

HUBERT LACROIX

1817-1820

One of the most patriotic and active of the French men who came in the earliest days in Monroe history was Hubert LaCroix. He was the grandson of a wealthy and prominent citizen of Montreal, Quebec who bore the same name. He came to Frenchtown from Montreal in 1800 and resided in the area. He was the first person in Monroe to enlist as a soldier in the territorial militia. LaCroix was appointed to the rank of captain at Fort Detroit. When General Hull surrendered the fort, he was taken prisoner by the British and was held on a prison ship at Maiden, Canada. When the war ended, LaCroix returned to Monroe.

Upon the organization of Monroe County in 1817, LaCroix was appointed a colonel by governor Lewis Cass in the militia and the FIRST SHERIFF of the new county. He was a member of the legislative council of the territory.

Hubert LaCroix died September 14, 1827 at the age of 48 years. His home still stands on S. Macomb St. across the alley from the present law enforcement center. It was the first brick home in Monroe County.

SAMUEL FELT

1820-1824

No information available

JEAN BAPTISTE CICOT

January, 1824 ? – 1824

Jean Cicot resided in Monroe County since the war of 1812. He served as a captain of the militia and was with General Cass a good portion of that trying period. He was appointed to the office of sheriff when General Cass was governor of the territory.

As an honest man, as an exemplary member of society, and the Catholic church, he was respected by the entire community.

Captain Cicot died February 11, 1855.

HARRY CONANT

1824-1826

Harry Conant was born April 19, 1790, in Mansfield, Connecticut. He received his license to practice medicine in 1816 after successfully passing an exam before the "State Medical Censors " in the state of Vermont. He was one of the earliest physicians of Michigan.

Dr. Conant lived in Montreal, Canada for a short time and spent time in the lumber business in western Pennsylvania. He came to Monroe in 1820 and set up housekeeping in a dwelling that stood on the southwest corner of First and Macomb Streets. He married Marie Stewart June 4, 1821. Together, they had ten children.

In 1824, Governor Lewis Cass appointed Dr. Conant to the office of sheriff. He resigned the position in March 1826. The first Whig paper, known as the Monroe Gazette was established in 1846 by Dr. Conant. He was member of the Presbyterian Church where he was elected to the eldership.

Dr. Conant died at his residence in the city of Monroe on September 2, 1851.

JOHN PAXTON

March 25, 1826 - 1828

John Paxton was born in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, and the son of Captain Thomas & Genevieve Paxton. Thomas Paxton was British. He fled to Canada from the U.S. during the Revolutionary War because of his loyalty to the crown. His wife was French-Canadian.

His son, John came to Frenchtown settlement and was here for the War of 1812, serving as a private in a cavalry headed by Captain Richard Smith of the 1st Regiment, Michigan Volunteers.

When General Hull surrendered his American forces in Detroit, Paxton was taken prisoner. He was released December 31, 1812. Just weeks before the River Raisin massacre he came home and helped bury the dead. Then he headed south to hook up with General Lewis's troops who were marching toward the River Raisin. He was captured again and later escaped; helping ferryboats loaded with U.S. troops around Lake Erie near Sandusky, Ohio.

On February 26, 1818, he married Thoetiste Lasselle of Monroe. The couple had ten children. He went on to be the sheriff of Monroe County. He was a grocer during the 1830 's and the city's assessor from 1835 — 1839 and the keeper at the Monroe Pier lighthouse from 1853 - 1855. Paxton was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

WASSON

1829 -1832

No information available

LEVI S. HUMPHREY

1832 – 1833

Sheriff Humphrey a veteran of the Mexican War, ran a stagecoach line between Monroe, Detroit, and Maumee.

NATHAN HUBBLE

1834 -1836

At the time, Nathan Hubble was one of the oldest residents of the city, having resided here for some forty-four years. He served as sheriff of the county and as the county and city surveyor. In addition, he served in other offices. As a public officer, he was highly esteemed.

Hubble lived in a log cabin at the southwest corner of Third and Macomb streets and later built and lived in the brick building that was occupied by Monroe Co. Realty Co. across from the Dorsch Library.

Sheriff Hubble died August 3, 1864.

JOHN J. WENDELL

1837 - 1838

John J. Wendell held many important offices in the county. He was one of the first merchants and Indian traders in "River Raisin Country. " He was Sheriff of Monroe County.

Wendell, using an Indian guide, carried mail between Monroe and Chicago, Illinois.

