

Homer Township History

1862-2012

Some of the information about the History of Homer Township was gathered by interviews with five of the oldest residents. The remaining information was gathered by research from the Grace A. Dow Library , The Allen County Library in Fort Wayne Indiana, The book Portrait and Biographical Album of Midland County 1884 and The Midland Daily News, Sun and Republican.



Rollin Yeakle
Homer Township Historian

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NORTH

**M
30**

**WELCOME TO
HOMER
TOWNSHIP**

Homer Township 1860 Census

Two years before Homer Township was organized, the census for 1860 had the residents of Homer Township listed with Midland Township. There were 109 residents and 26 houses in Homer Township in 1860. Some residents were living in Homer Township as early as 1837. I believe the reason for Homer Township residents being listed with Midland Township was because Homer was not considered to be a township until they were organized and had their own elected officials on April 21, 1862. Anyone wishing to see all the residents in Homer Township in 1860 can find them in the Midland Township Census for 1860.

Rollin Yeakle

The first 26 Families came to Homer Township Between 1837 and 1860. Homer Township's first Election was held April 21, 1862 in Charles Cronkright's Home. There were nine residents attending this meeting to elect Township Officials. Those attending this meeting were:

William Kelly born in New York 1832 Elected First Supervisor

Charles Gyde born in England 1820 Elected First Clerk

Anthony Barton born in Canada 1837 Elected First Treasurer

Charles Cronkright born in New York 1803

Stephen Smith born in New York 1821

Jacob Wiltse born in Vermont 1795

Leander Starks born in Canada 1835

Ira Cronkright born in New York 1831

Simon Smith

From 1860 United States Census

And Homer Township Archives

Research By Rollin Yeakle

April 21, 2012

First Homer Township Elected Officials

April 21, 1862

Meeting Held At Charles Cronkright's Home.

Supervisor-----William Kelly

Clerk-----Charles Gyde

Treasurer-----Anthony Barton

Stephen Smith-----Justice of Peace

Commissioner of Highways—Jacob Wiltsie and Charles Cronkright

Constable-----Leander Starks , Ira Cronkright, And Simon Smith.

The First Meeting was held at Charles Cronkright's home to elect officials. Eight votes were cast. They adjourned to the home of William Kelly. This was the 2nd Meeting. The third meeting was held a year later in 1863. The 4th Meeting was held in 1864. The record shows the 5th Township meeting was held at Fletchers Tavern in 1865.

Research by Rollin Yeakle

Minutes of the first Board Meeting
in Homer Township when Officers
were elected. Meeting was held in Charles
Cronkright's Home April 21, 1862.

First ~~meeting~~ meeting (April 21, 1862) - to elect officers
of Homer Township - 8 votes were cast.
met at the home of Charles Cronkright adjourned to home of
of William Kelly. The following officers were elected:

William Kelly, super. - Charles Gyde, Clerk - Anthony Barton, treas
William Kelly, justice of peace - Anthony Barton, J.P. - Chas Gyde, J.P.
Stephen Smith j.p. - William Kelly, school inspector - Anthony Barton ^{J.S. School Insp.}
Anthony Barton Jr, Commis of Highways 3 yrs. - Charles Cronkright, Sr. C.H. 2 yrs.
Jacob Wiltsie Cof H. 3 yrs. - Anthony Barton Jr, Constable - Leander Starks const.
Ira B. Cronkright, Const. - Simon D. Smith Const. - Anthony Barton ^{Overseer of Highway}

1863 William Kelly, Super - Charles Gyde, Clerk - Ira B. Cronkright, Treas
Justice Anthony Burton 4 yrs - N. Lockwood, Justice 3 years
Chas. Cronkright Justice 1 yr. - Wm Kelly school insp. 2 years
N. D. Lockwood, school insp 1 yr. - H. Commissioner Anthony Barton 3 yrs.
constables Anthony Barton & Ira B. Cronkright - overseer of high-
ways Chas. Cronkright, Jr.

1864 Annual meeting -
so William Kelly Super, - Charles Gyde, Clerk, Ira B. Cronkright, Treas
William Kelly, Justice 1 yr., - Wm. Allen J.P. 2 years
Highway Commissioner Charles Cronkright 3 years - school insp. Am Allen
Lewis Scott, const. - Overseer of High Stephen Smith
Next ^{annual} meeting to be held at Fletcher's Tavern
A.M. Allen to be pound master for ensuing years
3/4 cent ^{to be} paid to ^{each} volunteer or drafted man

~~1864~~
 4/1865 Chairman Wm. Kelly ^{Super.} Assessor ~~Chas. Byde~~ ^{J.P. Ebenezer} ~~John B. Poor~~ ^{overseer of highways} ~~Stephen Smith~~ ^{Dist 1}
 1865 Constable Leander Starks (School Inspector William Kelly) Clerk A. Alleny ^{Dist 2}
 Commissioner of Highways (J.P. William Kelly) Treasurer William Kelly
 Nathan Fowler ^{3 yrs} Constable (Nathan J. Fowler) Leonard Fletcher

4/1866 Supervisor John E. Willard - Clerk Levi Fulmer - Treas Ira B. Cronkright
 28 people cast votes
 Justice of Peace Charles Gyde - School Inspector John E. Willard
 Constables Ira B. Cronkright, Daniel Cronkright, Herbert Fineout
 and Joseph W. Wiltsie - Overseers of roads Stephen Smith & Edward Smith.
 Taxes collected - Township 337.58 Highway Tax 972.24 School tax 400.33

3/1867 Supervisor John E. Willard - Clerk Levi Fulmer - Treas. Roderick ^{W.} Russel
 comm. of highways, Charles Cronkright, Jr. - Constables Gilbert Cronkright, Chas. Cronkright,
 and Israel Martin
 school inspector Wm. Kelly - J.P. Sullivan Bugby, Wm. Kelly, Israel Martin

1868 Super. Sullivan Bugby - Clerk Levi Fulmer - Treas. Davis Fineout
 School insp. James S. Holden - J.P. Andrew M. Allen -
 overseer of High. Oliver J. Robert - Constables Gilbert Cronkright
 Geo. Baker and Sylvanus Birch ^(H.C. John W. Wymon)
 Dec. 18 moved to pay 984.00 for Chippewa bridge to Sam Sias on Midland & St. Louis State Road
 1869 Super John E. Willard - ~~Louis A. Wesson~~ Clerk William Kelly Treas - Levi Fulmer
 H.C. Herbert Fineout - J.P. Wm. Kelly - school inspector Jewett B. Poor - Consts, Chas Cronkright,
 Gilbert Cronkright, Oliver J. Robert, & Israel Martin
 J.P. Sullivan Bugby, Wm. Kelly

1870 Super. Andrew M. Allen - CLK Moses B. Marsh - Treas. Wm Kelly
 J.P. Morris Marsh H.C. Chas Cronkright, Const. Chas. Cronkright, Herbert Fineout, Star
 J.P. Sullivan Bugby, Wm. Kelly

1871 ~~Orville Horner~~ ~~A.M. Allen~~ ~~Wm. Kelly~~ Clerk John E. Willard - Wm. Kelly Treasurer,
 James H. Budd J.P. James S. Holden Comm. of Highways - Wm Kelly Drain Commis
 James H. Budd School Inspector J.P. Sullivan Bugby Const (Gilbert Cronkright
 L. R. Rodie, M. B. Marsh
 Edmond Cronkright)

1872 Super A.M. Allen - CLK Hillary G. Fountain - Treas Levi Fulmer
drain comm. A.M. Allen J.P. A.M. Allen J.P. Phineas Swift
highway commiss. Anthony Barton H.C. James S. Holden
school inspectors Nathan E. Sargeant and James S. Holden

1873 William Kelly Super - ~~Hillary G. Fountain~~ Clerk, Levi Fulmer Treas. - drain John E. Willard
comm of High. Chas Cronkright, Jr. - ^{Hillary} Isreal Martin
J.P. Phineas Swift J.P. Joseph Marsh, William H. Tice J.P. -
school inspector William H. Tice - constables Elijah W. Potter, Louie Malsax,
Hiram Cronkright, John Hollinger

1874 Nathan E. Sargeant Super - Hillary G. Fountain CLK. - Charles Cronkright, Treas
highway comm Isreal Martin - John H. Woodward, drain comm. - George Rockwell, J.P.
Hillary Fountain, school inspector
J.P. Phineas Swift J.P. William H. Tice - school inspector William H. Tice
constables John Woodward, Elijah Potter, Edward Swift, Daton Patterson

1875 Andrew M. Allen, super - Geo. Rockwell, clerk - Chas. Cronkright Treas.
drain comm. Moses B. Marsh - Anthony Barton Highway Comm - J.P. Levi Fulmer
Wm H. Tice school insp, Supt. of Sch, William H. Tice, J.P. - school insp Wm. H. Tice
constables / Elijah W. Potter, Gilbert Cronkright, Levi Fulmer
Delevan Ames, Henry Potter

Homer Township Supervisors

1862 William Kelly	1903 William Windover
1863 William Kelly	1904 George Starks
1864 William Kelly	1906 George Starks
1865 William Kelly	1907 James O'Brian
1866 F.E. Willard	1908 James O'Brian
1867 F.E. Willard	1909 James O'Brian
1868 Sullivan Bugby	1910 William Windover
1869 F.E. Willard	1911 Charles Calkins
1870 A. M. Allen	1912 James O'Brian
1871 O. Hosner	1913 Grant Wyman
1872 A. M. Allen	1914 Grant Wyman
1873 A. M. Allen	1915 Grant Wyman
1874 A. M. Allen	1916 C.C. Clark
1875 A. M. Allen	1918 -- 1928 William Windover
1876 A. M. Allen	1929—1932 Clyde Cronkright
1877 H.G. Fountain	1933 John Smith
1878 H.G. Fountain	
1879 H.G. Fountain	
1880 H.G. Fountain	
1883 Joel H. Brown	
1884 J. Brewer	
1900 William Windover	

Information from 1884 Portraits
and Biographical Sketches
by Chapman Bros. Chicago

Research by Rollin Yeakle April 21, 2012

Year Residents Moved to Homer Township

Charles Cronkright	1837
William Kelly	1853
Anthony Barton	1852
Sylvester Vibber	1852
Seneca Wells	1852
Sullivan Bugby	1852
John Willard	1852
Leonard Fletcher	1852
Levi Foreman	1854
George Starks	1854
Phineas Swift	1865
Levi Fulmer	1866
Moses Marsh	1866
John Carrow	1871
Joseph Cradit	1872
William Windover	1872
William Phillips	1874
Jacob Wiltse	1852
Charles Gyde	1856

Charles Cronkright, Sr. (1809-1880) was the first settler in Homer Township. He arrived here in 1837 from Genesee County New York. Homer Township was organized when a group of men gathered at Charles Cronkright's home to elect township officials April 21, 1862. Charles Cronkright, Sr. held the office of Justice of the Peace in 1863 and Highway Commissioner in 1864.

