

John W. Burchard

By Jerry Lawler

John W. Burchard

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Col. John Woolsey Burchard

Description

Col. Burchard was very sanguine of the future, and indulged in fond anticipations.

Source: Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 124.

1814

Born

Born at Scipio, Cayuga County, NY

Source: Early History of Mason by Dr. William B. Hartzog, 1938, Chapter 16.

Source: Past and Present, Cowles, pg. 36.

Source: Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 123.

Source: Ingham and Eaton County, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 110.

?

Moved

Father moved to Moscow, Livingston County, NY where carried on trade of harness and saddle-maker

Occupation

John also Harness and saddle maker

Source: Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 123.

1835

Attorney

Admitted to the bar in Rochester, New York.

Source: Past and Present, Cowles, pg. 36.

Appx. 1836

Attorney

Studied law at Rochester

Source: Early History of Mason by Dr. William B. Hartzog, 1938, Chapter 16.

Source: Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 123.

Source: Ingham and Eaton County, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 110.

1837

Explore Lansing Water Power

Cyrus Hewitt came Lansing in "dug-out," with two other men, and surveyed the Seymour mill property, taking the levels for the dam which was built there....He was official surveyor of Calhoun county for many years, and also a United States

surveyor, and surveyed the lands of Calhoun, Hillsdale, Jackson, and other counties.”

Hewitt moved Lansing in 1858 as employ of State land office; deputy of department from 1861-1865; later Mayor of Lansing.

Source: Death of Cyrus Hewitt, Lansing Republican, Nov. 25, 1882.

In 1837 he came to Eaton Rapids, and from there descended the river to the present site of North Lansing, in a “dug-out” with two other men, and surveyed the Seymour mill property, talking the levels for the dam which was built there. One of these men was John W. Burchard...

Source: Lansing Republican, November 15, 1882, Michigan Pioneer Society, Vol. VI, pg. 295.

Note: Doubt. Did not move to Mason until 1839.

Came with two other men, one John W. Burchard, later lost life at dam; 1858 employee of State Land office.

Source: Pioneer, Vol. VI., 1907, pg. 295.

1839

Moved Lenawee

Moved Lenawee County, MI., admitted to bar and practiced law.

Source: Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 123.

Source: Ingham and Eaton County, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 110.

1839

Moved Mason

Moved Mason, Ingham County, MI

“Burchard was twenty-four or twenty-five years old when he moved to Mason early in 1839.”

Source: Let the Record Show A Legal History of Ingham county by Richard Frazier, David Thomas. editor; MSU Press.

Source: Past and Present, Cowles, pg. 36.

Source: Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 123.

Was Mason’s first attorney; practiced law at Mason for four years.

Source: Early History of Mason by Dr. William B. Hartzog, 1938, Chapter 16.

"The first lawyer in the county was J. W. Burchard."
Source: J. P. Cowles at May 1873 Ingham County Pioneer Association meeting: Adams pg. 21.

Mar 15, 1839

Master Chancery of Ingham County

Governor S. T. Mason nominated and Senate Approved J. W. Burchard, master in chancery, Ingham County.
Source: Executive Journal 1839, pg. 561 (Senate Journal 1839).

May 9, 1839

Committee Celebrate July 4th at Mason

Citizens committee met to plan celebration for July 4th in Ingham county, J. W. Burchard appointed secretary; Burchard selected to be Orator of the day.
Source: The Sentinel (Jackson) June 5, 1839.

Jul 4, 1839

July 4th at Mason

Procession started in front of School House at 10:00 A.M.; marched to the Hall of the Public House where exercise held: Prayer, Music, Reading of Declaration, Music Oration, Music, Benediction; procession reformed and proceed to the Arbor where dinner served.
Source: The Sentinel (Jackson) June 5, 1839.

Apr 17, 1839

Prosecuting Attorney of Ingham County

"On April 17 of that year, Judge E. B. Danforth, one of the Ingham county associate judges, asked Governor Mason in a letter to appoint John Woolsey Burchard, "an attorney and counselor at Law in the village of Mason, the present county site of this county," as Ingham county prosecuting attorney. Danforth and ten fellow townsmen signed the letter.
Source: Let the Record Show A Legal History of Ingham county by Richard Frazier, David Thomas. editor; MSU Press.

Apr 26, 1839

Prosecuting Attorney of Ingham County

"Danforth's petition appears to have been effective. Nine days after the letter was sent, on April 26, an entry appears in volume 8 of the State of Michigan Executive Acts preserved in the State Archives: "On this day, the following appointment was made by the executive (Stevens T. Mason) J. W. Burchard, prosecuting attorney, Ingham County." pg. 20.
Source: Let the Record Show A Legal History of Ingham county by Richard Frazier, David Thomas. editor; MSU Press.

