

**NEGROES
IN
MICHIGAN
HISTORY**



GREEN

HOME AND PROPERTY OWNERS.
Too Late for Classification.

- Rickman, James, Marquette.
 Baxter, Thomas, Marquette.
 Cotton, Charles, Hancock.
 Thompson, Charles, Ishpeming.
 James, Ezra, Cassopolis.
 Lane, Henry C., Cassopolis (F).
 Snelling, Aaron, Cassopolis (F).
 Curtis, Bishop E., Cassopolis (F).
 Kennedy, James S., Cassopolis (F).
 Curtis, William B., Cassopolis (F).
 Stonestreet, Mrs. Ella, Detroit.
 Dulsey, Mr., Grand Rapids.

White, Albert J. Contractor and builder of Kalamazoo. Was born Feb. 6th, 1861, at Canton, Ind. His parents walked from South Carolina to that State. When Albert J. was five years of age they removed to Russiaville, Ind., about which time his father died, leaving the mother with four children. When seven years of age Albert was placed with a farmer with whom he stayed until he was fifteen years old, when he came to Michigan and worked on a farm for one year. He then settled at Kalamazoo, and began work tending a mason. He wanted to learn the trade but his employer discouraged him saying it would be better for him to learn something else, but he persisted with his employer to teach him the trade, finally offering to work for nothing for several months, at the end of which time he received some wages. His apprenticeship lasted seven years after which he worked at his trade as journeyman for two years when he started in the contracting business for himself. Among the many buildings constructed by Mr. White are the Hawthorn Paper Mill; the rebuilding of the High School on the first construction of which he started to learn his trade; Riverview Paper Mills; Original Vegetable Parchment Mill; Illinois Envelope Factory; Jewish Synagogue; Charles Clarages Foundry and Machine Shop; part of Bryant's Paper Mill; two additions to the Kalamazoo Paper Mill and part of Nazareth Academy, all of Kalamazoo. St. Anthony's Home at Comstock; High School at Plainwell; Four business places at Hastings. Mr. White is modest and unassuming in personal demeanor, absolutely reliable as to integrity, and one of the most highly respected citizens of Kalamazoo County. Half tones of our subject and his beautiful residence appear elsewhere in the Manual.

Ray, Sergt. A. W., Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. An interesting feature of Afro-American employment is found in the Northern peninsula of the State where our subject is a sleeping car conductor on the great lines of railroad characterized as "Soo" or "Soo & South Shore" lines. These roads run Afro-American conductors in charge of sleeping cars and also dining cars, Mr. Charles Cotton being one of the conductors of the dining car service, while our subject, Sergt. Ray, is a sleeping car conductor and probably the first instance in the country where colored men have been employed in these positions, it being