

RURAL ORGANIZATIONS AND
INSTITUTIONS OF THE
GRAND LEDGE COMMUNITY

THESIS FOR THE DEGREE OF M. A.
Verne Allen Stockman
1931



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Grand Lodge, Mich.
Social conditions
Social surveys

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Sociology

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OF THE
GRAND LEDGE COMMUNITY

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Verne Allen Stockman

1931

Approved by

Edna H. Houghton

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Problem

This is a study of the rural organizations and institutions in the Grand Ledge community. It includes a discussion of the history, homes, neighborhoods, schools, churches, farm organizations and the economic phases of the community. The primary interest is in agricultural education and the economic factors of farm life. The special interest of the study is the relationship of this community situation to the agricultural students.

The Method of Study

There is a combination of the historical and case methods with some use of the statistical method in this thesis. Part of the results are from the participant-observer point of view. This is one of the newer types of observation in Sociology and is best described by Lindeman in Social Discovery.⁽¹⁾

"..... The participant observer is one who

1. Is a part of the group being studied
2. Has vital interests involved in the group's activities
3. Provides the exterior or outside observer with the facts of the group's activities

(1) Lindeman, E. C. - Social Discovery, page 192.

4. Provides the outside observer with facts bearing upon the categories utilized in the study
5. Presents criticisms of the categories
6. Discovers new categories as emergencies of the groups changing activities
7. Corrects conclusions of the outside observer from the viewpoint of one whose interests are at stake."

The writer has been in the area $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, since February, 1928. As a teacher of Agriculture in the high school, director of club activities in the rural fields, and as a graduate student in sociology he has been able to gather the data by going over the territory and by participating in some of the social groups. He has been in every neighborhood a number of times, interviewing leaders of organizations, farmers, grade and high school students, teachers, ministers and other prominent people. The number of people interviewed relative to the problem exceeds 500. Some of the data was gathered by the Agricultural students of the Agricultural department of the high school who are located in the different parts of the community. In each case these are verified by information of older adults in the community or the writer. The economic data was taken from the records of the Farm Management Department of the Michigan State College. These records are summaries of farm account books that have been kept as a record of business transactions in the year 1929.

Other Studies

Probably the first studies along this line have been

conducted by C. J. Galpin when at the University of Wisconsin and published in his book Rural Life. These were followed by Professor Kolb's Studies of Rural Primary Group, which were conducted at the Wisconsin University also. Morgan and Howell at the University of Missouri have made studies on rural population groups. In town and country relations the two most important conclusions have been made by Professor Kolb at the University of Wisconsin⁽²⁾ and Dr. C. R. Hoffer at Michigan State College.⁽³⁾ None of these studies have considered in detail the relationships of the country boy and girl to the community situation. None have studied especially the vocational agricultural student in high school with respect to his environment. The closest to this approach has been a study in Bulletin 82 by the Federal Board of Vocational Education, "Effectiveness of Vocational Education in Agriculture". This is a study of the value of Vocational Instruction in Agriculture in Secondary Schools as indicated by the Occupational Distribution of Former Students. The revised edition, includes interpretation of occupational surveys for the period 1922-27.

The studies in Michigan that resembled most closely this one is the thesis of Mr. G. H. Burt on the area around Byron⁽⁴⁾ and the study of the Laingsburg area made by Mr. J. L. Prescott.⁽⁵⁾

- (2) Kolb - Bulletin 50, Rural Primary Groups, University of Wisconsin.
- (3) Hoffer, C. R. - Bulletin 208, Services of Institutions and Organizations in Town and Country Communities, Michigan State College. Bulletin 207, Public Health and Educational Services in Michigan, Michigan State College.
- (4) Burt, G. H. - A Sociological Analysis of the Byron Community.
- (5) Prescott, J. L. - A Study and Analysis of Meetings of Town and Country People in the Village of Laingsburg, Michigan.

The Meaning of Neighborhood and Community

Dr. Hoffer uses the following definition of a community in his book "Introduction to Rural Sociology",⁽⁶⁾ "a group having one or more common activities and experiences, and occupying a definite area". Thus a community is a social grouping in which the members of the group receive the largest majority of their services and commodities from within that area. For example, the community should have a twelve grade school. A ten grade school is inadequate for the reason that pupils who desire a high school education must spend the last two years at a four-year high school in some other community. It should have a bank, a hardware store, the various farm machinery companies, the service organizations such as a Chamber of Commerce, shipping associations, and marketing associations. It should have the smaller social groupings, that the community wants, such as the religious, fraternal, and educational. All of these are necessary to satisfy the daily and ordinary needs of the people.

The neighborhood differs from the community in that it is characterized by primary, intimate, face to face relationships and supplies only one, two, or rarely more than three of the economic and social demands. The rural church, to some extent, is yet a neighborhood grouping as is also the rural school and perhaps some stores. Professor Kolb⁽⁷⁾ describes it as "that first grouping beyond the family which has social significance and which is conscious of some local unity. This definition

(6) Hoffer, C. R. - Introduction to Rural Sociology, p. 45.

(7) Kolb, J. C. - Rural Primary Groups, Bulletin 51, University of Wisconsin, pages 5 and 6.

follows quite closely Professor Cooley's formula for the general primary group.⁽⁸⁾ The rural primary group is essentially a sociological concept yet for objective purposes of description and measurement geographic areas and terms may be effectually used. The neighborhood defined by the standardization committee of the American Country Life Association as "that geographic group of farm families having some local cohesion".⁽⁹⁾ This seems to come nearest the conception of the neighborhood as used in this study and indicates that the neighborhood is a primary group. In most cases it does not attempt to supply the fraternal organizations or the needs of the individual as to all of food or clothing. It is, however, a rather intimate grouping of those individuals, who inhabit a certain region. The area, in most cases, is determined by soil which furnishes the basis of a livelihood some organization, or some strong family or families.

In the days of the horse and buggy the face to face grouping could not extend much farther than the horse and buggy could take the farm people in an hour or two's time and back. With the advent of the automobile, there have been changes in the social groupings in rural areas. The smaller unit such as the neighborhood has broken down and an enlarging of the horizon to the community is taking place. High school students now think nothing of going twenty-five or fifty miles with an automobile

(8) Cooley, C. H. - Social Organization, page 23.

(9) Proceedings First National Country Life Conference
(Baltimore 1919) p. 128.

for an evening's entertainment. This places them in either poor social environment or in groupings that have very little immediate effect upon the individual. The radio develops interests outside the neighborhood. One can now listen to Europe. Organizations are sensing the community viewpoint and plan their programs along these lines.

But in spite of these forces many neighborhoods are finding themselves and they have an important socializing influence which should be continued. The neighborhood continues to exist where there is some organization or institution to foster it. The most common of these is the school. The church is another strong neighborhood center. For example, in five out of the eight neighborhoods in Grand Ledge area the church is the strongest neighborhood influence. These characteristics of neighborhoods are well illustrated in the Grand Ledge Area.

The Grand Ledge Community

Settlement was made in the southern part of the area in 1837. Eagle of the community was settled a few years earlier. In January or February of 1837 Solomon Russell cut his way through ten miles of forest from Eagle and landed in Oneida township. Soon after that the Strange family settled in the Southwestern part and the Nichols family in the southern part. They arrived within a few days of each other. Stephen Grogen was one of the first settlers in Eagle township. The rest of the community settled very rapidly after that. By 1850 Grand Ledge was a small town

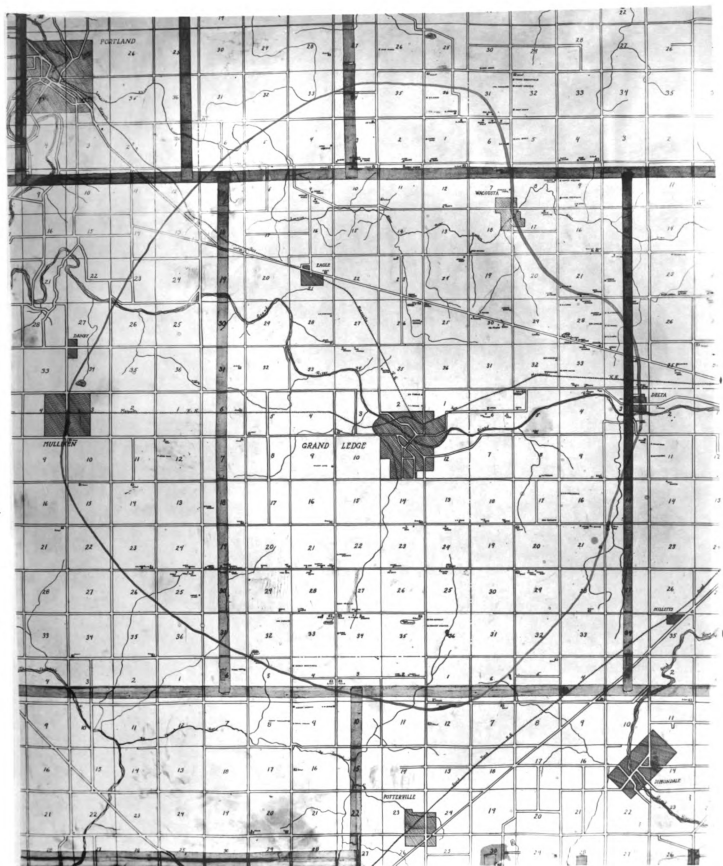


Figure I. - A map of the Grand Ledge Community. The Area exceeds 125 Square miles.

and the whole area was fairly well inhabited.

The present size of the Grand Ledge community exceeds one hundred and twenty-five square miles. The boundary lines as shown in figure one are determined by the people who get most of their services at Grand Ledge. The size of the area depends upon three things: First, the area from which students came to the Grand Ledge High School. Second, the area from which most of the people bank at Grand Ledge. Third, the area from which most of the people came to Grand Ledge for services such as medical, dental, hardware, oil and farm machinery.

The Grand Ledge community lies in parts of three counties: Eaton, Clinton, and Ionia, Oneida township, parts of Delta, Roxand, Benton and a very small part of Windsor in Eaton county, belong in the community. Eagle and Watertown townships, in Clinton county and a part of Danby township in Ionia county are also included within the community.

To the north is a Catholic settlement, Westphalia, whose people remain very much to themselves. North and West is Portland, a rather progressive town. West is Sunfield with a good High School and a trade center. To the South and West is Charlotte, the county seat, and to the East is Lansing.

The soil is predominately a Miami clay loam. Most of it is fertile either from the natural state or from good farm practices. North of the Grand River is a strip of sand which has an unstable population. Very few high school students have come from that area. There are areas especially in the western part of the community that require rather extensive drainage but the land in that section is among the best.



The new \$160,000 High School Building at Grand Lodge, Michigan.

The area from which the High School students come to this school determines the Grand Lodge Community.

The population of the community is around 8,000. The last Federal Census, 1930, gives the population of Grand Ledge City as 3,572. The population of the incorporated city of Grand Ledge increased from 3,043 in 1920 to 3,572 in 1930, or a gain of 529 inhabitants. The population tributary to Grand Ledge has probably increased about the same. There has been a loss in population on the western side since Sunfield has been developing. This may have lessened the total population figure to some extent.

The people of the community are predominately native-born Americans of German descent. There are very few foreigners. As far as Eaton County is concerned no foreign-born group, with the exception of the Canadians, constitutes as much as one per cent of the total population.

The Grand Ledge community is affected by the city of Lansing in that a great many people work in Lansing and live in the out-lying villages and towns. Eagle and Delta Mills have a number of these people. Grand Ledge, at one time last year, had nearly one hundred men working in Lansing. If it is assumed that each one of these men had a family constituted of four persons, it would mean that four hundred people in Grand Ledge receive their income from Lansing.

Grand Ledge has several industries which employ a number of men. The approximate number for each industry is as follows:

Industry	Men employed
Grand Ledge Clay Product	72
American Vitrefied Products - Plant No. 22	72
Grand Ledge Face Brick Co.	60
Grand Ledge Chair Co.	100
Grand Ledge Furniture Co.	50
Crawford Furniture Factory	75
(A branch of a Grand Rapids Factory)	
Arctic Dairy	25
Ferndale Dairy	6



Grand Ledge Clay Products Co., Grand Ledge, Mich.



56640-C

LEDGE OF ROCKS, GRAND LEDGE, MICH



56639-C



L210

SPIT
GRAND LEDGE

Besides these there are several small plants employing from one to ten men at various times and seasons.

Stores and Marketing Facilities

There are most of the types of stores that a community needs at Grand Ledge. It must be said, however, that a great many people buy their clothing, furniture, and some groceries in Lansing.

There are twelve groceries in Grand Ledge, two hardwares, four barber shops, two men's clothing stores and two women's, two shoe stores, two bakeries, two banks, two seed stores, three implement companies, two wholesale oil distributors, one jewelry store and several other confectionary, cigar, and other small stores.

As a market for farm produce, there is a cooperative grain elevator, a cooperative livestock shipping association, as discussed in Chapter VI. These are augmented by local buyers of livestock, meats, eggs, wool, etc. There are five dairies in Grand Ledge, one of these the Arctic Dairy, buys about one half of the whole milk around Grand Ledge. The rest is hauled to Lansing. Cream and eggs are sold to Grand Ledge cream stations. Since Lansing is only about ten miles away a great many of the farmers' products are sold there. These include truck crops, milk, livestock, meat and eggs.

The Type of Farming and Farm Income

There are a total of 725 farms in the Grand Ledge community. The predominate type of farming is general, with especial emphasis on dairying. This is due to the nearness of a large milk market at Lansing. There are milk tank trucks that go to Detroit from the area. There are a number of truck farms, but they occupy a small percentage of the total land. Their presence is explained by the Lansing market facilities. The population of the farms constitute more than one-half of the population of Grand Ledge community. Farm business is vital to Grand Ledge and its outlying villages. It is the basic income for the farm people and contributes to income of other groups in the community. Farm incomes are also a fair index of the business ability of the operators. Their incomes are therefore reflected, not only in the standards of living but in the quality of the families and in their leadership in the community.

Grand Ledge lies within the area No. 5 as is shown in the Farm Management Department bulletin on Types of Farming. (10)

Area 5 is a general farming area covering a central portion of Michigan as is shown on Map No. I.

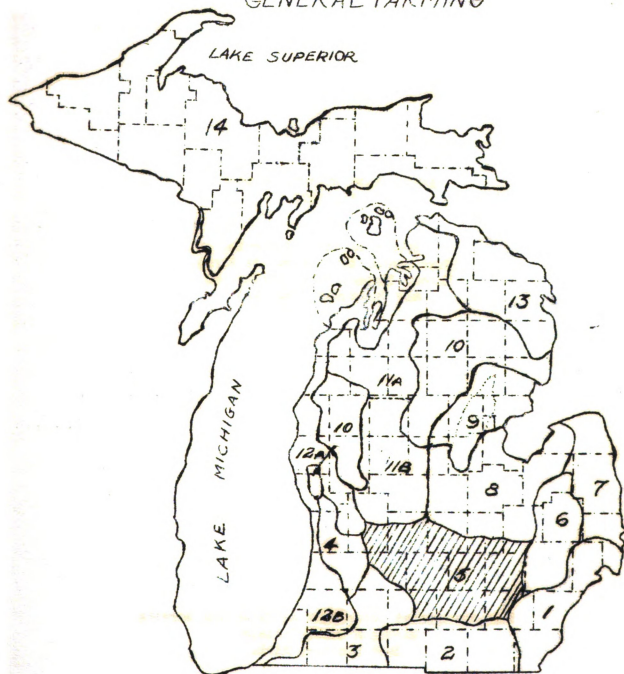
Seventy-two farmers located in this area kept financial records in the Farm Accounting Project of the Farm Management Department for 1929 had an average income sufficient to leave

(10) Special Bulletin 206 - Types of Farming in Michigan, Hill, Riddell, and Elliott.

TYPE OF FARMING AREAS IN MICHIGAN

This report for Area 5 (Shaded)

GENERAL FARMING



Map I.

MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE
of Agriculture and Applied Science
and
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Cooperating

ANNUAL FARM BUSINESS REPORT
for 1929

Area 5 -- General Farming
(Represented by 72 farms in Barry,
Eaton, Ingham, Kent, Livingston
and Washtenaw Counties)

Farm Management Department -- Extension Service
Michigan State College
East Lansing, Mich.

\$497 each as pay for the operator's labor, management and risk after deducting all operating expenses and five percent on their investment. This is called the Labor and Management Wage. The one-third of these farmers who made the best returns had an income sufficient to pay them an average of \$1485 for their labor and management; while the one-third who were least successful lacked an average of \$595 of having enough income to pay expenses and five percent on the investment, allowing nothing for their labor and management.

It should be emphasized that the income secured by these farmers does not represent the average income of all farmers in the area. It is believed that these operators average above the rank and file of all farmers since they are progressive and business-like enough to keep accounts and submit them to the college for summarization. Undoubtedly their incomes averaged above the average of all farmers. This belief is substantiated (11) by the results of studies made in other states. Since the Farm Management Department considers seventy-two farms of area 5 as being typical of the better business, twenty-five of these farms within Grand Ledge community, it is logical to conclude that the twenty-five farms are a fairly accurate picture of the farm business of the better farmers of this community.

In Table No. 1 is a list of the twenty-five farms arranged in order of farm profits as denoted by labor and management wage.

(11) Farm Management Mimeographed Reports 1929.

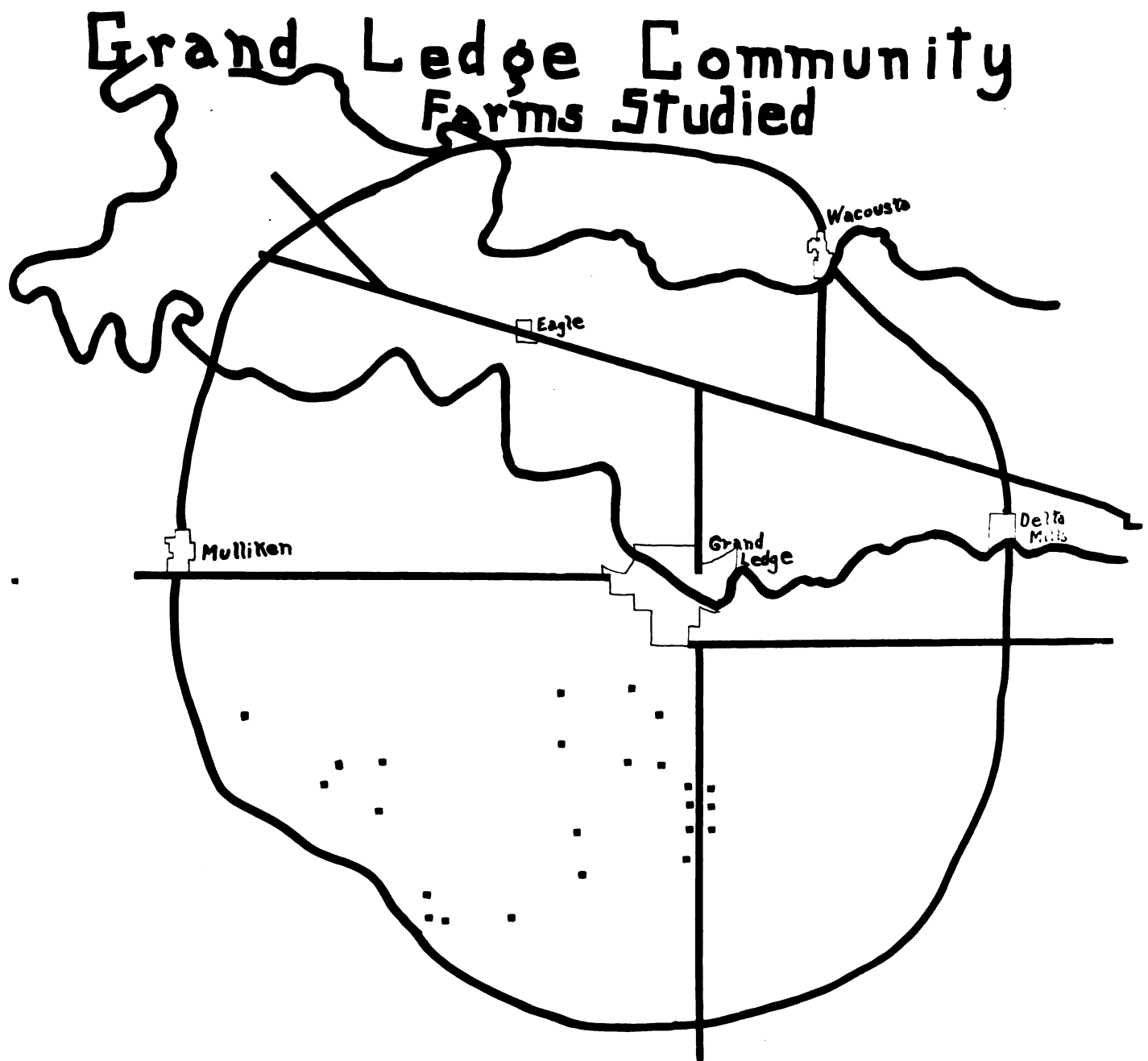


Figure 2. The Location of the 25 farms of the Farm Income Survey.
These were taken from the 72 farms as used in Area 5.

