦ ***PotterVilla Applied Technology***
- ♦ ***Courtney Emerson, LMSW***

Remember to bring your family and friends to your favorite Museum!

*Printing of this publication provided by The County Journal*



# CHARLOTTE TRIBUNE.

## SPECIAL FIRE EDITION.

VOL. VII. NO. 48.

CHARLOTTE, MICHIGAN, WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 1894.

\$1.00 PER YEAR.

### The 4th of July

WILL BE CELEBRATED  
at Foote's Drug Store



this year as heretofore.

The 30 ft. Balloon

which now hangs in our show window, will be

"Sent up" at 7:30 o'clock July 4,

and the same will be presented to the finder.

For Fireworks of every description we are equipped better than ever to supply. Fire Crackers at wholesale and retail, from 5 cents per bunch to 35 cents apiece.

**GEO. W. FOOTE,**  
Druggist—Stationer.

### A COOL HEAD

is not more desirable  
in hot weather than

### COOL FEET!

RUSSET SHOES are more comfortable to wear because the leather contains less oil and does not hold the heat as does shoes of black leather. Besides, light colored shoes for Summer wear are in style.

We Have All the Latest Styles.

### ALBERT MURRAY.

OTTOMERE PERCHERONS  
...For 1894...

THE FAMOUS PERCHERON STALLION

Imported Constant,

The greatest sire and draft horse in Michigan, and

Imported Faust,

OUR FINE MOVING FRENCH COACH HORSE, will be found during the season of 1894 at the Baird House barn, and our

DETROIT EXPOSITION and WORLD'S FAIR PRIZE WINNER.

PRINCE-DE-CONDE,

together with JOHN L. SULLIVAN, will make the season at the farm.

The very moderate price for the services of these horses to insure a foal is \$50.00.

OTOT & FOSTER.

## FIRE

Eaton County's Beautiful Court House

Laid Low by the Fire Fiend.

Fully Half Its Value, Including Furniture, Destroyed.

THE RECORDS SAFE

The Insurance Will Not Meet More Than Half The Loss.

Eleven Years Ago To-Day,

July 4, 1883, the Corner Stone Was Laid.

Firemen and Citizens Worked Bravely.

The Tribune issues a 4th of July extra to make announcement of the sad fact to the people of Eaton county that the building which for the past decade has been their guide suffered a loss this evening by fire variously estimated at from \$25,000 to \$40,000. It is impossible as we go to press to state just what insurance there was on the building, but it is thought to be \$15,000 which, if true, shows that the insurance has been cut down considerably in recent

years. The vaults have not yet been opened so that the records cannot be got at, and regarding insurance we find in the proceedings of the board as printed in pamphlet form the following:

"The Fire Bell Sounded

a few minutes before six o'clock. The writer was celebrating (?) in his garden but quickly mounted his wheel and sped for the scene of terror. As he came within sight of the massive building the smoke was emerging from the west end of the roof and as a strange coincidence the clock striking for the last time, struck six and stopped immediately thereafter. There was a melancholy sadness in those tones which appeared to be almost human in the utterance. The author of "Our Grandfather's Clock" could have written something very nice about the dear old court house clock which for more than a decade has faithfully and unerringly proclaimed to thousands of people the time of day or night. "It will be a sad day when the clock strikes six and the building is being painted had nothing to do with the fire."

"The Records Safe

would turn aside from the sad side of the picture to remark that the bell "went out on a strike" along with the workmen. At length it stopped just at the time workmen do, "at six o'clock p. m." It was "tied up" long after striking, for the wind carried the fire to the south-east and soon the beautiful dome was ablaze. The statue of Liberty like a very martyr seemed, as she held her scales aloft with steady hand the while her frame was being consumed by the ferocious elements, as if to pronounce a benediction upon the people, as with vanishing form, she bade them a silent and sorrowful adieu. Soon a crash came and the 6,000 lb. bell fell thundering into the basement. Rumored that it is not broken and we may yet hear it speak. The corner stone of the court house was laid with imposing ceremonies on the 4th day of July, 1883, and it is a little singular that the fire should occur on the same eventful day. The original cost of the building and furniture was about \$70,000 and its value before the fire can hardly be said to have been less as the expenses of building were carefully guarded and there were no leakages. That building committee was composed of the following gentlemen: Frank A. Harker, Am. E. Warren, George N. Potter, Philip Leonard and Charles Hall, each of whom will feel this loss as one peculiar to himself. What a joyous occa-



Eaton County Court House.

sion it was when the event of the completion of the court house was celebrated by a public dinner with toasts and all the other things connected with such an affair. One thing very noticeable was the fact that this city is not fully equipped for such a fire.