Those in attendance at the first meeting were William Kelly, Charles Cronkright, Sr., Anthony Barton, Jacob Wiltse, Leander Starks, Ira Cronkright, Simon D. Smith, Stephen Smith, and Charles Gyde.

Charles Cronkright was killed instantly in 1880 while sleeping when a steam boiler exploded sending metal fragments through his body. Charles had a job working at a sawmill in Vestaburg, Michigan when the accident happened. Charles Cronkright was married to Lydia Snyder and was 71 years old at his death. Although Charles organized the first meeting, he never was elected supervisor.

Charles Cronkright's burial
in Homer Township Cemetery



ONLY THREE HOUSES IN MIDLAND WHEN THIS CITIZEN CAME

Homer Township Man Has Been Here Continuously

Jan 31 - 76 Years

1924

"Been around these parts a long time" said E. W. Potter as he renewed his Republican subscription this week. Questioned as to just how long he had been here Mr. Potter said he came here when he was but four weeks old, with his parents. "There was only three houses in Midland then" he continued. "John Larkin had a house on what is now Main street, John Wyman lived over in the forks of the rivers and Charlie Rodd, an Indian, lived across the river."

"That's been 76 years ago," he said. He then told how his father had settled on a piece of land now the Midland cemetery. When he was 12 years old he said he hired out in the woods for \$12 a month. "Land was only worth about 10 shillings an acre those days" said Mr. Potter.

He told how he had cleaned up a farm in Homer township, where Chas. Cronk now lives. The next place he moved to, was $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of the Isabella road in Homer. "I've lived on that place 40 years," related Mr. Potter. For several years Mr. Potter said he operated a ferry where the upper bridge now stands.

Indians were very thick around Midland then and wigwams were visible all along the river. It is believed that Mr. Potter is one of the oldest residents living in Midland County continuously. He still enjoys good health.

Sullivan Bugby was born in Ohio in 1825. He was listed on the U. S. Census for Homer Township for 1860 and 1870. Records were not available after 1870.

Sullivan Bugby homesteaded land in 1859 making him one of the oldest pioneers. He was elected Homer Township Supervisor in 1868. The location of his homestead was the north one-half of the southwest quarter of Section 15 in Homer Township. Sullivan Bugby enlisted in Company H 27th Infantry Michigan Volunteers during the Civil War on October 20, 1862 and was discharged July 31, 1865.

American Civil War Soldiers Record

about Sullivan Bugby

Name: **Sullivan Bugby ,**
Residence: **Midland, Michigan**
Enlistment Date: **20 October 1862**
Distinguished Service: **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**
Side Served: **Union**
State Served: **Michigan**
Unit Numbers: **1104 1104**
Service Record: **Enlisted as a Private on 20 October 1862 at the age of 38**
Enlisted in Company H, 27th Infantry Regiment Michigan on 25 February 1863.
Wounded on 12 May 1864 at Spotsylvania Court House, VA
Discharged Company H, 27th Infantry Regiment Michigan on 31 July 1865 in Washington, DC

William Kelly (1832-1913) was born in New York State and was the first Supervisor in Homer Township. His parents were natives of Ireland. When William Kelly came to Midland in 1853 there were only a few houses and a settlement of Native Americans one half mile downstream on the Tittabawassee River with a Trading Post.

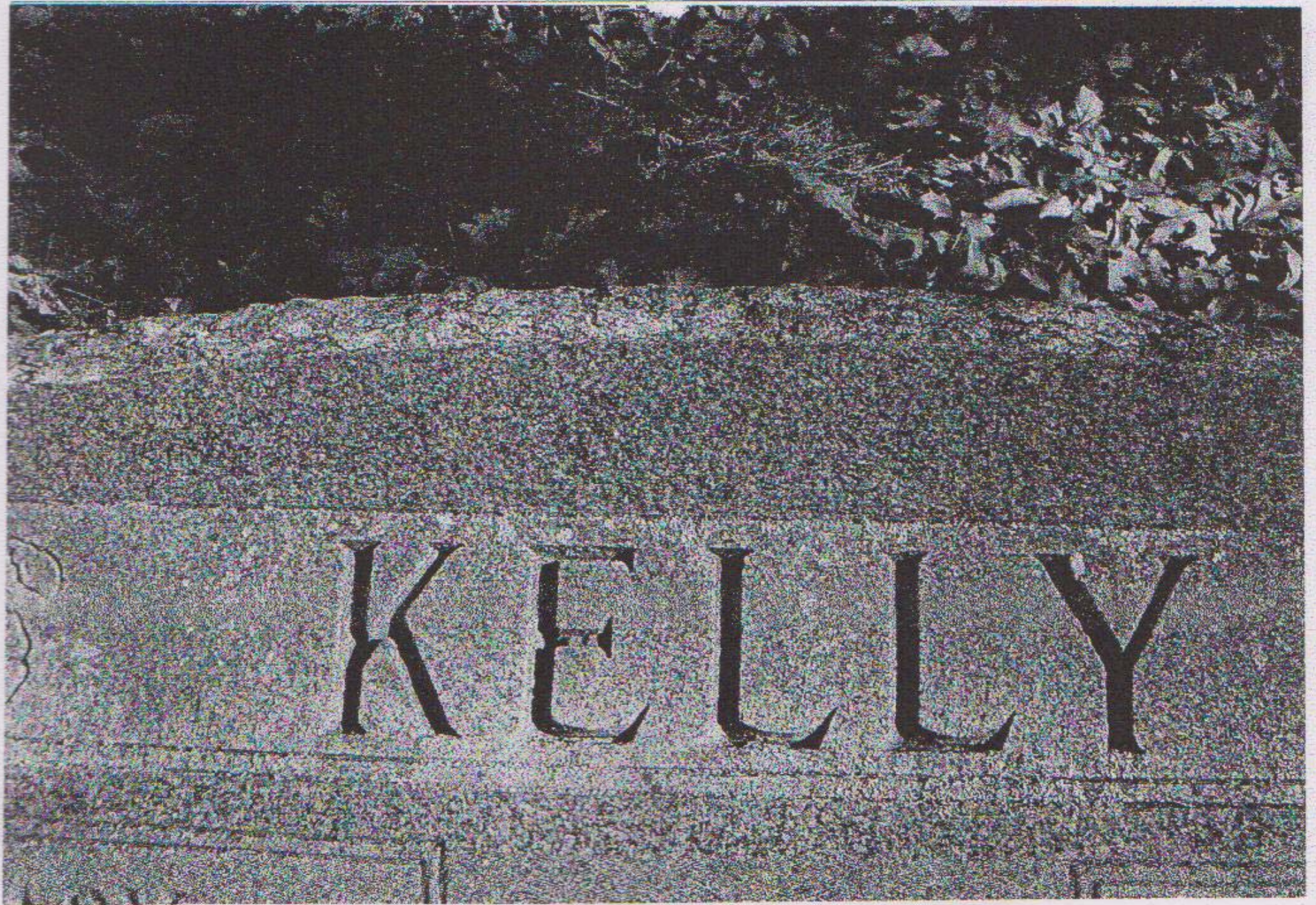
In 1856 William Kelly began to clear land in the area known as the Chippewa Nature Center today. His property was near the Junction of the Pine and Chippewa Rivers. He owned 250 acres on which he did lumbering.

By 1868 records show that William Kelly and his family were living in Midland City. He operated a grocery and feed store until about 1875.

During the years William Kelly lived in Midland he built a home on West Main Street, which is still there today.

After 1875 He moved back to Homer Township and was elected Township Supervisor again in 1881. During the early years in Homer Township William Kelly was the only person elected Township Clerk, Treasurer and Supervisor.

William Kelly moved to Colorado after his last term as Township Supervisor. A few years later he moved to Fresno, California to grow fruit trees in his retirement years. He retired in 1901 and died in California in 1913 at 81 years of age. William Kelly and his wife Elizabeth (Barton) had a family of ten children, five are buried in the Homer Township Cemetery.

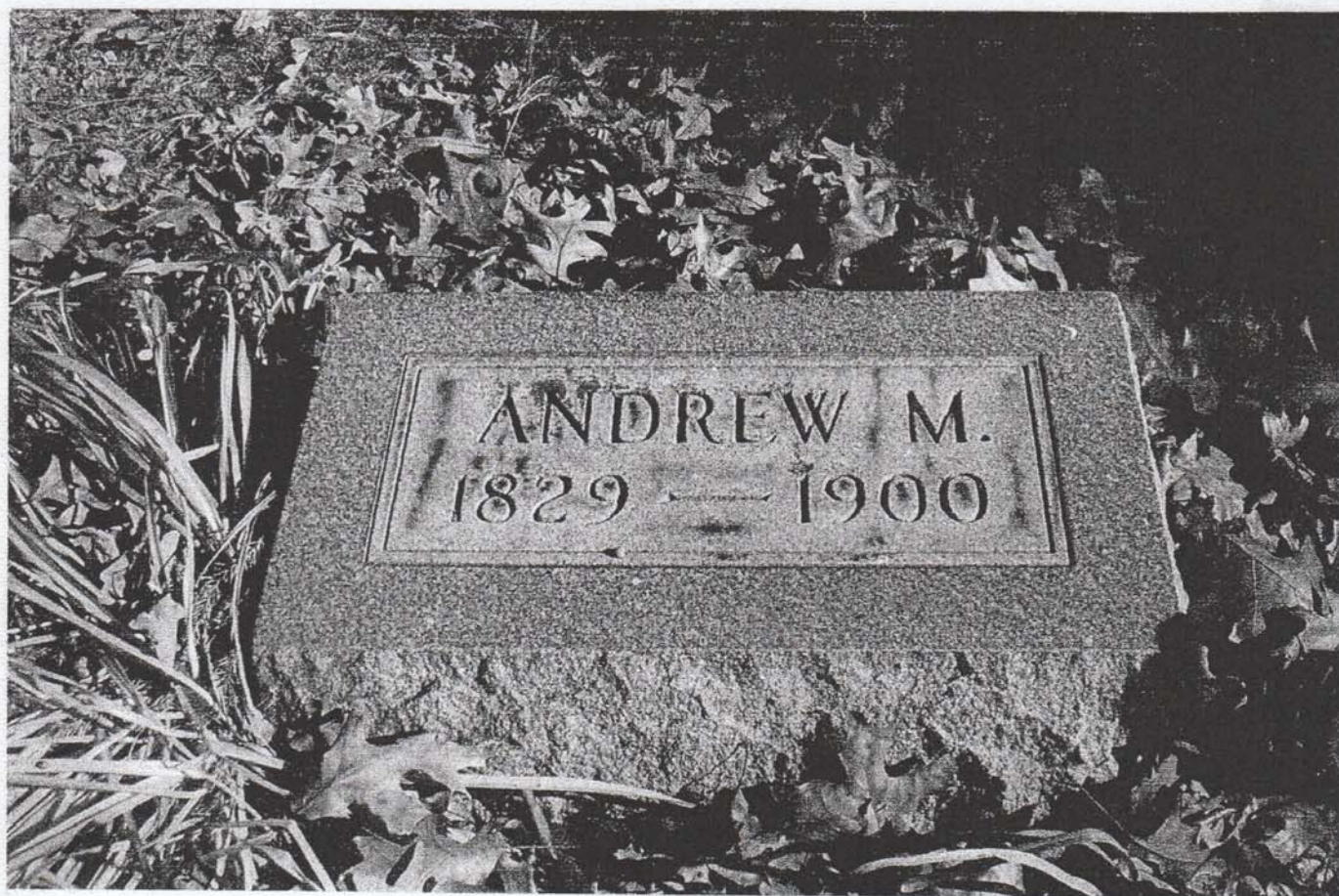


Anthony Barton was the first Treasurer of Homer Township. He died later the same year August 21, 1862. His was the first burial in what would become the Homer Township Cemetery. The Original name was The Pine River Cemetery.