Table I

An Array of the Twenty-five Farms in Order of Labor and Management Wage.

Farm No.	Labor and Mgt. Wage	Investment	Acres	Percent return on investment
Group I. Labor and Management Wage \$900 up.				
4	\$3,932	\$21,837	190	9.5
7	3,594	17,500	120	21.4
1	2,468	25,146	200	12.0
2	2,380	23,107	239	10.0
5	2,359	20,027	200	10.0
14	2,104	11,142	175	17.4
24	1,866	5,764	139	rented 99 acres
6	1,713	19,328	150	
20	1,470	8,092	80	14.5
17	1,424	9,675	80	12.3
13	1,381	10,792	100	
25	1,207	4,206	40	16.5
21	1,070	7,194	83	9.9
15	1,065	10,290	80	8.4
19	994	8,210	100	8.3
8	981	16,757	139	6.6
16	967	10,049	86	7.5
12	919	11,803	158	6.6
Group II. Labor and Management Wage \$500 to \$899.				
10	898	12,656	130	6.4
11	868	11,950	110	6.3
18	671	8,551	98	
22	655	6,904	80	4.1
9	551	16,685	135	4.0
Group III. Labor and Management Wage \$499 down.				
23	255	6,208	42	
3	198	22,484	180	

It is to be noted that twenty-three of the twenty-five are above the average of the area in labor and management wage which was \$497 and more than half were twice as high. The average of \$1,740 for Grand Ledge farms is above the average of the highest group of Area 5 which is \$1,485.

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Relationship between total investment and Labor and Management Wage on the twenty-five farms is as follows:

Size of Investment	Number of Farms	Labor and Mgt. Income - Ave.	Range
Over \$20,000	5	\$2,267 2,785	\$198 - \$3,932*
\$10,000 - \$19,999	11	1,367	551 - 3,594
Under \$10,000	9	1,068	255 - 1,866
<hr/>			
Total	25	5,220	198 - 3,932
Average		1,740	255 - 3,932

Summary Area 5 - A general farming area including Eaton, Clinton and Ionia County.

*Omitting farm No. 3 with a Labor and Management Wage because the variation is due to management factors and not investment.

The average Labor and Management wage for the twenty-five farms is more than three times as high as the average for the area; that is \$1,740 for Grand Ledge, as compared with \$497 of the whole area.

The following table adds the number of acres to this data. Since the increase in size of investment is usually accompanied by an increase in acreage they have been added here. The reason for their division into their respective groupings is to make it comparable with the area.

Relationship of Labor and Management Wage and Investment to Acres.

Size of Farm	Number of Farms	Labor & Mgt. Wage - Ave.	Investment	Range
100 or less	11	\$1,014	\$8,116	42 - 100
101 - 180	10	1,369	14,607	110 - 180
181 or more	4	2,784	22,524	181 - 239

Total	25	5,167	45,247	
Average		1,722	15,082	

Area 5	72	497	20,161	\$2439 - \$3022

These figures show that the Grand Ledge community is above average in Labor and Management wage. Also it is to be noted there is a much less investment than is given for area 5. The investment in Grand Ledge is \$15,053 as compared with \$20,161 for the area.

The foregoing data warrants the statement that the farmers cooperating in the study of this community are better farmers than the average in area 5 though these twenty-five farms are somewhat above the average of the community in income, they are so typical that it leads one to the conclusion that the farmers of the Grand Ledge community as a whole have better than the average incomes. This fact is evident in the surveys of the homes which show a relative high expenditure for conveniences. It is also shown in Chapter IV on education in the advancement expenditures for education, in Chapter V on the support of churches and in Chapter VI on Farm Organizations. It is also shown by the business of Grand Ledge stores and the quantity of merchandise bought by farmers.

CHAPTER II

RURAL HOMES

Homes in the Grand Ledge community are typical of the better farm homes in lower Michigan. Most of them are painted and occasional efforts have been made at landscaping. Quite often the yards are fenced to keep the live-stock out, and the lawn is mowed with a mower. One misses the sight of machinery sitting promiscuously about the premises and live-stock running loose in the yards. Since the area is well supplied with power lines as is shown in Figure 3, the majority of the homes are provided with the conveniences of electric lights, power for heavy work, a telephone, radio, etc. In these homes a fair amount of good reading material is usually found. In most cases parents are interested in their children and try to promote their welfare. Very few parents keep the children out of school to do farm work and most of them are deeply concerned as to their scholastic achievement. It may be stated with safety that the farm homes in the Grand Ledge community are above the average of rural homes insofar as family life, household conveniences, and farm surroundings are concerned.

In order to secure more detailed information about the Grand Ledge homes, a questionnaire was circulated among the students in the high school. (See appendix for copy of questionnaire.) These questionnaires were answered by members of the writer's classes in agriculture. The answers pertained to the students own homes and to those immediately around them. This,

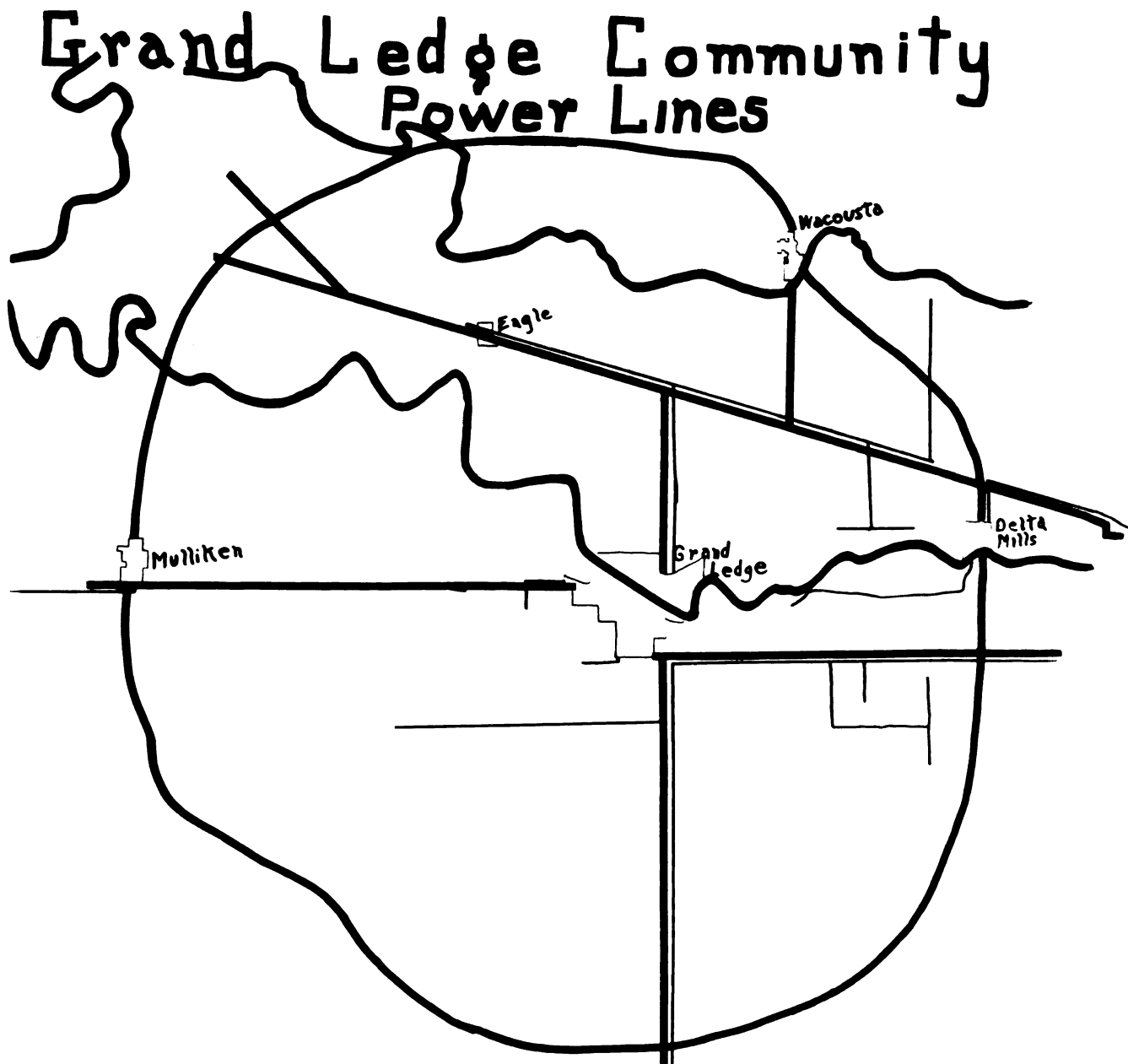


Figure 3. The Location of the power lines in the Grand Ledge Community
There are new lines being added every month.

therefore, is a fairly accurate survey since the students live in all parts of the community, and secured information from farms nearest them regardless of their condition. When there were any irregularities in the questionnaire the whole questionnaire was discarded.

The final sample included 121 farms with a total number of 509 people in the survey. Seventy-five per cent of the farms were owned by the operator. These had an average acreage of 147.7 acres. Twenty-five per cent were renters. Nineteen per cent of the 121 farms owner-renters. Twenty-six per cent of the farms had been in the family two or more generations. Only eight per cent of the owners had inherited land. The average period of residence of families for all of the farms combined was 21.4 years. Nineteen per cent of the farms specialized in some one type of product such as truck gardening, seed growing, specialized live-stock growing, etc. The average number of children per family excluding farms with only one man on the farm and having no other members in the family, was three. This sample of 121 farms is out of a total of approximately 725 farms.

The detailed figures regarding modern conveniences in these homes are presented in the following table.

TABLE II

Percentage of 121 farm homes that have various kinds of modern conveniences.

Convenience	Grand Ledge	Percentage Michi-gan(3)	South Dakota(1)	Iowa(2)
Running water	35	15	21	
Electricity from power line	24			
Electricity from home plant	11			
Electricity from power line or home plant	34		25	26
Gas lights	6		16	
Gas or electric lights	40	8	41	
Gasoline lights	37		8	
Gas Stove	4			
Bath with tub	26		15	19
Septic tank or sewage disposal	33			
Central heating system	49		26	26
Telephone	79	49.8		
Power for heavy work in home	75			
Refrigeration	25			
Screens	99			

(1) Bulletin No. 247 - The Use of Time by South Dakota Home Makers, p. 21 (data from 100 farms)

(2) Bulletin No. 237 - Cost of Living on Iowa Farms, p. 22 and 24.

(3) Census Abstract - 1920, page 749.

The above data shows that in the Grand Ledge community with the exception of the telephone, there are more farms that have conveniences than reported in the other studies.

This is explained by the power lines entering the area to such an extent and by the fact that they are so near a large town that they see the value of the conveniences. (See figure 3.) Most of the electrical lines have been put up within the last few years. These years have been unprofitable from the standpoint

of income due to the low prices of farm products of this area, and to the adverse weather conditions. It is doubtful whether most of the farms that have been electrified have many of the electrical appliances.

In making a study of rural homes one is obliged to consider chiefly the outward manifestations of family life. The weakness of this method consists in the fact that sometimes a house is not an accurate indication of the type of home life which exists in it. It would be safe to say, however, that generally improved homes have a favorable influence on personality and leadership in the farm organizations. This, without a doubt, plays an important part in the lives of those who are members in these organizations. It appears from the questionnaire that the longer a family lives on a farm and the greater the number of generations that a farm is owned by one family, the greater is the probability of the house being improved. The best example is the Strange family to be discussed later.

Quite often modern conveniences in a house have more effect upon the children than upon adults. If a mother has to carry water into the home and the daughter observes the amount of labor required to do this, it is often an incentive for her to leave the farm and thus escape possibly so much hard work. Mothers and fathers often say, "I do not want my daughter or son to have to work as hard as I have." Perhaps that is a poor bit of reasoning on the part of parents toward their children, but the absence of conveniences often cause them to reason in this manner.

It is interesting to note that 17% of the 509 people in the 121 families sang or played some musical instrument. Fifteen families had three or more who played some instrument or sang. Twelve families had two members each who participated in some form of music. Twenty-six families had one person who was able to play a musical instrument or sing. There is no record of those who participated in drama. The writer knows of ten country groups who gave plays this last winter. The number participating in each group varied from three or four to as many as thirty. It would be conservative to say that at least 100 participated in dramatics this last winter. It is also true that often if the members of the family are musicians or artists, this fact has had an effect upon the younger members of the family both in teaching them the arts and in placing a stronger emphasis on the home relationship.

Finally, long observation and acquaintanceship with families in this community permit the following deductions to be made:

1. Many families have stayed in the community. This is shown by intermarriage and the great numbers of families bearing the names of the original settlers.

2. Many of the families have been associated with educational and religious movements.

3. The majority of the present families maintain the traditions and attitudes of the predecessors toward rugged honest work, education, recreation, spiritual values, advancement, and leadership. The strength of these families is indicated by the large number of family reunions held each summer. These are well attended, the group often numbering over 100.

Examples of Certain Families

In order to show in detail the characteristics of families in this community, two representative ones are considered. The first is the Nichols family.

This was one of the first families that settled in the neighborhood, which is now known as Canada Settlement, getting its name from the original home of these early settlers. The following from Durant ⁽¹¹⁾ is the earliest record of the Nichols family.

"In the month of June, 1839, the population of the township was increased by the arrival at the Canadian Settlement of Freeman W. Nichols and a family of eleven persons, with Samuel Nixon, then a lad, and a hired man named John Brown, all from London, Canada West. The trip was made with four wagons and a drove of cattle and swine, which Mr. Nichols' sons, George W. Nichols, was deputed to drive. The journey was attended with the usual adventures, and they finally rested in a log cabin eighteen feet square, which had been built for them by Mr. Nichols' brother. The building had no floor and was rather small for the accommodation of twelve persons. Me. Nichols' sons, Jason and George, made a trip to mill in the fall after their arrival, getting twenty-five bushels of wheat at Capt. Scott's where now is situated the village of DeWitt, and going with it to Wacousta to get it ground in the small mill at that place. This mill contained a single "run" of stone, without bolt or screen. Four days after leaving home they started on their return, and met with numerous adventures on the way, the streams being high and facilities for crossing them not numerous, but finally reached home in safety".

(12)

From other sources we find that this family was one of the earliest. The first school district was organized here and the teacher married Jason Nichols. They became parents of a family of teachers, lawyers, and bankers who are famous all over

(11) Durant, S. W. - A History of Ingham and Eaton County, p. 496.

(12) Strange, Daniel - A History of Eaton County.

central Michigan. It is also interesting to note that from this family in the third generation, probably from George, were other prominent lawyers and bankers. George Nichols was one of the three brothers who came from Canada and helped establish the early Canada Settlement. This family is disappearing rapidly as there does not seem to be any younger children and the present generation are well along in years. The writer knows of six or eight deaths in the last few years.

At one time the neighborhood in which this family lived was very strong but at the present time there are no direct descendants of the Nichols family in the neighborhood and there are very few descendants living. Probably due to this fact more than any other the Canada Settlement has ceased to exist as a neighborhood and the P.T.A. remains the only organization to show where once there was a strong neighborhood consciousness.

Strange Family

The second family to be considered is the Strange family. Into Oneida Township in about the year 1836 and about the same time the Nichols family came into the Canada Settlement, John Strange and his brother George Strange with a man by the name of Peter M. Kent came into the area that is now known as the Strange neighborhood. This family developed one of the strongest neighborhoods in the whole community. The original family assisted by two other families started a Presbyterian church which has been in existence since 1848. This church is now active when rural churches in many areas are disappearing, probably due to the interest of the Strange families. The church has never closed its doors.

Three sons of the original John Strange family graduated from Michigan State College. At present one of these is the oldest living graduate of this college. Six of the second generation are college graduates, two at Michigan State College, two at Olivet, and two at Alma. More people of this neighborhood went to high school and college than in the nearby neighborhood and probably more than any other neighborhood in the Grand Ledge community.

At present in the fourth generation there are five from the immediate Strange family who were graduated from the Grand Ledge High School. The farm settled by the original John Strange is now owned by two cousins, John B. Strange, a graduate of Michigan State College, and Monty Strange. John B. Strange at present has a large farm of 360 acres containing large fruit orchards, a big herd of well-bred Holstein cattle and a fine woodlot. His son-in-law, a graduate of the Agricultural Department of the high school, is in charge of the crops and fields. They also hire two other men regularly and during the rush season, several more. Monty Strange does not have as large a farm but has an outstanding herd of Holstein cattle. His sons both graduated from the high school Agricultural Department and one took the two year farm short course at Michigan State College. At present both are in partnership with their father on the home farm.

The McMullen family, of which George McMullen is the father, is related to the Strange family by marriage. At present there is one boy of this family in Veterinary Science Division of Michigan State College, and another who was graduated from the Agricultural Department of the high school. There is also a girl

in high school and other children in the grade school.

In this neighborhood the Oneida Center Grange was organized and will be discussed in a later chapter, Chapter VI. In the neighborhood where this family lived the institutions flourished. The Strange church is the strongest open country church in the community. The Grange is the strongest Grange in the community. The school and P.T.A. are well developed. In all these organizations the Strange families were active.

Conclusion

These paragraphs include the general character of the families in the community. Not all of them are as exemplary as these, but in general they are a responsible and conscientious farm people. There are few divorces and there is little of the "wishwash" in the moral attitudes of the people. The families are more of the cooperative type.

CHAPTER III

NEIGHBORHOODS

In the Grand Ledge Community there are seven distinct neighborhoods. Of these, Strange, Delta Center, Partlow, Johnson and Cole are open country neighborhoods, and Eagle, Mulliken and Wacousta are hamlet or village neighborhoods. The Strange, Wacousta, Eagle, and Delta neighborhoods are centered around the church and school. The trade organizations have more influence in Mulliken although it has a church and a ten grade school. The Cole and Partlow-Johnson neighborhoods are centered around the school, Parent-Teacher Associations, and a community hall which was once a church.

In the last few years the Parent Teachers Association has come into the community. This tends to make each school having such an organization a neighborhood center. Just what effect this will have upon the rural people is problematical. It is the writer's opinion that it may be an indication of a back-to-the-smaller grouping basis.