"Supervisor Benedict, as a committee to look up the matter of insurance on county buildings, submitted a verbal report."

We have authority for supposing that the insurance stands at \$12,000 at the present time and our opinion is that this with \$5,000 additional will replace the loss. The beautiful building is a shapely mass of ruins compared to its former fine proportions and architectural finish as shown in the accompanying cut. It is probable that the board of supervisors will be convened in special session soon, perhaps before the loss is adjusted, to take measures to repair the damages. While these are severe we must congratulate the people of Eaton county over the fact that their records are safe. It is enough to make one shudder to consider the great amount of risks that these records have been made to undergo in the past when they were kept here and there any place where cheap room could be had to receive them. A great load of care was lifted from our people when the new vaults were completed and the records safely lodged therein. How well they have served their purpose! We feel rather to congratulate our people upon the safety of their public records than to deplore the comparatively insignificant loss when measured by what the loss of such records would be.

How the Fire Originated.

It will probably never be known how the fire originated, but the most reasonable theory we have heard advanced is that it was a case of spontaneous combustion. It will be remembered that there were three eagles on the court house, one at each of the south, west and east gables. The fire was first discovered by S. H. Sleater, who was about twenty feet distant at work on his job of painting the building. It was directly under the west eagle and it is supposed that material gathered inside of that figure ignited by spontaneous combustion. That it did not catch from cloth containing oil, is apparent for the reason that the particular point where the fire started had not been touched by the painters at all, and the eagle still stands as proof of the fact that the old paint had not even been scraped off. It is probable that a person had been granted allowing the building to be painted but that point we failed to get. It should make no difference anyhow for it is very plain that the fact that

the building was being painted had nothing to do with the fire.

The fact is painfully apparent that several improvements are badly needed at the waterworks, not the least of which is two for three more wells. One of the old wells is practically useless and the other two are taxed to their utmost to supply even the ordinary demands of the large and constantly increasing number of water-takers. During the fire the pumps were drawing a mixture of water, sand and gravel, so low was the supply in the wells, and the force of the streams from the hose at times was seriously diminished on account of the sand and gravel. The city engineers also advise the purchase of a new set of pumps for the waterworks and fire hundred ten of hose for the fire department.

Eaton County Census.

County Clerk Hamilton has received all the returns from the enumerators except those from Eaton Rapids City. From figures made very hastily Tuesday afternoon we get the following which will be found to be approximately correct. Of course these figures are liable to be changed a trifle. We give the population for 1901 and 1900, also the loss or gain for each locality.

How the Fire Originated.

Random station, between Bellevue and Battle Creek, will be known hereafter as Pendle.

### Embers From The Blaze.

The board of supervisors meet tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

It was a prophetic display that would on our fourth of July program.

Much of the furniture was of a stationary kind and could not be taken out.

Fireman George Moll cut a gash in one of his hands in breaking a window.

The firemen were refreshed with sandwiches and coffee after their labors were ended.

S. H. Sleater, who had the contract for repainting the building, loses about \$150 in work and material.

The Tribune always seeks to give its readers first news of all important events.

George H. Fowler made good use of his kodak at the fire. He took views from different points and at different stages of the conflagration.

The steamer drained the fire cistern at the corner of the courtyard in one hour. Then a stream from a hydrant was turned in and kept the supply going.

Chief McCall, of the Wichita, Kan., fire department, a brother of Prosecutor McCall, was in the city and lent valuable assistance in fighting the flames.

The old Sibley steamer had not been warmed up before since the Bellevue fire. By the way, it would be a good idea to put and keep it in repair for emergencies.