He died March 12, 1855.

ALFRED G. BATES

1839 - 1841



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Alfred Bates was born in Canandaigua, New York, June 25, 1810. He moved to a farm on the River Raisin in 1834. He married Betsey Ann Elliot.

Two years later after his arrival, he was elected Sheriff of Monroe County. Later, he was appointed deputy U.S. Marshal of the district of Michigan. While occupying these positions, he played a major role in the breaking up the well organized bands of counterfeiters and horse thieves whose operations extended from the Mississippi River to the great lakes.

Sheriff Bates held many offices of trust and importance. In 1852, he was elected to the Michigan legislature. For twenty years he was connected with the County Superintendents of the poor and dependent children. In the meantime, he continued as a Deputy United States Marshal.

During his life he had been engaged in the settlement of estates of deceased friends and neighbors and many other trusts of importance.

Bates was the father of twelve children. He died August 3, 1864, at the age of sixty-four years.

JEFFERSON S. BOND

1842 - 1843

Jefferson S. Bond was an active businessman in Monroe. He served as Sheriff of Monroe County for a term of two years.

He died March 25th, 1848, at the age of 38 years.

JAMES MCBRIDE

1844 – 1847

1850 – 1853



Colonel James McBride came to Monroe in 1832. He was a businessman in the community. He died in Monroe January 24, 1867, at the age of 58.

FRAZEY M. WINANS

1848 – 1849



Colonel Frazey M. Winans was widely known and highly esteemed in the community. He served his country in the Mexican War as captain of a company and was breveted Major for his bravery. After his return to Monroe, he served the people of the county as sheriff. He was appointed postmaster February 2, 1854.

He was appointed to Lt. Colonel of the 7th Michigan Infantry and went with them into the field.

He resigned his position due to health problems. Colonel Winans died at his residence in Monroe March 10, 1864.

HENRY B. MARVIN

1854 - 1855

1858 – 1861

Henry B. Marvin was born in Batavia, New York. He moved to Monroe at an early age. He was a provost marshal during the civil war. After serving as sheriff, he moved to Eaton Rapids, Michigan. He lived there for eighteen years before returning to Monroe approximately two years before his death.

Sheriff Marvin died October 3, 1893, at the age of 79.

SILAS W. EATON

1856 - 1857

Little is known about Silas W. Eaton. He came to Monroe from St. Albans, Vermont in the summer of 1833. He served as sheriff of Monroe County 1856 to 1857.

Silas's son, Job C. Eaton, served as sheriff from 1884 to 1887.

Silas was born April 29th, 1805. He died May 2, 1895.

WILLIAM DUNBAR

1862 – 1867



William Dunbar was a businessman in the community of Monroe. He represented the district as a state legislator in addition to his duties as sheriff.

Sheriff Dunbar died August 27, 1870.

PHILIP NADEAU

1868 -1871

Philip Nadeau was born in Monroe. He was a businessman on West Front St. until 1868 when he was elected sheriff for two terms.

In 1875, he resumed his business until failing sight compelled him to retire.

Sheriff Nadeau died February 6, 1902.

LLEWELLIN E. WOODEN

1872-1875

Llewelin E. Wooden was born in Melbourne, Australia, April 7, 1858. He came to the United States with his parents as a young boy and lived in Monroe. He married Alice Stevens. They went to the Indian Territory, now Oklahoma, where Mr. Wooden was agent-in-charge of several Indian tribes. He remained in government services for a number of years and later went to southern Kansas where the family resided until moving to Orting, Washington. He died there August 28, 1927.

JOHN J. ELLIS

1876-1879

John J. Ellis was born in Jay, New York June 24, 1829. He was a resident of Summerfield Township.

John served as sheriff 1876 —1879. His son, George, served as his under sheriff before becoming sheriff himself .

He died March 30, 1895.

GEORGE H. ELLIS

1880 –1883

George H. Ellis was born in Petersburg, Michigan, April 23, 1855. He moved to Monroe with his parents in 1877. When he was 21 years old, he served as under sheriff for his father, John J. Ellis. At the age of 25, George was elected sheriff.

George was a member of the old Monroe Light Guards and the volunteer fire department. At one time he was a member of the Monroe City Police Department.

He lived at 638 Scott St. George died March 28, 1938.

Sheriff Ellis often recalled starting the day before to get to Ottawa Lake in time to serve papers on a certain day. It was a two day trip with a team of horses.