Strange Neighborhood

The Strange neighborhood is probably the strongest open country neighborhood in the community. From the neighborhood map, figure 4 it will be seen that this neighborhood includes a large portion of the southwest corner of the Grand Ledge community. As pointed out in Chapter I this neighborhood was first settled in 1837. In 1847 the Presbyterian Church was organized. This church has been a nucleus both for the development of leadership and of other organizations in the neighborhood. The writer

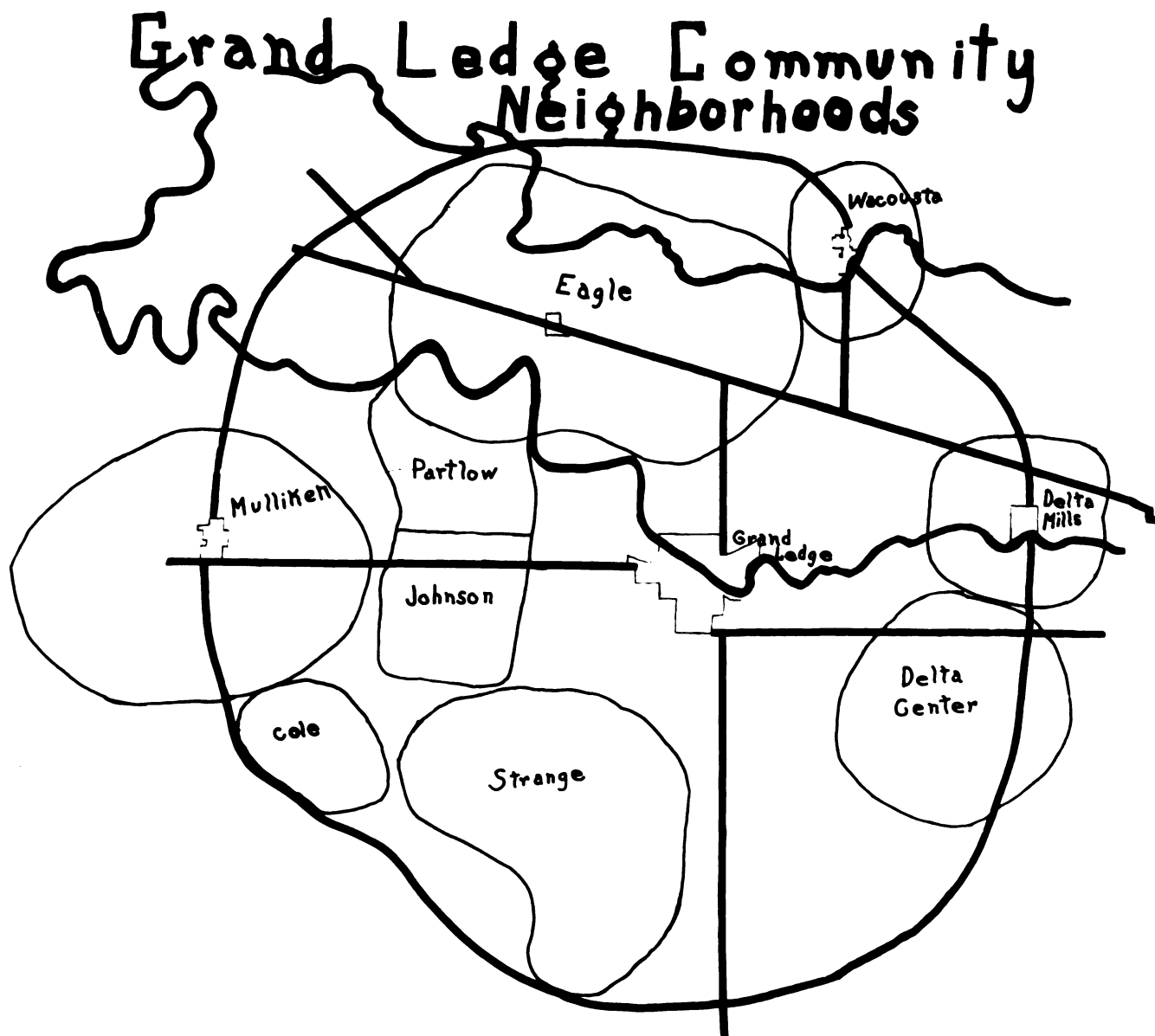


Figure 4. The Location of the Neighborhoods in the Grand Ledge Community. Outside the family this is the most important face to face grouping.

has never seen any organization have the "hold" upon a neighborhood as does this Presbyterian Church upon the Strange neighborhood. Its influence is manifested in many ways. One evidence is the fact that many people who were members of this neighborhood have held positions of leadership. Another indication is the good farms and the fine farm families. This neighborhood has not decreased in size but at the present time is absorbing part of the Cole neighborhood which is now almost dead; it is also absorbing part of the Canada settlement. The Strange and McMullen families are the leaders in this neighborhood. John B. Strange was the first master of Oneida Center Grange, The nationality of the people has always been that of American Stock. The size of the area is approximately ten square miles.

This neighborhood has two well developed institutions, the school and the church. The school is a one room building with standard qualifications. The teacher has been a member of the neighborhood since childhood and hence knows its traditions. The church has been established a long time. Its date of organization was 1849. It has continued without any trouble up to the present time. The church as will be mentioned, has maintained traditions of leadership. The accompanying photographs give some idea of the structure.

The membership is about sixty with the parish numbering about one hundred. But the amazing thing is the number of young people associated with the church which is again traceable to the fact that there always have been traditions of leadership in the neighborhood organizations. Some of the other organizations in the neighborhood are the cemetery association, the Gleasons, and the township political organization.

STRANGE AND COLE NEIGHBORHOOD

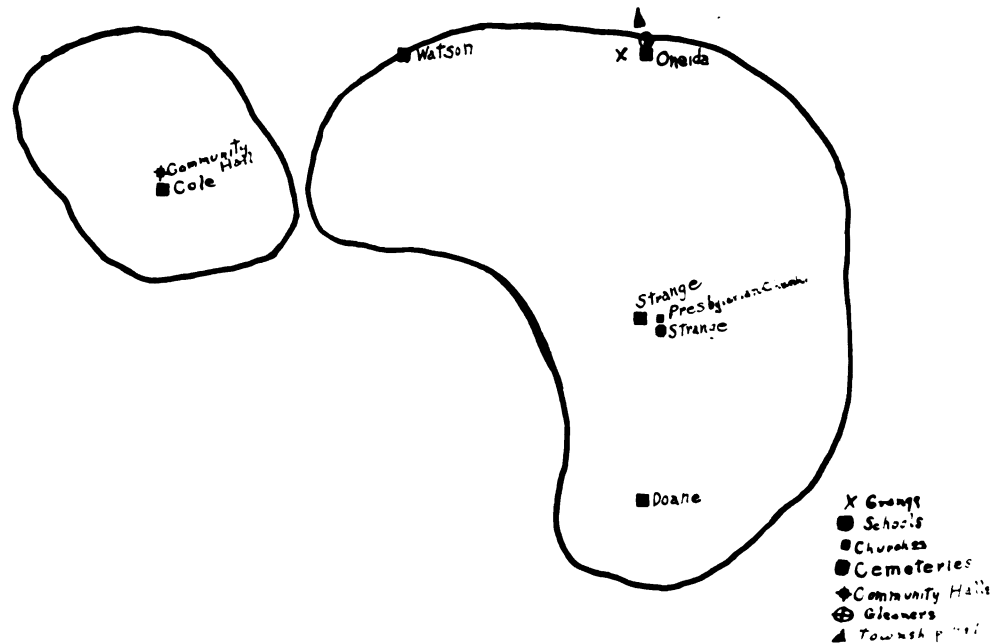


Figure 5. The Location of organizations of the Strange and Cole neighborhoods. The Strange neighborhood is the strongest open country neighborhood in point of influence in the Grand Ledge Community.



The
Strange
Church
and
Parsonage

The Canada -
Settlement School.



The
Strange
School

Eagle

Next in size and period of longevity is the Eagle neighborhood. Previous to the time that settlers entered from the southern portion of Michigan into Eaton County, the plank road from Detroit to Grand Rapids had been built. On this road, stationed at the little stage coach stop of Eagle, was a professional landlooker. He first came in there to locate railroad ties and since Eagle is on a railroad, he stayed and built up a small neighborhood.

Three of the early settlers were Robert McCrumb, Fred Balsem, and a Mr. Pangton. In 1870 Mr. McCrumb gave the land and most of the lumber for an M. E. Church. Before the church was done his daughter died and the neighbors laid robes over the roof of the church to keep the snow out during the funeral. This seems to be the only organization that has been maintained continuously since it was started. A little later, in 1892, a Universalist Church was built, but by 1920 the church was dead and has not been used since except for funerals. A little later there was a chapter of Oddfellows organized which soon died. The writer was unable to locate any other organizations which had grown up during the time. There is a Cooperative livestock shipping association that has been active up until the last year or two. There are two stores, a black smith shop, two garages, and a depot. The latter is the property of the Pere Marquette Railroad. The trains have ceased to stop for passengers here, however.

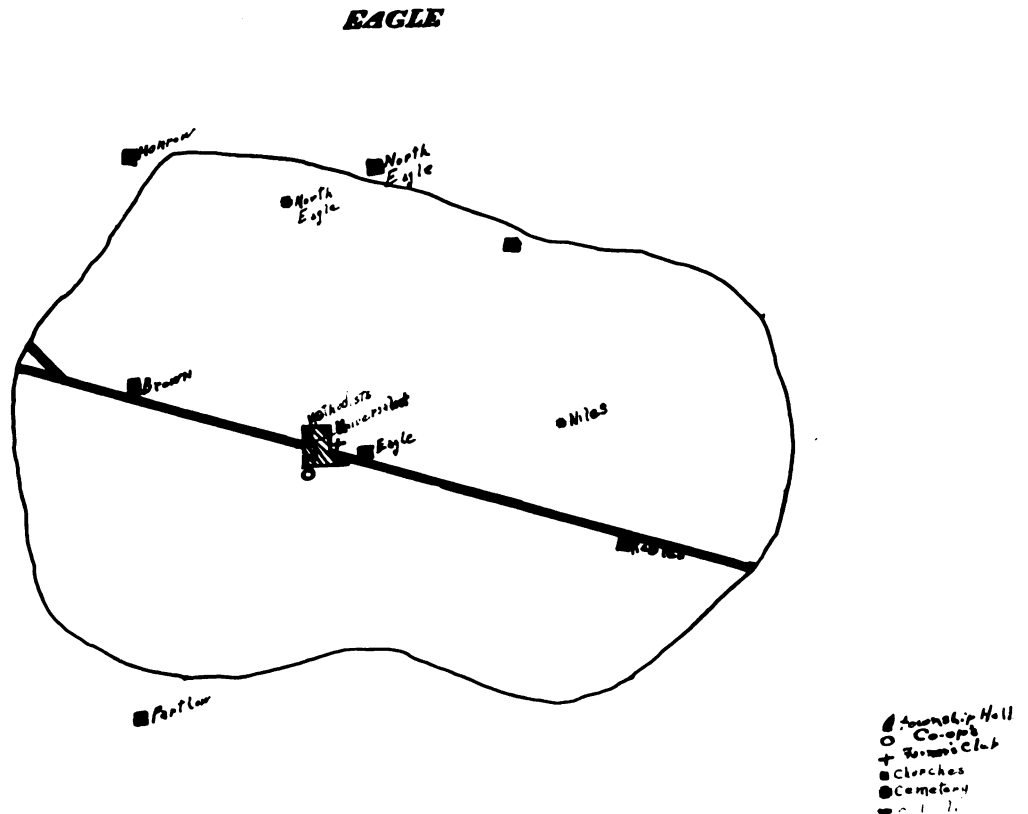


Figure 6. The Location of the Organizations and Institutions of the Eagle Neighborhood. The shape of the Eagle Neighborhood is determined by the Church and Farmers' Club.



The Methodist
Church and
Parsonage at
Eagle.

The Universalist
Church at
Eagle. Now dead



The Eagle
School



At the present time, the Methodist Church and the Eagle Farmers' Club are rather closely allied and most of the members in the one are also members of the other. The Farmers' Club was organized a few years ago by Representative John Espie who acted as its first president. The Methodist Church, at the present time, has a young pastor and there seems to be considerable interest in the church work. Located in the village is a two-room school giving work in the first nine grades.

Mulliken

The largest hamlet or village neighborhood in size and strength, is Mulliken. This is almost a community in that it has the service organizations such as a bank, hardware, and a ten-grade school. But it still belongs to the Grand Ledge community in that its eleventh and twelfth graders come to the Grand Ledge High School and a great many of its people buy and bank in Grand Ledge.

The area of the Mulliken neighborhood was enlarged by the absorption of the now dead neighborhood known as Hoytville. In the History of Ingham and Eaton Counties by Durant, is found the following statement regarding Hoytville:

"Hoytville is a settlement a mile north of the center of the center of the township, containing two stores, owned by Hoyt & Watson, and Halladay & Brown, a saw-mill, a blacksmith shop, two millinery shops, and a steam machinery repair shop.

Dr. Henry A. Hoyt, a native of New Haven, Connecticut, for whom the place is named, opened a store here in 1869. Nicholas Dosh had previously kept one for sixteen months, and Mrs. Cole had for about the same time been in the grocery and millinery trade. Another man had kept a store a number of years previously in the house now occupied by Dr. Hoyt.

A sawmill was moved here from the Center about the first of January, 1872, through the instrumentality of Dr. Hoyt, by M. D. Halladay. He had intended to build at the Center, but was induced to change its location to the doctor's farm. Mr. Halladay is now in California. He is a brother to the well-known windmill manufacturer of Batavia, Kane county, Illinois.

Gardner S. Allen was the first postmaster at the place, the office being known by the name of Center. Allen was a Democrat, and during the war was relieved of the office, which was removed to the Center, a mile south, and Mr. Quackenboos was appointed postmaster. His successors were Thomas F. Moulton and Jacob S. Davis. In April, 1876, the office was removed to Hoytville, to which its name was changed and Dr. Henry A. Hoyt appointed postmaster, which position he now holds. The business of the office is about ten times greater than in 1875.

The saw mill now at the village is owned by Hollenbeck and Crane who built it, the old one having been destroyed by fire. Lewis Thomas is proprietor of the machine shop. The population of the place, within a radius of half a mile, in July, 1880, was 95. A village plat is soon to be laid out and the future of the village is full of promise. A hotel is kept by Mr. Hollenbeck, one of the proprietors of the saw mill."

Since the above history was written in 1880 the author did not foresee what was to happen with the advent of a good road and a railroad. Hoytville was literally picked up and moved one mile north to the railroad and main road and at the present time all that remains of Hoytville is one Free Methodist Church, one store, and a few houses.

The outstanding families that settled in this area were Adam Boyer, Henry A. Moyer, Lemuel Cole, Stephen Cramer, Andrew Nickle, Robert Ricks, and a Mr. Hixon. Most of these have continued as leading families of the neighborhood down to the present. Mr. Cole founded the Cole neighborhood. Stephen Cramer has a number of descendants in the neighborhood by that name. An excellent farm and a school bears the name of Andrew Nickle. The population of the neighborhood is mostly American. In the village of Mulliken there are 309 people and about the same number in the farm area tributary to it. There are approximately 25 square miles in the area.

The village has an elevator, which is a private enterprise, a cooperative Bean Growers Association, and a Livestock shipping association. The village and country have a town-country fire truck which is kept in the village.

The school in the village is a three room brick building, giving work in the first ten grades. There is a Methodist Episcopal in the village with a membership of 100. The pastor also serves another church nearby. His program often includes evangelistic campaigns.

There is a Masonic order in the neighborhood which meets at Mulliken.

The following organizations have disappeared from this neighborhood: Roxand Center Grange, which was organized at Hoytville in 1875. After Hoytville was absorbed by Mulliken, the hall was torn down and used as a barn. Efforts have been made to revive Roxand Center Grange, but there is lack of interest and the Grange has not been reorganized.

A band was organized in Hoytville in 1879, consisting of 13 pieces. Charles Cryderman was the leader. This band continued to be active until 1929.

MULLIKEN

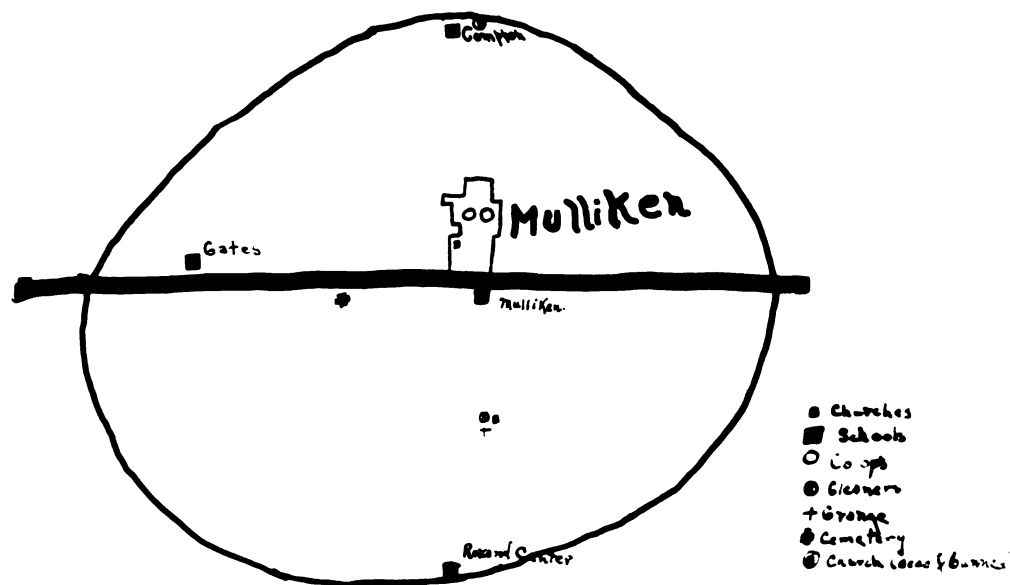


Figure 7. The Location of the organizations and institutions in the Mulliken Neighborhood. Mulliken is nearly large enough to be a community but it does not provide all of the necessary services.



The Mulliken
Methodist
Church.

The Mulliken
School.



The Haytville
Free Methodist
Church

Delta Mills and Delta Center

On the eastern boundary of the community are two neighborhoods which may be discussed together since they are beginning to become united. The settlement of Delta Mills was due to the availability of water power on the Grand River at that place. The story is told that when the capitol site was first being selected that the committee of the Legislature went to Delta Mills, which was the center of Michigan, and wanted to build the capitol there on a piece of high ground. However, at that time, a ladies' college owned most of the property and the high ground. Since this was a religious organization and believed that later on it would be very much larger, it refused to sell. The legislators had to take the next nearest high point, building the capitol within a block of its present site.

The first settler in the Delta township was Erastus Ingersoll. From this family came the famous dollar-watch manufacturer and several other sons. A brother of the dollar watch manufacturer, who died recently, was the last member of the family in the neighborhood.

Like the Strange neighborhood Delta Mills has been outstanding in education and its people have been greatly influenced by its strong organizations and good leadership. The Creyts brothers, Master farmers, have been active in Grange and church work in this neighborhood. The Nichols family has also been very prominent in Grange work there. The neighborhood has produced an unusually large number of leaders and of well educated people.

The population is American and the neighborhood includes approximately 10 square miles. There is a general store in the

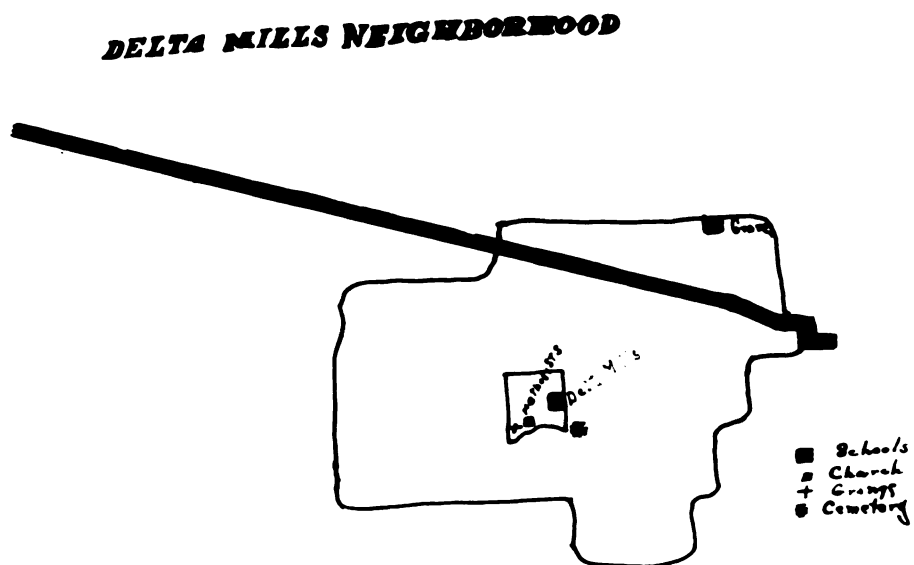


Figure 8. The location of the organization and institutions of Delta Mills.

village but there are no economic organizations. The Methodist Church, a few years ago, looked as if it would close its doors, but a young minister came in and with little pay, rebuilt and refinished the church himself. This gave the people new enthusiasm and caused them to keep the organization going. The Grange has not been as active the last few years as it formerly was, although there is a strong loyalty to it. The cemetery association is one of the strongest organizations of its kind in the community.

As to the settlement of Delta Center, there is little history available. From the cemetery stones, some of the old settlers in that neighborhood seem to have been the Sopers, Ingersolls, and Nixons.

