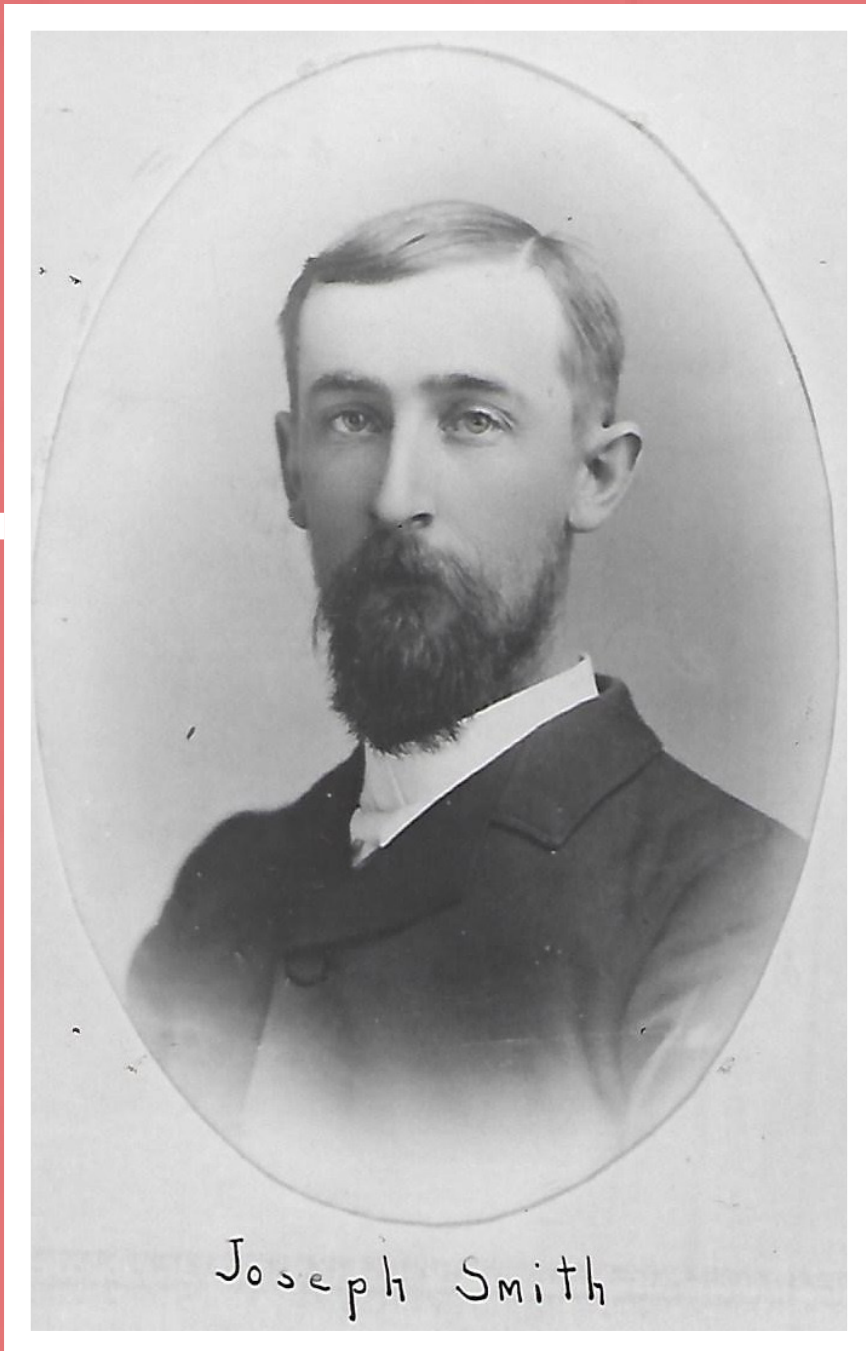
