

THE GALLOWAYS OF HAMBURG TOWNSHIP

Thomas Galloway, b. 1779, and wife Elizabeth, b. 1781, came from New York in 1833 with sons and daughters: George b. 1807, Eliza b. 1814, John T. b. 1818 and Fanny b. 1823. The family was among the earliest to come to Michigan, while it was yet Michigan Territory. Probably traveling on the Erie Canal to Buffalo, taking a steamer to Detroit, they then made their way along the Sauk Trail to Washtenaw County. From there, they settled in Green Oak and Hamburg Townships, purchasing land – some of it sight unseen. Settlers with sufficient funds purchased as much land as possible. The Galloways were no exception. Early records note a number of land transactions during the first 20 years they were here.

Upon arrival, George recorded 80 acres in Section 31 of Green Oak Township, October 1833. This is on the north side of Nine Mile (M-36). By July 1834, another 80 acres were purchased in Hamburg Township, Section 15. Two years later, 40 additional acres were added. Chilson Road makes a diagonal cut through the northeast portion, which includes the west end of Pleasant Lake (Winans Lake). The Lakeland Golf and Country Club is situated across from the lake.

When George, wife Susan, and baby Sarah arrived in Hamburg Township, they were sheltered by other earlier settlers. Jesse Hall was especially noted for his hospitality, sometimes hosting two or three families until their own homes could be built. Land was cleared to grow wheat, corn and a garden. However, 1833-36 were very dry years. Only rye survived, which meant a meager diet with little variety.

Within ten years, five more children were born to George and Susan, several of whom married neighboring sons and daughters who were also early settlers: Olsaver, Winans, Richardson.

Following the nation's centennial, many memories were written. George's son-in-law, Edwin B. Winans, included the following: "At that time (c. 1850) George Galloway held a prominent position in the town, socially, politically, and in enterprise and wealth. An early settler, he soon became somewhat of a leader in public affairs. He was treasurer of the township for eleven successive years, and he was known far and wide for his open-handed hospitality. His judgment was relied upon, and his advice and opinion valued by his neighbors and townsmen, and none stood better or had a fairer prospect of success in life than George Galloway; but he died in the prime of life, suddenly, with the cholera, in the year 1854, while on a business trip to New York. He left a wife and six children, all now living."

A number of Galloways are buried in Hamburg Cemetery. George, Susan, their children Elizabeth, Stephen, Julia, Mary and Rosemond, in addition to his parents, Thomas and Elizabeth are interred there.