1839

Ingham Counties First Attorney

Information from volume I of the Ingham county circuit court Journal, 1839-1855 and other sources suggest that Burchard may have been Ingham's first attorney. Under the date of November 12, 1839, the court's first day in session, is a notation in Clerk Peter Lowe's steady hand: "On the application of A. D. Hawley for admission as an attorney of this court and on reading and filling his papers ordered that P. Farrand, J. W. Burchard and L. Chapman be appointed a committee of examination."

"As it turned out, Burchard was on a committee to interrogate a Jackson lawyer seeking admission to the Ingham bar."

Source: Let the Record Show A Legal History of Ingham county by Richard Frazier, David Thomas. editor; MSU Press.

Nov 12, 1839

Prosecuting Attorney of Ingham County

Ingham county circuit court held first session in Mason on Nov. 12, 1839.

"The first criminal cases involved Elijah Woodworth and Ezekiel Critchett, charged with disturbing a religious meeting in Leslie Township. In a companion action, Woodworth and Amos Workman were defendants in a civil suit in which James Leek, apparently the owner of the home where the prayer meeting was held, was claiming damages of \$158.21." pg. 17

"John B. Burchard, in perhaps his first jury case, represented "The People" and Phineus Farrand of Jackson represented Woodworth, and perhaps Critchett. And, in an arrangement that would later be disallowed in Michigan's court system, Burchard also represented Leek in the civil action. ...Both men pleaded not guilty and their cases were adjourned after Woodworth posted bail of \$100.00 and Critchett, also charged with assaulting an officer, put up a \$500.00 bond." pg. 17

"The cases were again adjourned in 1840 but on May 4, 1841, Woodworth was convicted, as was Critchett at a later date. Both were fined \$5.00 for disturbing the prayer meeting as assessed costs of prosecution. Leek was subsequently awarded a \$158.21 judgment against Woodworth...." pg. 17

"It (court records) also contains a tabulation of the state's costs at the trail, submitted by Prosecutor Burchard and signed "J. W. Burchard, Notary Public." The bill lists filing fees....and Burchard's pay, listed under "Pros. Atty. fee-\$7." pg. 18

Source: Let the Record Show A Legal History of Ingham county by Richard Frazier, David Thomas. editor; MSU Press.

Nov 13, 1839

Purchased Land in Mason

Minos McRoberts of Mason sold land to John W. Burchard; land in Mason; Lot 10 in Block 30 of Section 8 of Vevay Township for \$50.00. (L3:P268)

1839

Justice of Peace of Vevay Township

One of two Justices of Peace of Vevay Township.

Source: History of Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 314.

Jan 7, 1840

County Prosecutor

Burchard's term as prosecutor ended when William Woodbridge, became governor.

Source: Let the Record Show A Legal History of Ingham County by Richard Frazier, David Thomas. editor; MSU Press.

Feb 15, 1840

Democratic Meeting

Feb 15, 1840 12:00 Noon, 60 Democratic Republicans met Ingham township to organize more thoroughly; three appointed from each township to read democratic newspaper and advocate democratic reassures; supported taxation for public schools, etc.

J. W. Burchard stated objects of meeting; was one of two secretaries of meeting; drafted resolutions for meeting; with E. B. Danforth and N. Rolfe was appointed to Vevay township democratic committee.

Source: Minutes of proceedings printed in Detroit Free Press, February 26, 1840.

Mar 5, 1840

Sold Land in Mason

Burchard of Mason, to Minos McRobert of Mason; land in Mason; Lot 10 Block 13 for \$40.00. (L3:P368)

Mar 31, 1840

Notary

Governor Woodbridge nominated "Hiram H. Smith, Silas Beebe, Jr., and John W. Burchard, to be notaries public for the county of Ingham; senate consented to by vote 16 to 0. Source: Executive Journal, Senate Journal 1840; pgs. 683 & 685.

May 16, 1840

Purchased Land in Vevay Township

Charles Noble of Monroe City and County Michigan (by attorney E. B. Danforth of Mason Michigan) to John W. Burchard of Mason, Ingham county, Michigan, land in Vevay Township Section 9. (L4:P300)

Nov 1840

County Treasurer

John W. Burchard, elected County Treasurer.

Source: Past and Present, Cowles, pg. 53.

Source: Adams pg. 39.