In the history of Ingham and Eaton Counties, the statement is found: ⁽¹⁴⁾ "At Delta Center, three miles from the village of Grand River City is also located a Methodist Church, a substantial frame structure." This church is still active and is discussed in Chapter V. There is a township political organization and a cemetery association in the neighborhood.

Within the last two or three years there seems to have been a change in the two neighborhoods. The first thing that happened was the fact that Delta Center and Delta Mills were served by the same pastor who worked out township meetings and tried to produce a township consciousness. His son, Elbert Kelsey, who was graduated from Michigan State College this last winter (1930), organized a Delta Township Farmer's Club. Their program has been

(14) Durant, S. W. - History of Ingham and Eaton Counties.

DELTA CENTER NEIGHBORHOOD



Figure 9. The Location of the organizations and institutions of Delta Center. This neighborhood and the one at Delta Mills are being combined.



The Delta
Mills
Community
Church.

The Delta
Mills Com-
munity School



The Delta
Center
Methodist
Church.

exceptionally fine with speakers from the college and other outstanding men. It looks very much as though Delta Center and Delta Mills will be amalgamated into one neighborhood. Delta Center like Delta Mills has no economic organizations.

Wacousta

The Wacousta neighborhood, northeast of Grand Ledge lies only partly within the Grand Ledge community.

The high school occasionally has a student from the ten grade school in Wacousta, however, most of them go to Lansing as it is almost as near. The town is rural, being made up of retired farmers, a blacksmith and a store. The two strong organizations in the neighborhood are the Looking Glass Valley Farmer's Club and the Methodist Church. The Looking Glass Valley Farmer's club is north and east of the town which brings it beyond our jurisdiction.

The church, however, influences those toward Eagle a great deal and it has an unusual background. Up until a few years ago it struggled along as country churches do until Mr. and Mrs. Wright came to the community. Mr. Wright was the minister and Mrs. Wright took over the pastoral duties, she has studied along sociological lines at Michigan State College and has analyzed and organized her neighborhood into a very fine program. We enclose in this thesis a copy of their program which shows the unity of their organizations, including the Sunday School, Church, Farmer's Club, and Young People's and Women's organizations. Mr. Wright has been working outside the parish up until last year so that they have financially been able to stay on that type of a pastorate.



The
Racosta
Methodist
Church.

The school



The
Masonic
Hall.

There was at one time in Wacousta a Congregational church but this either burned or was torn down a number of years ago. There is a Masonic Lodge that is quite strong and a Modern Woodman of America hall that is being used for dances at the present time. The school has a P.T.A. which has the average amount of influence in the community.

The Cole Neighborhood

There are two neighborhoods that at present are dead but should be discussed with reference to the background of the community.

The Cole Neighborhood has partly been absorbed by the Strange neighborhood and partly by the Mulliken neighborhood and yet it maintains through the P.T.A. somewhat its own identity. The community was probably named for Lemuel Cole, one of the early settlers, or some member of that family.

There seems to be only one family of the original settlers, the Cramers, that remained. The significant statement that one of them makes is that the reason for the lack of interest in the neighborhood affairs is due to the fact that the people have changed so much in the neighborhood that the amalgamation process has not been able to take place.

The church has been dead for a number of years and several efforts have been made to revive it without success. At present the P.T.A. is using the church as a neighborhood center.

Two miles south is another church known as the Needmore church, which has fallen into disuse except for funerals. One reason for these two churches being discontinued has been the eccentric type



The Cole
Community
Hall.



The Cole Community School.

of religion that was carried on in the church. There are no other organizations in the neighborhood except those that have been named heretofore.

Johnson-Partlow

In the original Partlow neighborhood with its school, there was built a Methodist Church with a date on the cornerstone of 1901. At approximately the same time, or a little earlier, a mile south was built a Johnson Methodist Church. These two neighborhoods were rivals for quite a time until the rivalry grew top-heavy and seemingly killed the two neighborhoods about the period of the war. The Johnson Church was torn down and in 1922 or 1923 the Partlow Church ceased to have meetings.

This last year an unusual thing happened. The two P.T.A.'s at the Johnson and Partlow schools have been unable to exist due to the lack of members. Someone suggested that they fix up the Partlow community hall with the two P.T.A.s combining to form a larger social unit. This was done. Since that time they have repaired the old building and there seems to be a feeling of renewed interest in neighborhood activities.

Summary

The neighborhoods cooperate with the community in coming to Grand Ledge for trade and in sending in the high school students. The Grand Ledge Rural routes go through these neighborhoods except at Mulliken where they maintain one rural carrier and there are three rural carriers at Eagle. The Grand Ledge newspaper carries news from the whole area. Local reporters in most school districts and village fill a certain space each week in the Grand Ledge Independent.

JOHNSON - PARTLOW

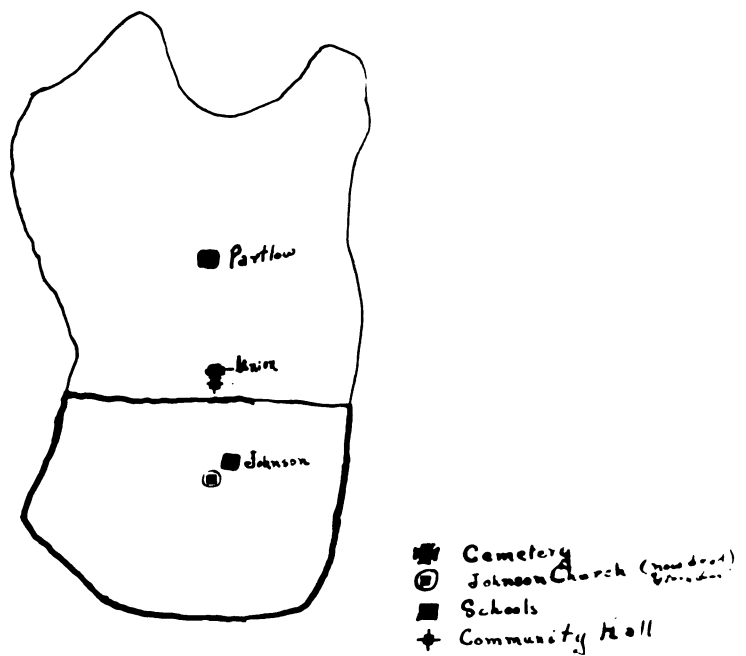


Figure 10. The Location of the Organizations and Institutions of the Johnson-Partlow Community. The center of these two neighborhoods that are now combined is at the Partlow community hall.



The Partlow
Johnson
Neighborhood
at the left:
The school

at the right:
The Partlow-Johnson
Community Hall



at the
right:
The Johnson
School.



A majority of the young people in the community come to Grand Ledge for high school work, commercialized amusements and certain other services.

CHAPTER IV

RURAL EDUCATION

The original schools, held in one-room log buildings, were generally taught by the most fluent and best educated person in the community, quite often by college graduates. Mr. Strange⁽¹⁵⁾ mentioned several times the high quality of the original teachers in the old one-room log school houses.

In the Grand Ledge community at present there are about 1430 grade students and 371 high school students, or a total of 1,801 students. Grand Ledge has a 12 grade school and the high school is a member of the North Central Association of high schools and colleges. The schools at Mulliken and Macousta have ten grades and the one at Eagle nine grades. The rest of the schools 26 in number, are one-room country schools giving work up to, and including, the 8th grade.

Educational Institutions

Rural Schools

The following table shows the number of rural schools, the students in the 8th grade in both rural and town schools, and the upper high school grades. The rural schools are characterized by an unusually well-trained teaching force, rather modern buildings, and in most cases, a lack of over-crowding. The county has a training school for its teachers at Charlotte with a very fine staff of teachers trained in idealism and mechanics of teaching. Even so there is a vast amount of inefficiency in the rural one-room schools as compared with the consolidated school in that they have poorer trained teachers, a lack of efficient grading, and

(15) Strange, Daniel - History of Eaton County.



High School & Gym. Grd. Ledge, Mich.

Photo 11
P. 70

The gymnasium of the High School. This has a fine stage, thus enabling the room to be used as an auditorium.

Table III

Numbers of Students in the Schools of Grand Ledge Community.

School	:No. of:Students:Students : :grades:in H.S. :in grades: Total			
Grand Ledge Public	12	316	592	908
Mulliken	10	25	85	110
Wacousta	10	25	65	90
Eagle	9	5	63	68
Oneida Township	8		16	16
Strange				
Oneida Center	8		26	26
Canada Settlement	8		25	25
Aldrich	8		59	59
Johnson	8		11	11
Centennial	8		36	36
Watson	8		20	20
Delta Township				
Appleton	8		18	18
Harpster	8		12	12
Dolly Varden	8		12	12
Delta Center	8		25	25
New Guina	8		20	20
Soper	8		35	35
Nixon	8		20	20
Benton Township				
Doane	8		20	20
Danby Township				
Abbey	8		30	30
Eagle Township				
Kebler	8		30	30
Partlow	8		29	29
North Eagle	8		20	20
Pennington	8		20	20
Watertown Township				
Starr	8		30	30
Delta Mills	8		30	30
Roxand Township				
Nichols	8		20	20
Cole	8		20	20
Roxand Center	8		23	23
Gates	8		18	18

Total		371	1,430	1,801

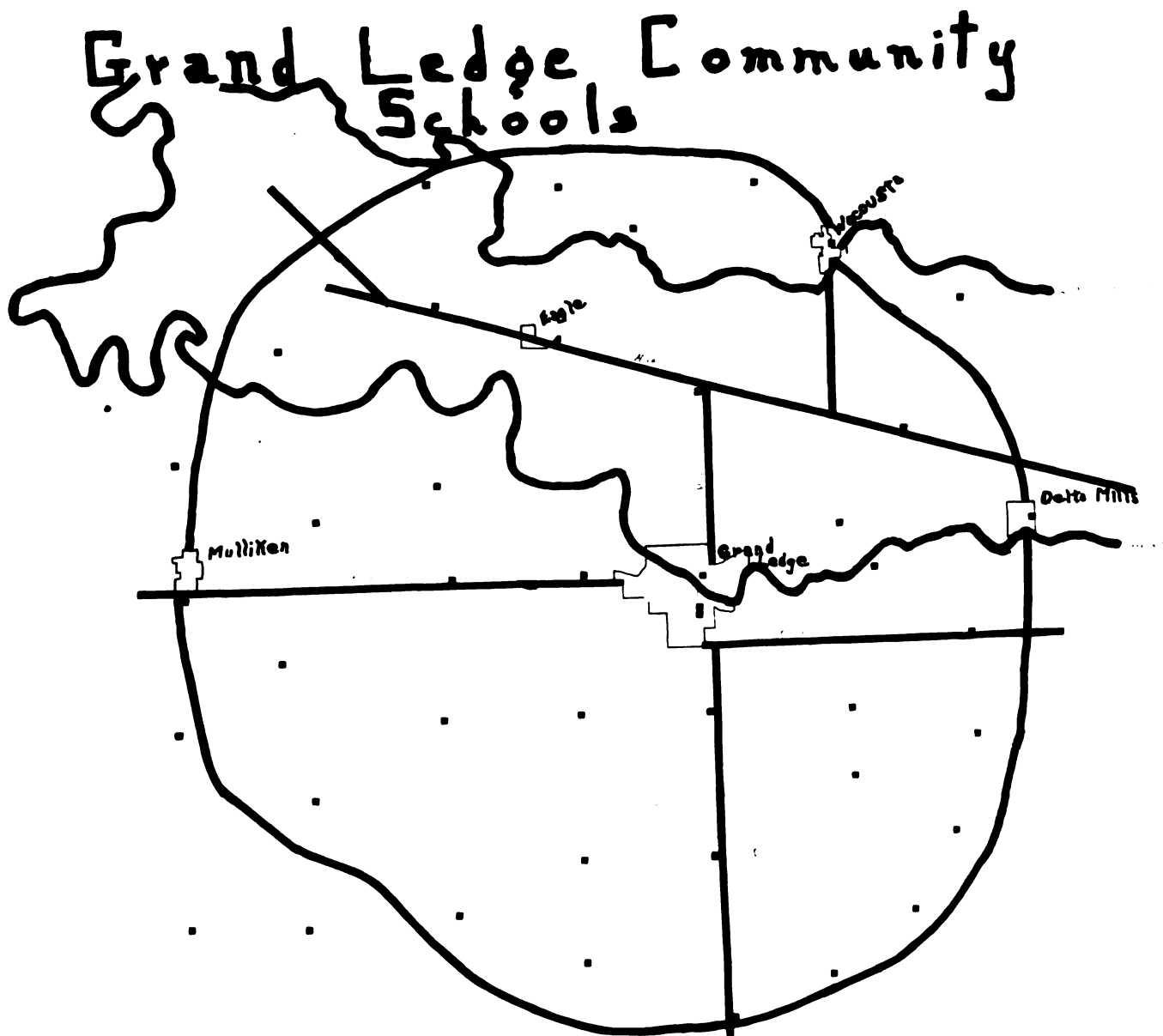


Figure 11. The Location of the rural schools in the Grand Ledge community. There are 26 one-room schools in the community area.

poorer equipment. While the public school system at Grand Ledge could handle most of the students of the 27 rural schools without much added expense, there are several reasons for a lack of a consolidating attitude in the community. First, the extreme conservatism of the community. Second, the lack of initiative on anyone's part to make it consolidated. Third, since the Rural Agricultural School Act does not give state aid to the consolidated schools in towns over 2,000, this may be the most important factor in preventing consolidation at Grand Ledge.

There has never been enough interest in consolidated schools in the community for anyone to start a movement. Only one person has expressed the desire for a consolidated school to the author. His son is having a difficult time in classes in the 9th grade. The father attributes it to the poor type of education of the one-room school. This may or may not be true.

High School

Grand Ledge has one of the best school systems in the state for the size of the school. The superintendent, Jonas Sawdon, has been with the school system for 26 years, a great many teachers have been there ten years, and some of them as high as 18 or 20 years. The school this last year finished a building program of a \$160,000 high school building including such modern equipment as a gymnasium and auditorium combined with modern stage equipment; a radio installation with a microphone which the superintendent to speak to all of the students at any time from his own office; modern Home Economics and shop equipment; a very excellent library and study hall; and in general, a very fine building.



Supt. Jonas Sandow at the microphone of
the High School Radio.



High School Library - Grand Rapids, Mich.

Russell

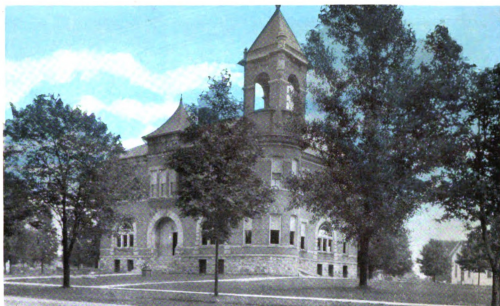
The library - study hall. The tables were
made by the Manual Training Department.

The number of high school students this year is 316 which is a little larger than usual; of these 150 are non-residents in spite of the fact that our tuition is \$100 a year. About ten years ago the number of students in the high school increased to such an extent that the school board needed to build either a new building or do something to keep the number of students down. At this time they increased the tuition to \$100. It is a credit to the merits of the school that this did not stop the number of students and the building had to be built. The number of non-residents is slowly increasing. During the years 1922 to 1930 the number of non-resident students per year in the order mentioned is 118, 131, 96, 109, 111, 104, 119, 111, 141. The number of non-residents is usually one half of the number of the high school students. Over one half of the non-residents have been of the agricultural department sometime during their four years in high school.

The number of students in the grades this year is lower than usual. There are usually around 700, making a total of about 1,000 in the system. There are two grade buildings, one in connection with the high school which also houses the junior high, and one on the opposite side of the town, housing grades below the junior high.

Agricultural Department

The Agricultural Department at the Grand Ledge High School was started in the fall of 1922. Forest Smith, now a teacher-trainer at M.S.C. was its first instructor. The department received \$1,000 per year from the federal Smith-Hughes fund. This places it under the supervision of Mr. Gallup, the State



33753

NORTH SIDE SCHOOL, GRAND LEDGE, MICH.



The Junior High School and the
South Side Grade School.

Supervisor of Vocational Agricultural Education. Mr. Smith had leadership qualities which ^{gave} the department a fine foundation start. He left at the end of three years and Charles Morrice took his place. In the middle of the third year of his teaching, Mr. Morrice became ill and was unable to finish the school year. The writer took up his work and finished the year, attending college from 8:00 in the morning and teaching a full load from 11:00 to 4:00. There are 70 students enrolled in the agricultural department at the present time including the ninth grade work.

During the eight years the department has been organized, it has had a total of 101 students above the ninth grade work. It is interesting to note that the high school area has not increased during the period studied. Within the last two years Sunfield has developed an agricultural department, and at present, most of the students west of Mulliken attend the Sunfield high school rather than the Grand Ledge High School. This somewhat lessens the area and probably is the only change that will be made with respect to other schools nearby.

The following table shows where the students are at the present time. The table gives the year graduated and whether they are on a farm or not; if they are on the farm what their status is, and the education they have had beyond the 8th grade.

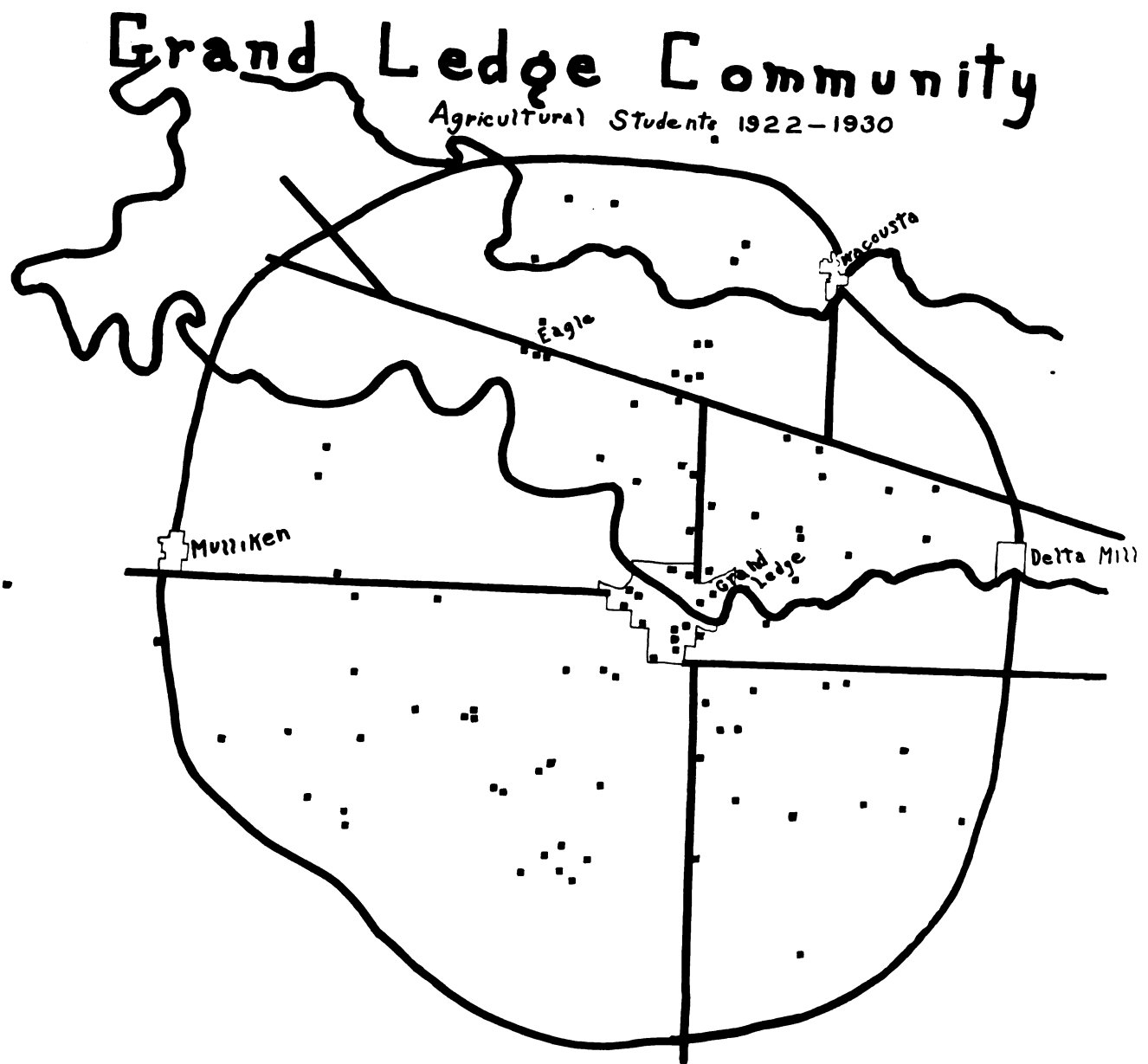


Figure 12. The Location of the students of the Agricultural Department of the Grand Ledge High School. These students are for the years 1922 to 1930 inclusive. Residence is denoted where the student lived when in high school.