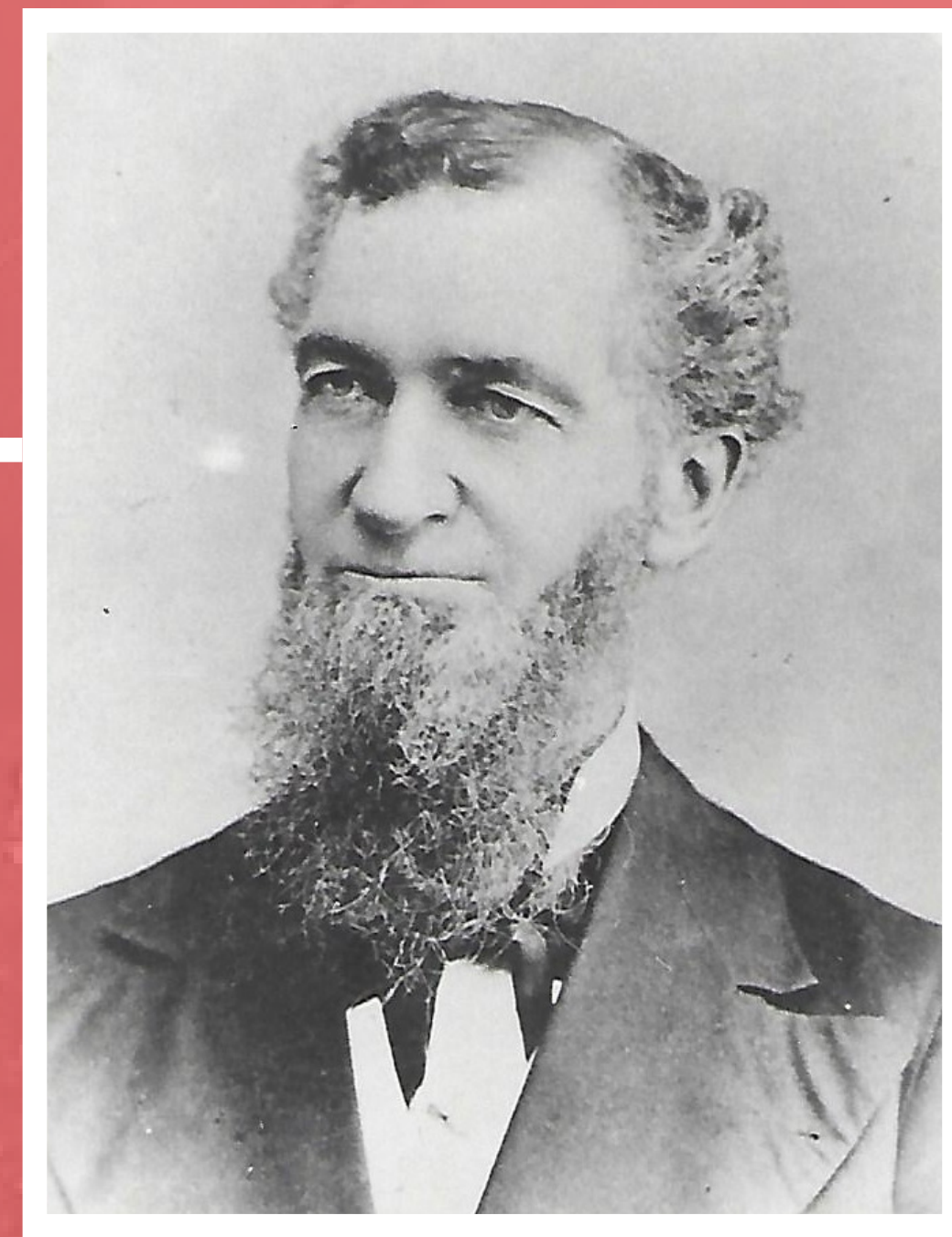