Source: Past and Present, Cowles, pg. 53.

1841-42

County Treasurer

Source: Adams pg. 167.

Source: Ingham and Eaton County, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 100.

Mar 26, 1841

Sold Land in Mason

John W. Burchard and wife Frances of Mason, Ingham Co. Michigan to James Blain of same place; for \$332.00;

Lots 7 and 8 of Block 9 in Village of Mason and East half of SE quarter of section 31 of T3NR1W (80 acres) in Alaieton Twp. (L4:P480)

Apr 7, 1841

Married

Married Francis Haynes of Onondaga

Mother Mrs. Abbie Haynes

Francis born 1821 at Cayuga county, NY

June 1839 moved to Michigan

At time married Haynes 20, Burchard 25

Two children:

John W. (named for father) - later groceryman in

Leslie; some sources note farmer.

Louisa daughter became wife of Samuel L. Kilbourne,

Source: Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 123.

Samuel L. Kilbourne first wife was Louisa Burchard; Samuel and Lousia had one daughter Mrs. James Harris.

Apparently Lousia died after married Samuel; obit talks of as first wife of Samuel, had another at time of his death in 1925. Source: Obituary of Samuel L. Kilbourne, The State Journal, Lansing, Michigan, Friday, June 12, 1925.

May 6, 1841

Purchased Land in Vevay Township

Charles Noble of Monroe City and Co. Michigan. (by atty. E. B. Danforth of Mason) to John W. Burchard of Mason; land in Section 9 of Vevay Twp.; lots 7 & 8 in Block 5? in Mason. (L4:P300)

May 25, 1841

Seymour Attorney

James Seymour and wife Mira of Rochester, NY to John W. Burchard of Mason, Ingham county, Michigan;

Burchard appointed "as our attorney and in our name sell and convey any or all of lands owned by JS in said county of Ingham." (L4:P491)

Oct 13, 1841

Purchased Land in Lansing Township

James and Mira A. Seymour of Rochester, NY to John Woolsey Burchard of Mason, Ingham co. Michigan; Land in Lansing Twp. Sec. 9. (L4:P301)

Purchase East half of SE quarter of section 31 for \$100. of 3 N R 1 W. (Alaiedon Township)

Purchased SE quarter fractional quarter of Sec. 9; 100 and 9 62/100 acres for \$548. (Lansing Township)

Seymour gave Burchard a warrant deed, and the latter mortgaged the property to Seymour to secure a portion of the purchase-money.

Source: Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 123.

"Seymour provided Burchard with a warranty deed and Burchard mortgaged the property to Seymour to secure part of the purchase price. "

Source: Let the Record Show A Legal History of Ingham County by Richard Frazier, David Thomas. editor; MSU Press.

....when John W. Burchard, a young lawyer at Mason, purchased the E fraction of S half of Section 9, 109 acres, lying between Grand River and East Street, now bounded

South by Saginaw Street, North Line 15 rods North of Franklin Street.

Source: Historical Sketch of Lansing; Its Trade and Commerce Present Advantages and Future Prospects, letter dated March 10, 1863 and signed WASHTENAWSEBI; printed in Advertiser & Tribune Detroit, March 26, 1863 and Lansing Republican on April 8, 1863. Some variation in dates and couple of other words. Version here, Advertiser & Tribune.

Nov 8, 1841

Purchased Land in Alaiedon Township

David Woodman of Paw Paw, Van Buren county, to Burchard

Purchase East half of SE quarter of section 31 for \$109. of town 3 North, range 1 West.(Alaiedon). (L4:P303)

Jan 7, 1842

Prosecutor

"But the energetic Judge Danforth...figured a man of Burchard's youth could mix prosecutor's duties with those of establishing a dam and mill twelve miles from the county seat. So, once again, he talked Burchard into making himself available for prosecutor and sent him off to Detroit with a letter to Austin E. Whig, an established Michigan elder statesman. The letter, dated at Mason on January 7, 1842....

Dear Sir

This county is destitute of a prosecuting att. Ex. Gov. Woodbridge during his reign did not see fit to reappoint (word not legible) our Mr. Burchard, the barer of this. He is a young man of fine law talents and very way worthy of the appointment. Mr. Parkist (Parkhurst) the man appointed by Mr. Woodbridge, resided at Jackson. He has left the county. Please give us your influence to secure the appointment of J. W. Burchard of this village." pg. 22

Source: Let the Record Show A Legal History of Ingham County by Richard Frazier, David Thomas. editor; MSU Press.