The Farm Management
Class of the Agriculture
Department. To the left.

To the right and below:
The Horticultural Class



Table IV

Status of the Vocational Students of Grand Ledge High School
1922 - 1930

Name of Student	:Year grad-: : uated	:On farm: :or not	:Status :on farm:	:Education :beyond H.S.
Avery, Clyde	1929	Yes	Fathers	none
Avery, Harley	1924	Yes	Fathers	none
Ammerman, Elwin	1926	No		
Berner, Herbert	1929	Yes	Fathers	none
Brance, Robert	dng	Yes	Fathers	none
Brooks, Thos.	dng	No.		
Brunger, Earl	1930	Yes	Fathers	none
Burman, Boyd	1930	Yes	Fathers	none <i>not so</i>
Chaplin, John	1928	Yes	Fathers	none
Catey, Wilford	1928	Yes	F. in law	none
Culp, Estol	1926	Yes	Fathers	none
Clark, Victor	1926	Yes		
Cramer, Lawrence	J	Yes	Fathers	none
Dexter, Wilbur	J	Yes	Fathers	none
Davis, Neil	J	No		
Deer, Carl	1929	No		
Deer, Otto	S	No		
Decke, Lynn	1927	No		
Dixon, Kenneth	J	Yes	Fathers	none
Espie, Heber	S	Yes	Fathers (Rep. Espie)	none
Fox, Robert	1928	Yes	hired	none
Fox, Walter	J	Yes		
Fox, Herman	dng	Yes	hired	none
Foster, Lyle	1927	No		
Foster, Oliver	dng	Yes	Fathers	
Fry, Robert	1927	No		
Foster, Richard	1927	No		
Gillett, Leon	J	Yes	Fathers	none
Guilford, Arnold	dng	No		
Hamilton, Loyal	1924	No		
Hazen, Hiram	1923	Yes	Mothers	none
Hayes, Louis	dng	No		
Haueter, Lloyd	J	Yes	Fathers	none
Hess, Roy	1929	No		
Hess, Murray	dng	Yes	Fathers	none
Hendee, Dale	1927	No		
Higbee, Charles	dng	Yes	Fathers	none
Hill, Vaughn	1927	No		
Hixon, Helen	dng	No		
Hopkins, Geo.	S	Yes	Fathers	none
Hough, Gerald	1930	No		
Howe, Russell	1928	Yes	Fathers	SC
Hurni, Harold	dng	No		

Johnson, Morris	J	Yes	Mothers	none
Keesler, Alfred	1930	No		
Kebler, Kenneth	dng	No		
Kebler, Floyd	dng	No		
Kelsey, Elbert	1925	Yes	partnership	C
Kempf, Conrad	S	No		
King, Herman	J	Yes	Fathers	
Kowalk, LaVerne	1930	No		
Krupp, Gerald	S	Yes	Fathers	
Lear, Ellsworth	dng	Yes	Fathers	
Lawrence, Ralph	dng	Yes	partnership	
Lown, Frederick	dng	No		
Lavery, Donald	1927	No		
Lumbert, Joseph	1927	Yes	Own farm	
Maier, Willard	1930	Yes	Fathers	
McCrumb, Claire	1930	No		
McMullen, Raymond	1929	Yes	Fathers	C
MacNaughton, Keith	1926	Yes	hired	
Miles, Iva	1926	No		
Nourse, Robert	J	Yes	Fathers	
Park, Robert	1928	No		
Parks, Charles	dng	Yes	Fathers	
Parker, Bernice	1925	No		
Parsons, Chandler	1930	No	partnership	
Potter, Floyd	1927	Yes	Own	
Reeder, Norman	1928	Yes	Fathers	C
Reeder, John	J	Yes	Fathers	
Rueckert, Arnold	1929	Yes	partnership	
Rosier, Neil	1926	Yes	Own	
Shrontz, Carol	1929	Yes	partnership	
Shrontz, Donald	1926	Yes	partnership	
Skinner, Willard	dng	Yes	Own	
Silver, Jiles	1926	No		
Smith, Robert	S	No		
Strange, John	1930	Yes	partnership	
Strange, Harold	1926	Yes	partnership	
Sattler, Gordon	1924	No		
Space, Eva	1926	No		
Sheren, Clinton	dng	No		
Snyder, Donald	1926	No		
Spicer, Ivan	1928	Yes	Fathers	
Strong, Dorr	1928	Yes	Fathers	
Thompson, Harry	1928	No		C
Tingay, Sheral	left	No		
Trout, Elmer	dng	No		
Turner, Leah	dng	No		
Vogt, Lynden	1930	Yes	hired	
Vogt, Dale	J	No		

Waldo, Lynn	1925	No		
Wirth, Leon	J	Yes	Uncles	
Warfield, Galen	1925	No		
Waldie, Howard	1927	No		
Wellman, Elma	J	No		
Wilson, Maurice	1925	Yes	hired	SC
Wheaton, Roy	1929	No		
Wollpert, Marian	1926	No		
Wonser, Roy	1926	Yes	owns	
Youngs, Ellsworth	1926	No		
Zimmerman, Mildred	left	Yes	Fathers	

Symbols used in the above table:

dng - did not graduate
 1927 - the year graduated
 J - now a junior in high school
 S - now a senior in high school
 left - left school to attend another school
 F - on father's or other relative's farm
 p - partnership with father
 O - owns farm
 R - rents farm
 hm - hired man
 C - college education
 SC - short course education

Table V

Summary Table

Year of graduation:	Num-ber	No. on: farm	Status on Farm				
			Own Farm	Father's	Partnership	Hired man	
1923	1	1		1			
1924	3	1		1			
1925	5	2			1		1
1926	14	7	2	2	2		1
1927	10	2	2				
1928	9	7		6			1
1929	8	5		3			2
1930	10	5		3	1		1
Senior	5	3		3			
Junior	14	11		11			
Did not grad.	22	10	1	7	1		1
Total	101	54	5	37	5		7

The following is a further summary of table 4.

Total number that have been enrolled	102
Number who are on farms	52
Number of those in business allied to farming	4
Number that are working business other than agriculture	47
Number that have gone to Short course or college	6
Number on parents farm	41
Number in partnership with father	7
Number running own farm or parents farm	9
Number hired help	5
Number that graduated	60
Number in school	20
Number that did not graduate	20
Number that left this school	2

More than half of the agricultural graduates have gone back to the farms. Fifty-two of the 102 are on farms at the present time and four others in business closely allied to farming. Fifty-four per cent of the students taking Agriculture are now in Agricultural work. In a study made by the Federal Board (16) of vocational education it was found that the number of students in Agricultural education vary from 60 to 75 per cent. The studies differ in that students in the government study had one year or more in Agricultural instruction. All of the Grand Ledge Agricultural students had at least two years and only 20 per cent did not graduate and 20 per cent more are in school at the present time so that 60 per cent had three or four years of vocational Agriculture. This would raise the Grand Ledge percentage some as compared to the government statement. Furthermore the two studies are not entirely comparable because the government study includes

(16) - Bulletin 82 - Effectiveness of Vocational Education in Agriculture, page 39.

established much longer than the Grand Ledge School. The number of agricultural students on their fathers farm or in partnership with their father is 48. Sixty-eight per cent of the students are in partnership with their father. Twenty-nine per cent is given for the United States average. (17) The department of Agriculture at the Grand Ledge High School has been in existence only eight years. This short time accounts for the wide difference. "A very small percentage of boys vocationally trained in agriculture go to college. Since 1922 only 22 per cent of the graduates have gone to college." (18) Six of the 102 students at Grand Ledge have gone to short course and college. The writer knows of several more that intend to take further agricultural training.

Project Work in Agriculture

The project work is a regular part of the work of the Smith-Hughes teaching. The boy in project work attempts to put into practice the subject matter he has learned in his school work. (19) Mr. Gallup's report for 1930 gives the project viewpoint.

(17) Bulletin 82 - Effectiveness of vocational Education in Agriculture, page 21.

(18) Bulletin 82 - Effectiveness of Vocational Education in Agriculture, page 40.

(19) Report of State Supervisor of Vocational Agricultural Education - 1930.

Projects -
Summer of 1929.

Potatoes



Beans.



Beans.



"One of the provisions of the Smith-Hughes law is that each vocational agricultural student shall have at least six months of supervised farm practice. In Michigan this minimum requirement of the law has not proven satisfactory. If vocational education in agriculture is to function effectively, the student should be so trained that he may make his living in the vocation for which he has been trained. When graduated from the vocational agricultural course of the high school, he should be an expert in the typical farm enterprises in which he will be engaged as a farmer. He should know the jobs connected with the enterprise and be skilled in the practices necessary to the success of the enterprise. The knowledge and skill necessary for successful dairy farming, for example, cannot be acquired in six months of supervised practice. Six years is none too long a time in which to train a boy in the dairy enterprise."

Our best results have come from starting the farm boy with a dairy calf when he is in the sixth or seventh grade and having him continue his project until he graduates from the high school six years later. The calf is a challenge to the grade boy. The cow and calf will be a challenge to the beginning high school boy. The resulting dairy herd with an acreage of alfalfa and a field of silage corn will be a challenge and a satisfaction to the boy when he graduates from high school six years after he started with his dairy calf. Such a boy is prepared to make his living in the vocation in which he has been trained; he is established in business probably as a partner with a brother or with his father.

The same principle obtains in the crop enterprises. A fourth of an acre of potatoes, for example may be a challenge to the seventh or eighth grade boy, an acre to the ninth grader, and five to ten acres to the lad graduating from high school six years after starting his enterprise. A boy with six years of experience and study will accumulate the knowledge and acquire the skill to make him an expert in this enterprise".

This pretty well states the viewpoint of the Smith-Hughes teacher in his project work.

The following is a summary of the 1929 projects and a comparison with the state summary for the same year prepared by Mr. Gallup. The scope, project income and net profit and used as comparisons.

Table VI

Summary of 1929 Grand Ledge Projects Compared With State

Project	: :Number of Students: :Gr. Ledge	: :State: :Gr. Ledge	: :Scope of Acres: :Gr. Ledge	: :State: :Gr. Ledge	: :Average Project Income per Boy: :Gr. Ledge	In-:Average Net Profit per acre: :State: :Gr. Ledge
Potatoes	4	676	2 2/3	912.76	\$ 39.44	\$103.77 \$59.00 \$76.74
Beans	8	482	19	1478.8	38.87	85.61 16.36 27.90
Wheat	1	35	1	247.35	51.79	80.55 25.90 11.35
Cucumbers	1	101	$\frac{1}{2}$	116.07	2.47	45.22 5.94 39.27
Garden	3	118	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	57.91	13.11	41.10 4.37 83.75
Poultry	2	248	559	39929	34.03	101.35 .06 .63
Sheep	2	52	48	636	265.94	97.43 11.09 7.96
Dairying	3	151	8	519	506.15	275.41 189.81 80.13
Onions	1	-	$\frac{1}{4}$	-	52.60	- 210.40 -
Horse	2	-	2	-	20.50	- 20.50 -
Total					998.68	892.44 534.69 327.73
Average					99.87	103.68 53.47 40.97

Table 6 shows that Grand Ledge has a lower average project income per boy than the state but a high average net profit per acre. The former can be explained by the several projects that were losses and the dry season. The latter can be explained by the good soil and cultural methods used.

In the things in which the Grand Ledge community specializes such as dairying and sheep, it is much above the state average.

Two view points might be taken as to project work:

(1) That the student carries a project merely to satisfy the requirements of the Agricultural instructor and to get his credit.

(2) In contrast to this view might be placed the view-point of Mr. Gallup that it is a training ground for later life.

One of the most difficult tasks that has been the writer's in Grand Ledge has been to get a student to see the value of project work and to see the vocational attitude as it is idealized by the statement of Mr. Gallup.

It is understood that the town students are not in mind because it is more difficult for them to engage in project work than those who live in the country. Probably the biggest reason for the failure to see the vocational attitude has been the system in the school. A boy taking four subjects has four separate compartments in which he puts his work and the attitude prevails that when school is out those four compartments can be properly sealed until opened again September first the following fall. There does not seem to be much of an attitude of putting into practice the things learned in school. This year in the selection of the projects for awarding of prizes, there were only four out of 25 that really

Table VII

Project Report in Agriculture From the Grand Ledge High School During the
Years of 1922 to 1930

Project	No. com- pleted	Scope	Charges	Credits	Net Profit	Labor	Net Project Income
Potatoes	30	15.5A	\$ 908.87	\$2,162.87	\$1,307.22	\$ 249.78	\$1,532.41
Beans	59	161.6A	6,379.88	11,429.50	5,708.65	869.34	6,465.36
Corn	20	57.0A	1,912.37	4,566.69	2,759.18	366.30	3,780.20
Wheat	4	14.0A	500.62	1,016.00	515.38	33.53	548.91
Oats	4	25.8A	532.71	640.21	107.50	49.80	157.27
Barley	4	8.5A	153.14	268.62	115.48	15.80	130.28
Alfalfa	4	5.5A	49.72	111.00	87.77	8.08	95.85
Garden	7		123.86	201.09	117.56	69.28	185.90
Poultry	14	1270.0	1,281.70	2,024.54	796.02	279.96	1,076.98
Stock	26	86.0	10,449.38	14,909.28	4,594.48	417.39	4,744.01
Misc.	14		665.18	1,386.20	727.53	112.76	839.37
Totals	186		\$22,424.57	\$38,716.00	\$16,835.77	\$2,461.02	\$19,557.54

Total number of boys participating - 102
Total number projects completed - 186
Average Net Income per project - \$105.15

had a vocational attitude as expressed in their project report and in their summer work.

Table 7 is a summary of all the projects since the department began. Sometimes a study of the total can give a more comprehensive view of the value of project work. It shows the number of projects completed and the average net income and profit per project.

The significant things in the above table can best be summarized in the following manner:

(1) the biggest projects have been Beans, Livestock, Corn, Potatoes, and Poultry. These are the major enterprises of our community.

(2) There have been completed 186 projects from 102 boys.

(3) The boys have had a gross income of \$38,716 and a net income of \$16,835.77.

(4) They have paid themselves for labor \$2,416.02 and this added to the net profit makes a total of \$19,557.54. During the eight years the department has been running the Federal Government has invested \$8,930 and the local school the following:

Salaries	\$15,300
Traveling expense	1,200
Maintenance	500
Total	<u>\$ 17,000</u>

If the above local expense is divided in half, it gives a total of \$8,500. The reason for this is that one-half of the instructor's time is spent in teaching science that if it were not for the Agricultural teacher, the board would have to hire another teacher. \$8,500, the local expense, added to the federal money makes a cost of \$18,525. Without question the department

has increased the number of non-resident students and if this could be calculated it would increase the profit to the school and community considerably. It may also be added that the agricultural department has more than paid for itself.

(5) The average net project income per project for the period 1922 to 1930 is higher for Grand Ledge than the state.

Outstanding Work of the Members of the Agricultural Department.

The department has been fortunate in winning a number of judging contests and has been trying to organize the work of the community lines.

In May, 1930, at Junior Farmers' Week, the following winnings were made:

Livestock - 1st and 10th individuals and 2nd team.

Grain - 6th individual and 2nd team.

Sheep - 1st team.

In May, 1931, 2nd in the speaking contest and a member of our local F.F.A. was made a State Farmer at the State Convention of the F.F.A.

During Farmers' Day in the summer of 1930, one of the students, Kenneth Smith, won second prize in the grain judging contest which was very close to the first. The contestant taking first prize was a college graduate and a past member of the Farm Crops Department.

Student Agricultural Club

Forest Smith organized the first Agricultural Club. Its members have told the writer that it was a live club. They had a program of work and social meetings. Mr. Morrice's efforts with that club were unsuccessful and so it was re-organized. It was a social club altogether. It was kept going two years. About that time the Future Farmers of America movement was organized and the club was reorganized into a Future Farmers of America Chapter.

Future Farmers of America

Future Farmers of America, Chapter No. 62, was organized April 12, 1930. In the summer of 1930, they put up an exhibit of the West Michigan State Fair which won the first prize of \$70. Due to the fact that the fair is bankrupt, the boys are unable to get their money and this has had a detrimental effect upon the club. However, at the present time, they are engaged in a piece of community service that is very valuable. They have an hour and a half program which they present to the rural school's Parent Teachers Associations. They give some music of the humorous kind and a number of demonstrations. These show their work in high school classes. At present they have visited 10 rural schools with many more calls than can be filled. Below is the program they use.

Music by entire group.

"Hank changes His Mind" - a dialogue on the use of standard analysis fertilizers by Hank and Bill, the parts taken by John Reeder and Leon Garlock.

Milk Testing by Leon Gillett and Dale Tiedt in which they show the value of milk testing and proper feeding of cattle and actually show them how to make the Babcock Test.

Court Trial of a man who did not use lime, in which they give the advantages of using lime and finally convince this man that he must use lime on his fields. Parts taken are Judge - Kenneth Dixon; Defendant - Stanley Walters; Plaintiffs - Kenneth Smith and Kenneth Bomer-sheim.

The Kinds of Farm Seeds, in which the students have painted and drawn the pictures of the seeds on charts giving a short discussion of them and allowing the farmer to see if they can identify them.

A series of slides on eggs, which was in preparation for our egg show, by Ralph Lawrence and Dale Vogt.

The Grand Ledge Rural Community and Its Institutions by Wilbur Dexter. He discusses the sociological view point of the community.

Debate - Horses vs. Tractors in which they give the important points of each and allow the crowd to decide.

Close with some music and the Future Farmers song.

At present the club numbers 20 members, 10 Future Farmers and ten "Greenhands".

Egg Show

The Agricultural Department has had an egg show for the past three years in connection with the Grand Ledge State Bank in which they stressed better quality of eggs. Below is the catalog that was used in the 1931 egg show.

Third Annual

E G G S H O W

Grand Ledge State Bank
Cooperating with
THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT OF
THE GRAND LEDGE HIGH SCHOOL

March 18, 19, 20 and 21.

Grand Ledge, Michigan
March 10, 1931

Dear Sir:

In offering to the public this catalog of the third annual Egg Show to be held at the Grand Ledge State Bank March 18, 19, 20, and 21, we feel that the support and interest manifested during the last two years have made the enterprize a worthy one. The purpose of the show is to create greater interest in the production of quality eggs, and to demonstrate proper methods of judging and grading eggs. The demand for better quality in market eggs is rapidly attracting the attention of every breeder and producer and quality can only come when the producer as well as the consumer learns to recognize it, and to realize its commercial value.

Study the classes and enter all those in which you are qualified with one or more dozen.

Carefully pack the eggs with two extras designated as such to insure a full dozen in case of breakage. Bring or mail the eggs to the Grand Ledge State Bank Monday, March 16. Eggs will not be accepted after noon Tuesday, March 17.

Yours very truly,

Agricultural Department
Grand Ledge High School

Manager of the Egg Show

VAS:AAL

CLASSES

Grand Sweepstakes

Sweepstakes rosette ribbon given for the best dozen white eggs in the show.

Sweepstakes rosette ribbon given for the best dozen brown eggs in the show.

Ribbons given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in each sub-class.

Class Number 1

Agricultural Department, Grand Ledge High School Class. Open to any student taking or who has taken Agricultural courses in Grand Ledge High School. Cash prizes given by the Grand Ledge State Bank.

Sub-class A. - White eggs

Sub-class B. - Brown eggs

Class Number 2

Smith-Hughes student class. Open to any student enrolled in any of the Smith-Hughes classes in Michigan. Grand Ledge State Bank Trophy to become property of a school when won three times in succession. (Eaton Rapids won last year and the year before.)