Andrew M. Allen (1829-1900) was born in New York. Andrew enlisted for service during the Civil War with Company D, First Infantry Regiment Michigan Volunteers on May 1, 1861 at 32 years old. He was discharged August 7, 1861. Andrew Allen was elected Homer Township Clerk in 1865 and Township Supervisor in 1870.

Andrew Allen's occupation was a logger although the 1870 census lists him as a farmer. Andrew gave land to Homer Township for a new township hall in 1877. The building site was on the Northwest corner of Homer and Chippewa River Road. Andrew Allen died in Homer Township at the age of 71.



**Andrew M. Allen
(1829--1900)**

Jacob Wiltse (1800-1885), a resident of Homer Township before 1870, was born in Vermont. Jacob was elected Highway Commissioner in 1862, 1863 and 1864. He homesteaded land in the west one-half of the northwest quarter of Section 14 in Homer Township. This property was on the corner of North Homer and Olson Road. Other farms that Jacob Wiltse owned were the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter and the north half of the southwest quarter of Section 14 in Homer township. His homestead was issued from the East Saginaw Land Office and was a part of the Michigan-Toledo land strip.

Jacob Wiltse's obituary states that he was buried in the Pine River Cemetery so evidently the Homer Township Cemetery must have been called the Pine River Cemetery before 1885. Jacob Wiltse died in Homer Township one month before his 85th birthday.

HOVER.

Death of Mr. Jacob Wiltse—Midland Wheat Market—Socials.

Mar. 12 / 1885 March 10, 1885.

EDITOR REPUBLICAN:

A good time is reported at the donation at Mr. Fulmer's, the receipts were fair, the attendance large.

Several warm days the first of the month settled the snow one half or more. It has since frozen sufficiently hard that a person can travel any place on the snow.

Mr. Binner lost a cow last week.

Mrs. Charles Frost of Penn. is visiting at Mr. Bishop's.

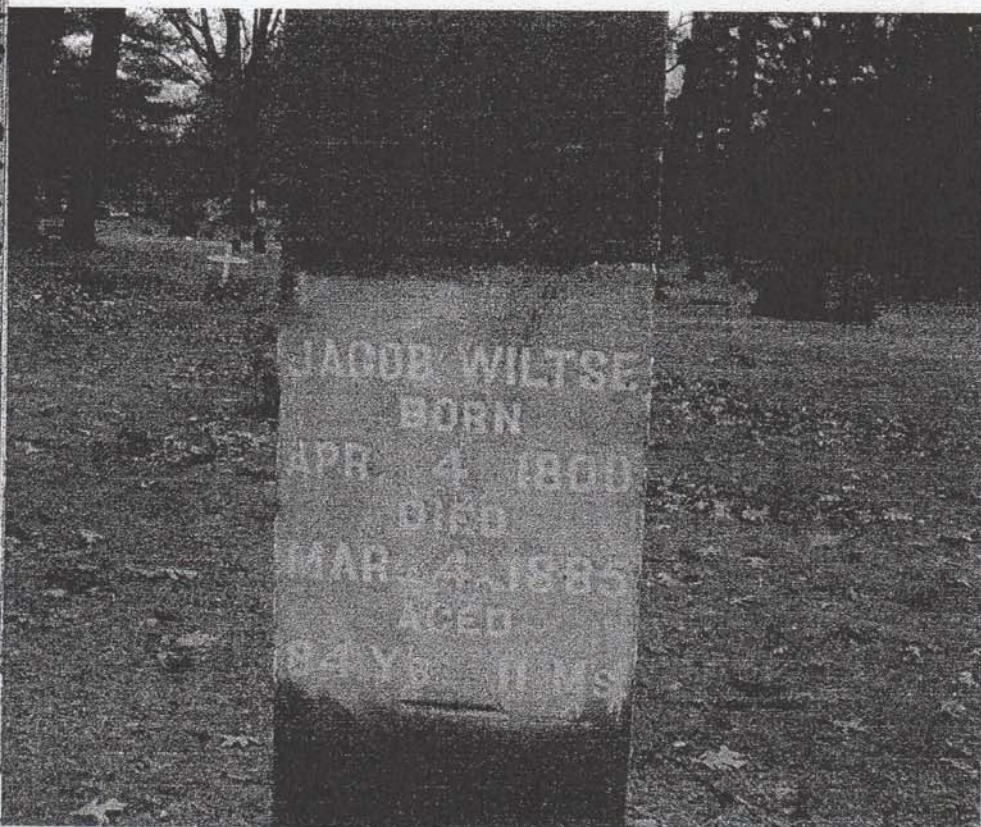
Mr. Jacob Wiltse an old resident of this place aged 85 years, died at his home last Wednesday and was buried Friday in the Pine River Cemetery.

There is considerable sickness in the neighborhood.

It is a mistake about St. Louis market being better than Midland markets for several thousand bushels of grain have been hauled through here by St. Louis farmers to Midland and by consulting with them we were informed that they received several cents more per bushel in Midland than in St. Louis.

There will be a social at Mr. Windovers next Friday evening in favor of Rev. C. M. Thompson.

CUSTER.



John E. Willard (1820-1888) was born in Connecticut. He was elected Homer Township Supervisor in 1866, 1867 and 1868. In the late 1870s Mr. Willard moved to Midland City and served as Justice of the Peace. John E. Willard's grave site is in the Midland City Cemetery on Orchard Drive. Mr. Willard died at 67 years of age.



Levi Fulmer (1830-1911) was born in New York. His occupation was a carpenter. Levi Fulmer was elected Homer Township Clerk in 1866, 1867 and 1868. He also was elected Homer Township treasurer in 1869.

Levi Fulmer's father was a native of New York State. Levi owned a farm in Section 10 of Homer Township. He enlisted for service during the Civil War with Company H 97th Infantry Regiment New York on August 14, 1863. He was discharged on July 18, 1865.

Soon after his discharge from the Civil War duty he came to Homer Township and bought land which was called Primeval Forest. Levi Fulmer died in Homer Township at the age of 80.





**Moses Marsh
1830-1888
Homer Twp
Farmer.**

**Homer Twp Clerk
1870**

Mr. B. Marsh

Charles Gyde was born in England in 1808. He was elected the first clerk of Homer Township at the first meeting held on April 21, 1862. He also served as Clerk in 1863 and 1864. Charles Gyde was one of the oldest pioneers in Homer Township homesteading a farm in 1856. This farm was near where the Pine River Bluffs Estates are today.



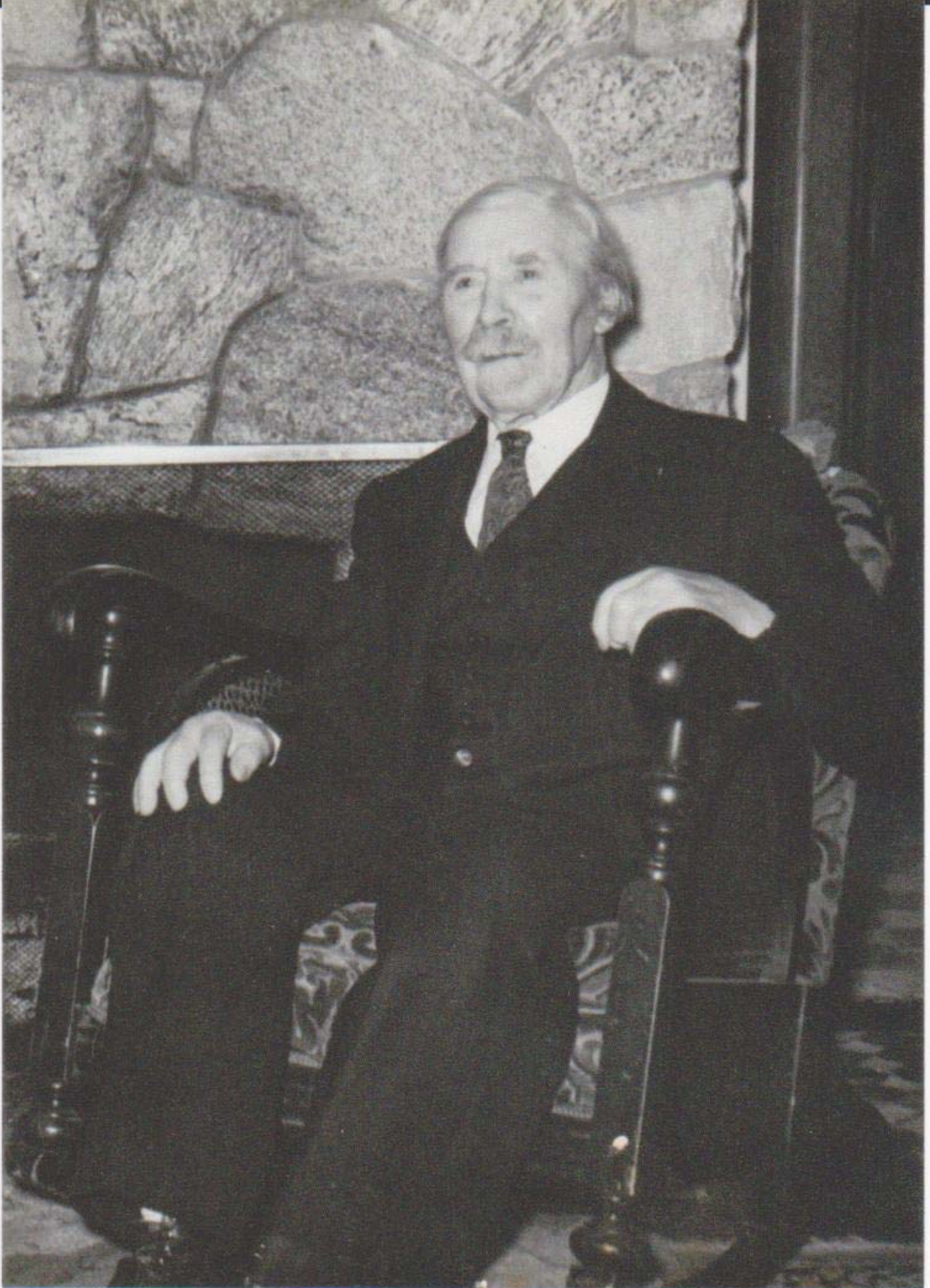
Phineas Swift was born in Livingston County, New York in 1826. He was living in Homer Township in 1870 according to the census. Phineas Swift owned a farm in Section 33 of Homer Township. He enlisted for service during the Civil War August 15, 1862. Phineas served in Company F 21st Michigan Infantry Volunteers and was discharged in 1863 due to a pulmonary disease. After his discharge Phineas came to Homer Township and bought 160 acres in Section 4. Phineas Swift was Justice of the Peace in 1873 and 1874.



