



History of the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan; (With an Appendix--History of Lowell, Michigan)

Albert Baxter

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1891 Excerpt: ...any company or individual should produce at least 5,000 bushels before the bounty should be paid. This infused new life into the efforts for the manufacture. In September, 1859, the Grand Rapids Salt Manufacturing Compan)', of which James Scribner was the moving spirit, had sunk a well to the depth of 130 feet near Coldbrook, and found brine of considerable strength. Boring at this well was continued to a depth of 260 feet, striking granite rock. The State Geologist expressed the opinion that it would be of little or no use to go deeper, also that there was reason to hope that the enterprise would prove pecuniarily successful. But in the following spring it was put down to a depth of 398 feet. June 13, 1860, the works were running, and soon producing salt at the rate of thirty or forty barrels per day. They began shipment over the Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad July 28, 1860. The works at this well were built much like those which had been used at the Lyon well. Brush houses were constructed, consisting of timber frame work some forty feet high, in which were placed layers of brush, with a slight inclination first toward one side and then the other. To the top of this pile the salt water was pumped, and ran down slowly through six tiers of brush, and thence to the kettles or pans where the evaporation was completed by boiling. Several hundred barrels were manufactured here, but the work proved unprofitable, and was abandoned during the war. The Grand River Salt Company was organized in 1859, by William T. Powers, Henry Martin and F. P. Leonard, and sank a well near the west bank of the river, north of Leonard street, stopping at a depth of 156 feet, having obtained brine of very near full saturation. It was reported that a bushel of salt was made from thir...

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