Feb 11, 1842

Prosecutor

Governor Barry nominated J. W. Burchard, to be prosecuting attorney for the county of Ingham, for the legal term, to commence on the 17th day of March next, when the term of the present incumbent expires; Senate consented to, on February 14, by vote of 18 to 0.

Source: Executive Journal, Senate Journal 1842; pgs. 310.

Apr 13, 1842

Mason Postmaster

John W. Bouchard (Burchard) appointed Mason postmaster. Next postmaster, John Coatsworth, appointed May 3, 1853. Source: Post Offices of Michigan, edited by Sr. Marriana, SSJ, 1976, pg. 577

Burchard named postmaster, took over from E. B. Danforth, the first postmaster of Mason.

Source: The Ingham County News, Centennial Issues; April 23 and 30 and May 7 and 14, 1959; pg. 30

May 5, 1838 Mason Post office established; E. B. Danforth postmaster.

"William H. Horton carried the mail between the two places once a week. He traveled on a trail through the forest. First, he wrapped the mail in his handkerchief, and later carried it in a coffee sack. He received \$1.24 for each trip. Mr. Danforth received \$16.48 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1838."

Source: Early History of Mason by Dr. William B. Hartzog, 1938, Chapter 7.

From Ingham County News:

Ephraim B. Danforth was commissioned the city's first postmaster on May 5, 1838. He served until 1842 when John W. Burchard was named. Source: Early History of Mason by Dr. William B. Hartzog, 1938, Chapter 7.

Feb 21, 1843

Notary

Executive Office

Detroit, February 21, 1843

To the Senate:

I....I also nominate Silas Beebe, jr., John W. Phelps and Anson Denton, John W. Burchard and Henry Fisk, to be notaries public, in and for the county of Ingham...

John S. Barry

Senate concurred in nominations by vote 18 to 0.

Source: Executive Journal, Senate Journal 1843; pg. 451-2.

Mar 9, 1843

Authorized Build Lansing Dam

Burchard authorized by Legislature to build dam across Grand River on section 9, town 4, north, range 2 west.

Jun 1843

Authorized Sell County Lots in Mason

Burchard authorized by board of commissioners to sell lots belonging to county, excepting two on the north and two on the south of the public square (Mason); Burchard at time prosecuting attorney.

Source: Durant pg. 107; Let the Record Show A Legal History of Ingham county by Richard Frazier, David Thomas. editor; MSU Press.

Jun 1843

Lansing Cabin

Mr. Burchard at once erected a log house, about five rods (82.5 feet) southwest of the Seymour House site, and in June 1843, removed his family to Lansing

Source: Historical Sketch of Lansing; Its Trade and Commerce Present Advantages and Future Prospects, letter dated March 10, 1863 and signed WASHTENAWSEBI; printed in Advertiser & Tribune Detroit, March 26, 1863 and Lansing Republican on April 8, 1863. Some variation in dates and couple of other words. Version here, Advertiser & Tribune.

...it stood on the east side of Grand river a...a few rods west of what is now Center Street, and north of what is now Wall Street..."

Source: Past and Present, Cowles, pg. 54.

Aug 1843

Move to Lansing

Moved family to Lansing

Source: Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 123.

Moved Lansing

"The simple Burchard cabin of logs chinked with mud was started in early summer. But the family apparently delayed moving in until Frances gave birth to their second child. It was August 1843 before Lansing's first permanent residents settled into their rustic dwelling....The tiny cabin was surrounded by dense wilderness. At night, Burchard's widow recalled forty years later, they could hear wolves howling.

The only humans they saw, except the hired men, were three families in crude river scows floating downstream."

Source: Let the Record Show A Legal History of Ingham County by Richard Frazier, David Thomas. editor; MSU Press, pg. 23.

Mrs. Newman remembered well that the wolves were frequently heard howling in the night near their cabin. The

country around was a dense wilderness. There were two children in the family, --a son, John W., named for his father, now living in Leslie, and a daughter, who became the wife of Samuel L. Kilbourne, Esq., but since deceased.

Source: Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 123.

Aug 1843

Constructed Lansing Dam

and at once commenced the erection of the dam across Grand River, under the supervision of C. C. Darling, Esq. of Eaton Rapids. The fall rains found his works insecure and incomplete, and the west end of the dam was torn away, the saw mill being but partly framed.

Source: Historical Sketch of Lansing; Its Trade and Commerce Present Advantages and Future Prospects, letter dated March 10, 1863 and signed WASHTENAWSEBI; printed in Advertiser & Tribune Detroit, March 26, 1863 and Lansing Republican on April 8, 1863. Some variation in dates and couple of other words. Version here, Advertiser & Tribune.

