



*Welcome to the
Rochester/Avon
Historical Society*

TRUMAN B. FOX

Truman B. Fox, Senior editor of the Rochester Era, was born in Manchester, Dearborn Co., Ind., July 2, 1829. he was the second son of Dr. D.A.B.C. Fox (known in early days as Alphabet Fox) and Wealthy (Willey) Fox, natives of New Hampshire and Vermont respectively.

The paternal grandfather of the subject of this sketch Elijah Fox, was a soldier of the Revolutionary War, while his maternal grandfather, Eli Willey, was a soldier in the War of 1812. Mrs. Wealthy Fox, the mother of T. B. was a teacher in the south as early as 1822.

When a small lad Mr. Fox removed with his parents to Jamestown, NY residing there five years. During the year 1839 he removed to Milford, Oakland Co., Mich., where his father practiced his profession. He endured all the hardships incidental to a new country and died in 1840, leaving a widow and eight children. The widow fought the battle of life and kept her little brood together until they were each able to care for themselves. She died at Holly, November 19, 1886, aged 86 years.

Mr. Fox was left in early life to struggle along as best he could, engaging in any kind of honorable employment in order to gain a livelihood. During this trying period he learned many of life's hard and bitter lessons, and also learned to be self-reliant. In 1852 he went to Saginaw City, then a little hamlet in the midst of a wilderness. About this time East Saginaw was platted and a little town sprung up. There Mr. Fox remained until the little huddle of houses had grown to be a large and important city. He spent about three years in Midland City, during which time he was admitted to the bar of that county in 1860. He then returned to East Saginaw and relinquishing the law, entered upon journalistic work. He was employed as an editor upon the Saginaw Enterprise, respectively under the management of Perry Joslin and C. V. DeLand. He was also engaged in the same capacity on the Courier owned by the late G. Fred Lewis. During his residence in East Saginaw he was appointed chief of police, being the first chief ever appointed there. He also printed in pamphlet form in 1857 the first history of Saginaw Valley ever published and furnished the first tabular statement of the salt and lumber interests to the valley, and in 1868 revised his first history.

In 1871 Mr. Fox embarked in the newspaper business on his own account at Milford, starting the Milford Era. After sojourning there less than two years he received a call to remove to Rochester, and thither he removed his press and household affects in 1873, establishing the Rochester Era.

Mr. Fox was married in 1858 to Miss Sarah M. Beeman, at Mason, Mich. Four children were born to them, only one, Willoughby A., who survives him.

Newspaper Clipping 1891