

History of Paw Paw



In 1826 John Agard came to this area and started a trading post on the river, with the Native Americans and fur trappers. He chose this area because it was on a proposed East-West route through Michigan's "Old Territorial Road", and was on a river. In 1833 he brought his family here, and they called their home and trading post "Agard's Landing". Mr. Agard died in 1835 of a heart attack, and his family moved away.

In 1832 Rodney Hinckley came here and built a saw mill. Mr. Peter Gremps came to this area in 1833 from New York, on a prospecting tour, and purchased the saw mill and a large tract of land adjoining it.

In 1834 he had a store built on the SW corner of what now is Michigan Avenue and Gremps Street, it was the first store built in Paw Paw. On May 7, 1834 he was appointed the first postmaster in Paw Paw. The post office was located in his store. In 1835 he returned to New York and brought back his family, along with supplies for his store. He and his family lived in the back of his store. Later he had a house built for his family on the NE corner of that intersection. After returning in 1835 he never left the Village of Paw Paw.

In 1838 Peter Gremps and Lyman Daniels surveyed and platted the east side of the Paw Paw River, it contained fifty one blocks. In 1846 sixteen more blocks were platted by Evert Dyckman and Joseph Woodman. In 1848 Issac Willard platted another section on the west side of the river. Thus, began the village of Paw Paw. The village was incorporated in 1859.

First physician: Dr. Barrett (1835)
First postmaster: Peter Gremps (1834)
First child born: Simeon Buys (1836)
First marriage: Hannah Mead & Mr. Bellfontaine (1833)
First death: Mrs. Daniel Dodge (1837)
First flour mill: Paw Paw Mills (1838)
First newspaper: "Paw Paw Democrat" (1843)
First lawyer: Aaron Broughton (1840)
First electric: 1890 limited use
First water system: 1898 limited use
First sewage: 1935
First school: 1853
First jail: 1839
First court house: 1844
First telegraph service: 1876

History of Paw Paw



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1826

John Agard establishes a trading post with Native Americans.

Rodney Hinkley arrives and builds a saw mill.

1832

1833

Peter Gremps arrives from NY and purchases the saw mill along with a large tract of land adjacent.

Peter Gremps builds first store housing the post office and he becomes the first postmaster.

1834

Peter Gremps and Lyman Daniels survey and plat the land on the East side of the Paw Paw river.

1838

Evert Dyckman and Joseph Woodman platted 16 more blocks of the village.

1846

Isaac Willard plats a section on the West side of the Paw Paw river.

1848

Paw Paw is incorporated.

1859

