



West Bloomfield, the township of lakes and gentle hills, is one of transformation from wilderness beginnings and the domain of the Indian for some 12,000 years to agricultural prominence, to vacation dreams and summer resorts, to now established suburban living. The natural beauty and resources of its residents have played a key role in its growth.

Since its earliest settlement, these residents have been deeply committed to education as the key to passing on their heritage and preparing their children to shape the future of our township. *Peal of The Bell* chronicles the community's history to carry that mission into the 21st Century.

This report includes a virtual exhibit of photos and documents of the history of the schools serving children living in West Bloomfield, Michigan. Like other more traditional museum exhibits it combines original artifacts and primary documents with text, captions, and analysis to help the reader understand the importance and significance of these items.

This presentation allows you to enlarge images for closer inspection or readability because we believe that a picture is worth a thousand words. You might want to focus on people's faces to see if you recognize them or to examine their expression. Perhaps you want to study clothing styles, penmanship, or advertisements of the day. These images also help you to visualize the environment of the scene and place yourself within it. Many of the pictures in this exhibit are actual original documents and artifacts produced by the people who made the history of West Bloomfield Schools. Examining them will bring you one step closer to the events that shaped our current school system.

Part 1: Peal of the Bell: 1800s to Early 1900s



You are reading Section 10: Farming In West Bloomfield

Be sure to read the entire Part 1 report covering these early years:

Section 1. History of the School System

Early Commitment to Education
Territorial Commission of 1805
School Districts – Full and Fractional
Laws Establish Schools
Education from 1820 – 1900
Rules For Teachers 1827

Section 2. Pine Lake Elementary School

Early Settlers Drawn To Pine Lake
First Schoolhouse Near Pine Lake - 1828
Second Pine Lake School 1855 – 1948
Pine Lake 1958 – 2011 Close
Pine Lake Sabbath School

Section 3. Scotch Elementary School

First Scotch School 1829 – 1853
Second Scotch School 1853 c. - 1926
Third Scotch School 1926 – 1950s

Section 4. Walnut Lake Elementary Schoolhouse

Residents Wanted Their Own School 1872
New and Larger 1936 – Close

Section 5. Green Elementary School

Green Family Influences A Community 1866 – 1900
Green School: Lessons To Learn
School Days at Green 1900s
A New Green School 1948

Section 6. Early Years: Other Schools -1800 – 1900s

Children Could Attend Many Schools
Hosner School
Pennell School
Ward Eagle School
German School
Levi Green School

Section 7. Daniel Whitfield Elementary School

Fractional District 6 Established 1851
Daniel Whitfield School 1852 – 1894
Daniel Whitfield School 1894 – 1927
Was There A Hammond School?
Daniel Whitfield School 1927 – 1991 Closing
Fond Memories From Principals.
Mary and Her Little Lamb Painting – Roy Gamble

Section 8. The Keego Harbor School

Little Community Needs School 1914 – 1920s
Post-8th Grade Education
What Every Good Teacher Must Know 1912

Section 9. DUR Brings Changes

Section 10. Farming In West Bloomfield

Farming In West Bloomfield

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AN OPPORTUNITY TO SECURE A HIGH BRED JERSEY COW.

We will EXCHANGE a two-year-old registered JERSEY HEIFER of the very choicest breeding—fresh in January last—for a young SHORTHORN COW to come in this spring. Must be a good one. Address

THE ELLIOTT STOCK FARM,
Southfield, Oakland Co., Mich.

SHEEP.

RAMBOUILLET, U. S. A.—10 rams and 10 ewes. Registered, for sale. Thomas Wronoff, importer and director of breeding, Orchard Lake, Mich.

LINCOLN Sheep and Chester White Swine. Either sex, and all ages for sale. Write or come and see me. **A. H. WARREN, Ovid, Mich.**

SHROPSHIRE HALL STOCK FARM has on hand a few choice imported yearling and two-year-old rams, imported ram lambs and yearling and two-year-old American bred ewes and rams. Personal inspection invited. **L. A. DUNHAM, Orono, Mich.**

HOGS.

IRON SALE.—Large Egg, Berkshire, Longfellow, & Wagon strains. King of Good's Farm, Mass. Prices reasonable. **V. E. HACKNEY, W. L. MORRIS, Mich.**

IF you want a nice **POLAND-CHINA**, or **B. P. E. Cookerels**, write me for Bargains.
WILLARD FERRY, Hastings, Mich.

Ads from *The Michigan Farmer*. 1899. Like the *Sears Catalogue*, the *Michigan Farmer* offered help for domestic needs on the farm.

Because they knew how to how to read, West Bloomfield farmers could learn about the science of agriculture and their children could prepare for entry to an agricultural school like the Michigan Agricultural College which ran from 1855 – 1925 c.

All but one of the families in the area were of Scottish descent when the first Scotch School was built and sheep farming was a skill these settlers brought with them. From 1850 to 1880 sheep & wool production nearly tripled.

“Many people will remember the last vestige of farming in West Bloomfield being the sheep that grazed on area farms. Sheep were significant in the West Bloomfield farm scene as almost 49,000 pounds of wool were produced in the township in 1880. Oakland County was a major Michigan producer of sheep and wool during the nineteenth century . . . including the highly prized Rambouillet breed.”

Source: “*Our History Remembrance of Pleasant Lake*” by - Gina Gregory & Robert Gregory, pub.1997

Farming was the main occupation of West Bloomfield residents until the second half of the twentieth century. Early settlers planted corn, wheat, hay, rye, oats, potatoes, and assorted garden vegetables. Livestock, primarily horses, cows, and sheep, was always important for livelihood. Horse breeding was quite popular at one time and horse farms are still in evidence in the township. Later the farming expanded to include orchards of apples, peaches, and cherries. The apple trees which were here before the white settlers were thought to have been planted by French missionaries or to come from seeds brought by the Indians from the French settlers in Detroit. Peaches were first planted in the 1890s but never achieved the popularity of apples due to a blight that wiped out almost the entire crop. A severe tornado in 1877 uprooted many apple trees in the Orchard lake area and blight wiped out some of the orchards shortly after the turn of the century.

HELP WANTED

Applications taken now for
Fruit Harvesting on or about
September 1st.

Physically fit men, ages 21 to
45, sober and responsible, for
full or part time work.

— Register Here Now —

Help wanted sign - Albo Green Farm



R. Mason in shed door, L. Golinski leaning on trailer and Leona Mason on tractor at the William V. Mason Farm 1942, one of the largest producers of fruits and vegetables in West Bloomfield