"At the time of building the dam (north Lansing), in 1843, Mr. Burchard visited Jackson for the purpose of procuring the services of Mr. Darling to superintend the work, and he probably was so employed."

Source: History of Ingham and Eaton Counties, by Durant, 1880; pg. 127.

Fall 1843

Lansing Dam Completed

Completed dam across river

Source: Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 124.

Burchard:

".....sinking the butts of trees in the river channel so that the wash of the water filled in the gravel and sand, and helped with the work. Some of those old timbers are yet at the foundation of the present dam."

Source"

Source: S. L. Kilbourne quoted in State Republican, April 15, 1909.

Appx. Nov 25, 1843 **Tower Visits Burchard Cabin**

About the 25th day of November, 1843, he sweep around the bend in the south part of what is now the city of Lansing, and passing down the river under the shade of the stately

forest-trees, which then overshadowed the stream, he soon brought up at another dam, and this he found had no slide to facilitate the passage of his craft. Here was a small clearing, and to the right of the dam, about thirty rods away, toward the northeast, was a solitary settler's log house, from which curled the smoke of a welcome fire. Here was living John Woolsey Burchard with his family, consisting of a wife and, Mr. Tower thinks, one child. There was also a man whom he remembers as being named Myers, and possibly one or two others, who were working for Burchard. Mr. Burchard had them certainly been living there long enough to erect a substantial dam, from timber which was cut in the surrounding forest and the boulder stones and clay and gravel taken from the bank.

Mr. Tower and family remained over-night with Burchard, all the party finding accommodations in the log cabin, which he describes as quite roomy and comfortable. Burchard and his help assisted in getting the boat around the dam, and the family one more resumed their voyage to Lake Michigan. Snow had fallen during the preceding night to the depth of six inches, and there was considerable slush ice in the river. Mr. Tower thinks that Burchard procured his flour and sup[plies at "Ingersoll's" a few miles below Lansing, where there was another dam and mills. There were no mills at Lansing.

Source: Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 124-5.

1843

Prosecuting Attorneys Report

Annual Report of the Attorney General notes in abstract of the annual reports of the Prosecuting Attorneys, showing the official business done by them during the past year.

Ingham County -- J. W. Burchard, Prosecuting Attorney

For	Larceny,	1
	Assault and battery	1
	Assault and battery with intent to kill	2
	Maiming swine,	1
	Obtaining goods on false pretenses	1
		6
Still pending		5
Discharged		1
		6

Source: Annual Report of the Attorney General; Joint Documents 1844, No. 7; pg. 9

- 1843 **Lansing Township Supervisor**
At the annual town-meeting, held at the school-house in District No. I, there were fourteen votes polled, of which, for supervisor, John W. Burchard received 13 and John Moffitt I. Source: Ingham and Eaton Counties Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 197.
- 1843-1844 **Lansing Settlers**
No further effort was made toward starting our embryo city till 1843,
Source: Historical Sketch of Lansing; Its Trade and Commerce Present Advantages and Future Prospects, letter dated March 10, 1863 and signed WASHTENAWSEBI; printed in Advertiser & Tribune Detroit, March 26, 1863 and Lansing Republican on April 8, 1863. Some variation in dates and couple of other words. Version here, Advertiser & Tribune.
- Winter 43-44 or
Spring 1844 **Saw Mill**
Went east and "procured assistance from his brother, Charles W. Burchard...and Thomas Clark, to aid him in getting his mill-irons and equipment, which were purchased at Auburn, Cayuga, County, NY.
Source: Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 124.
- 1844 **Lansing Township Supervisor.**
Source: Ingham and Eaton County, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 111.
- Jan 8, 1844 **Sold Land in Mason**
By J. W. Burchard (agent) to Issachar Williams and Nathaniel Hammond of Ingham county, land in Mason. L5:P344.
- Feb 23, 1844 **Master Chancery of Ingham County**
Governor Barry nominated, Senate consented to, Daniel L. Case, John W. Burchard and Mason Branch, to be Masters in Chancery for Ingham county.
Source: Executive Journal, Senate Journal 1844; pg. 24 & 25.
- Mar 4, 1844 **Prosecuting Attorney**

Daniel L. Case replaced Burchard as prosecuting attorney; Governor Barry nominated, Senate consented to, Daniel L. Case to be Prosecuting Attorney for the county of Ingham, for the constitutional term, to commence on the 17th day of March instant, when the term of the present incumbent will expire.