Mayor Merritt, the county officials and most of Charlotte's lawyers were in the thickest of the fray at the fire and their efforts were ably supported by the citizens generally.

Several narrow escapes from falling embers, but luckily there was no one injured—a fact largely due to Chief Donovan's good sense in refusing to allow his men to jeopardize their personal safety.

Clerk Hamilton and Treasurer Smith will have their offices temporarily in the county building south of the court house now occupied by the superintendents of the poor and county drain commissioner.

George W. Foote's balloon was sent up at the advertised hour and attracted considerable attention notwithstanding the fire. It sailed gracefully in the direction of Duck Lake as if taking an aerial view of the route of the proposed Albion and Charlotte railway.

If the account of the fire is a little rambling we may be excused when you know that half a dozen types were matching the sheets as fast as written. Nero fiddled while Rome was burning but the Tribune force lent their assistance as long as anything remained for them to do. A fire fire then hustled off to get the matter in type.

The fact is painfully apparent that several improvements are badly needed at the waterworks, not the least of which is two for three more wells. One of the old wells is practically useless and the other two are taxed to their utmost to supply even the ordinary demands of the large and constantly increasing number of water-takers. During the fire the pumps were drawing a mixture of water, sand and gravel, so low was the supply in the wells, and the force of the streams from the hose at times was seriously diminished on account of the sand and gravel. The city engineers also advise the purchase of a new set of pumps for the waterworks and fire hundred ten of hose for the fire department.

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How the Fire Originated.

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### Shooting Accident.

Guy Rowley's right arm is in a sling. While carelessly handling a revolver on the morning of the "glorious fourth," preparatory to a little celebrating, the ball was discharged taking effect in his right wrist. It followed the bone and came out at the elbow.

### BORN.

MASTEN—To Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Masten, on Wednesday, June 27, a 12 pound boy.

PARISH—To Mr. and Mrs. Charles Parish, Thursday, June 28, a daughter.

COOPER—To Mr. and Mrs. Pearl Cooper of Watton, Sunday, July 1, a ten pound son.

STOWE—To Mr. and Mrs. Bert Stowe of Henry street, Saturday, June 30, a son.

### Gun Reception to The Club.

Mrs. Jennie Gunn gave an informal

shoot on the 4th of July at her home on Foote street Monday evening, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. George E. Gunn, Miss Georgia Emery of Belknap, a teacher in the Muskegon schools, and Mr. H. H. Curtis assisted in receiving the guests, while Mrs. W. H. Seaborn of Vermontville and Miss Genevieve Squier did honors in the dining room. The house was elegantly decorated with many Jane flowers and Baughman & Berger's orchestra discoursed sweet music throughout the reception hour, 8:30 to 9:30 o'clock. Ice cream and cake were served. As stated in these columns last week, the marriage of Mr. Gunn and Miss Cole occurred at Muskegon last Wednesday evening at the home of the bride's father, Warren Cole, a prominent contractor of that city. Mr. Gunn is a special agent of the state labor bureau and is well known throughout the state. The Tribune unites with a host of friends in wishing himself and wife unbounded prosperity. They will reside with their mother, Mrs. Jennie Gunn, and are now "at home" to their friends.

### Marriage License.

E. E. Horner, Eaton Rapids.

Corra G. Springer, Eaton Rapids.

Richard Drumm, Dimondale.

Florence Tibbels, Albion.

George Peck, Delta.

Celia Haddadon, Delta.

Harris H. Stinson, Portland.

Mary Perry, Oshtemo.

Arthur E. Hall, Brookfield.

Kittie A. Fordham, Brookfield.

The census just completed shows a population in Charlotte of 451 against 388 in 1900. This is a trifle more than 12% per cent increase or over one-eighth in four years. Pretty good for our little city isn't it? There are 122 houses in Charlotte and 124 families. The families average only 3.55 persons each. The population by wards is as follows: First, 65; Second, 167; Third, 182; Fourth, 127.