Sub-class A. - White eggs

Sub-class B. - Brown eggs

Class Number 3

Rural Schools Student Class. Open to any student or students in rural schools around Grand Ledge. Cash Prizes.

Sub-class A. White eggs

Sub-class B. Brown eggs

Class Number 4

Farmers and Fanciers Class. Open to any grower of poultry. Trophy to become property of person when won three times in succession by an individual. Grand Ledge Produce Company Trophy. (Won by Mrs. Howard Hixon last year).

Sub-class A. - White eggs

Sub-class B. - Brown eggs

Class Number 5

Marketing class. Open to any grocery, meat market or business house selling eggs to the public.

Sub-class A. - White eggs

A.M. Smith Trophy. (Won by Mrs. Brott of Charlotte last year).

Sub-class B. - Brown eggs

EXPLANATION

Broken or cracked eggs will be cut full amount of points allowed for each egg.

SIZE: A cut of 5 points will be made for each ounce under 24.

A cut of two points will be made for each ounce over thirty.

SHAPE: Two-thirds of a point is allowed for each egg if perfect in shape.

SHELL TEXTURE: Shell should be firm, smooth and of fine texture. There should be no wrinkles, roughness, or thin spots. Eggs should not be cracked. It is an excellent plan to send one or two extra eggs, so marked, to replace any cracks.

CONDITION: Free from dirt and stain, and unwashed. Washing destroys the natural luster.

UNIFORMITY OF SHAPE: All eggs should be of the same shape, according to the ideas of the sender.

UNIFORMITY OF SIZE: Each egg should conform as nearly as possible to the desired size, as uniformity largely controls appearance.

UNIFORMITY OF COLOR: All eggs in each entry should be of the same shade of color. If white, all eggs should be pure white and free from any trace of tint or creaminess. If brown they may be any shade of brown, but should be uniform.

DISQUALIFICATION:

1. Positive evidence of faking.
2. Double yolked eggs.
3. Stale eggs as evidenced by abnormal air cells.
4. Developing germs or embryos.
5. Any washed or polished eggs.

SCORE CARD

Size.....	30 points
Shape.....	8 points
Uniformity of Color.....	10 points
Uniformity of Shape.....	5 points
Uniformity of Size.....	12 points
Shell Texture.....	20 points
Condition of Shell.....	15 points

Influence of Training in Agriculture

Probably the most outstanding student of the agricultural department has been Elbert Kelsey. Mr. Kelsey was an honor student at Michigan State College and a member of Alpha Zeta honorary agricultural fraternity. He returned to the farm and not only is producing good crops and livestock, but is a real leader. He has formed a Delta Township Farmers' Club which cements together the two neighborhoods, Delta Center and Delta Mills, the first year out from college.

Harold Strange took the two year general short course and has been farming in partnership with his father in home community.

Maurice Wilson also took the two year short course and came back to help his father farm a large farm with modern equipment. At present he is working on a big dairy farm.

Norman Reeder is outstanding in writing. In 1929 he cow tested to make money to pay his way through the last three years. At the present time he is assistant Editor of the "Michigan State News".

Raymond McMullen, who worked a year at the Upper Peninsula Experimental Station at Chatam and helped fit the cattle which were exhibited at both state fairs, is now a freshman in Veterinary Science, at Michigan State College.

There are 15 graduates who took vocational agriculture that are back home on farms and are active in either helping their fathers or working for themselves. Seven of these graduates have developed leadership qualities and may be better citizens because of the school.

The great question in the teacher's mind is "What difference

may I make in the lives of these students?" And the great question in the mind of those who have been in the Grand Ledge Agricultural Department is "What difference is there between those who have had agricultural high school training and those who have not?" They are a select group of boys. In order for them to come to high school with the expense of tuition and a car, the parents must have a better income than the average. It has been the writer's experience that those boys who have done the best work in vocational agriculture are those who have had training on their dad's farm under a good farmer. There may also be a tradition of going to high school which exists in the family. Without question this whole situation is definitely bound up with the home.

Four-H Clubs

The writer purposely has not discussed the 4-H club for two reasons: first, the lack of availability of the data, and second, the variation in strength of the clubs.

About 8 or 10 years ago, Mr. Tenny, now at the Michigan State College, did an outstanding piece of work as county club leader and later as county agricultural agent in starting a large number of 4-H clubs which certainly had an influence in the community. At the present time Mr. Kardel is carrying on these clubs. They have had a great amount of influence on a number of Agricultural students. Harold Strange who has spent 10 years in calf club work is a product of 4-H club influence.

Agricultural Extension Work

Since 1917 the county has had a County Agricultural Agent. At present the county agent also handles 4-H club work. He has

been very active in holding extension schools and assisting in evening schools and day meetings. In 1930 the Grand Ledge Agricultural Department of the high school, in connection with the County Agent and the Michigan State College, held a series of six meetings along dairy lines. There was an average attendance of over 100 at those six meetings at the close of which a huge banquet was held and diplomas were given. Professor Taylor of the Dairy Department of Michigan State College conducted the work.

In 1931 the course that was given was Animal Husbandry. Professors Brown, Moxley, and Freeman gave the work. There was an average attendance of about 80.

In 1932 the anticipation is for a school in farm crops conducted by the farm crops department of Michigan State College.

There has been one Michigan State College extension school in the immediate area of Grand Ledge. This was held in Soils in 1930. This type of school is one in which the two or three members of the neighborhood meet at Charlotte with others from different parts of the county and a college specialist gives the work, and these leaders in turn carried the work back to groups in their home neighborhoods.

Farm Organizations

Most farm organizations have a program of adult education. The most familiar to the writer is that of the Grange. It has two meetings a month at which a lecturer's program gives discussion on modern farm topics and a program of interest along other educational lines. This is also true to a lesser degree of a Farm Bureau and the Gleaners. The Farmers' Clubs have a program which centers largely around education and will be dis-

cussed in another chapter.

The School and the Intermingling of Town and Country People

One would expect that since the country boys and town boys are thrown together in the social groups of the high school that both they and their parents would intermingle rather freely in other social community activities. This does not seem to be the case; rather the social activities of country life center in strong neighborhood groups and there is a lack of community consciousness in social life. The difference may be illustrated by the following incident. The writer recently took a group of boys to a State Hi-Y conference at Bay City. There were two country boys and a group of about ten city boys. The country boys were anxious to room together and during the extra time at the conference were together and did not mix with members of even their own delegation. The same was true at the local conference. The lack in mingling is due to a number of things. The boys have expressed these factors to the writer and the following three are the most important:

1. The difference in social background in that the city boys have had plenty of time to mix with boys of their own age in the town and they know all of the boys and have known them up through the grade school. Whereas, the country boys coming from the various schools feel they are members of an out-group and even as late as their senior year still do not mix with the town boys.

2. The country boys do not have the leisure time, both after school and Saturdays. They are home working on the farm and do not enter into social activities held by the city group.

3. The city boy goes home for his lunch and the country boys mix together during the noon hour and produce a group of their own.

This lack of mingling is not so apparent in a school of this size as it would be in a school the size of Lansing, from which the writer was graduated. We who lived in the country had a very close group and did not mingle with the city boys.

While in school, business, and banking activities, association of the people is on a community basis. The social life of the farm people still continues mainly in the neighborhood group.

It will be noted in Figure 12 that some areas have more students who attend high school and who are in the agricultural department than others. Comparison with the average annual number of tuition pupils from 1915-1929 inclusive shows the same result. The following figures prepared by the Sociology Department of the Michigan State College are arranged by school district.

The Strange district has the highest number for the whole area. There are 19.8 tuition pupils annually per 100 children of school age (5 - 19 years). Canada Settlement, most of its district being included in the Strange Neighborhood has 15.3 per 100 children. In the northern part of the community the figures are 8.77 for the Blough district; 9.55 for the Pennington district; and 10.90 for the North Eagle district. Oneida Center school is another high spot with 13.05 tuition pupils per 100 children. The Dolly Varden school in the Delta Center Neighborhood has 18.25. This is the second highest school district in the community. There are two explanations of the above data:

1. In the districts and neighborhoods that have the highest numbers of tuition pupils and agricultural students there are customs and traditions favoring higher education. The attitude is that everyone ought to go to high school and every effort is made to see that this is accomplished.

2. Probably the farm income is higher thus enabling the parents to pay the tuition and provide transportation. This indicates that the soil is in a high state of fertility and profitable farm practices are used.

CHAPTER V

THE CHURCH

One of the most important institutions in a community is the church. With the changing modern conditions one insistently hears such questions as the following: Can the church adjust itself to new conditions in time to maintain its leadership in the community? What will happen to the rural church that cannot afford the proper leadership? Will the rural church continue to be a neighborhood influence or will it drop into a place of secondary importance in the environment of the young people? Will rural churches unite into a larger parish plan? Can the rural church throw over the old methods of purely emotional appeal and on the basis of an intellectual approach to religion become a spiritual force in the community religion? If the church can not do this then there is a danger of a decline in rural life and a resulting peasantry. Churches were established very early in the development of rural life and those which stimulated and interpreted the religious experiences of people played a fundamental part in the development of the rural community. Neighborhood life was especially motivated and influenced by church activities.

Of late years the large concentration of wealth and population in urban centers has drawn the best ministers and leaders from the country churches. This left the rural field almost entirely to the very old or very young. The young man went to the city after he had served his apprenticeship in the country, to what seemed a larger field of service and larger financial reward. The older ministers were turned back to the country when

past their age of most effective service. With the great advance of physical and biological sciences and the increased complexity of rural life, people have insisted on their religious activities keeping up with the other experiences of life. Otherwise, they are meaningless.

The fairly recent and rapid changes in rural areas have caused neighborhood boundaries to vary greatly and sometimes to disappear entirely.

Churches have not always met these changes in a systematic way. Many of them have kept the same old methods and types of organizations while schools, for instance, have made their adjustment through consolidation. The science of agriculture is advancing rapidly and farmers are becoming more progressive. Therefore, only those churches that are able to interpret religion to these people in terms of their everyday experiences can interest them. Churches have been handicapped in this respect for until very recently ministers have not studied the social and economic aspect of rural life as a background for their work. There are few ministers so trained even at the present time.

The Grand Ledge community like most pioneer communities, built churches along with its homes and schools. Fortunately these churches have maintained a virile religious leadership and several of them have modernized their programs. Some neighborhoods have rural churches that are carrying on fine, constructive religious programs with activities for old and young. The plan and power of the rural church is well illustrated by the accom-

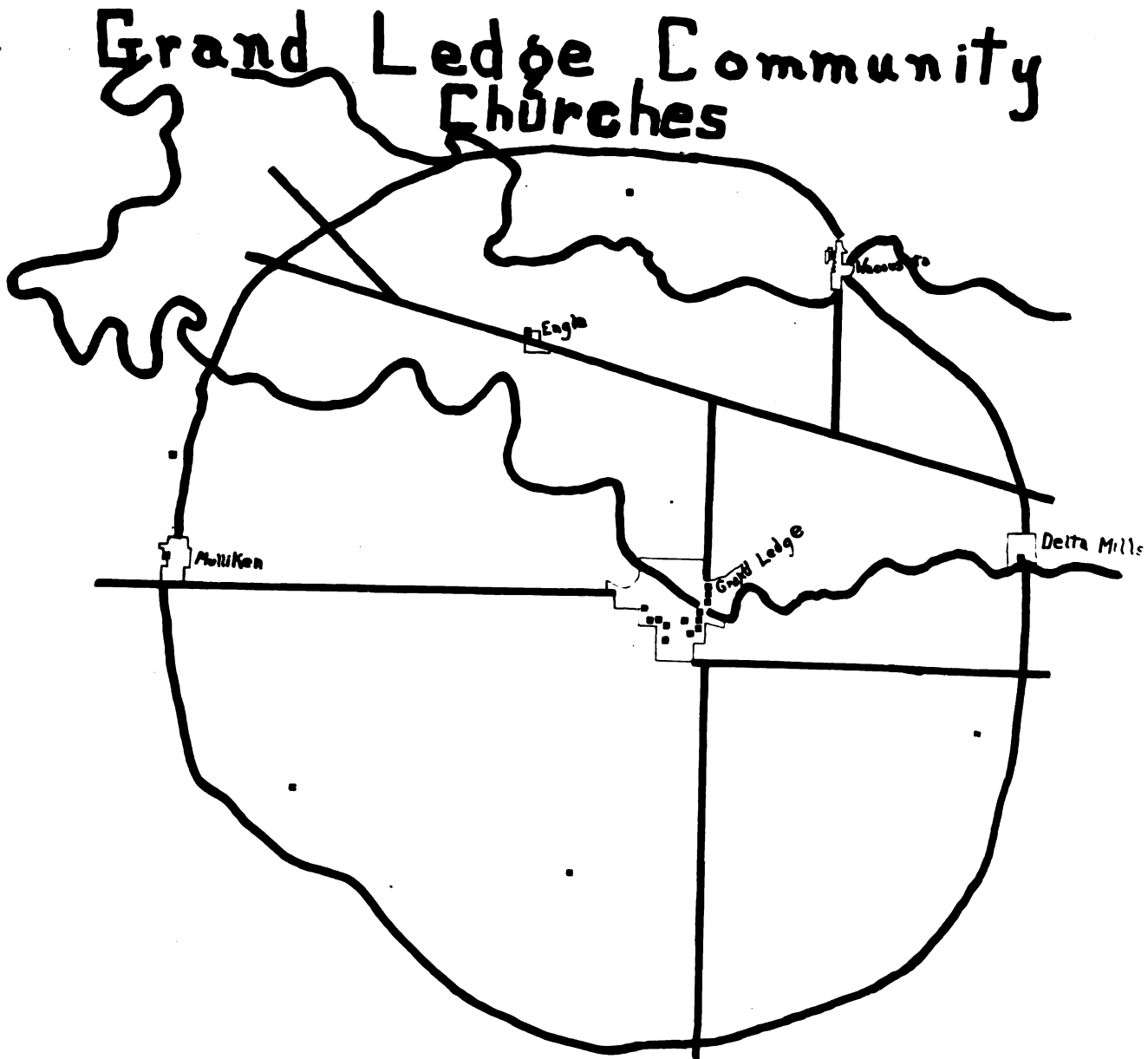


Figure 13. The Location of the Churches in the Grand Ledge Community.

plishments of such churches.

The city of Grand Ledge has 13 different denominations which indicates little cooperative study or inclination for community interests. Possibly no one knows just how many churches a city of 3,572 population needs, but probably 13 are too many. De Brunner⁽¹⁵⁾ states in his book that about 1,000 people per church is a reasonable norm. The three largest churches in town, the Congregational, the Methodist Episcopal, and the Baptist, have a total membership of 760. Of these 67 are rural members. Of the 10 churches left only 5 have a regular membership list. The ten churches have a total membership of 425 of which 167 are rural members.

The buildings of the above mentioned churches are above the average for a community of this type. They are substantial buildings of wood or brick. Most of them are painted, the lawns mowed and in general are well cared for. There is a lack of good dining room and kitchen equipment. The Eagle church has bought another building for this purpose. The Congregational, Methodist and Episcopal in the town are fairly supplied, the best open country church as regards equipment is at Delta Center. This church has a well equipped kitchen and dining room. Only two churches have regular stage equipment and these are home made. There are three churches that have pipe organs in Grand Ledge. The one at the Congregational is a Mohler and rivals those in larger Lansing churches. The Congregational Church had a moving picture machine but this was sold to the high school and is used almost entirely in the Agricultural Department. The department loans it and sends an operator, usually a student, to a great many farm organizations, churches and schools.

The pastors for the most part consider the city as a community apart from the country. They participate in rural affairs only for speeches, funerals, etc., and then only occasionally. There is no ministers' association since only a few can agree on general policies relating to the community. They have tried union meetings but they have largely failed due to the denominationalism of both the pastors and the people.

Most of the ministers have had a four year college course and three years of seminary training. The Methodist church has had a man with a Doctor of Divinity degree as its pastor. In the past the Congregational church has had a man who held a position in the state organization. The open country and village churches have not faired so well. As has been stated before, the young men, the older men and the untrained men are often delegated to the rural churches. The Wrights at Wacousta, the Snells at Eagle, and the Kelseys at Delta are exceptions to this rule. They have somewhat more of an evangelistic type of program than the larger city churches.

The church programs in the city appear to meet the needs of the city. They include besides the usual program of church, Sunday School, and Ladies' Aid; Boy Scout Work, Girl Scout Work, Hi-Y and Girl Reserves groups, (although the scouts, Hi-Y and Girl Reserves are under the direction of the school at the present time). This plan was adopted in order to prevent duplication and to allow a welfare fund drive for money which may be canvassed from the entire city instead of drives by churches of several denominations.

Religious education was taught in the Grand Ledge public schools for a few years. The ministers were the teachers and because of their fundamentalistic beliefs in some cases the students were not interested and this program has been dropped.

One fifth of the population of the Grand Ledge community are members of churches. About 30% of the townspeople belong to church. If we consider the population outside of Grand Ledge to be 4,000, 18% of these belong to church. Therefore, the proportion of people in the country belonging to church is less than in the city. Probably one reason is that the city dweller has more time to go to church on Sunday, whereas the farmer must do the chores before he can go. To get this work completed, and then drive several miles to church is a task that a great many farmers feel is too great, especially if they have been working hard in the field the other six days of the week. Perhaps they would go more if the organizations maintained a more complete and interesting program. Another reason might be that quite often there is less pastoral visitation in the country and hence there has not been the interest manifested. The city churches often have stronger programs.

The leading "number in the parish" in Table 8 refers to those whom the church serves whether they are members or not. Parish is a term used by Congregationalists while Constituency is used by the Methodist Church. These data relating to number in a parish are not especially significant. One church may think it influences all within the borders of its area lines. Another may list in its parish those persons that the pastor has called upon or have used the church. The meaning of the term influence is indefinite.

Six of the churches do not have young people's organizations because their denomination does not sponsor this type of organization. The auxiliary organizations include Ladies' Aids, Boy and Girl Scouts, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., and others. These are listed as to their respective churches in the table.

Seventy per cent of the churches have an organized Sunday School the rest teach groups of small children in other ways. In addition to the churches there are Hi-Y, Girl Reserves, Boy and Girl Scouts and unstable evangelistic organizations. There are six of the latter type in Grand Ledge who maintain no regular membership roll. Estimating the membership of these to exceed 250 it would be conservative to say that 25 per cent of the population are members of a church. The number of those people who attend some form of religious activity as sponsored by the above organizations would exceed 6,000 which is 66 per cent of the population.

The status of the rural churches is indicated by the fact that in the community six of the eleven rural churches established are active and have strong programs. Two of the five inactive ones are being used as community halls; one was torn down; one burned down. The remaining one is unused except for occasional funerals and other meetings.

The social programs of the rural churches include activities for young people in training, recreation, farm programs, besides the usual parties and picnics. The programs presented in the appendix illustrate the varying social efforts of these churches.

The training of young people includes summer conferences, summer camps, teacher training for Sunday School classes and Christian Endeavor and Baptist Young People's Association Conferences.

As the leadership of both pastors and laymen begin to see the value of organizations and become trained in handling these organizations more of them are developed and the present ones are modernized and placed in their proper position of influence in the community. The programs included are trying to fill the needs as their pastors see them in the community. This is indicated by Church nights, Children's Day programs, Ladies' Aid and Men's Classes that most of the churches have in their program. All through the community organizations and programs there seems to be a lack of recreation. The only evidences are summer camps.

The rural church pastors vary in the amount of influence they exert in the community. At Eagle, the pastor plays an important part in the Farmer's Club, P.T.A., and other neighborhood organizations. He is a young man who expects to be a medical missionary in Africa. Reverend and Mrs. Wright at Wacousta have a tremendous influence in all of the rural organizations in three neighborhoods. To further illustrate the church situation in Grand Ledge community, a short discussion and description of the various types of churches follows. O

Open Country Churches - The Strange Presbyterian Church

The outstanding rural church in the whole community is the Strange rural church. The date of its organization was 1849. It has held a continuous program in operation since that time. The

Strange family assisted by two other families organized the church and they have maintained a strong influence in the church since that time. The church with a school and cemetery constitutes the neighborhood center of the Strange neighborhood.