Source: Executive Journal, Senate Journal 1844; pg. 26.

Mar 17, 1844

Prosecuting Attorney Term Ends

Burchard's term as prosecuting attorney ended.

Apr 7, 1844

Death

In April 1844, during the freshest, Mr. Burchard and four other young men attempted to run a boat close to the sheet that poured over the dam, the boat was capsized, and he was drowned.

Source: Historical Sketch of Lansing; Its Trade and Commerce Present Advantages and Future Prospects, letter dated March 10, 1863 and signed WASHTENAWSEBI; printed in Advertiser & Tribune Detroit, March 26, 1863 and Lansing Republican on April 8, 1863. Some variation in dates and couple of other words. Version here, Advertiser & Tribune.

Spring flood washed out part of dam on the west shore, and it became necessary to repair the break.

Source: Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 124.

Drowned at dam' "...was drowned by having his boat drown under the waterfall while he was trying to ascertain what damage had been done to his dam by high water."

Source: Past and Present, Cowles, pg. 36.

"...with three other men he passed below the dam to see the break and while doing so the backwater carried his canoe under the sheet. The men who were with him were saved but he lost his life."

"...in company with three hired hands--William Pierce, Alonzo Baker, and a third, whose name is not remembered, but believed to have been Coe G. Jones, -he ventured in a canoe below the dam to examine the break, and while so engaged the back-water carried the canoe under the sheet. The three men who accompanied him were saved, but he was drowned, and his body was recovered ten days later,

being found on an island or bar at Ingersoll's (Delta), several miles below."

Source: Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 124.

"As they struggled to keep the canoe steady in the churning water, it slid in a backwater too close to the falls and was carried under the sheet. The canoe quickly filled and upset, and the four men were dumped into the icy waters. the three workmen managed to struggle to safety, but Burchard did not surface. "

Source: Let the Record Show A Legal History of Ingham County by Richard Frazier, David Thomas. editor; MSU Press.

Apr 7-17, 1844

Search for Body

"Mr. Cushman was an early settler in Clinton County, a few miles north of Lansing, and assisted in finding the body of John W. Burchard, the first settler...."

Later Mr. Cushman kept Union Hotel in Okemos from 1879 and added large addition to the house.

Source: Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 285.

"My father was among those who made a search for the body in the water of Grand river."

Source: S. L. Kilbourne quoted in State Republican, April 15, 1909.

Burial

Body taken to Mason and buried.

Source: Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 124.

Apr 1844?

Obituary

Obituary notice furnished by Mrs. Frances Newman, formerly Mrs. J. W. Burchard:

Fatal Accident it becomes our painful duty to announce the sudden and unexpected death of our must esteemed citizens and friend, Col. John W. Burchard. On the morning of the 7th inst., while crossing Grand River, immediately below his mill-dam, the boat he was in capsized, and he was borne some distance from the spot by the fury of the element, when all sight of him was lost. Diligent search has been made to recover the body, but as yet without effect.

"Col. Burchard has been taken from among us in the springtime of his usefulness and worth (being only about twenty-nine years of age), and his loss is deeply mourned by the citizens of the county.

Among the first who settled in this place (Mason), he was entrusted with many offices by the people, all of which he discharged with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of his constituents. Of a quick and perspective mind, he was foremost in projecting plans and devising measures to improve the facilities and extend the improvements and interest of this village, and county, and, although cut down in the midst of life and usefulness, he lived to see the inhospitable wilderness dotted with fruitful and cultivated fields, and this very spot, shaded with the thick foliage of a dense forest,--the liar of the wolf and the deer,--converted into a populous village, the mart of business and wealth, and a county placed in a condition truly enviable.

Mr. Burchard was a member of the bar, and as such highly esteemed. As a politician he was liberal and consistent, ever willing to award the meed [deserved shar/reward] of honor and merit to whom it was due, of whatever political party or creed.

By the above decease a wife is bereft of a fond and affectionate friend and bosom companion, and tow interesting little children are deprived of a kind father's watchfulness and protection, all, too, in one and unexpected moment.

Source: Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 124.

"in an early mention of him we read: Col. Burchard has been taken from among us in the springtime of life. He was only 29 years old. His loss is deeply mourned by the citizens of this county.

Source: Early History of Mason by Dr. William B. Hartzog, 1938, Chapter 16.

Apr 22, 1844

Turner Estate Administrator

Letter of Administration granted to James Turner.

Source: Abstracts of the Early Probate Records of Ingham county, MI 1838-1869; Mid-Michigan Genealogical society,

Lansing, MI; Occasional Paper No. 10; April 1980; Record 15.