### Real Estate Transfers.

Ellen D. Smith to Russell W. Kenney per Grand Ledger	100
Robert B. Davis to Frank A. Gould per Grand Ledger	60
Brooklyn A. Carlton to Charles C. Wheeler 40 a sec 28 Windsor	180
Harriet Boody et al to Geo. H. Sawyer 40 a sec 19 Hamilton	30
Frank Francis to Wm. Ramsey 40 a sec 19 Hamilton	75
Allen C. Burton to Stephen A. Washburn et al per Eaton Rapids	10
Harriet Cummings to L. E. Turner et al 10 a 11 and 12 1/2 Sec 24 Com. Sub. Co.	45
Joseph K. Moss to Eaton Pathological per Grand Ledger	20
John A. Walker to Wm. H. 1862 1 a sec 20 Brookfield	100
Wm. J. Ramsey to Albin Williams 10 a 10 1/2 Sec 24 Windsor	60
John R. Gibbs to Peter C. Leisinger per Eaton Rapids	50
Samuel M. Zimmerman to Daniel W. Zimmerman per Charlotte	60
Miranda K. McCallin to Wm. P. Vile et al 10 a 10 1/2 Sec 24 Vermontville	120
Miranda K. McCallin et al to Wm. P. Vile et al 10 a 10 1/2 Sec 24 Vermontville	120
Wm. P. Vile et al to Miranda K. McCallin per Charlotte	120
Daniel Buel to Hiram C. Buel 1 a sec 11 Chester	20
The Charlotte Improvement Co. to 10 a 10 1/2 Sec 24 Windsor	75
Stinson Wells et al to 10 a 10 1/2 Sec 24 Windsor	75
James Austin to Andrew J. Halstead et al per Grand Ledger	90
Andrew J. Halstead et al to Ernest E. Mendel et al per Grand Ledger	100
George G. Sisco to Joseph N. Self per Oliver	100
Wm. D. Curtis to Ira Knowles et al 1 a sec 24 Sunfield	120
Charles W. Nottingham to Daniel H. Hays 20 a sec 13 Chester	100
Daniel Hays to Mary Nottingham 20 a sec 13 Chester	100
Loss Loomis to David F. Stani et al 10 a sec 4 Vermontville	200
David F. Stani to Hanson H. Loomis et al per Charlotte	150
David F. Stani to Hanson H. Loomis et al 10 a sec 4 Vermontville	100
Charles L. Hampton to Ernest A. Rice per sec 1 Chester	100
John W. Grant et al to Jane A. Fay 50 a sec 14 Eaton	140

Charlotte Market.	
Wheat, per bu	1.00
Oats, per bu	.75
Corn in ear, per 70 1/2	.45
Barley per 100	1.00
Eye per 100	.25
Potatoes	1.10
New potatoes	1.20
Hogs dressed per cwt	2.30
Hogs, alive	2.00
Beams per 100	30.00
Straw per load	2.00
Hay, clover	4.00
Hay, timothy	3.00
Calf skins per 2	.02
Reggs per doz	.10
Butter, per lb	.10
Chicken, dressed per 2	.10
Eggs	.02
Lard	.05
Tallow per 2	.05
Wool, unwashed, per lb	.10
Wool, washed, per lb	.15

Wanted—New editorial in all the papers, more serious from all the pulpits, more thinking from every father and mother in regard to the surrendering to whisky when it is practically on the road to a quick death in Eaton county if duty is done.

Awarded Highest Honors World's Fair.

## DR. PRICE'S

### Cream Baking Powder.

The only Pure Cream of Tartar Powder.—No Ammonia; No Alum.  
Used in Millions of Homes—40 Years the Standard.



