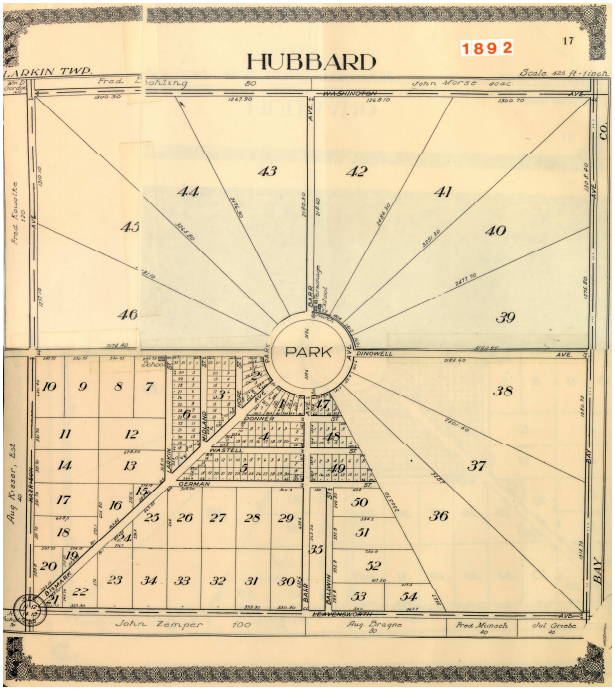
THE VILLAGE OF HUBBARD



This is an excerpt from the Michigan Ghost Town Book.

Hubbard, this fabulous village with pie shaped lots extending from a huge circle drive, enclosing an area for a village park, existed mainly on paper.

The pie-shaped village of Hubbard was platted November 5, 1892 when a Detroit real estate firm, headed by John E. King, Collins E. Hubbard and George Dingwell, signed documents calling for its establishment.

A story in the Saginaw Courier Herald late in 1893 said Hubbard had designed the village so there would be a social center and thus eliminate the dreary isolation of country life.

Houses are located around the center so that families will have the benefit of society and co-operation. The article said, I M. Barr, a Saginaw minister became the agent for the Hubbard & Dingwell Co. and the Michigan Land & Timber Co.

50 million feet of standing timber was sold to a Grand Rapids company, to be used as barrel staves. This was to be harvested at a rate of 6 million feet each year.

In 1968 Robert Kapanka said there was a blacksmith shop, grocery store, saloon, post office, office building for the company, a school and a hotel. Kapanka said his grandfather, Henry Kapanka was among the first German families who moved to Hubbard from Detroit. They were promised so much in the newly formed lumbering camp that they moved. “The village was planned well”, he said, but it never had a chance to grow.

The site of the village is in Section 12, Larkin Township, and 5 miles north of U.S. 10, just east of Waldo Road. After the village of Hubbard was abandoned in 1899, the section was divided into 8 pieces and sold in the early 1900’s.

In the spring of 2007, Karen Kapanka Schultz wrote a book “Voices of The Past: A Brief History of the People of Hubbard, Michigan”. Copies can be obtained from the Midland County Historical Society.