Phineas Swift

Civil War Service Records Record ⓘ
about Phineas Swift

Name: **Phineas Swift**
Company: **F**
Unit: **21 Michigan Infantry.**
Rank - Induction: **Drummer**
Rank - Discharge: **Musician**
Allegiance: **Union**



Homer Township Supervisor 1900
William J. Windover

The early records from Homer Township show the location of the first meeting was at Charles Cronkright's home in 1862. Since the township didn't have a Township hall for meetings, I was interested in finding where their meetings were held if possible.

The records from 1862-1872 reveal the possible locations of their first meetings. During the township meeting in 1864 it was decided to have the meeting in 1865 at Fletchers Tavern. Those in attendance at the 1865 meeting at Fletchers Tavern were William Kelly, Andrew Allen, Ebenezer Poor, Leander Starks and Leonard Fletcher. It is nearly impossible to find where Fletchers Tavern was located in 1865, but there is a clue from other records and maps.

Mr. Fletcher, Homer Township treasurer in 1865 owned 80 acres on the southwest corner of where the M-30 and Chippewa River Road intersection is today. This is possibly the location of Fletcher's Tavern and the site of some of Homer Township's first board meetings.

Mr. Fletcher's property was found on a hand drawn logging plat map which belonged to Andrew Allen, Ernie Allen's great-grandfather. This map was from the logging days of 1860 to 1880. The plat map showed property owned by the Flint and Pere Marquette Railroad Company as well as individual owners. Only about 20% of the land was owned by individual owners at this time in history. The map was drawn to a scale of 40 chains to the inch. The length of a chain measurement is 66 feet.

Although Andrew Allen donated land for the township hall in 1877 it was not built until 1916. This new township hall was built on the corner of Homer and Chippewa River Roads.

During Midland County's Centennial Year in 1950 the Midland Daily News interviewed Mrs. Charles (Clarissa) Cronkright about the history of Homer Township from 1850 to 1950. Mrs. Cronkright said, "Homer Center then (1800's) consisted of just a **shack** for a town hall. There were no store, no church even no bridge across the Chippewa River here at that time." Her husband Charles E. Cronkright was the grandson of Charles Cronkright that came to Homer Township in 1837.

The **shack** Mrs. Cronkright talks about in the interview was on the property Andrew Allen gave to Homer Township in 1877 because the 1914 plat map shows a building on this corner before the township hall was built in 1916. The 1885 Midland newspaper article also indicates the Homer Township caucus met at the town hall to elect five delegates to the County Convention.

After much research I came to the conclusion there were at least three different places where the Homer Township board meetings were held between 1862 and 1916. One of the first places was **Fletcher's Tavern** possibly located near the M-30-Chippewa River Road intersection. The next was a small shack building on the northwest corner of Homer and Chippewa River Road. The third place was on the same corner in the new **township hall of 1916**. This corner was known as **Homer Center or The Corners**.

The new Homer Township hall built in 1916 served as a meeting place and election headquarters for the next 47 years. Other groups such as the Boy Scouts also used the new township hall for a meeting place. The cost of the building in 1916 was \$604. The new township hall used from 1916 to 1963 did not have running water, kitchen facilities or inside plumbing.

There were several buildings of interest in Homer Township that do not exist today and have long been forgotten by most people. The only way to find where these buildings were located is usually through individual family history or knowledge of the buildings.

One of these buildings was called "The Quarter House". This was a place to stay overnight while traveling by horse and buggy between Midland and Mt. Pleasant. The Quarter House on Chippewa River Road was approximately 1/4 the distance to Mt. Pleasant. Chippewa River Road was the main route between the two cities since M-20 did not exist.

The area near the Quarterhouse, on the Chippewa River, was apparently the home of a settlement of Native Americans, prior to this, because local residents have found many arrowheads at this site.

The location of the Quarterhouse in Homer Township was confirmed by long time residents the Allen and LaVier families. The Quarterhouse was located on Chippewa River Road on the high sandy ridge 100 yards East of the M-30 and Chippewa River Road intersection. This is the same area of Mr. Flecher's property and possibly Flecher's Tavern where some of the first meetings were held for Homer Township.

There were a few log homes in Homer Township until 1930. Two of the remaining log homes were near the 4 1/2 mile Road and Chippewa River Road intersection. This same area had a cement block factory just off Chippewa River Road near the Chippewa River. Four and One Half Mile Road is called Westlawn Drive now.

Location of the Quarterhouse
In Homer Township.



Corner of Chippewa River Road and
M-30 looking East about 100 yards
on right side.

Civil War Soldiers in Homer Township Cemetery

Old Soldiers	
1 John Bronk	Lot 112
1 G. W. Wesson	61 West 1/2
1 A. M. Allen	76
1 Levi Fulmer	66
1 Herbert Finout	66
1 A. L. Bellenger	56
1 Archie Stewart	145
1 Aaron Davis	6
1 Lorain Lambert	167 2 1/2
1 Wm Lowell	142
1 Wm Brookright	72
1 Lowell Ralston	241 2 1/2
1 Moses Hackett	176
1 Jerry Ingersoll	22
1 S. Swain	42
1 Wm. H. Hixson	155
1 John Baskins	79
1 Thomas Swift	87
1 Ben Finout	66
1 Lorenzo Davis	36

A
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P

Next 20 photos are headstones of
Civil War Soldiers in Homer Township Cemetery.



**Homer Township Civil War Era photo located at the corner of Homer and Chippewa River Road.
(Garlene Glanz photo)**



ALBEN L. BELLANGER
CO. B.
106 N.Y. INF.





AARON
DAVIS
HUSBAND OF
LOUISA J. DAVIS
Died May 1 1887

ANDREW M.
1829 — 1900

W. STEWART
COLE
9 MICHIGAN





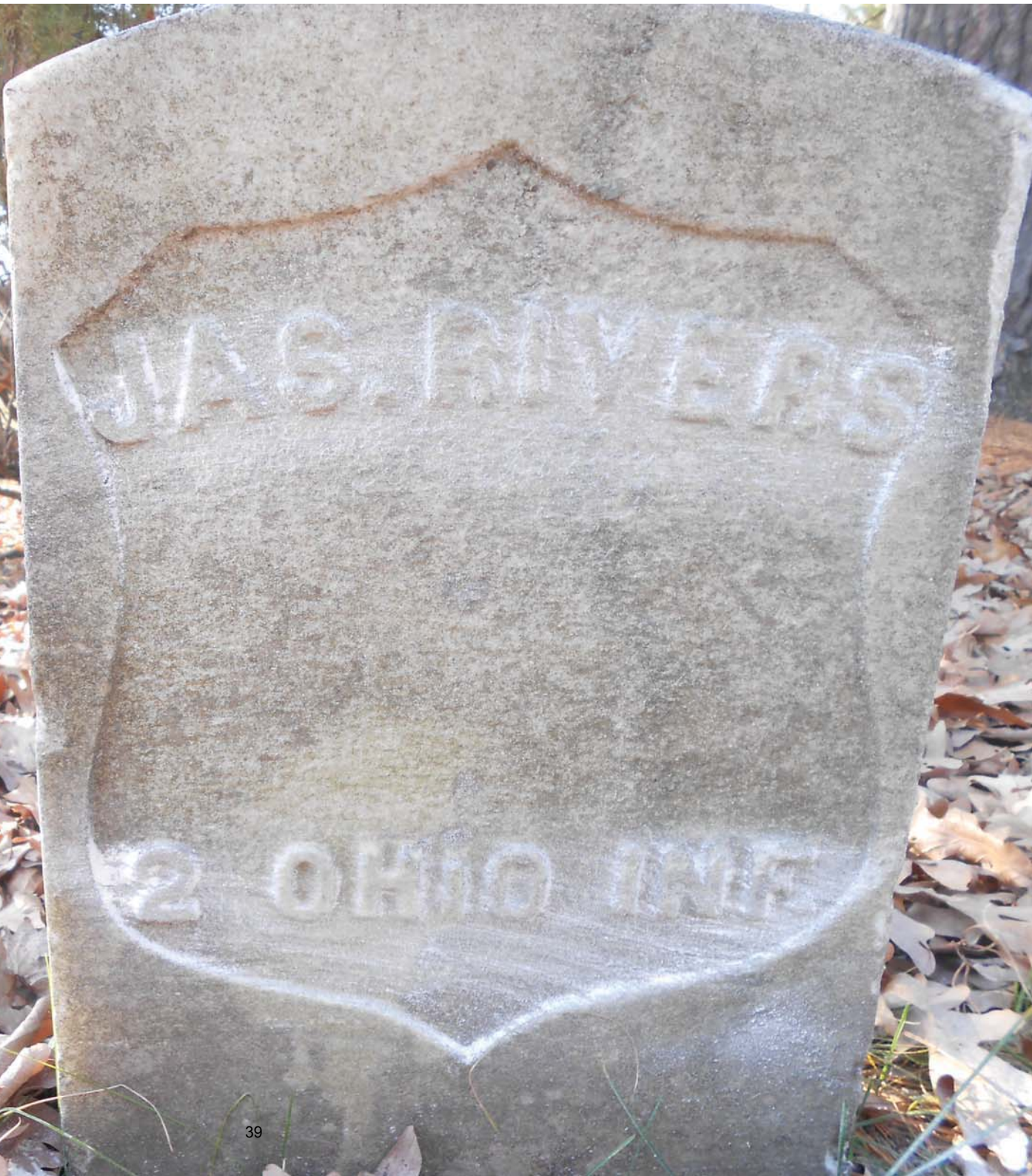
JOHN BRONK

C.O.E.

28 MICHIGAN







JAS. RIVERS

2 OHIO INF









MUSN.
WES. S.
H. GO. G. M.
MICH. GAV.