# FIRE

**Eaton County's Beautiful Court House  
Laid Low by the Fire Fiend.  
Fully Half Its Value, Including Furniture,  
Destroyed.  
THE RECORDS SAFE.  
The Insurance Will Not Meet More Than  
Half The Loss.  
Eleven Years Ago Today,  
July 4, 1883, the Corner Stone Was Laid.  
Firemen and Citizens  
Worked Bravely.**

The Tribune issues a 4<sup>th</sup> of July extra to make announcement of the sad fact to the people of Eaton county that the building which for the past decade has been their pride suffered a loss this evening by fire variously estimated at from \$25,000 to \$40,000. It is impossible as we go to press to state just what insurance there was on the building, but it is thought to be \$12,000 which, if true, shows that the insurance has been cut down considerably in recent years. The vaults have not yet been opened so that the records cannot be get at, and regarding insurance we find in the proceeding of the board as printed in pamphlet form the following: "Supervisor Benedict, as a committee to look up the matter of insurance on county buildings, submitted a verbal report."

We have authority for supposing that the insurance stands at \$12,000 at the present time and our opinion is that this with the \$15,000 additional will replace the loss. The beautiful building is a shapeless mass of ruins compared to its former fine proportions and architectural finish as shown in the accompanying cut. It is probable that the board of supervisors will convened in special session soon, perhaps before the loss is adjusted to take measures to repair the damages. While these are severe we must congratulate the people of Eaton county over the fact that their records are safe. It is enough to make on shudder to consider the great amount of risks that these records have been made to undergo in the past when they were kept here and there any place where cheap room could be had to receive them. A great load of care was lifted from our people when the new vaults were completed and the records safely lodged therein. How well they have served their purpose. We feel rather to congratulate our people upon the safety of their public records than to deplore the comparatively insignificant loss when measured by what the loss of such records would be.

## How the Fire Originated.

It will probably never be known how the fire originated, but the most reasonable theory we have heard advanced is that it was a case of spontaneous combustion. It will be remembered that there were three eagles on the court house, one at each of the south, west and east gables. The fire was first discovered by S. H. Sleater, who was about twenty feet distant at work on his job of painting the building. It was directly under the west eagle and it is supposed that material gathered inside of that figure ignited by spontaneous combustion. That it did not catch from cloths containing oil is apparent for the reason that the particular point where the fire started had not been touched by the painters at all, and the gable still stands as proof of the fact that the old paint had not even been scraped off. It is probable that a permit had been granted allowing the building to be painted but that point we failed to get. It should make no difference anyway for it is very plain that the fact that the building was being painted had nothing to do with the fire.

## The Fire Bell Sounded

a few minutes before six o'clock. The writer was celebrating in his gardens but quickly mounted his wheel and sped for the scene of terror. As he came within sight of the massive building the smoke was emerging from the west end of the roof and as a strange coincidence, the clock speaking for the last time, struck six and stopped immediately thereafter. There was a melancholy sadness in those tones which appeared to be almost human in the utterance. The author of "Our Grandfather's Clock" could have written something very nice about the dear old court house clock which for more than a decade has faithfully and unerringly proclaimed to thousands of people the time of day or night. — "It will never go again", and seemed to sounding its own funeral knell". Possibly such author would turn aside from the sad site of the picture to remark that the bell "went out on a strike" along with the workmen. At length it stopped just at the time workmen do "at six o'clock p.m." It wasn't "tied up" long after striking, for the wind carried the fire to the south-east and soon the beautiful dome was ablaze. The statue of Liberty like a very martyr seemed, as she held her scales aloft with steady hand the while her frame was being consumed by ferocious elements, as if to pronounce a benediction upon the people, as with vanishing form, she bade them a silent and sorrowful adieu. Soon a crash came and the 6,000 lb. bell fell thundering into the basement. Rumored that is not broken and we may yet hear it speak. The corner stone of the court house was laid with imposing ceremonies on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1883 and it is a little singular that the fire should occur on the same eventful day. The original cost of the building and furniture was about \$70,000 and its value before the fire can hardly be said to have been less as the expenses of the building carefully guarded and there were no leakages. That building committee was composed of the following gentlemen: Frank A. Hooker, Asa K. Warren, George N. Potter, Phillip Leonard and Charles Hault, each of whom will feel this loss as one peculiar to himself. What a joyous occasion it was when the event of the completion of the court house was celebrated by a public dinner with toasts and all the other things connected with such an affair. One thing very noticeable was the fact that this city is not fully equipped for such a fire. At such times all is excitement and everyone thinks he sees just the way to move. Some of the firemen were absent from the city but their places were promptly filled by volunteers. It soon became very evident that the streams of water which were so weak as to only reach the eaves were making but little headway, or rather were fast losing ground is the unequal struggle and someone suggested that men should be sent on the roof and the water poured down into the seething cauldron. By this time the statue of Liberty was being wrapped in flames and it wasn't a very inviting job. As men were called for to undertake this perilous task there was a general glancing about to see who would go, each man looking away from himself. A Tribune representative got excited at that point and yelled for heroes, "Men are in each others' way. Here now, we want heroes for that job." He had an inward warning to mount the ladder and climb to fame at a few bounds but the motto about its being better to be a live coward rather than a dead hero got the start of him. As we said in editorial in this week's regular issue, "Great crises produce great men" and so it was in this case as the rest recoiled. Mr. W.P. Engel of the electric light plant, scaled the wall and soon stood upon the roof. Clarence Horn, one of the painters on the building soon duplicated Engel's act and the multitude cheered lustily. Chief Donovan had began to climb the ladders to work on the roof when the crowd called for Engel and Horn to come down as the flames were breaking through and it looked as though their means of escape would soon be cut off. Engel was in no hurry but contested the last inch and dexterously slid down the ladder

