

A Tale of One City

Nathan McGuire

Life in Mount Clemens, 1818

My name is Nathan McGuire, I'm here to tell the story of my life's adventures in southeast Michigan. The year was 1798, I was working in a butcher shop in Detroit Michigan, when I heard of an opportunity to join a surveying company that was mapping out territory north of Detroit. One member of the surveying party, Christian Clemens and I quickly became a good friends. As we traveled north, our surveying company lead by Lewis Cass, came across a beautiful river front area that both Christian and I really liked. I enjoyed my time working with the surveying company, but as winter approached I moved back to Detroit.

A few years later, friends told me of how Christian Clemens went back to that beautiful river front area and bought property along the river bank in 1801. Clemens later put a log house on the river and moved there. People talked about how Clemens had set lots and road plans for a village he called Mount Clemens.

In 1818 I heard that my old friend Clemens was still in that area, and it was building up, becoming a more populated area. I decided to move there with my wife and children. We moved into the new village of Mount Clemens. The house we moved into is a small house along one of the main roads going through the village. The people living around here are really friendly, they are telling me all good things about the village's founder Christian Clemens. And about how the leader of the old surveying company Lewis Cass became Territorial Governor of Michigan. Later in the year of 1818 the Michigan Territorial Governor named Mount Clemens the county seat of Macomb County. Which I also learned was named after General Alexander Macomb, General Alexander was a hero in the war of 1812. Lewis Cass also appointed Christian Clemens to be the judge of the County Court.

People around here fish, hunt, and trap along a river next to the town. Boat building and repair companies are highly common along the river. It is very pleasant living in Mount Clemens, the people are nice the roads are always lively with people on horseback, and the river being so close gives me a beautiful place to go fishing. I'm glad we moved to Mount Clemens, we plan to raise our family here in this growing village of Mount Clemens.