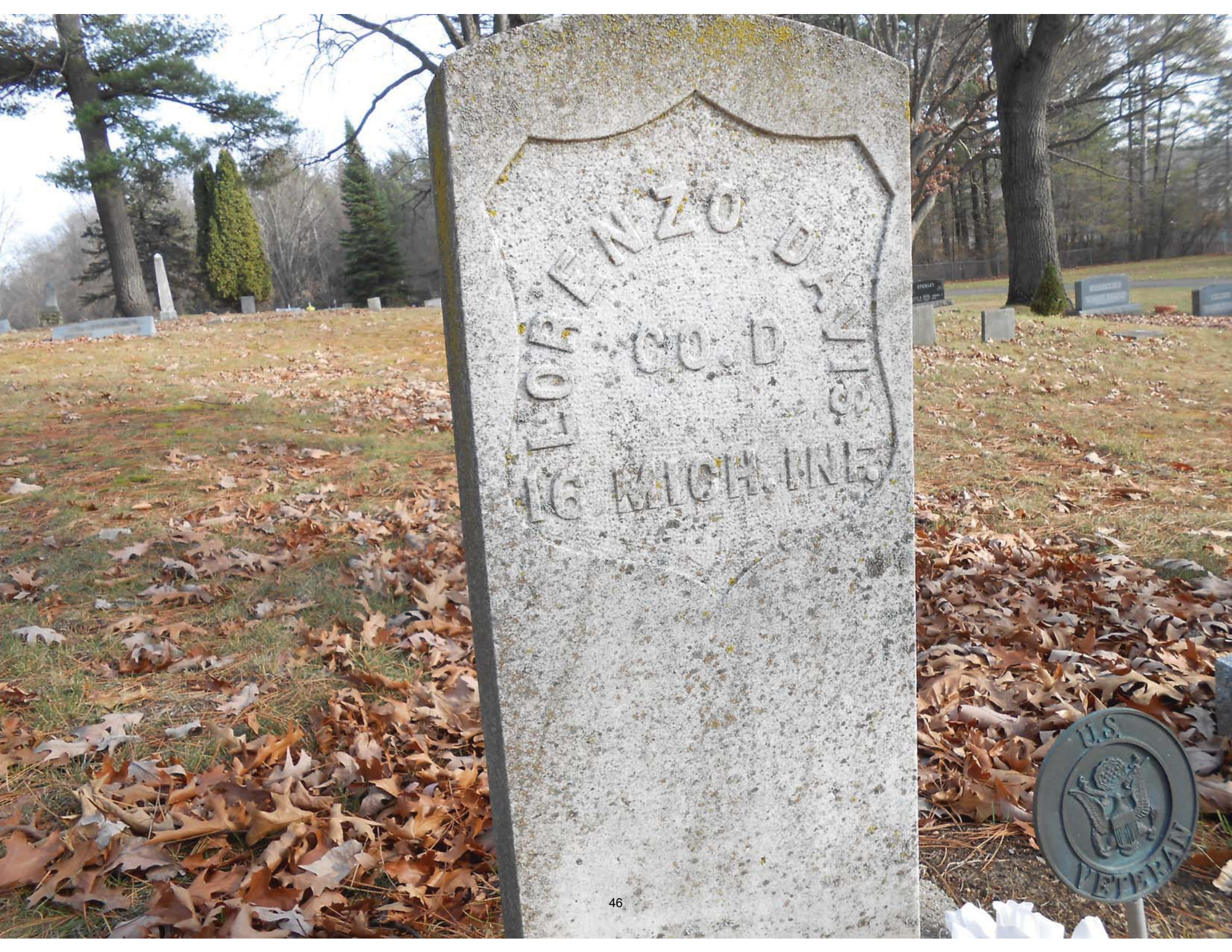
SERGT.
LEVI FULMER
U.S. CO. H. 53
87 NY INF.

LEVI
FULMER
DIED
MAR. 12, 1911

U.S.



LORIN
LAMBERT
1843 — 1919



LORRENZO D.
CO. D
16 RICH. HILLS





SWIFT

MUSN
WAS S
E CO. F
21 MICH. INF.

RAIN







LAMEE

WINLOWELL

CO. A

SERVING




American Civil War Soldiers Record

about Lorenzo Davis

Name: **Lorenzo Davis ,**
Residence: **Midland County, Michigan**
Enlistment Date: **02 August 1861**
Distinguished Service: **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**
Side Served: **Union**
State Served: **Michigan**
Unit Numbers: **1090 1090 1090**
Service Record: **Promoted to Full Corporal**
Enlisted as a Private on 02 August 1861 at the age of 18
Enlisted in Company D, 16th Infantry Regiment Michigan on 07 September 1861.
Wounded on 15 June 1863 (Estimated day of wounding)
Reenlisted in Company D, 16th Infantry Regiment Michigan on 24 December 1863
Mustered out Company D, 16th Infantry Regiment Michigan on 08 July 1865 in Jeffersonville, IN

Name: **Benjamin Fineout ,**
Residence: **Saginaw, Michigan**
Enlistment Date: **03 August 1862**
Distinguished Service: **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**
Side Served: **Union**
State Served: **Michigan**
Unit Numbers: **1100 1100**
Service Record: **Promoted to Full Corporal**
Enlisted as a Private on 03 August 1862 at the age of 27
Enlisted in Company E, 23rd Infantry Regiment Michigan on 12 September 1863.
Wounded on 16 November 1863 at Knoxville, TN
Transferred Company E, 23rd Infantry Regiment Michigan on 15 June 1864
Transferred in on 15 June 1864.


Civil War Records

American Civil War Soldiers Record 
about William Cronkright


Name: **William Cronkright ,**
Residence: **Midland County, Michigan**
Enlistment Date: **26 September 1861**
Distinguished Service: **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**
Side Served: **Union**
State Served: **Michigan**
Unit Numbers: **1083 1083**
Service Record: **Enlisted as a Private on 26 September 1861 at the age of 22**
Enlisted in Company B, 10th Infantry Regiment Michigan on 26 September 1861.
Died of disease Company B, 10th Infantry Regiment Michigan on 06 January 1862 in In Hospital At Flint, MI

American Civil War Soldiers Record 
about Aaron Davis

Name: **Aaron Davis ,**
Residence: **Midland, Michigan**
Enlistment Date: **15 October 1862**
Distinguished Service: **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**
Side Served: **Union**
State Served: **Michigan**
Unit Numbers: **1104 1104**
Service Record: **Enlisted as a Private on 15 October 1862 at the age of 45**
Enlisted in Company H, 27th Infantry Regiment Michigan on 25 February 1863.
Received a disability discharge Company H, 27th Infantry Regiment Michigan on 08 August 1863 in Camp Dennison, OH


American Civil War Soldiers Record 
about John Bronk

Name: **John Bronk ,**
Residence: **Ingersoll, Michigan**
Enlistment Date: **08 August 1862**
Distinguished Service: **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**
Side Served: **Union**
State Served: **Michigan**
Unit Numbers: **1100 1100**
Service Record: **Enlisted as a Private on 08 August 1862 at the age of 22**
Enlisted in Company E, 23rd Infantry Regiment Michigan on 12 September 1862.
Received a disability discharge Company E, 23rd Infantry Regiment Michigan on 20 February 1863 in Bowling Green, KY

American Civil War Soldiers Record 
about Levi Fulmer

Civil War Records

Name: **Levi Fulmer ,**
Enlistment Date: **14 August 1863**
Distinguished Service: **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**
Side Served: **Union**
State Served: **New York**
Unit Numbers: **1605 1605**
Service Record: **Enlisted as a Private on 14 August 1863 at the age of 33**
Enlisted in Company H, 97th Infantry Regiment New York on 14 August 1863.
Promoted to Full Corporal on 30 October 1864
Promoted to Full Sergeant on 28 February 1865
Mustered out Company H, 97th Infantry Regiment New York on 18 July 1865 in Ball's Cross Roads, VA

American Civil War Soldiers Record 
about Sullivan Bugby

Name: **Sullivan Bugby ,**
Residence: **Midland, Michigan**
Enlistment Date: **20 October 1862**
Distinguished Service: **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**
Side Served: **Union**
State Served: **Michigan**
Unit Numbers: **1104 1104**
Service Record: **Enlisted as a Private on 20 October 1862 at the age of 38**
Enlisted in Company H, 27th Infantry Regiment Michigan on 25 February 1863.
Wounded on 12 May 1864 at Spotsylvania Court House, VA
Discharged Company H, 27th Infantry Regiment Michigan on 31 July 1865 in Washington, DC

Name: **Andrew M Allen ,**
Enlistment Date: **29 April 1861**
Distinguished Service: **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**
Side Served: **Union**
State Served: **Michigan**
Unit Numbers: **1094 1094**
Service Record: **Enlisted as a Private on 29 April 1861 at the age of 32**
Enlisted in Company D, 1st Infantry Regiment Michigan on 01 May 1861.
Mustered out Company D, 1st Infantry Regiment Michigan on 07 August 1861 in Detroit, MI

Notice---School Dist. No. 6, of Homer.

In the matter of establishing a school house site for school district No. 6, of the township of Homer, Midland county, Mich.

Notice is hereby given that a jury has been summoned to meet at the office of William D. Gordon, Circuit Court Commissioner for Midland county, at his office in Midland City, on Tuesday, the 1st day of August 1882 at 10 o'clock in the forenoon to ascertain and determine the just compensation to be made for the following described piece or parcel of land to-wit:

Commencing at a point in the east line of section twenty-two (22) town fourteen (14) north of range one (1) east, two hundred and twenty five (225) feet south of the northeast corner-state of said section; and run thence west at right angles to the aforesaid section line twelve and one-half (12½) rods, thence south on a line parallel with said first mentioned section line thirteen (13) rods; thence east at right angles to said last mentioned line twelve and one-half (12½) rods to said first mentioned section line; thence north on said section line to the place of beginning; be the same more or less required by said school district for a school house site and the necessity for using the same for such site.

Dated at School District No. 6, of Homer, June 27th, 1882.

E. S. CRONKRIGHT, Director,
WM. WINDOVER, Assessor,
JOHN B. MASHUE Moderator.

78-tf.

Circuit Court Commissioner meeting to decide how much to pay Andrew Allen for property to build the Windover School.

State of Michigan }
County of Milland }

Copy original document

[Aug 1, 1882]

In the matter of
the application of School
District No. 6, of the Township
of Hamer County of Milland
to determine the necessity of taking
the following described land
for a School House site by
commencing at a point in the
East line of Section twenty two
(22) Town Number (14) North
of Range One (1) East Milland
County Michigan Two hundred
and twenty five (225) feet South of
the North East corner of the
of said Section and thence
West at right angles to the
aforesaid Section line twelve
and one half (12½) rods; thence
North in a line Parallel with
said Section line thirteen (13)
rods; thence East at right
angles to said East line twelve
and one half (12½) rods to said
first mentioned Section line;
thence North on said first
mentioned Section line to the
place of beginning to the same

more or less.

