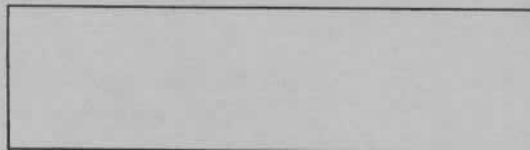


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### THE EDGARS STOP IN MICHIGAN ON THEIR WAY WEST

Before moving from Livingston county, New York, Robert (b. 1799, IR), and Mary (Whalen) (b. 1809, VT), Edgar purchased 40 acres in Brighton Township November 11, 1834. (At that time the southern two tiers of townships of the county were still part of Washtenaw Country.) The land is described as the NE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 26. By August 8, 1835, they'd moved to Michigan and bought the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 26. The 80-acre total was just north of a large wetland, which drained into a branch of Woodruff Creek. The Edgar's house was built shortly after, about one mile east of Pleasant Valley Road on Spencer Road. (In 1915, the Myron West family is living there.) The children attended Gage School.

The writer of the 1880 History of Livingston County writes of Robert, "He is prominently connected to the first clearing of the township and is known as an able expounder of divine truth." He officiated at the first funeral in the township, Abram L. Andrews, age 27, June 13, 1835. Neighbor Melzer Bird provided a coffin from boards from his barn.

With Robert and Nancy came their three older children: Nancy, 1829, William, 1831, and Mary, 1833, all born in New York. In 1840, Margaret Elizabeth was born to be followed by Matilda, 1842, James W., 1844, Robert G., 1847, Walter, 1853, and Emery, 1855. Records from the Butterfield's store in the town of Kensington indicate Robert paid 19 cents for a rake, 6 cents for thread, 38 cents for tobacco, and 19 cents for a hat in 1851.

Of Robert and Nancy's children, Nancy, Mary and Margaret E. appear to be deceased by 1920, a conclusion brought to light upon reading sister Matilda's obituary of 1924.

Son William and wife Lucy had two daughters who were orphaned by 1872. Minnie (1867/1900) and Rae (1871) were raised by their Uncle James W. and Aunt Lamira (Gage, m. Jan. 3, 1870) with their own two, Walter D. and Leila R. (Lamira was a daughter of John Jarvis, an early settler and neighbor, in Green Oak Township). James and Lamira spent their entire life in Livingston County. The first aggregate mining in Green Oak took place on his farm in Section 11, in 1875; the C.N. Ray Gravel Co. Trees from his property were used to make railroad ties for the Detroit, Lansing and Northern Railroad siding on his land. A report describing the growing demand for a particular agricultural product portrays him as a grower of wheat. His political career began in Green Oak in 1869 as school inspector. In 1876, 1898, and 1904 he's a Justice of the Peace; township treasurer in 1884-1885; township supervisor in 1880 and 1892; sat on the board of review in 1909. He served as County Judge of Probate 1893/1897. Lamira died after a fall into the basement of the barn while watching a summer storm with daughter Leila, July 27, 1919. James died when visiting his son in Minneapolis, MN, March 31, 1920.

Daughter Matilda was the second wife of Lewis C. Hudson, a Wesleyan Methodist minister, who was a widower with two small children. Lewis and his first wife, Elizabeth, who died of consumption in 1870, were boarders at Matilda's parents' home in Brighton Township. Matilda and Lewis married and had a son. Before 1880 Lewis also died. Convinced her children's future was farther west, she, the three children, her windowed mother Nancy, and brother Robert and his small family moved to McLaughlin in Dakota Territory c. 1881. The notice of Robert's death, December 12, 1923, was sent to Brighton by his son, James. It was also noted Robert had been serving the Salvation Army in Philadelphia for 20 years.

The youngest, Emery, is located in Saskatchewan, Canada c. 1923. Why did these children of Robert and Nancy continue on the journey west begun by their parents in 1835? Was it in their genes to continue looking for new challenges? Matilda died December 6, 1924, and is resting in North Webster, S.D. Her mother, Nancy, may be with her. Robert Sr., James W. and Lamira are buried in Kensington Cemetery, as are Lewis C. and Elizabeth Hudson. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from the 1880 History of Livingston County, Yesteryears of Green Oak; census records; obituaries compiled by Milton Charboneau; and Kensington Cemetery Records. Additions/corrections requested, 810/229-6402.)