

How could the small mid-Michigan community of Owosso with around 8,000 residents at the turn of the previous century have had such a large number of residents who made names for themselves in the world?

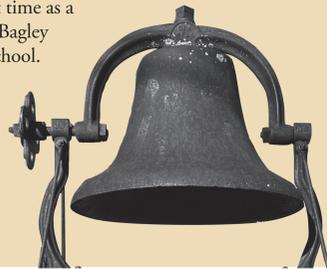
28x6 sticker



John Bagley (1832-1881)

Back in 1845, the log cabin at the northwest corner of Ball and Exchange Streets had been the boyhood home of John Bagley, who later became Governor of Michigan 1873-1877. Called a "huge man," he was governor when the cornerstone was laid in 1873 for the present State Capitol. During his tenure, he reorganized the state militia in the National Guard and he helped establish a State School in Coldwater.

Although he lived in Owosso only a short time as a boy, he never forgot those years. In 1868 Bagley donated a bell for the city's new Union School. It is now on display close to its original location, not far from Central School.



18 x 16

288SQI

Charles Towne (1858-1928)

Brilliant orator, eminent New York City attorney, partner of famed Charles Darrow, a close friend of U.S. Senator Chauncey Depew, and the only person to have been elected to Congress from two different states – Minnesota and New York – from two different parties, and nominated for Vice President of the United States by the Populist Party in 1900, but declined to run. Because of his great oratory skills, he was referred to as the "Cicero of the Senate."



Charles Arnette Towne was the embodiment of a small-town boy who made good. He lived with his family in a frame house on the northwest corner of Williams and Water Streets. After graduating from Owosso High School in 1875, he worked his way through the University of Michigan, where he was known for his quick wit and charm.

The September 29, 1906 edition of the Saturday Evening Post "Who's Who" stated, "Towne can talk, and he does. He is a silver-tonguer of the highest rank, a fine figure of a man, graceful, handsome, learned in all the tricks of elocution. He has a good mind, a ready wit, and a rather comprehensive grasp of public affairs. Oratorically he is as versatile as he is political. He can talk on any subject."

There is a bronze bust of Charles Towne in the Owosso Library, donated by Owosso pharmacist, **Stanley Parkill**, in memory his life-long friend.

18 x 20.5

369SQI

Felix Schlag (1891-1974)

Of all the coins that the U.S. Mint has ever produced, the Jefferson Nickel remains one of the most popular. First minted in 1938 as a replacement for the buffalo nickel, it lasted 36 years. Designed by artist Felix Schlag, the coin combined a mix of copper and nickel and featured the portrait of the third U.S. President Thomas Jefferson and on the reverse, Jefferson's plantation, Monticello.



Born in Frankfurt, Germany, Schlag studied sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts, Munich and won several awards for his work in Europe. He came to the U.S. in 1929 and moved to Owosso in 1943 with his second wife, Ethel. They lived above the Owosso Savings Bank where he had a photography business.

The coin's design was the result of a contest (390 entries) that featured a \$1,000 prize for the winner – a considerable amount during the Depression. His prize money was spent on his first wife's funeral. Schlag did not initially include his initials on his design – they were later added in 1966. Over the years he created several other commemorative coins.

18 x 16

288SQI

Father John J. Cavanaugh (1899-1979)

John J. Cavanaugh, born in Bennington Twp., sang in the choir as a boy at St. Paul's Church and helped his father in the family's Owosso grocery store. Entering Notre Dame University in 1917, he earned his way through college as secretary for two of the school's presidents. Cavanaugh was an athlete, editor of the student newspaper and was president of the student government. In 1923, he worked in the advertising department at Studebaker Corporation later serving as private secretary to **Henry Ford**.



In 1926, he left private industry to undertake religious discernment. Ordained as a priest in 1931, Cavanaugh became president of Notre Dame in 1946 serving until 1952. As a close friend of Joseph P. Kennedy, Cavanaugh officiated many of the Kennedy family weddings and served as one of the three priests at the funeral of **President John F. Kennedy**.

Cavanaugh never forgot his early humble beginnings. Many old-timers remember the excitement he and his brother, **Francis** (also a priest and Dean of Arts & Letters at Notre Dame) generated when they came back to visit their hometown of Owosso.

18 x 17

306SQI



Alfred Day Hershey (1908-1997)

Born in Owosso, Hershey and his family lived at 515 East Mason Street. By the time he was eleven, they were living in Lansing.

Hershey received a B.S. in Chemistry from Michigan State College in 1930 and a Ph.D. in Bacteriology in 1934. By seeking to understand the reproduction of viruses, the simplest form of life, Hershey made important discoveries about the nature of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and laid the groundwork for modern molecular genetics.

Hershey shared the 1969 Nobel Prize with two other scientists for their contributions to molecular biology. Their basic research into viruses also helped others develop vaccines against viral diseases such as polio. In 2019, a state historical marker was erected in front of his boyhood home on Mason Street.

18 x 16

288SQI



Alvin M. Bentley III (1918-1969)

Bentley served as U.S. Representative from the 8th District, 1953 - 1960.

The full story of the Bentley Family is featured in the Moore Gallery.

18 x 10.5

189SQI

Together the boards are 37" wide and 50" high. 1" spacing all sides and between.