As the undersigned I was duly
duly summoned tried and sworn
by ~~Said~~ H. D. Garland said Circuit
Court Commissioner, to determine
the necessity of taking said land
for a school house site for said
District and to determine the just
compensation to be paid therefor.
Do hereby certify that it is neces-
sary that said real estate should
be used as a site for a school
house for said school district
and also certify that the just com-
pensation to be paid by said school
district for the said real estate
is the sum of Ten Dollars
Dated August 1st 1882

Amos T. Bough
Joseph W. W. W. W.

David W. Dix Thurston Simmons

J. H. Woodward

Wm. A. Rice W. Geyerien.

Joseph R. Cradio

Alexander Larier

J. Leonard J. Kiehn

Engene Randolph

John Winans

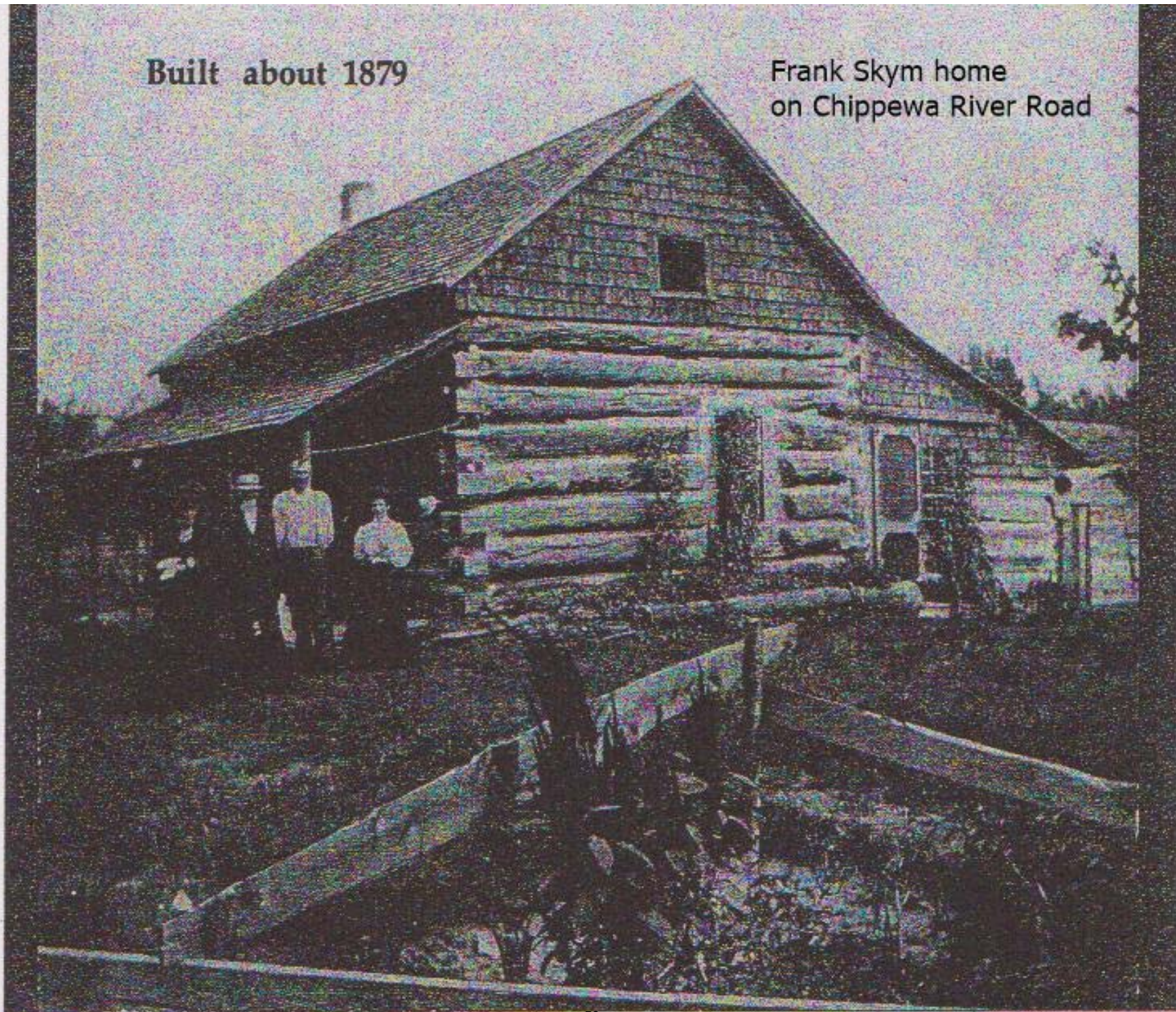
Circuit Court Commissioner and
Jury decided to pay Andrew
Allen \$10.00 for property taken
to build Windover School
August, 1, 1882.

Homer Township tax assessment

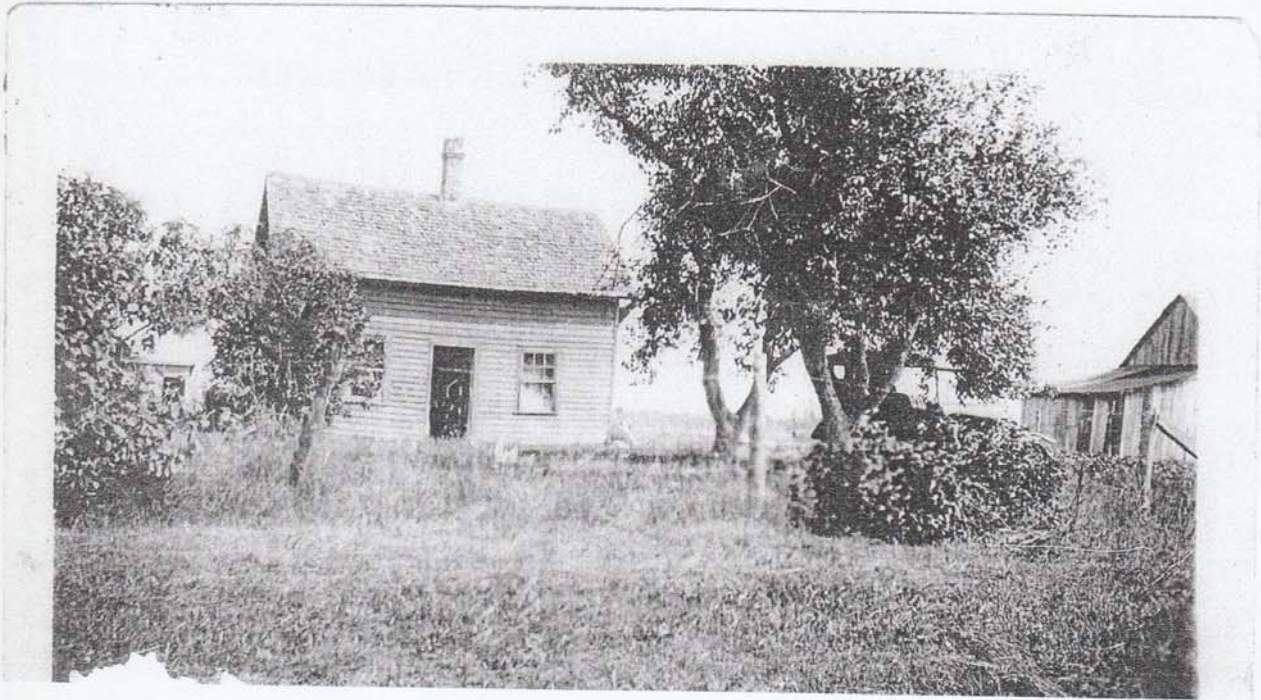
Homer Township property had an assessed value of \$151,200 in 1903 according to the figures from the Homer Township archives. Assuming the property value came from the 140 homes in the township at that time, the average value of each home would have been assessed at about \$1080.00.