The church is a frame structure as is also the Parsonage beside the church. From the photograph in Chapter III, under the Strange neighborhood, one can see the fine type of structure. The church has only one floor, the basement containing only a furnace. The parsonage is used for Sunday School rooms. A small electric plant is installed which provides electric lights for both parsonage and the church. The church has a membership of 60 and an average attendance between 40 and 50. This speaks well for the organization that as high a per cent of the membership attend regularly. At the present time the church does not have a resident pastor but is on a circuit with another church, the pastor living at the parsonage of the other church. It has, however, maintained its own preacher until the last few years. The program of the church includes church services, Sunday School, and young people's work. Some of the social activities include picnics, ice cream sociables and band concerts. They have had a program of young people's work until 1931. Most of the young people at present are in college and those few remaining feel they could not carry on the program. In 1929 a young people's orchestra was organized. This was carried on for a year but the young people became busy in high school and college then the orchestra was dropped.

Delta Township Churches

There are two churches in Delta township. Since they are in the same neighborhood and served by the same pastor they will be discussed together.

Delta Center Methodist Episcopal church is another church much like the Strange Presbyterian. It was organized at a later date, but has maintained a good program to the present time including young people's work, dramatics, adult education, and many other exceptional features. The influence of the Delta Mills church, as has been stated in another part of this thesis, is probably due to the enthusiasm of the man who came into the neighborhood and helped rebuild the building. This leader put new life into the organization and it is now an important influence in the community. At the present time the preacher, Reverend Kelsey, who also is a farmer, seems to have quite an influence on both churches.

The Kelseys have fostered a Farmers' Club as a part of the church program. The club uses the Delta Center church as a meeting place and for suppers. The churches are holding their young people's meetings together, meeting first at one church then another. They have been able to get more interest and a better attendance in this manner.

The churches have put on a number of dramatic productions and have a complete set of stage equipment built by themselves. They also cooperate with the county agricultural agent and the extension service by allowing them to hold meetings in the churches. Delta Center is a Methodist church but the Delta Mills church is a community church.

Village Churches

The village churches such as those in Eagle and Mulliken have varied in their influence. One reason for this fact is the practice of the Methodist Conference to place its weaker or its older ministers in the small villages. Occasionally some of these churches have been able to get a young man who is able to lead a great number of the people in their thinking along spiritual lines. That has been true especially at the Eagle church with its present pastor. The minister before him was an old man, rather evangelistic and quite conservative in his methods. At the period of his departure the church thought of uniting with the stronger church in Wacousta, and have one pastor serving both. However, a new pastor came and at present seems to have created a leading influence in social and religious organizations in that community.

The Wacousta church has had the unusual experience of having outstanding leadership. When the Wrights came there in 1923 or 1925, the organization was very nearly dead. Mrs. Wright assumed the pastor's duties and Mr. Wright handled the ministerial work. He was able to work in Lansing and thus supplemented his salary sufficiently to educate their children. Hence this neighborhood had an unusual opportunity to benefit by good leadership.

Mrs. Wright made a survey to discover the needs of the community. Then she organized the groups to meet those needs. The program that is found in the appendix shows the integration of all of the organizations of that neighborhood. Probably the most outstanding fact about the church is the vast number of young people interested in it. At present the young people's society

in that neighborhood reaches more than fifty people. This is more than any other church in the whole community. The fifty memberships are not merely on the books. The church is an important influence in the lives of those young people. The explanation is in the personality of both Mr. and Mrs. Wright. These two people have such a wholesome, happy outlook on life and the religious interpretations of it that they influence those young people with whom they come in contact tremendously. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wright are active in farm organizations, the P.T.A., and the other neighborhood organizations.

The City Churches

Since it would not be possible or feasible to discuss all of the churches in Grand Ledge only the more influential ones will be considered. The Congregational Church probably has more of the leaders in the community on its membership roll than all of the rest of the churches combined. The men and women in this organization are leaders in social, charitable and other types of work in the town. This church has an interesting history which includes building a church, moving and rebuilding the parsonage, installing an excellent pipe organ, and the development of a well-rounded program of young people's work, Sunday School activities, week day religion and other interests.

In 1854 the Congregational society was organized and in 1864 the church was organized. The church which was distinct from the society, was built in 1864 and was the first church building in Grand Ledge. The Methodists used the building alternately with the Congregationalists. The original cost, including the lot,



Congregational Church, Grand Ledge, Mich.



33752
EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GRAND LEDGE, MICH.



M. E. Church, Grand Ledge, Mich.

was about \$3,300. The present valuation is many times this amount.

In the early 1900's the church was rebuilt and about ten years ago a very fine Mohler pipe organ installed. The church has enjoyed the very strong loyalty of its members as is illustrated by its family night suppers. Three years ago their pastor died and during the year before another minister was selected, their pulpit was filled only with supply preachers. Often a different man came each Sunday. During this period attendance at all functions did not diminish to any appreciative extent.

The present pastor and his wife have sponsored a wide variety of organizations in their program. The church has added a number of new members to its roll. Five whole families came into its membership at Easter time. The Sunday School is organized into departments. These have the latest teaching equipment and supplies. Teacher training has been carried on. The program for young people includes Girl Scouts, (The Boy Scouts belong to the high school groupings), Young People's Choir, a junior choir, summer Sunday School Conferences, training camps, etc. The Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. adult committees are almost wholly made up of Congregationalists.

The Methodist Church in Grand Ledge is a younger church than the Congregational Church. It was built in 1851. The building is the largest of all the rest of the churches. It has a fine auditorium with a large dining hall. This has a fair kitchen accompanying it. They have a small Mohler pipe organ but with less sets of pipes than the one at the Congregational Church. There is no stage, stage equipment, moving picture equipment

or the like. The Parsonage located next to the church, is about average as compared to the rest of the houses in Grand Ledge. The program consists of Church, Sunday School, Young People's meetings, and prayer meeting. Special days such as Children's Day, and picnics are observed. They started a Boy Scout program but the school has taken over all of the scouts in the city.

Their pastors have changed often as the Methodist Conference is apt to do. The predecessor of the present man had a degree of Doctor of Divinity. The present pastor and his wife seem to be interested in developing community work. They have been in the community only a short while.

Summary

In short the value of the church is in the provision of religious instruction and young people's meetings of various sorts. The town and country in church activities do not mingle with a very few exceptions.

From the standpoint of the young people the programs of the churches should:

1. Plan recreation activities.
2. Have more of a coordinate community program.

There also seems to be a lack of cohesiveness in the community between the town and country churches.

Most of the country churches have provided work for young people. They have been rewarded in the efforts both by increased attendance and more influence upon the young people.

The churches both town and country have offered religious instruction. This has been augmented part of the time by the school in its week day program and every summer for the townspeople in its vacation Bible school conducted in the public school buildings.

CHAPTER VI

RURAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Rural Organizations throughout the community do not seem to be maintaining the influence they once had. This can partly be explained by the fact that there has been a change in viewpoint from the neighborhood to the community. It is the writer's opinion that the day of the neighborhood farm organization is passed. There must, however, be organization, if agriculture is to progress along the lines of economic and social equality with the other vocations. There is a continual shifting in the membership of organizations. The statement that every organization fluctuates in vitality and activity seems to hold true in this community. This is probably due to the change of individuals, especially leaders, of the groupings, and the lack of youth in the organization. There is a temporary lack of interest in old organizations as new ones come in.

Perhaps the principal accomplishment one can hope to make is an analysis of the community to show what happened to these organization, and to give a short explanation of some of them. If it were not for Durant's "History of Ingham and Eaton County", without question, a number of these organizations could not be mentioned because a great many people of the present generation have not heard of the organizations.

The Grange

The oldest and probably the most effective of the rural organizations in this community have been the four granges. The

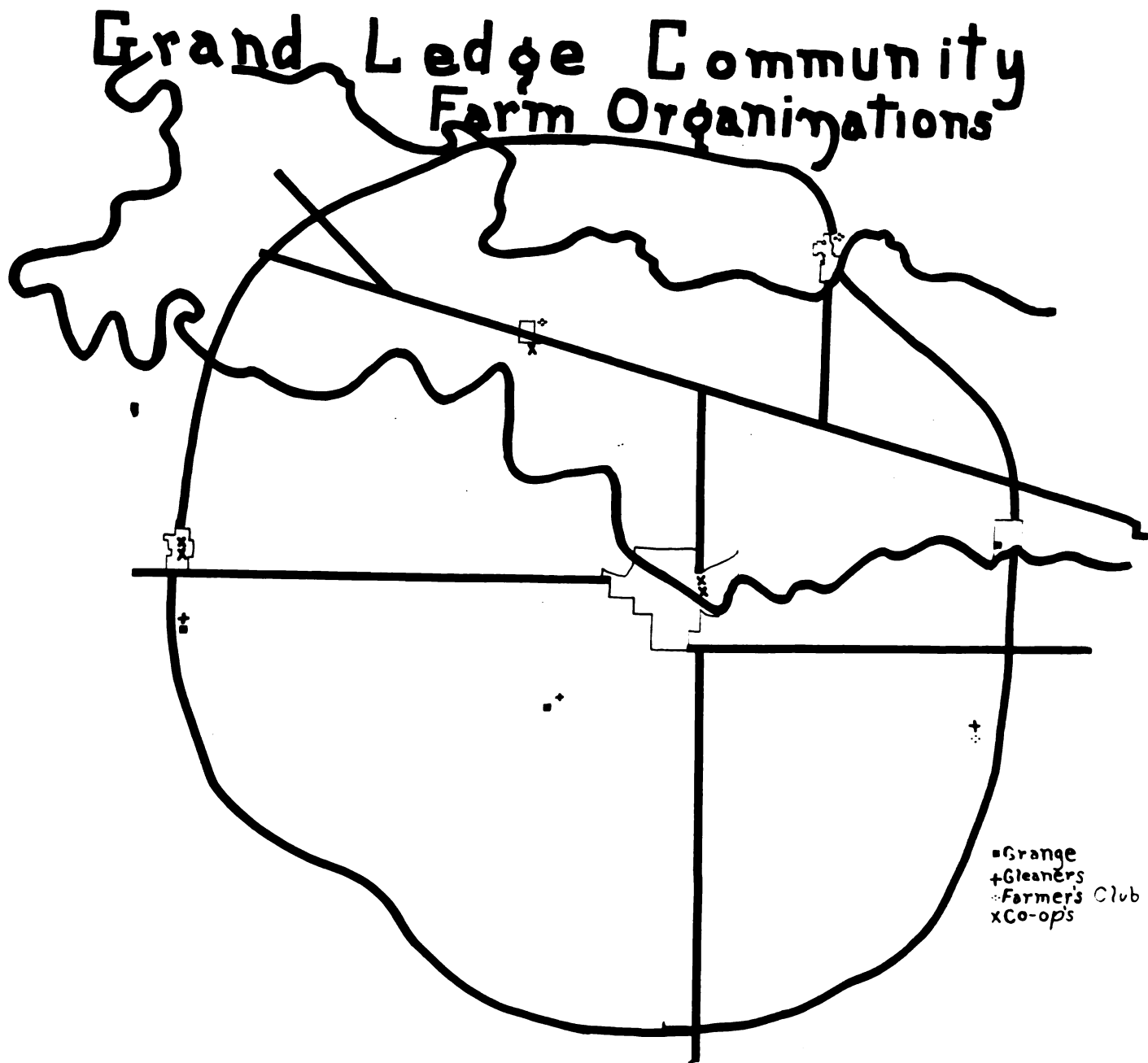


Figure 14. The Location of the Farm Organizations in the Grand Ledge Community.

writer tries to be unbiased in his opinion even though he has grown up in the grange atmosphere. However, the four granges, especially those at Oneida Center and at Delta, seem to have had more influence for a longer period of time than other farm organizations.

(17)

From the History of Ingham and Eaton Counties, by Durant the following statement of the Roxand Grange appears:

Roxand Grange No. 315, P. of H., was organized about 1874. The first Master was Alexander L. Parker. The present hall was built in the summer of 1879. The membership of the grange, in July, 1880, was in the neighborhood of seventy, and the following were the officers: William C. Howell, Master; Alonzo Albro, Overseer; Perry Trim, Sec.; John Nickle, Treas.; A. L. Parket, Lecturer; Delos Reed, Steward; Charles Webster, Assistant Steward; Mrs. W. C. Howell, Ceres; Mrs. A. Albro, Pomona; Mrs. Simeon Hart, Flora.

Roxand Grange has had several periods of growth and decline but when the writer visited the secretary, her records showed the last meeting to have been held in 1925. There was an attempt at reorganization at this time. There was an earlier attempt at reorganization in 1923 as the grange had evidently died at the beginning of the 20th century. Probably a partial reason that Roxand Grange declined was the shifting of the emphasis from the neighborhood to the community. Another reason for the lack of interest in Roxand Grange was the change of the town from Hoytville to Mulliken. There used to be a fine Grange hall in Hoytville, but this was torn down and used for other buildings. The other business moved over to Mulliken on the railroad. A recent report given Roxand Center Grange with the meeting place at Mulliken with 13 paid up members. These hold their membership only for their insurance.

(17) Durant, S. W. - History of Ingham and Eaton County.

Oneida Center Grange's charter gives the date of 1874. This grange was organized just as Grand Ledge had reorganized in 1906 in Oneida Center with John B. Strange as its first Master. Since 1906 they had a period of good years during the time of which they built a hall, had a big membership, and things were running smoothly. In the last few years, since there has been a lack of young people in the grange, it has almost died. Recently, however, one of the state officers came in and helped them to get some new members, especially young people, and since that time they have initiated quite a class of young people and the organization shows promise of developing some interest in life. There are about 75 on its membership roll at the present time with the usual attendance between 50 and 80. They have made a number of repairs on the hall, have installed electric lights, which are all being paid for by the earnings of the grange. If the organization can maintain itself for another year or two, it probably will be able to get under motion for another cycle of successful years.

Delta Mills Grange had a similar history. It was organized in 1874 and reorganized in 1923 and has had a long period of flourishing years. The Nicols, Crosby, Creyts, Felton and McDonel families took an active part in a vigorous Grange program here and were active in Holstein breeders associations and other activities from Michigan State College. Members of these families took part in county and state Grange Programs and in legislative conferences. At the present time many of the older members are still on the farm, some of the younger generation are in active education or business occupations elsewhere.



Oneida Grange Hall



The Delta
Mills Grange
Hall.



The Delta Mills Cemetery

In certain periods of the year other granges have very small attendance at meetings. Last year the Delta Grange entertained the business men of Grand Ledge; over 200 attending the banquet. During the summer the older members seem too busy to go to night meetings of the Grange, their average membership has been 45 for the last two years.

The Danby Grange has only a small part of its membership within the limits of the Grand Ledge community, hence it need not be included in this analysis. This organization does not have any influence upon those people who naturally fall within the Grand Ledge community. Here is another instance where the line of High School students as a boundary of the community does not coincide with the boundary line of the social groupings.

Gleaners

The Gleaners is an organization which has for its main purpose cheaper insurance. They have an educational program and also are social centers in neighborhoods. One outstanding thing about the organization is that when one arbor or local organization becomes so small that it cannot maintain itself as a unit, the state organization consolidates it with a nearby chapter. At present there are three arbors in the Grand Ledge community, namely; Oneida Center, Delta Center and at Hoytville.

The Oneida Center chapter was organized about 1905 and has a membership at the present time of 175. In 1929 the Eagle arbor and the North Benton arbor consolidated with the Oneida Center. North Benton had a hall but it was torn down and used for other purposes.

The Hoytville organization was started about the same time as the other two and at the present time it is rather weak having only a few members and not having regular meetings.

Probably the most important effect of these Gleaner organizations in this community has been the closer knitting of the neighborhoods and lower insurance rates.

Farmers Clubs

There are three farmers' clubs in the area and they all seem to be about equally strong as far as program and members are concerned. It is interesting to note that they are in the eastern and northern parts of the community. This is due to the fact that there are no granges in this particular section to provide social contacts for the residents.

The oldest organization is the one at Wacousta called the Looking Glass Valley Farmer's Club. It was organized in 1902. It has maintained a strong program which may be due in part, to the influence of the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Wright, who have been pastors in the Methodist Church in Wacousta several years and have taken an active part in farm organizations. Most of the members live outside of the Grand Ledge community. Some of these people have had positions in state organizations, such as W.C.T.U. and State Farmer's Club. Their membership at present is between twenty-five and thirty families. (see appendix for programs).

The next in age is the Eagle Farmer's Club. This was organized only a few years ago. Representative John Espie was responsible for its organization, was its first president and has maintained a strong leadership throughout. They are closely allied with the church in Eagle, using its buildings, and the

leadership from both the church and the farmer's club is approximately the same.

The youngest organization, organized in the winter of 1931, is the Delta Township Farmer's Club. Elbert Kelsey came home from Michigan State College with a Bachelor's Degree and trained in leadership. He felt that this community should have an educational program for the farmers and it is through his efforts that the organization was started. He is its president at this time.

The farmers clubs have, for the most part, a program of education. Of course, this necessarily must be carried on in a social group and for that reason the church and the farmers club often work together as has been true in each case of the three farmers clubs mentioned. Their contribution has been to interest the farmers in thinking about their business from the viewpoint of analysis and to put into practice the better programs of farming.

Cemetery Associations

The people of this community manifest keen interest and much zest in cemetery associations. These organizations meet once a month at the homes and churches. They have for their purpose the care of the cemetery. It is interesting to note that the organizations have turned into social groups nearly every time they meet, having a pot-luck meal and having programs of a social nature. All of the cemeteries in the Grand Ledge community have associations. The strongest are those at Delta Mills, Delta Center, and Wacousta. Their position is shown on the neighborhood map. The purpose of the association is manifested in the well kept cemeteries in the respective communities.

Patch Club

In the area north and west of Grand Ledge is an organization of ladies known as the Patch Club which meets to sew and it is very much like the Ladies' Aid in most neighborhoods. The only difference is that there is not a church in that neighborhood.

Farm Bureau

In 1920 the county was organized for farm bureau work chiefly for cooperative business organizations. At the present time the county organization in this county is relatively weak, as compared to its former strength. This is due to the business conditions that have depressed farm business since the time of the organization and to the fact that Eaton County is a strong Grange county. At the present John Strange is head of the county farm bureau and has been active ever since its organization.

Cooperative Organizations

The writer discusses cooperative organizations in this chapter because he believes this type of organization has its social as well as economic benefits. The two strongest organizations are at Grand Ledge, a Cooperative Live Stock Shipping Association and a Cooperative Elevator. The Cooperative Live Stock Shipping Association has a membership of 520. The purpose of the organization is to market live stock cheaper than can be done through the ordinary business channels. There are 800 farmers who shipped livestock last year in the organization. The non-members provided fees of a total of \$250.00 which was used in banqueting the members at the annual meeting. The gross business transacted by the organization

amounted to a quarter of a million dollars last year. The organization provides a cheaper cost of marketing live stock to its members.

The Grand Ledge Produce Company is a strong organization with a membership of 244. The par value of the stock is worth \$100.00 and each member is allowed \$500.00 worth of stock, but in no case more than one vote per person. The sales from last year's business amounted to \$317,930.00. The organization buys all kinds of grains, sells coal and supplies. They do business with all sorts of individuals but the members only receive the profits, in the dividends. Six per cent is paid on the stock and the dividends are paid on the amount of business a man does with the company.

The Cooperative Bean Growers Association at Mulliken was organized a few years ago with the aim to produce a higher grade of beans and get a better market and cheaper seed. Pearl Smith, a registered seed grower, was responsible for its organization. At the present time the organization is practically inactive.

Mulliken has a cooperative shipping association which ships not only for the members but for anyone. There does not seem to be any fee for non-members.

The Eagle Shipping Association was organized a number of years ago and until just recently has shipped live stock from the Eagle territory. At present they are not shipping regularly.

The primary interest of cooperative associations of this type is either to buy or sell products for its members at a cheaper rate. With the advents of the truck which places the live stock on the Detroit market in a few hours, the cooperative live stock shipping associations are suffering both from members

and non-members lack of shipping through the cooperative. There seems to be a place for a cooperative elevator and grain marketing equipment in the community. Probably the Grand Ledge Produce handles this as well as any company could. Another need is for a cooperative milk organization. At the present time the price of milk is so low that farmers are having a hard time to make a profit from their herds. There seems to be a wide-spread interest in that type of organization since some of the Grand Ledge community farmers belong to a Lansing cooperative. The interest is also manifested in the class of farm management in the high school in that they have set up on paper a cooperative milk organization. (A copy of the constitution is in the appendix). Perhaps this may interest farmers in cooperative marketing of milk products.