when finally forced to do so. The building and contents were insured from '84 to '87 at \$30,000, from '87 to '90 at \$10,000 and from 1890 to 1893 at \$12,000, \$10,000 on building and \$2,000 on furniture. In 1893 the insurance was not changed and the property was re-insured in good companies for the last named amounts. The city library which had a room in the basement also carried \$900 insurance. Abstractor Smith saved his books all right. The offices in the first story were damaged more by water than by fire.

## Embers From The Blaze

The board of supervisors meet tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

It was a pyrotechnic display that wasn't on our fourth of July program.

Much of the furniture was of a stationery kind and could not be taken out.

Fireman George Moll cut a gash in one of his hands in breaking a window.

The firemen were refreshed with sandwiches and coffee when their labors were ended.

S. H. Sleater, who had the contract for repainting the building loss about \$150 in work and material.

The Tribune always seeks to give its readers first news of all important events — hence this extra edition.

George H. Fowler made good use of his Kodak at the fire. He took views from different points and at different stages of the conflagration.

The steamer drained the fire cistern at the corner of the courtyard in one hour. Then a stream from a hydrant was turned on kept the supply going.

Chief McCall, of the Wichita, Kan. fire department, a brother of Prosecutor McCall, was in the city and lent valuable assistance in fighting the flames.

The old Silsby steamer had not been warmed up before since the Bellevue fire. By the way, it would be a good idea to put and keep it in repair for emergencies.

Mayor Merritt, the county officials and most of Charlotte's lawyers were in the thickest of the fray at the fire and their efforts were ably supported by the citizens generally.

Several narrow escapes from falling embers, but luckily there was no one injured — a fact largely due to Chief Donovan's good sense in refusing to allow his men to jeopardize their personal safety.

Clerk Hamilton and Treasurer Smith will have their offices temporarily in the county building south of the court house now occupied by the superintendents of the poor and county drain commissioner.

George W. Foote's balloon was sent up at the advertised hour and attracted considerable attention notwithstanding the fire. It sailed gracefully in the direction of Duck Lake as if taking an aerial view of the route of the proposed Albion and Charlotte railway.

If the account of the fire is a little rambling we may be excused when you know that half a dozen typos were matching the sheet as fast as written. Nero fiddled while Rome was burning but the Tribune force lent their assistance as long as anything remained for them to do. The five then hustled off to get the matter in type.

The fact is painfully apparent that several improvements are badly needed at the waterworks, not the least of which is two or three more wells. One of the old wells is practically useless and the other two are taxed to their utmost to supply even the ordinary demands of the large and constantly increasing number of water-takers. During the fire the pumps were drawing a mixture of water, sand and gravel, so low was the supply in the wells, and the force of the streams from the hose at times was seriously diminished on account of the sand and gravel. The city engineer also advises the purchase of a new set of pumps for the waterworks and five hundred feet of hose for the fire department.