Jul 1844

Family Moves - Seymour Obtains Lansing Property

His family immediately abandoned the place, and in July, 1844, Mr. Seymour purchased the property at Administrators sale, and at once let out the job of finishing the dam and erecting the mill to Messrs. Joab Page, Whitney Smith and George Pease;

Source: Historical Sketch of Lansing; Its Trade and Commerce Present Advantages and Future Prospects, letter dated March 10, 1863 and signed WASHTENAWSEBI; printed in Advertiser & Tribune Detroit, March 26, 1863 and Lansing Republican on April 8, 1863. Some variation in dates and couple of other words. Version here, Advertiser & Tribune.

Aug 13, 1844

Seymour Obtains Lansing Land

Francis S. Burchard of Onondaga to James Seymour of Rochester, NY, land in section 9. L5:P652

Aug 14, 1844

Seymour Obtains Lansing Land

James Turner (Administrator for John W. Burchard) of Mason, to James Seymour of Rochester NY, land in Lansing Twp. Sec. 9 (L5:P652)

Purchased for \$50.28

SE fraction quarter of Section 9; 109 acres and 62/100 (Lansing Township)

SE quarter of SE quarter of Section 6; 40 acres; of Twp. 2 N R 2 E (White Oak Township)

SE quarter of NW quarter of Section 29; Twp. 1 N R 2 E; 40 acres. (Stockbridge Township)

Oct 7, 1844

Estate

Affidavit of publication ordered on John W. Burchard deceased. Petition for sale by James Turner, administrator and principal creditor.

Source: Abstracts of the Early Probate Records of Ingham county, MI 1838-1869; Mid-Michigan Genealogical society, Lansing, MI; Occasional Paper No. 10; April 1980; record 15.

Oct 7, 1844

Estate

State of Michigan, County of Ingham v. Estate of Hon W. Burchard, deceased--At a court of Probate (? can't read word) for said county, holden at Mason, October 7th, 1844, present Henry Fiske, Judge.

Whereas, as license has been duly granted by the Probate court of the county aforesaid, to the administrator of said estate to sell at public auction all the real estate of the said deceased for the payment of debts and charges, and whereas, sufficient money has not been realized from such sale to satisfy and liquidate the debts preferred against the said estate.

Notice is therefore hereby given to the creditors of said estate to present and prove their respective claims before the Judge of Probate of said county at the Probate office in the village of Mason, within six months from the date of this notice, and that the first Monday of November, December and January next be assigned for the receiving of the proofs of said claims.

Dated at Mason, October 8th, 1844.

Henry Fiske, Judge of Probate.

Source: Ingham Harold, January 9, 1845.

Dec 15, 1844

WA? or W.N.? Burchard paid \$1.46 by Lansing Twp. Different Burchard? of John?

Dec 1844

Saw Mill

...and by about the 1st of December 1844 the mill was running. These contractors continued to reside on the premises during 1845 and 1846.

Source: Historical Sketch of Lansing; Its Trade and Commerce Present Advantages and Future Prospects, letter dated March 10, 1863 and signed WASHTENAWSEBI; printed in Advertiser & Tribune Detroit, March 26, 1863 and Lansing Republican on April 8, 1863. Some variation in dates and couple of other words. Version here, Advertiser & Tribune.

1845

Wife Remarried

Francis remarried; L. L. Newman; had one daughter; living in Jackson in 1880.

1848

Dam

Report of the Committee on Internal Improvement.

The committee on internal improvement, to whom was referred a bill entitled "a bill to improve the navigation of the Grand River, in the town of Michigan, as a public highway," respectfully report, that an act entitled an act to authorize the erection of certain dams in Ingham and other counties of this state, approved March 9th 1843, provided that John W. Burchard, his heirs and assigns, may built a dam across Grand River, in Ingham county, on section 9, town 4, north, range 2 west, and that when required by the associate judges of the circuit court of said county, said Burchard, his heirs and assigns shall construct therein or therewith, a convenient lock for the passage of boats, rafts, canoes, and other water craft. Which provision, in the opinion of your committee, sufficiently protects the rights and interest of the public in that respect, and James Seymour, as the assignee of John W. Burchard, may put in such a lock as the wants of the public may require, under the direction of the associate judges of the county of Ingham, without any action on the part of the legislature. And your committee are of the opinion that the right of the said James Seymour to enter upon the overflow lands not his own, whether such lands belong to private individuals, or to the primary school fund of the state, is of the same character of similar rights between individual citizens generally, and that legislative action of the subject does not appear to be necessary.