There are many other organizations which have a certain amount of influence. Just how to measure or to explain their value in the community is a problem outside of this thesis. They are, however, mentioned as a secondary influence on the farm population. The following table shows a list of organizations by townships, villages, and neighborhoods, the date of organization and present strength. This list is incomplete inasmuch as many organizations formed in the nineteenth century which ceased to function have been forgotten. The organizations listed give an idea of the type that are found in the community at this time.

A word of explanation is needed at this time as regards the use of terms in the following table. The use of the words "Very active" reference is made to the type of program in that there is a very active program. It must include work for men, women, youth and children. It must run throughout the year and be an influence in the community. "Active" refers to the above but to a lesser degree. "Fair" means their program is not so well adjusted and does not meet the needs of all groups. "Weak" means they still retain their organization but its influence is very slight. The rest of the terms are self-explanatory.

Relationship of Farm Organizations to Agricultural Students.

It is very difficult to say just what effect farm organizations have upon the life of the high school student. As has been discussed in the chapter on neighborhood, the home, and the school, the other factors of the students' environment must be considered. One unit of environment naturally influences the others. That is, a good student in agriculture in the high school often comes from a farm where the father is a good farmer and generally belongs to a neighborhood farm organization. The farm organizations believe that they are training grounds for leadership in public speaking and learning neighborhood responsibilities, etc. This probably is true to some extent, yet perhaps it has been overestimated in its usefulness by those connected with the organizations. The organizations occasionally are a product of the strong leaders in the community and their leadership also influences other members of the community in leadership and good farm activities.

Table IX
ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR STRENGTH

Name of Organization	Date Organized	Number of Members	Present Strength
<u>Grand Ledge</u>			
M. E. Church	1851	335	Very active
Baptist Church	1851	165	very active
First Congregational Church	1854	260	very active
Masons and Ladies Organization	1865	200 (1)	very active
Presbyterian Church (about)	1865	(2)	Dead
Emanuel German Lutheran	1872	50	Fair
I.O.O.F. and Ladies Organ.	1872	150 (1)	Fair
Ancient Order of United Workmen	1879	(2)	Dead
Knights of Honor	1878	(2)	Dead
Knights of Pithias		(2)	Dead
Exchange Club		(2)	Dead
Chamber of Commerce	1930	30 (1)	Active
American Legion	1920	65 (1)	Active
Catholic Church	1928	150	Active
Modern Woodman of America		(2)	Dead
Church of God		(2)	Weak
Nazarene		(2)	Active
Christian Science Church		40	Active
Mission		(2)	Active
Seventh Day Advent Church		35	Active
Episcopal		120	Active
Salvation Army		(2)	Weak
Free Methodist		80	
<u>Mulliken</u>			
Cooperative Shipping		(2)	Nearly dead
Bean Growers Cooperative	1927	25 (1)	Fair
Masons	1905	150 (1)	Active
I.O.O.F.	1876	(2)	Nearly dead
Band	1879	(2)	Dead
M.E. Church			
First was United Brethern	1887	(2)	Dead
Then Congregational	1892	(2)	Dead
Now M. E.	1915	100	Active
<u>Wacousta</u>			
M.E. Church		162	Dead
Congregational Church		(2)	Dead
Farmers Club	1925	70 (1)	Active
Masons		50 (1)	Fair
Modern Woodman of America		(2)	Dead
<u>Eagle</u>			
Universalist Church	1892	(2)	Dead
Cooperative		(2)	Nearly dead
I.O.O.F.		(2)	Dead

Farmers Club		75 (1)	Active
M. E. Church	1870	67	Active

(1) Estimated

(2) Data unobtainable.

CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Any effort to compare the Grand Ledge community with other communities would not only be difficult but would defeat the purpose of this thesis. The thesis seeks to analyze the Agricultural student's environment from the viewpoint of the neighborhood and community influences. Comparisons may be made with similar studies and conditions to determine whether these influences are normal and average. The same statements apply in the consideration of the neighborhoods. They can be examined and compared but human personalities make the rating of individuals or social groups very difficult. Sociology seeks to find the similarities existing in social phenomena. When these similarities are discovered, they may be used for the purpose of determining future procedure when comparable conditions are involved. The discovery of the sociological facts necessitates the work of many students and requires much painstaking research. The student in Grand Ledge high school must be studied not only as an individual but as a member of a group in order that curricula and methods of teaching may be organized. An examination must be made from the viewpoint of the home, school, church and organizations. This examination may be made in many ways but the circumstances involved in this study permit the use of the method known as the participant observer. This method consists of a trained observer living in the community for a period and participating in the groups. It differs from the observer method in that a participant is a member of the groups and sees most of the

influences in the community.

The Grand Ledge community area consisting of 125 square miles is no respecter of the lines the surveyors have laid out. It lies in parts of three counties and within parts of eight townships. The social organization consists of seven distinct neighborhoods and the city of Grand Ledge.

Three conditions attracted the first settlers who came in 1835.

1. Good soil - the soil in general was and still is exceedingly fertile.

2. The river - settlers often followed the river to their first homes, probably because it was a means of travel and of power. There are ruins of six old dam sites in the Grand Ledge area.

3. Natural beauty - the ledges are famous all over the state for their scenic beauty.

Therefore, it was not just a happenstance that Grand Ledge attracted settlers and that the town received its name.

Due to an abundant supply of clay, the tile factories were built and the railroad facilities as well as the lumber mills favored the development of the furniture factories. At present, however, these industries play a smaller part in the economic life of the community than they once did. Now the products of the soil claim first place in the economic and social life of the community.

If the business of farming were removed from Grand Ledge, the banks and stores would soon be very small organizations, since

so much of their business depends upon the farmer. The high labor and management wage of farmers in the Grand Ledge community as compared with Area 5, outlined in farm management studies of Michigan, influences not only the farmer's standard of living, but those in other businesses as well. Probably this explains to some extent the existence of better homes, more electric power, and more household conveniences in this community than in the average one. It helps to explain the proportionately high percentages of high school students from these homes. It is also partially related to the strength of churches and farm organizations.

The homes have a very high percentage of conveniences as compared with other areas in Michigan and in other states. The difference in percentage between Grand Ledge and other areas amounts to as much as 14% more for running water. The family influences have been very strong. In the two families discussed in detail the number who have had a good education and the number of prominent individuals from these families is conclusive proof of their superiority. In each case there were traditions of leadership and higher education which "pulled" the younger members of the families toward these goals. The leadership of strong families is shown in several neighborhoods. It probably exists in all of them. The influence of such families is evident in church, school and farm organizations. In this respect the organizations in this community have been fortunate.

As stated in Chapter III there are seven neighborhoods in the Grand Ledge community. These are clustered around villages and organizations and institutions in the open country. The neighborhood center in five of the neighborhoods is the church. Two of

the others are Parent Teacher Associations and the last is a combination of the church, Parent Teacher Associations, and other village influences. Four of the neighborhoods are centered in villages. These have stores, schools, churches and the various neighborhood organizations such as Masons, Ladies' Aids, etc.

The church has been the one of the strongest organizations in the whole community. It has opened positions of leadership for many and has continuously contributed to the spiritual guidance and inspiration of the people. If a church does not do this, it becomes meaningless in the lives of its members. However, this has been avoided in the case of the Grand Ledge churches. The Strange Church has maintained an organization for nearly one hundred years. Another church has developed a program of young people's work and community betterment to such an extent that membership at their meetings is no longer a problem. An examination of the programs of most of the churches, however, still shows a lack of work for young people, and recreational activities for all ages. The Grand Ledge churches should heed the warning signs and provide a place in their programs to give the young people the recreational and social opportunities which young people obviously need. Play days, church teams of various sports, and gatherings where old and young may play together would enhance the value of church work. Likewise, dramatics, choral work, orchestras, and parties help to build a wholesome social life for the boy and girl. It is much more fun to play and mix with others in the neighborhood church gatherings, than to drive twenty-five or fifty miles to a dance to be among strangers for an evening, as many young people do in this community. Not one of the church programs includes full

development of the above work. The sociological type of program, as described above helps to remove denominational prejudice and favors community development.

Farm organizations can not shift all of this responsibility to the church. In Grand Ledge the farm organizations have assumed part of this responsibility. The Granges have been providing parties and dramatic work in which the young people participate. The Farmer's Clubs have provided a program of education. Farmers have not had many outstanding leaders in the United States. One reason for this condition until recently has been the absence of facilities for training leaders. The organization of the Future Farmers of America in the Smith-Hughes Schools seems one of the most hopeful organizations for removing this handicap since it promotes the training of leaders. In Grand Ledge, this organization numbers twenty at the present time, one of whom has received the degree of Future Farmer. Ten of the members have the Future Farmer degree and the other are "Green Hands". This organization strives to provide leadership opportunities for all of the students in the Agricultural Department. Perhaps, leaders trained in this organization in this and other communities may not only revive other organizations, but help make a combined effort on the part of people engaged in agriculture, to stand on their feet in competition with other industries.

The school has had an important part in the Grand Ledge community. It, in common with others, has felt the effect of the machine age. The idea that everyone should be educated and that it is the task of the teachers to provide this education,

is prevalent among members of the community. Those who stand in front of youth and attempt to parcel out knowledge can not help but feel the tremendous responsibility that has been placed upon them in this manner. Vocational agricultural education in Grand Ledge has met the problem by having 101 members in the Agricultural Department above the ninth grade over a period of eight years. The attempt has been made to have the boy participate in the learning process, not only with his head but with his hands. This program has met with some obstacles. Farmers have often prejudiced their own sons against farming. The factories have offered high wages. Since Grand Ledge is near Lansing, this has been one of the most important influences to consider from the viewpoint of the agricultural boy. In the city, he sees the higher wages and the shorter hours. But a farm can not be run by punching the clock at 7 A.M. and again at 5 P.M. Farm machinery has developed slowly, and even now is too expensive in most cases. In spite of these circumstances, the recent depression necessitates a stronger insight into farming and improved farm methods. Those who desire a better income and better standards of living must have a scientific knowledge of farming. It is, therefore, the purpose of persons who attempt to teach agriculture to give this scientific training. However, this knowledge alone is insufficient. The boy must see the value of farm life. Attempts have been made to develop this at Grand Ledge in courses in sociology and farm management. The curriculum has been planned to give the students scientific knowledge and also practical experience along lines of farm life. The farm boy must be trained not only to farm, but to understand the

value of farming as compared to other vocations. He must know how to build a well-balanced life for himself and his community. He must see the need of organizations and the resulting leadership. He must be master of himself and a leader of others.

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Appendix I

Name _____ P.O. _____
 County _____ Town _____
 Section _____

Owner.....Renter.....
 Acres owned.....Acres rented.....

No. of generation of farm in family.....No. of acres inherited...

Period of residence on this farm.....

Other occupations.....

.....

Type of farming.

General..... Specialized (in what).....

Family	Age	Highest schooling
Father
Mother
1st child
2nd "
3rd "
4th "
5th "
6th "

Conveniences

1. Running water.....
2. Lights (check system used)
 Power line.....
 Electric farm plant.....
 Farm gas plant.....
 Gasoline lights.....
3. Bathroom with tub.....
4. Septic tank or sewage disposal.....
5. Central heating system.....
6. Telephone.....
7. Power for heavy work.....

8. Refrigeration.....

9. Screens.....

Art.

Play musical instrument.

Name

Instrument

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Play in band or orchestra

Name

Instrument

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Sing in choir or other musical organizations

Name

.....
.....
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Appendix II

Constitution of the Democratic Milk Association

We, the undersigned, do hereby associate ourselves together for the purpose of forming a cooperative association under the cooperative association law of the state of Mich. and for that purpose state the following:

Article I

The name of this association shall be: "The Cooperative Milk Association."

Article II

The purpose of this association and the enterprise, business and pursuit in which it proposes to engage is: "To secure and maintain a better price for our dairy products."

Article III Members

Any bona fide producer of dairy product (in the area covered or the owners or lessees of land upon which dairy products are produced may become a member of the association by agreeing to the constitution and the member's agreement.

At any time the board of directors determines that a member has ceased to be a bona fide producer of dairy products, or that he no longer receives a share of such products as a landlord or lessee, his membership may be terminated and the company may refuse to accept his products.

The violation of the by-laws or of any contract entered into by the association with a member, shall constitute a sufficient cause for the expulsion or suspension of such a member from the association by the Board of Directors, and said Board may expel or suspend such a member at any time provided that an opportunity is given the member to answer any charges made against him.

Article IV. Meetings

The annual meeting of the association shall be held at the Grand Ledge High School Gymnasium, on the first Monday in June of each year at 10 o'clock A.M.

The Board of Directors shall hold a monthly meeting.

Special meetings of the members may be called at any time by the president or the Board of Directors. Such meetings shall be called also whenever ten members shall so request in writing.

Notice of the annual meeting shall be mailed by the secretary to each member ten days previous to the date of the meeting. Ten days before the date of any special meeting the secretary shall mail notice of such meeting to each member, which shall state the nature of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

Article V. Quorum

(Two-thirds) of the members in good standing present in person or represented by ballot shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the membership.

Article VI. Directors and Officers

The board of directors of this association shall consist of 10 members, who shall be divided into two classes.

At the first election after the adoption of these by-laws, the members shall elect from among themselves (5) directors for a term of one year, and (5) directors for a term of two years. At the expiration of the terms of the directors so elected their successors shall be elected in like manner, for terms of two years. Directors shall hold office until their successors have been elected and qualified and have entered upon the discharge of their duties.

The board of directors shall meet within five days after the first election, and after each annual election, and shall elect by ballot a president and a vice-president from their number, and a secretary-treasurer (or a secretary and a treasurer) who may or may not be a member of the association. All officers shall hold office for one year or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

Any vacancy in the board of directors shall be filled for the unexpired term by a majority vote of the remaining members of the board and directors so chosen shall hold office for the unexpired portion of the term of the member whose place he was elected to fill.

(8) members of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the board of directors.

Any director or officer of the association may, for cause, at any general or special meeting be removed from office by a vote of the majority of the total membership, present or represented by ballot, in accordance with the procedure outlined in the cooperative Association Law.

The association may provide, at a regular or called meeting of the members, a fair remuneration for the time actually spent by its officers and directors in its service, except that no director, during his term of office, shall occupy any position in the association on regular salary, nor shall he be a party to a contract for profit with the association different in any way from the business relations accorded other members.

Article VII. Duties of the Directors.

The board of directors shall manage the business and conduct the affairs of the association and shall make the necessary rules and regulations, not inconsistent with law or with these by-laws, for the management of the business and the guidance of the officers, employees, and agents of the association.

The board of directors may employ a general manager, fix his compensation and dismiss him for cause. He shall have charge of the business of the association under the direction of the board of directors.

The board of directors shall require the treasurer and all other officers, agents, and employees charged by the association with responsibility for the custody of any of its funds or property to give bond with sufficient surety for the faithful performance of their official duties, the premium on which bond shall be paid for by the association.

The board of directors shall meet each month at the office of the association in the city of Grand Ledge. Special meetings of the board shall be held upon call of the president or upon written request of (three) members of the board.

Article VIII. Duties of Officers.

The president shall---

a. Preside over all meetings of the association and of the board of directors.

b. Sign as president on behalf of the association all papers which he is authorized to sign by the board of directors.

c. Call special meetings of the association and of the board of directors and perform all acts and duties usually required of an executive and presiding officer.

In the absence or disability of the president, the vice president shall preside and perform the duties of the president.

The (secretary-treasurer) shall---

a. Keep a complete record of all meetings of the association and of the board of directors, keep a membership roll.

b. Sign on behalf of the association all papers which he is authorized to sign by the Board of directors.

c. Serve all notices required by law and by these by-laws.

d. Receive and disburse all funds and be the custodian of all the property of this association.

e. Keep a complete record of all business of the association and make a full report of all matters and business pertaining to his office to the members at their annual meeting and make all reports required by law.

f. Perform such other duties as may be required of him by the association or the board of directors.

Article IX. Duties and Powers of the Manager.

Under the direction of the board of directors, the manager shall employ and discharge all employees, agents, and laborers. He shall have charge of the grading, packing, and inspection of all products handled by the association, and shall have control of the brands and labels and their use on such products in accordance with the rules of the association.

Subject to the terms of the contracts made by the members with the association for the marketing of their products, the order of the board of directors, and the by-laws and rules of the association, the manager shall have entire charge of the sale and marketing of such products.

Article X. Emergency Capital

At the time of uniting with the association, or any time thereafter when called upon by the board of directors, each member, in consideration of the maintenance and operation of the association, shall give a negotiable promissory note, payable on demand to the order of the association. Such note shall be for the sum of (\$25) and an additional (\$1) for every producing cow.

Such note shall be the property of the association for the purpose of being pledged by the board of directors as collateral security for any loan that may be necessary in the conduct of the association's business and also for the purpose of securing the payment of any debt or claim due by the member to the association, including the settlement of any liquidated damage that may result from the failure of said member to live up to his contract with the association.

All produce offered for shipment shall be inspected before shipment. If any produce is not of good quality and in good condition for shipping such produce shall be sorted and prepared for shipment at the expense of the owner, or it may be turned back to the owner as products unsuitable for marketing.

All brands, labels, trade marks, and the like established by the association shall be registered and become its property, and they shall be attached only to such grades as shall be approved by the board of directors.

Article XI. Duties and Rights of Members.

A member shall have the right to give away or retain for his own use such of his farm products as he may wish, but he shall not sell any products contracted to the association to an outside party, except products offered to and rejected by the association.

Any member who receives an offer for his farm products which is greater than the price presently obtainable through the association may submit this offer to the manager. If deemed advisable, the manager may authorize the member to accept the offer, but payment for the products shall be made to the association. Products sold in this manner shall bear their proportional share of the association's expenses, and settlement therefor shall be made to the member as hereinafter provided for.

Each member shall have a number or mark which shall be permanently stamped on every sack, box, barrel, crate, basket or other container, packed by him or under his direction, for shipment through the association. Any loss occasioned by improper packing or grading shall be charged to the member whose mark is found on said package.

Each year each member shall report to the association on request the approximate acreage of products to be grown by him that year for sale through the association. During the growing season each member shall furnish such information concerning the crops contracted to the association as may be required by the manager.

Each member of the association shall have only one vote. No member shall be allowed a vote so long as any past-due debts or obligations owing by him to the association remain unpaid. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. Absent members may vote on specific questions by ballots transmitted to the secretary of the association.

Any member may withdraw from the association on the first day of (June) of any year by giving notice in writing thirty days prior to said date, but such withdrawal shall not affect any right or lien which the association has against the retiring member or his property until his indebtedness to the association is fully paid. Any member having a grievance or complaint against the association may appeal to the board of directors (or) to the members at any regular or called meeting.

Article XII. Expense and Payments.

The expense of operating the association shall be met by a percentage charge laid upon returns for produce sold, or by a uniform fixed price per package; and upon supplies purchased, the amount of such charge to be fixed by the board of directors.

After the season's expenses are paid and a proper sum set aside to cover the depreciation of the association's property and provision is made for a reserve fund to be fixed by the board of directors, the balance of the season's returns shall be paid 6% on the remainder of stocks and dividends in accordance with amount of milk they send.

Article XIII. Accounts and Auditing.

This association shall install a system of accounts and provide other accounting appliances that may be necessary to conduct the business in a safe and orderly manner.

The books and business of the association shall be audited semi-annually by a committee of auditors selected by the membership from among themselves. A complete annual audit shall be made by a competent accountant previous to the date of each annual meeting, at which meeting his report shall be presented in full. Special audits shall be made upon order of the board of directors or upon a majority vote of the members at any regular or called meeting.

Article XIV. Amendments.

These by-laws may be amended at any meeting by a two-thirds vote in the affirmative of the members present, or represented by ballot, provided that notice of the proposed amendment is included in the call for said meeting.

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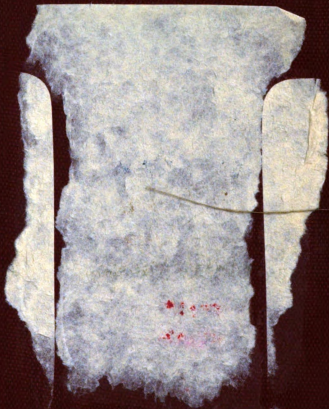
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