JOB C. EATON
1884-1887



Job C. Eaton was born in St. Albans, Vermont. He moved to Monroe with his parents in the summer of 1833 at the age of seventeen months. His father, Silas Eaton, served as sheriff from 1856 to 1857.

Job served in the Civil War. He resigned from the service September 16, 1865 as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 11th Michigan Infantry.

After returning to Monroe, Job founded the Monroe Brick and Tile Works and continued in its active management as sole proprietor up to the time of his death.

He was elected sheriff in 1884. He married Rachel Fox in Monroe, November 17, 1855. He was born February 22, 1832, he died January 14, 1899, and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

JOSEPH S. HILTON

1888 -1892

Joseph S. Hilton was born December 24, 1840.
He married Linda Hassinger December 23, 1869.
He died January 6, 1924.

JOSEPH KIRCHGESSNER

1893 - 1894

Joseph Kirchgessner was born September 25, 1855. His wife's name was Pauline. He had two stepsons, George and Jacob Imo. Joseph died February 5, 1912.

EMERY MILLS

1895 -1896

Emery Mills was born March 31, 1854. He married Clara Augusta Waltz. He died March 5, 1923, and was buried in Lulu Cemetery.

JOHN ROD

1897-1900



John Rod was born in Micklenberg, Germany in 1840. He was a Civil War veteran. Later, he was elected sheriff of Monroe County 1896.

Sheriff Rod died in December of 1901 in Dundee.

Sheriff Rod's two great grandsons were deputy sheriff's who have since retired. They were Richard Rod and Dallas Rod.

WILLIAM L. HAUSE

1900 – 1902



William L. Hause was born December 7, 1852. In 1874, he opened a blacksmith shop in Carleton. In addition, he was a farmer. Hause served as sheriff from 1900 to 1902. He died February 8, 1920.

Edmond Dull

1903 – 1906

1906 – August 5, 1910



Edmond Dull was born in Pennsylvania in 1863. In 1871 the family moved to Bedford Township where he grew into manhood. At 25 years of age, he was elected highway commissioner and served four years. In 1900 and 1901 he was township treasurer. In 1902, he was elected sheriff and re-elected in 1904. In 1908 he was again elected.

During Sheriff Dull's third term, he was shot in the line of duty August 1, 1910. The sheriff was attempting to arrest a fugitive who had robbed a man of \$25.00 and threw him off of a train in Erie. Sheriff Dull went to the area and when he approached the subject, the fugitive pulled out a gun and shot him.

The sheriff died in Robinwood Hospital in Toledo, Ohio, August 5, 1910.

ANDREW L. BRIGGS

1907-1908

Andrew Lowe Briggs was born in 1856. He was a member of the school board of Whiteford, serving several terms. In addition, he was a highway commissioner and supervisor of the township for several years before being elected sheriff on the Democratic ticket.

Sheriff Briggs died in 1939.

GEORGE J. RENNER SR.

1910 –1914



George Renner was born August 25, 1868. Besides owning a grocery store, he was Monroe 's first paid fire chief. He held this position for eleven years. He was elected sheriff in 1909 and took office in January 1910. During his term, no murders went unsolved. In addition, Sheriff Renner owned the City Hotel in Monroe.

FRED K. CRONENWETT

1914 - 1918

Sheriff Cronenwett was born March 29, 1887. He died April 20, 1974 in Howell, Michigan.

Jan. 27th, 1916 Sheriff Cronenwett used a hand rail car and with the help of some citizens, set out on the Detroit, Monroe and Toledo Short Line Railway to capture three men who committed two burglaries in Newport. They were captured along the tracks.

JOSEPH J. BAIRLEY

1918-March 6, 1920

1930-1938

1940-1944



Joseph Bairley was the son of William and Anna Fleishman Bairley. He was born May 12, 1882, in Monroe. He attended St. Michael's School and graduated from Monroe High School. He was employed by the Standard Oil Company and Monroe Auto Equipment Company.

Bairley was elected sheriff in 1917, starting his service January 1, 1918. Sheriff Bairley was a prominent figure in the famous Benoit kidnapping case which attracted nationwide attention. He was director of the Michigan Sheriff's Association for a

number of years.

Sheriff Bairley was removed from office by the governor on an order from the Michigan Supreme Court. Bairley served eighteen months. His removal grew out of charges that he did not enforce the dry laws, that he sold whiskey to department inspectors, and that he permitted prisoners too much liberty.