Still another provision of the bill appears to be objectionable, which is, that the said James Seymour and his heirs may, forever after such lock shall have been completed, be entitled to the surplus water of said river. Although the case is hardly supposable that any individual citizens, having no right to the lands on either side of the river where such dam and lock are situated, would ever claim the right of the use of the surplus water falling over such dam--yet the state has very prudently reserved, (in this as in other similar cases the right to use this water whenever the same shall be necessary for the purpose of internal improvement, or navigation, as will be seen by reference to the provision in the 5th section of the act referred to, and which, in the opinion of your committee is, a very judicious provision, and one which ought not to be repealed. Any finally, from all the information which your committee are able to obtain in relation to the velocity of the river below said dam, there does not appear to be a near, or even a remote prospect of any person or person raising, or attempting to raise the water below said dam so as injuriously to affect the rights of

the said James Seymour; and should such contingency arise, existing provisions of law are, it is believe, abundantly sufficient to remedy the evil. And hence your committee are unanimous in the opinion that no legislation on the subject is necessary. R. Crouse.

Source: House Document No. 21; 1848 Legislature; Documents Accompanying the Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan at the Annual Session of 1848.

Nov 1, 1848

Seymour Obtains Burchard Land

James Turner appointed administrator of Burchard's estate re-deeded property to James Seymour; deed recorded March 10, 1850. 267 pg. 438.

1862

Daughter Married

Samuel L. Kilbourne married Louisa F. Burchard, daughter of Burchard.

Source: Portrait Biographical Album of Ingham and Livingston Counties, Michigan, Chapman Brothers, 1891, pg. 776.

1873

Daughter Dies

Louisa R. Kilbourne (Burchard) died.

Source: Portrait Biographical Album of Ingham and Livingston Counties, Michigan, Chapman Brothers, 1891, pg. 776.

Apr 15, 1888

Wife Dies

Frances (Burchard) Newman died; living in Jackson; had remarried in 1845.

Burchard Cabin

Location

...it stood on the east side of Grand river a...a few rods west of what is now Center Street, and north of what is now Wall Street..."

Source: Past and Present, Cowles, pg. 54.

Appx. Nov 25, 1843

Tower Visits Burchard Cabin

About the 25th day of November, 1843, he sweep around the bend in the south part of what is now the city of Lansing, and passing down the river under the shade of the stately

forest-trees, which then overshadowed the stream, he soon brought up at another dam, and this he found had no slide to facilitate the passage of his craft. Here was a small clearing, and to the right of the dam, about thirty rods away, toward the northeast, was a solitary settler's log house, from which curled the smoke of a welcome fire. Here was living John Woolsey Burchard with his family, consisting of a wife and, Mr. Tower thinks, one child.

Source: Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 124-5.

Description

"We occupied the one log house. It had some floor below, none above, no hearth, one door, one window, and a stick and mud chimney on the outside of the house. Source: Mrs. C. M. Smith daughter of Page; Adams pg. 14-5.

Appx. Nov 25, 1843

Tower Visits Burchard Cabin

Mr. Tower and family remained over-night with Burchard, all the party finding accommodations in the log cabin, which he describes as quite roomy and comfortable. Source: Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan, 1880, Durant, pg. 124-5.

David Woodman

- Dec 25, 1837 David Woodman and wife Abigail of Van Buren, Michigan to Wels Gray of the same. Land in Delhi Township, land in section 36 (L3:P166)
- Nov 8, 1841 David Woodman of Paw Paw, Van Buren county, to Burchard
- Purchase East half of SE quarter of section 31 for \$109. of town 3 North, range 1 West.(Alaiedon). (L4:P303)
- Nov 8, 1841 David Woodman of Paw Paw Michigan to John Rayner of Mason, Ingham county, land in Alaiedon Township, Section 32. (L4:P307)
- Nov 8, 1841 Daniel (David?) Woodman of Paw Paw, Van Buren County to George W. Shafter of Mason, Ingham county, land in Alaiedon Township, section 32. (L4:P308)

John Burchard

- 1870 Built second grist mill in Leslie Township; located east of railroad near Meeker Mill (Mill on Mill Street on Huntoon Creek.
Source: Adams pg. 635.
- 1870 “A second grist mill (in Leslie) was built in 1870 by John Burchard. This was just east of the railroad near where the Meeker mill stood.”
Source: Leslie Keeps Pace with Growing Area; Ingham County News; September 19, 1962.
- Son?

John W. Burchard