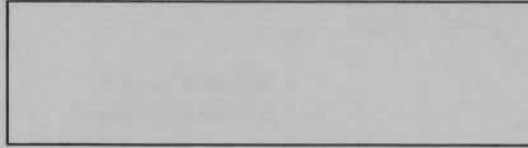


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### THE BARNARDS FIND THEIR WAY TO MICHIGAN

The return to St. Louis, in 1806, of Lewis and Clark's Voyage of Discovery, confirmed possession the young United States required of this vast territory, the Louisiana Purchase. However, England (in 1812) is reluctant to accept the terms of the treaty following the Revolutionary War, which set the northern border of the U.S. This attitude made it difficult to assure that Michigan Territory was part of the U.S. and that its citizens could safely settle there. The Battle of New Orleans, January 8, 1815, resolved the matter.

The Federal government fully realized it was vital that its citizens be encouraged to move west, over the Appalachian Mountains, to validate its sovereignty of the area. To remove that mountainous block to transportation, the Erie Canal was constructed from Albany to Buffalo, opening in 1825. This event, and big-time promotion by the governors of Michigan Territory that this was the land of opportunity, induced 10s of 1000s to travel west in search of a possible better future for themselves and their children.

Among those migrating were members of the Barnard family. While still in Madison County, New York, Ely Barnard, b. 1807, bought 240 acres in Sections 7 and 8 in Genoa Township, December 23, 1834. Noted as the first settler in the township, and while still maintaining his large farm, Ely moved to Howell Village and became very active in local government. He was the first Register of Deeds in newly organized Livingston County, receiving 81 votes of 81 ballots cast; serving from 1836 / 1840. In 1843 and 1844, he was a representative to the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Legislatures. The 1850 State Constitutional Convention saw Ely as a delegate from the county. As a commissioner of the Detroit and Shiawassee Railroad Company, the Detroit, Lansing and Northern Railroad and the board of the Detroit and Grand River Plank Road Company, he was involved with the several, rather fruitless, attempts at promoting transportation in Michigan. His interest in improved agricultural practices prompted him to help organize the Livingston County Agricultural Society in 1853, working with the Society as president in 1859 and 1860. (\$1 charge to join, 50 cents per year membership; three years later upped to 75 cents.) He exhibited cattle at the first fair of the Society, held in Brighton, October 6, 1853. Ely did take time to marry Aristine P. Curtis, his brother's sister-in-law, daughter of another early settler, and had eight children. The Barnards and Cutises were acquainted before coming to Michigan. Aristine was a very capable homemaker and farmer in Genoa during Ely's active political life. Even though he owned lots in Howell, his Genoa farm was his home. Ely died in 1872, but Aristine is noted for her help in composing the history of Genoa Township for Franklin Ellis, author of the 1880 history of the county.

Eli's brother, Pardon – b. 1811 – recorded the purchase of 80 acres in Genoa Township, section 17 and 18, June 24, 1835. He had married Eliza Ann Curtis in 1832. Shortly after purchasing his 80 acres, they left Madison County, bringing children William T. and Mary along. Even though settlers were in a wilderness, they felt strongly their children's education should not be neglected. In 1837 he served as school inspector. His calling as a preacher led to the organization of the Howell Methodist/Episcopal Church. The Barnard schoolhouse was the site of Sunday services and classes. The Livingston County Bible Society thrived with his guidance. As a charter member of the county Pioneer Association, 1871, he recorded his recollections of early settlers' struggles. Pardon died in 1879 and Eliza Ann followed about 10 years later. Several of their children have joined them at Lakeview Cemetery.

James, b. 1785 in Connecticut, bought 80 acres in Iosco Township prior to moving from Orleans County, New York – May 30, 1836. He and wife, Abigale, b. 1798 in Connecticut, were recorded in the early censuses but only Abigale is noted in the 1870 census with her son, James. (He had 11 siblings.) He fought in the war of 1812 as a private in Capt. Hero's N.Y. Militia. Dates of death and places of burial have not been located. Young James was a veteran of the Civil War 50 years later. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from census records; 18<sup>th</sup> History of Livingston County; and Early Settlers and Landowners of Livingston County by Milton Charboneau. Additions/corrections requested, 810/229-6402.)