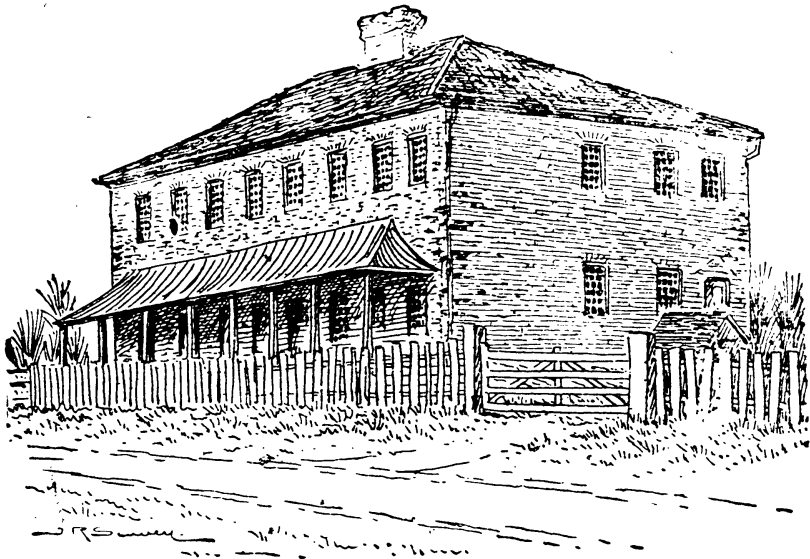


contractor and became responsible for the building of large sections of the Michigan Central railway. He fixed up the old homestead, put a brick front on it, and there his family lived until grown up. Hamilton's wife was a Miss Gage, daughter of William Gage, whose home is on the town line to the west, near the Union schoolhouse. Both he and his good wife are still living, he being 75 years old and she two years younger.

* * *

In those days of the past there were

the north is the Fenton homestead, and it isn't at all likely that the general public knows that there, in a low lying piece of ground, is a gas well that to this day supplies the Fenton house with heat and fuel. In connection with the well a good story is told. Years ago some master mind conceived the idea that if he bored far enough on the Fenton property he would strike oil. A company was formed and boring began. After a time, however, no oil being struck, and funds running low, the shareholders did not want to produce the neces-



TERRYBERRY'S BIG HOTEL.

no burying grounds, such as are now known, and it was a common custom for every family to have its own burial place somewhere on the farm. The Ryckman burial ground is to be seen yet, a little to the north of the homestead, and the many tombstones there of members and friends of the family and connection are mute evidences of a past that in this day can hardly be understood, much less appreciated. At one time the Ryckman burial ground and that other one of the old Barton church were the only two in the country round.

* * *

Next to the Ryckman homestead to

sary cash for further exploration. Then the cunning manipulators of the scheme poured coal oil down the hole, pumped it out again, and shouted: "We have struck oil." Of course more money was at once forthcoming and boring went on again. Finally, however, when the hole was down many thousands of feet, the job was given up as a bad one and the hole plugged. One day it was opened again, and a flow of gas noticed. From that time till now it has proved a source of profit and pleasure to the Fenton family. There are all sorts of mineral waters on the property, and it may be there will some day be a fortune on the place for its owner.

J. E. W.