

**THE VILLAGE
OF PARIS**

**TOWNSHIP OF GREEN
COUNTY OF MECOSTA
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

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**Donated by Barbara J. (Romine) Waldron
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The Village of PARIS

PARIS is one of the thriving little towns in MECOSTA county, and is situated in the township of GREEN, about six miles north of Big Rapids, on the western bank of the MUSKEGON, at the point where PARISH CREEK empties itself into the river. It is on what is familiarly known as the "up-river road," is surrounded by a good farming country, and is at the upper end of the BIG RAPIDS DIVISION of the GRAND RAPIDS & INDIANA RAILROAD; constituting for the present the northern terminus of the road; and until the road is built further north, it will be a place of no small importance, from the fact that here the cars will discharge their daily loads of animate and inanimate freight which will be pouring into the great "north woods," and will receive for each return trip countless numbers of those whose business calls them to the "outside world."

The first settlement here, and in fact the first in the town of GREEN, was made by JOHN PARISH, some eighteen years ago.

Mr. PARISH made this point his home, and in a few years had neighbors, and saw the country around him settling up, and finally a village growing where he first built his cabin then more than a days walk from any settlement. But it was not ordained that he should live to see his protegee connected with the outside world by iron rails, nor hear the whistle of the locomotive where so many years before he tied up his canoe, and built his campfire among the trees. After suffering from ill-health for several years, he finally passed to that "undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns," having enjoyed through life the confidence, respect and esteem of all his acquaintances, leaving not a single enemy behind.

The village was platted by JOHN PARISH and ANDREW McFARLANE, as owners and proprietors, and the plat was placed on record May 18, 1867. It comprises about 35 or 40 acres, and is situated on sections 15 and 16 of the township of GREEN.

On the 9th of April 1870, G. F. STEARNS and A. T. MASON platted about 20 acres situated along side of the MUSKEGON RIVER, to the northward of the original plat, which they called "STEARNS & MASON'S ADDITION to the VILLAGE of PARIS;" and just one month later, Mr. MASON platted two acres more lying adjacent, which he called "MASON'S ADDITION."

The recent completion of the Railroad to this point has given the business of the place quite a push, and what is there now is only a part of what will be here in a short time.

Going into the town, the first thing particularly attracting our attention is the depot building, which has just been completed. It is 20x80 feet in size, has a wide projecting roof which is supported with large brackets, at once "ornamental as well as useful." At the north end, is a room for a ticket office and waiting-room, and the balance is used for freight.

Leaving the depot, we go to the "MUSKEGON HOUSE," which is but a few steps distant, owned and kept at present by ANDREW McFARLANE, one of the original proprietors of the town. It is quite a large two-story building, and has been leased to M. T. POWERS, late of the NATIONAL at MORLEY, who will shortly take possession. We understand that Mr. POWERS has bought a large amount of bedding, carpeting and furniture, with which he will furnish the house in first class style, and that he intends to "keep a hotel." It has a large No. 1 barn in connection, and will undoubtedly be the principal resort of the village for the traveling public.

From here we cross to west side of the street and enter the store of E. M. STICKNEY & Co. Mr. STICKNEY is the pioneer merchant of the place, having opened his store some time before the village was platted. He keeps a general assortment and is doing a good trade. He also keeps the POST OFFICE, which bears the same name as the village.

The next building south is a new one, where we find B. A. WHIPPLE, who is going to keep a stock of hardware and tinware. Mr. WHIPPLE is a practical tinner, and recently came from GRAND RAPIDS.

The second building south of the POST OFFICE is occupied by WILLIAM GARLICK, who keeps a general assortment, but makes groceries, provisions and feed a speciality.

At the 3d door, we find BEVINS BRO'S, who keep a large assortment, and do a large trade. Their store was the second started in the place, and a long acquaintance with the public gives them a good patronage.

The next is a new two story building erected by JOHN MARKLEY. It is 22x60 feet in size, and contains the largest store room in town, which will shortly be occupied by G. W. CRAWFORD and L. H. GREEN of BIG RAPIDS, with a large stock of hardware. The second story is all in one room, and is designed for a public hall.

A few steps further south, and we enter the store of A. P. STEARNS, which we find literally crammed with merchandise of all kinds, and we observe too that Fred is generally busy attending to the wants of his numerous customers.

The next building is a new one just completed, 24x32 feet in size, designed for a billiard hall on the first floor, and a residence above, N. GRUMMONDS being the owner and proprietor.

The "PARIS HOUSE," kept by H. M. WALL, comes next in order, and although rather a small hotel, it is said to be a good stopping place.

A few rods further south is a large two story hotel rapidly approaching completion, owned by F. DUCKHORN.

F. GOOCH'S BLACKSMITH and WAGON SHOP still a little further south, constitutes the extreme southern business place on the west side of the street.

Crossing to the east side we come to the MEAT MARKET of JAMES WRIGHT, where steak, mutton chops, and other choice bits are carved up for the hungry.

A few steps to the northward, we come to a small building owned by G. STAAB, which has been rented for a grocery store.

Next we find the HARNESS SHOP and shoe store of EDWARD STOUT, who does quite an extensive business in his line.

Passing the MUSKEGON HOUSE, a few minutes walk brings us to the PARIS MILLS, which are owned by Hon. G. F. STEARNS of BIG RAPIDS and A. T. MASON, E. S. SHAFER and A. McFARLANE of PARIS and are situated on PARISH CREEK, a stream of sufficient magnitude to furnish a good water-power for several mills. It is dammed some distance above, and the water brought down in a race or canal, and in this manner over twenty feet of fall is obtained.

The machinery of the establishment is propelled by an overhsot wheel, twenty feet in diameter, which requires but a few quarts of water to set it in motion. The flouring department of the mill is provided with two run of stone, and the lumber department with circular saws. Four men are employed in the saw-mill, and cut about 10,000 feet of lumber per day working ten hours. The "mill property" includes about 33 acres of land and embraces all the privileges of both banks of the stream for some distance above the village.

Crossing to the north side of the creek, we come upon a beautiful plat of table land, as level as a floor, where we find STEARNS and MASON'S ADDITION, which is admirably situated for business or residences. No buildings are erected here yet, though quite a number of lots have been purchased for that purpose, and considerable building material is already on the ground. Not least among the buildings in contemplation in this part of the village, is a store 24 by 60 feet and two stories high, which will be built by G. F. STEARNS, and occupied by his brother A. P. STEARNS. The work of building will commence soon, and it will be completed and occupied early the coming fall.

In our stroll through the town, we have observed about twenty new buildings in process of construction, among them the dwelling house of E. M. STICKNEY, which is the largest in the village. We also noticed several sites, wheré, judging from the indications of preparation, more buildings will be done during the summer.

The present populaton of PARIS is about 250, and this number will undoubtedly be doubled inside of the next six months.
copied verbatim

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