Built about 1879

Frank Skym home
on Chippewa River Road

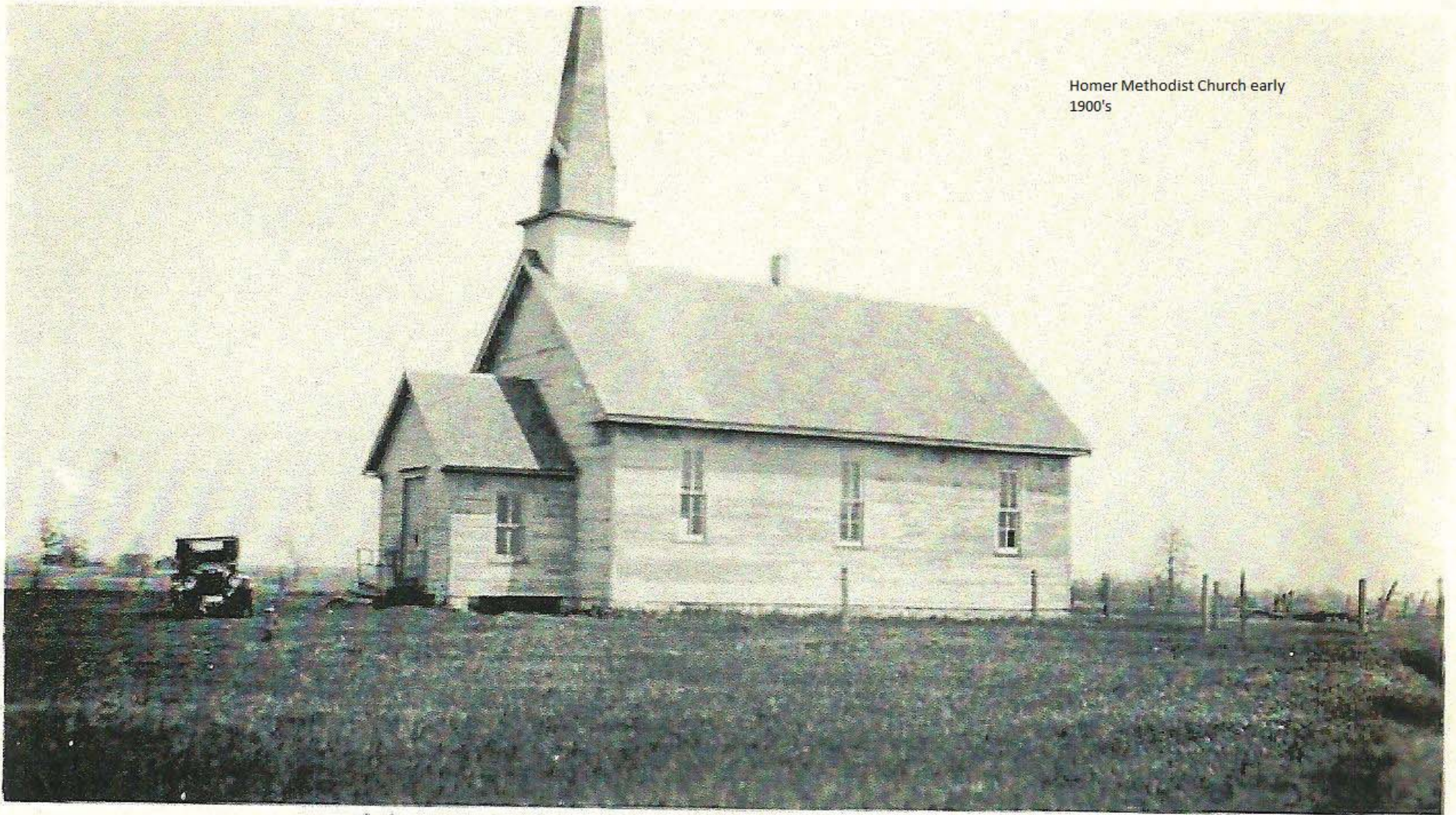


Ed and Emily Allen Home 1924





***Homer Township Hall corner of Chippewa River Road
and South Homer Road.***



Homer Methodist Church early
1900's

Milford Homer 1st



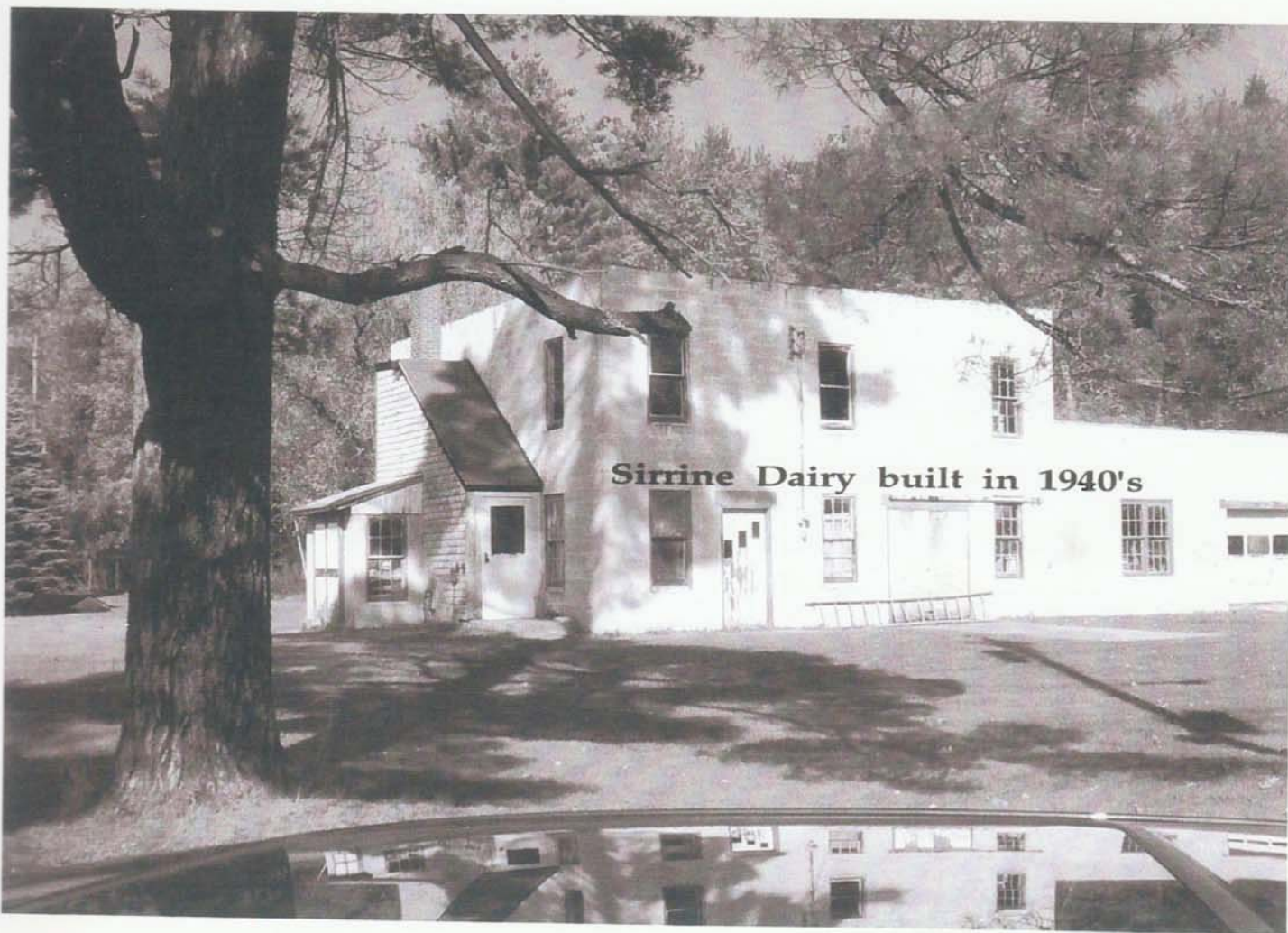
Old Barn On Chippewa River Road . Photo 2005



Mailbox height for delivery by horse.

Barnes School 1909

Sirrine Dairy 1920's. Corner of Miller and Pine River Road. Destroyed by fire.



Sirrine Dairy built in 1940's

(L-R) Charles Cronkright jr. and Wife, Charles E. Cronkright 3rd
Malinda, Clarissa and Clyde Cronkright . Those on right
are not identified.



Homer store , corner Homer and Chippewa River rd.
Built by Gleaner Lodge 1n 1898.Photo circa 1910.

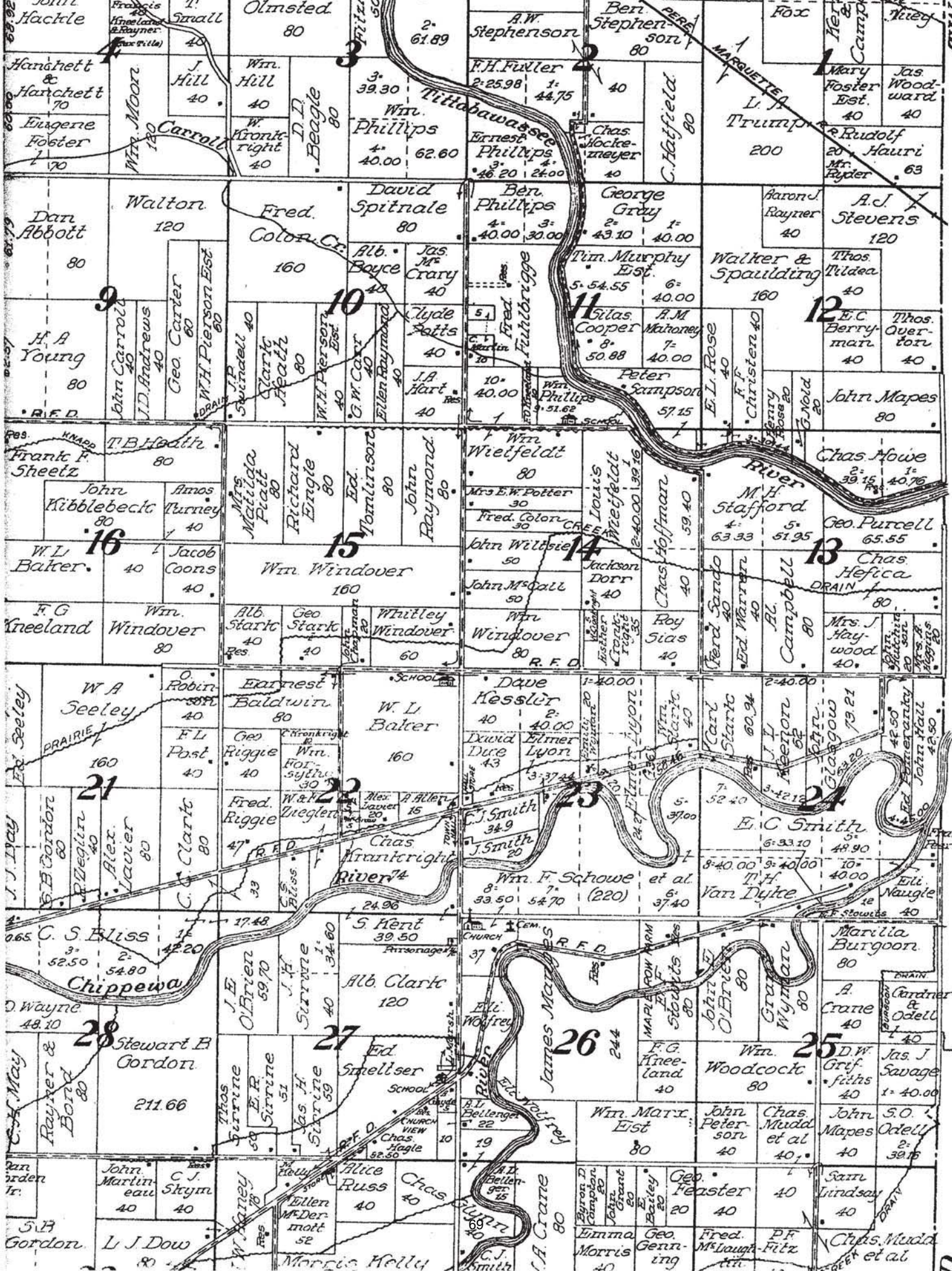


Charles and Martha Mudd Farm on the corner of Stewart and Badour Roads. Charles was born July 20, 1860 in New York. He moved to Midland County in 1887. The other Charles Mudd Farm on the corner of Stewart and Woodcock Road became a Centennial Farm⁶⁷ in 1998.



Centennial Farm of John Charles Solomon Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman was born in 1882 and purchased the farm in 1911. This photo shows the original farmhouse which was destroyed by fire in 1936. The farm is located at 1515 Sandow Road. Mr. Hoffman was Charles Longsdorf's Grandfather.

Homer twp 1914



T.W.D.

D

Windover
1936





The Homer grange Hall is believed to have been built with lumber from the old Ice house near the upper bridge in Midland. The Ice house was taken down about 1938.

The first fire hall for Homer Township was built in 1957 by Rodney and Wilbur Stark with the help of the volunteer firemen. Homer Township rented the building from Rodney and Wilbur Stark the first few years and later purchased it. The fire hall was built on the North bank of the Chippewa River near Sandow road for easy access to water. The first fire chief was Dale Stark who died in a fire related accident on South Homer road in 1970. Dale Stark was fire chief for 12 years. The 2nd fire chief was Roy Draves who was Homer fire chief for 25 years from 1970 to 1994. During the early years there were about 30 firemen who gave fire protection to Homer, Lee, and part of Porter Township. The present fire chief is John Hansen who became fire chief in 1994. In addition to the old fire hall on Chippewa River road , the 2nd fire hall was located on Dublin Road.

The Homer Township fire department now is located at the new Public Safety Building on South Homer Road. This new facility is used for the county fire fighters Training Center, EMS Ambulance Station and a secondary 9-1-1 Dispatch Center.



