

some openings in the Institution lands and around the residence of Weldon Harris. Across the creek the Bevan flats were in crop. Another person (Bevan too, I believe) had lately broken upon the forest in North Dresden, and Josiah Henson had under fence and bearing a crop of vegetables and potatoes, a piece of ground about the site of the market reserve, and where at work, at hoeing operations he had employed several of his young black-eyed Southern colored proteges. In the bush, across the fence near by may have been observed the Scotchman splitting rails, of whom Josiah naively tells, was a splendid "niggah" and the best rail splitter he ever had or saw. There were two or three streets in name—Main, which saving the numerous deviations from the straight line, to avoid stumps and quagmires, followed pretty much the line of the present street; Metcalfe Avenue ran now in front instead of in rear as at first of Lindsley's log barn, following the present line to Blackwood's store and the ferry. George street possibly might have been passable for teams. Wright still carried on store at Fairport, as did another firm Gilmore & Morton, at another point. Kirby's Hotel was in full blast, as well as Blackwood & Baxter's celebrated store. Hosea Purdy had just opened out in the Fretz House, opposite "Kerby's," and Jas. Webster in the house adjoining, and where again, south and next, a relic of the early VanAllen tavern still remains. At the north west corner of Main street and Metcalfe Avenue, Windover (not W. H.) was preparing for the erection of the present Cragg House. But beyond a small store near the site of the bridge kept by a colored man, another house about the site of the present Horning Hotel, and possibly a few other straggling houses about Main street and Fairport there were none other—saving of course those at the Institution consisting of mills, Institution House, and several cabins near by. It is true, quite a settlement of colored people were located in the immediate neighborhood, beyond the town limits. Indeed in the picture of that day the colored man was a prominent feature and factor in its not very promising foreground.

The next decade saw little improvement in the material progress of the prospective town. In the early part Mr. Wright added to its industries by the erection of a saw mill on the site of the present foundry, and a little later, Craig & Howard a second one, on the site of the present Trerice mill. John Young put up the frame building subsequently kept by Mr. Hollingsworth as an ice cream house, known under the attractive designation of the Sweet Briar Cottage. Geo. Webster erected another in what is now Dr. Galbraith's garden; and part of the present Tiffin or "Shaw" House was erected by a colored man of the name of Whooper or Whipple, an owner of considerable Main street property, about the same time. But the period was rich in other associations. In 1854-55 was established the first Common School—a small frame—located on the lot on which the Corporation is now erecting the new Fire Hall, and commenced its teachings amongst the unenlightened young, under the civilizing rod of the exacting task master. In the same year or thereabouts also arose heavenwards a neat and rustic little Congregational Church, a little above Fairport, under the ministrations of the Rev. Wm. Clark. In this period, also came to the fore several of the best known citizens: R. Kimmerly, and particularly the worthy mayor, Mr. Trerice—who, in 1856, erected the house now occupied by Isaac B. Webster—and in the expiring years, J. H. Johnstone and Peter H. Kitchen. Mine host of a trinity of occupations—medicine, bailiff and host—Thomas West, occupied the Cragg House and dispensed good, cheer and possibly pills, but not yet summonses. In this decade also occurred the ghost escapade.

That Dresden should have a ghost story is probably not generally known, but the fact remains, nevertheless. And why not? Baldoon had its "Sny