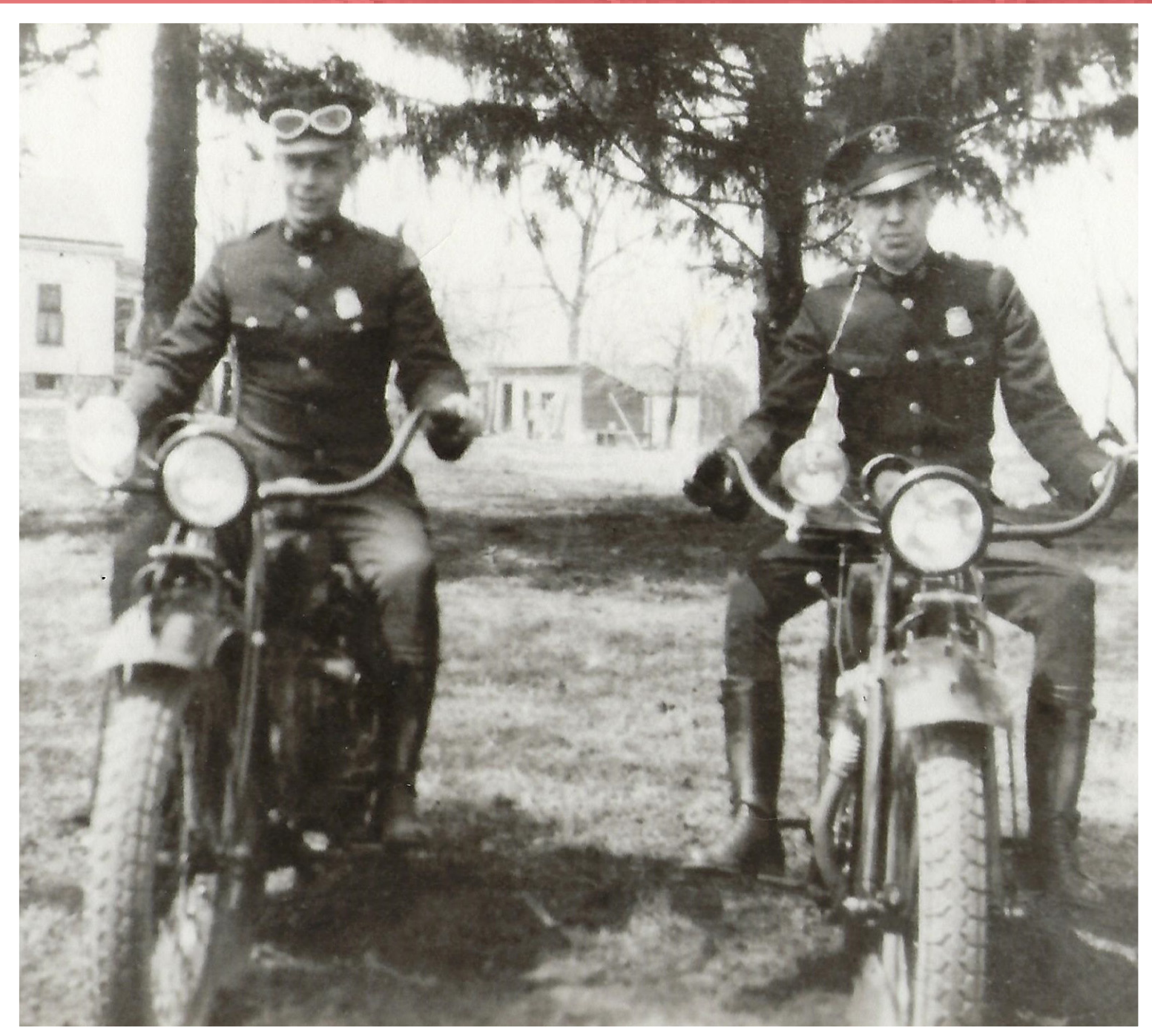
Wayne Police



From the 1820s until the 1870s Wayne was patrolled by a Nankin Township constable. The constable roamed the whole township upholding the law and assisting the Justice of the Peace. Joseph C. Smith, pictured here, was one of these men.



Wayne became a village in 1879. They elected Stephen T. Curtis as the first Village Marshall. He was tasked with serving legal papers, keeping animals off the streets and keeping saloon patrons from becoming rowdy.



Wayne had a marshal and deputies until 1926 when an official police department was formed. They had two officers and a small holding cell in the village hall basement. Lawrence Knox (below) became the first Chief of Police.



As the community grew, so did the police force. New officers attend a swearing-in ceremony in this 1946 photograph.



The police force numbered 20 officers by 1950 and they had outgrown the village hall, so a new police station was built on Sims Street. This building was enlarged in 1977.



In 2000, the city built a new modern police station on Michigan Avenue, allowing the department to meet the needs and concerns of the community in the 21st century.