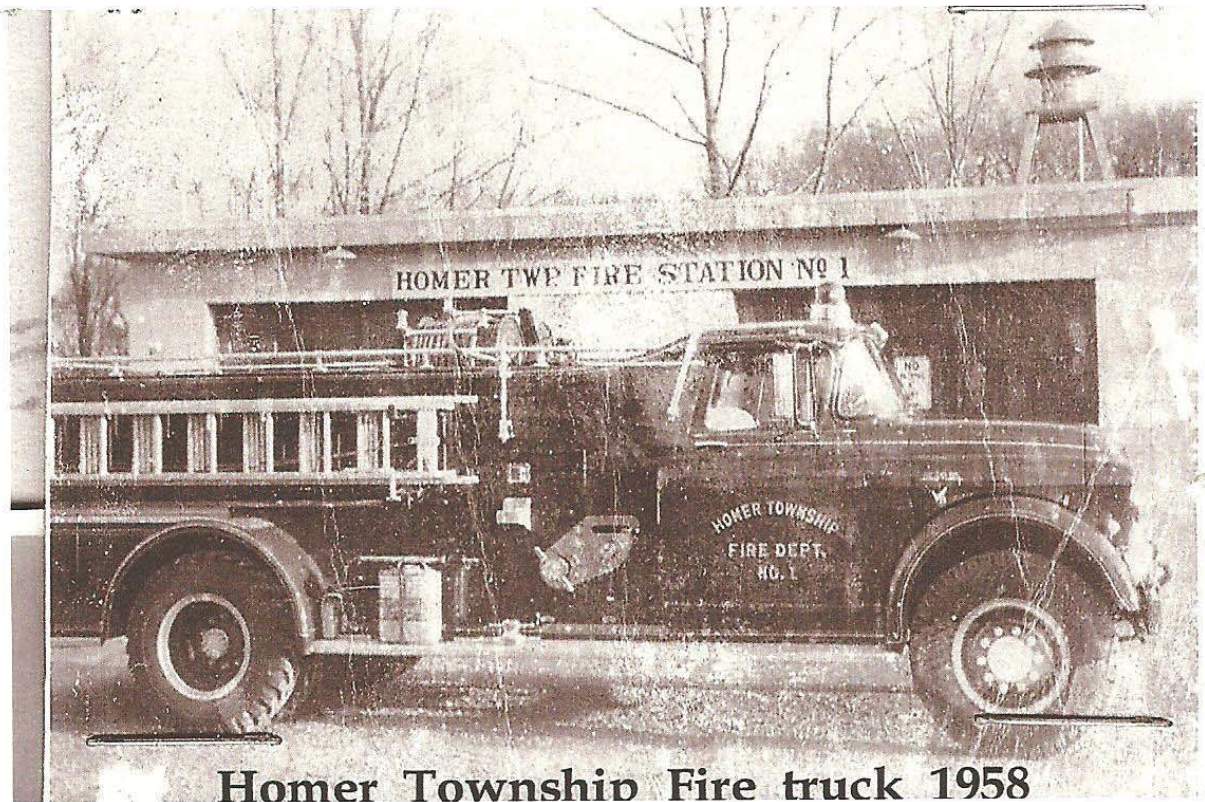
**Dublin Road
Fire Hall**



**Chippewa River Road
Fire Hall**



Homer Township fire hall on Chippewa River Road built in 1957.



Homer Township Fire truck 1958

2-19-58



(L-R) Charles Melchi, Lawrence Wyman, Dale Stark, Henry Serrine, Bob Albee, and Glen Stowits 1958.

10/8/2000

Public safety hall coming to Homer

BY DAVID EGGERT
of the Daily News

HOMER TOWNSHIP — Fire Chief John Hanson looked at the blueprints before him, glanced at the 1967 red fire engine behind him ... and grinned.

"It's a good thing that axle broke," he explained, sitting at a table inside the confined quarters of a township fire hall. "We had no room for a new truck. We couldn't fit it in through the door."

Three years after perhaps the most fortuitous

axle break ever, Homer Township will break ground on a \$2.2 million public safety and fire training facility this Wednesday.

Ten months from now, the 20,000-square-foot building on South Homer Road will house the new township fire station, the county fire fighter's training cen-

ter, an EMS ambulance station, a secondary 911 dispatch and a secondary emergency coordinating center.

"This was too good of an opportunity to try to roll everything into one," said Dean Moore, manager of the MidMichigan Medical Center EMS. Moore was part of the team that wanted to build a public safety facility that would serve Midland County in a number of ways.







A passerby looks over the edge of the bridge spanning the partially frozen Pine River.



Chippewa River Bridge Construction

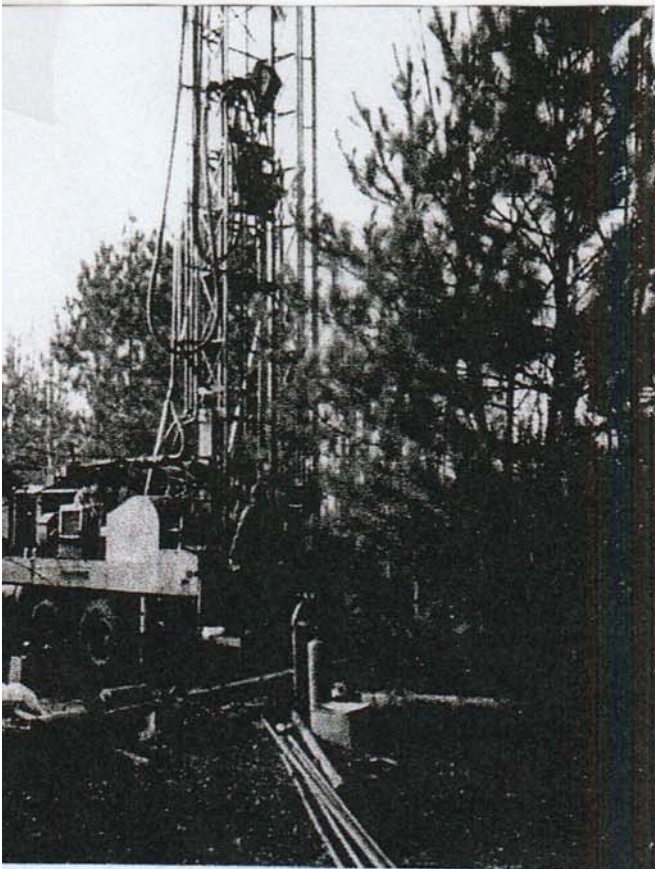


Homer Township Cemetery

Prior to 1997 the Homer Township Board tried unsuccessfully for many years to get a water system for Homer Township. Some residents had acceptable water, but many homes did not have good quality water. The well water in Homer Township had a high level of salt, iron and other impurities in parts of the township.

One option was to find a location in Homer Township in which we could drill a well and have an adequate supply of good quality water. A well eight inches in diameter was drilled in the early 1990's on township property on Gordonville Road. This new well was drilled into a sand vein about 200 feet thick. Thousands of gallons of good Quality water was pumped the first 24 hours .

Some residents thought we had solved our water problem, but in the final analysis the residents didn't want well water for the Homer Township Water System. After much negotiating with the City of Midland the Homer Township Board came to an agreement with the City of Midland to supply Homer Township with water.



**Water well drilling rig set up
on Gordonville Road.**

Homer Township Water System

In 1997 water district # 1 was formed in Homer Township. The residents in that water district approved a water system for their area of the Township. The bond financing water for district # 1 was to be paid over a 20 year period at a cost of about five million dollars. Water district # 1 included an area a little North and South of the M-20 corridor.

After Water District # 1 was formed, several other districts were started. When all districts were completed, the total number of parcels that could hook up to the Homer Township Water System was 1,453. The actual number of parcels hooked to the water system by 2016 was 1,225.

The Homer Township Water System consists of 43 miles of water main, two river crossings and 334 fire hydrants. The water mains are all eight and twelve inch lines.

Water Committee members :

Tom Pritchard --- Chairman

Rollin Yeakle

Bob Winchester---Chairman

Betty Panky

Al Tew

Les Varner

6-1 vote sets Homer water boundaries ^{3/7/96}

By CHERYL WADE
of the Daily News

Homer Township's Board of Trustees Wednesday voted to move ahead with plans for a water system estimated to cost \$5.25 million.

The board voted 6-1 for a resolution setting the water district's boundaries, with Trustee Charles Glynn dissenting, Township Clerk Joseph DuFort said 15 to 20 people came to Wednesday's meeting, which followed a packed public hearing last week. A few people in the audience asked questions, DuFort said.

"Probably the biggest discussion (among board members) was, 'Is that what a majority of the people want?'" DuFort said.

DuFort estimated more than 150 people attended last week's hearing. He counted 16 people who supported the water project, either by what they said or by their letters. Another nine opposed the project, and seven indicated they were undecided. People owning more

than half the land in the district, and more than half the landowners, signed petitions indicating they wanted water.

"The consensus was that there was very little opposition at the public hearing, and that we should continue with engineering," DuFort said.

The water system, which would connect to the City of Midland's, would serve more than 700 pieces of property. Landowners in the water district would be charged \$4,600 to pay for the system, whether they hooked up to water or not. Landowners could pay the assessment during 20 years.

DuFort said the board won't have its next hearing -- to determine who will pay and how much -- until engineers from the Bay City firm of Wade-Trim get more detailed cost estimates. Engineer John Billette said construction could start in March 1997 and he finished a year later.

Homer to break ground on water system ⁸⁻³⁰⁻⁹⁷

Homer Township will hold a ground-breaking ceremony for its water system at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 23, at the township hall, 522 N. Homer Road. Construction is slated to begin Oct. 3.

"I can't believe we're actually going to see something happen," Supervisor Barb Radosa said. "It seems like we've been talking about this for so many years."

Homer Township also has changed the date for its September meeting. It will be held the second Wednesday of the month, Sept. 10, rather than the first Wednesday of the month. Radosa will be attending the National Association of Towns and Townships annual conference in Washington, D.C., Tuesday through Thursday.

The Homer Township Board from 1996-2004 deserves credit for bringing water to Homer Township. Barb Radosa was the Township Supervisor and Tom Pritchard was a trustee and Water Committee Chairman.

The Homer Township Board members were:

Supervisor	Barb Radosa
Treasurer	Al Tew
Clerk	Joe Dufort
Trustee	Tom Pritchard
Trustee	Helen Mudd
Trustee	Gary Dunham
Trustee	John Stern
Trustee	Lester Varner
Trustee	Charles Glynn



Homer Township Hall





Antique Tractors and engines





Midland Antique Car Club





Entrance to Homer Park on 150th celebration day



Lowell Tolly and Rollin Yeakle at 150th celebration

HOMER TWP



1862-2012



08/24/2012



Homer Township 150th celebration Entertainment





Homer Township History Display
and birthday cake



Homer Park 2016

Hope you enjoyed our history.

Rollin Yeakle Homer Township Historian.