In 1929, he was elected sheriff again and took office in 1930. Bairley lost his bid for sheriff in 1938 to Harry Doty. He did win the bid for sheriff again in 1940.

WILLIAM POUPARD

March 6, 1920 - December 31, 1920

William Poupard was a member of the Monroe Police Department before being appointed sheriff. He succeeded Joseph J. Bairley who was forced to vacate the office on orders from the governor and the Michigan Supreme Court.

Sheriff Poupard died in 1946.

FRANK GESSNER

1920 – 1924



Sheriff Gessner died March 24, 1925.

JOSEPH M. KINSEY

1924 – 1928



Sheriff Kinsey instituted the first motorcycle patrol in Monroe County. His brother, Edward Kinsey was the first motorcycle officer. Edward was killed in the line of duty on Saturday, April 13, 1929 during a raid on a bootlegging operation on Union Street between Fifth and Sixth streets.



Edward Kinsey

SIDNEY N. EATON SR.
1928 –1930



No information is available.

HARRY DOTY

1938-1940



Harry Doty was born August 2, 1891. He worked the family farm and worked for Consolidated Paper and the Gas Light & Fuel Company. During state prohibition days, he was inspector for the Michigan Pure Food Commission at a time of extensive bootlegging between dry Michigan and Ohio. He served as a deputy sheriff under Fred Cronenwett, Joseph Kinsey, and Sidney Eaton.

Sheriff Doty won election in 1937 and took office in 1938. During his term, he followed a vigorous

policy of strict enforcement. He insisted on the abolition of all gambling in the county, including slot machines, bingo games, as well as other types. Sheriff Doty played no favorites and made no exceptions in his rules.

At the time of his death, he was engaged as chief of police of Monroe Auto Equipment and organizing a plant police system for the expanding war plant.

Sheriff Doty died April 10, 1942.

RAYMOND W. GENSLER

1944 –1952



Ray Gensler was born May 29, 1909. He was a custodian at the Holy Ghost Lutheran Church and worked as a security officer at Detroit Edison. He retired from Troy Wood Products.
Sheriff Gensler died November 16, 1974.

CARL FRITZ
1952 – 1954



Sheriff Fritz was chief deputy under Ray Gensler for six years. He was a special deputy for twelve years. He was employed in plant protection at the Willow Run Airport during World War II.

Sheriff Fritz employed a fatherly attitude in his interrogation of prisoners at the county jail and accomplished much in his get it off your chest manner of talking to the men when harsher methods failed. Inmates were known to thank him for the good treatment given them and the sound advice he offered.

EARL BOEHME

1954



Earl Boehme was appointed to serve out the remaining term as sheriff after Carl Fritz dies in office.

CHARLES G. HARRINGTON

1954-1984



Charles Golden Harrington was the longest running sheriff in Michigan history. He was born October 20, 1920, to John J. and Edith (Golden) Harrington in Monroe.

He graduated from Monroe High School in 1939 and worked at Monroe Auto Equipment before entering the Army. He spent the next three and one-half years with the 37th Division of the Combat Engineers.

After returning to Monroe, he worked at a local clothing store and from 1947 to 1949, he was a member of the Monroe Police Department. He opened his own clothing store in November, 1951. A man came into the store one day and asked him to

run for sheriff. He said it would be good publicity for his store. He was elected in November, 1954. He sold his interest in his clothing store in May 1955 during his first term-as sheriff. He began with fifteen employees.

During his tenure, Sheriff Harrington formed a riot squad, drug squad, and a driver's safety school. He had obtained the use of an airplane for emergencies, replaced patrol cars at regular intervals instead of when worn out. He established a marine division, motorcycle patrol, canine division, mounted posse and a volunteer force of special deputies.

The sheriff contracted with townships and small communities for added police patrols and with schools to put a plain clothes officer on duty there. In addition, he established a burglary prevention unit, youth bureau, and traffic and safety division.

In 1983, Sheriff Harrington lost the election to his former under sheriff, Walter O. Trowbridge. Sheriff Harrington, who was known to his friends as "Bud" died December 31, 1989.

WALTER O. TROWBRIDGE
1985 - 1988



CARL E. VANWERT

1989 – 1996



Many programs were started under the administration of Sheriff VanWert. In 1990 the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program was introduced to Monroe County. In April of 1991 the 911 emergency phone system began. In 1993 patrol cars started using computers and the Sheriff's Bike Patrol was created with three deputies.