

For some years a saw and planing mill was operated by Nathan Gray shipping products of the planing mill to St. Thomas and Chatham and lath to Detroit. More recently a grain grinding and feed mixing mill has been in operation. Since autos and trucks have crowded horses off the road, three service stations have replaced the one blacksmith shop which stood where Mr. Fish has a garage.

The growing of tobacco on most of the farms surrounding Eden has brought to the village new businesses. A successful builders' supply business is conducted by J. H. Howey handling lumber, cement and building hardware. An egg grading and cold storage business have been added to the general store by N.O. Stilwell. A growing grocery business is developing under the ownership of Bruce Kennedy and a floral greenhouse and commercial garden is developing under the management of Tony Salcak Sr.

In early days every village had one or more hotels where travellers were accomodated to lodging and meals as required. Bar rooms served drinks but women never entered them and persons under 21 years could not enter. In those days hotels were much more respectable and law-abiding than today's beer parlors.

Two hotels were located in Eden, one where Chas. Ketchabaw's house stands and this one had an open shed where men fed their horses the hay and grain they carried with them.

The other was located where J.H. Howey has a house and conducts a lumber business.

(ATLANTIC HOUSE)

A feed barn across the way where the late George Howey built a cottage was where the stage horses were cared for. Both of these hotels were destroyed by fire.



Kittie & Nathan  
Gray

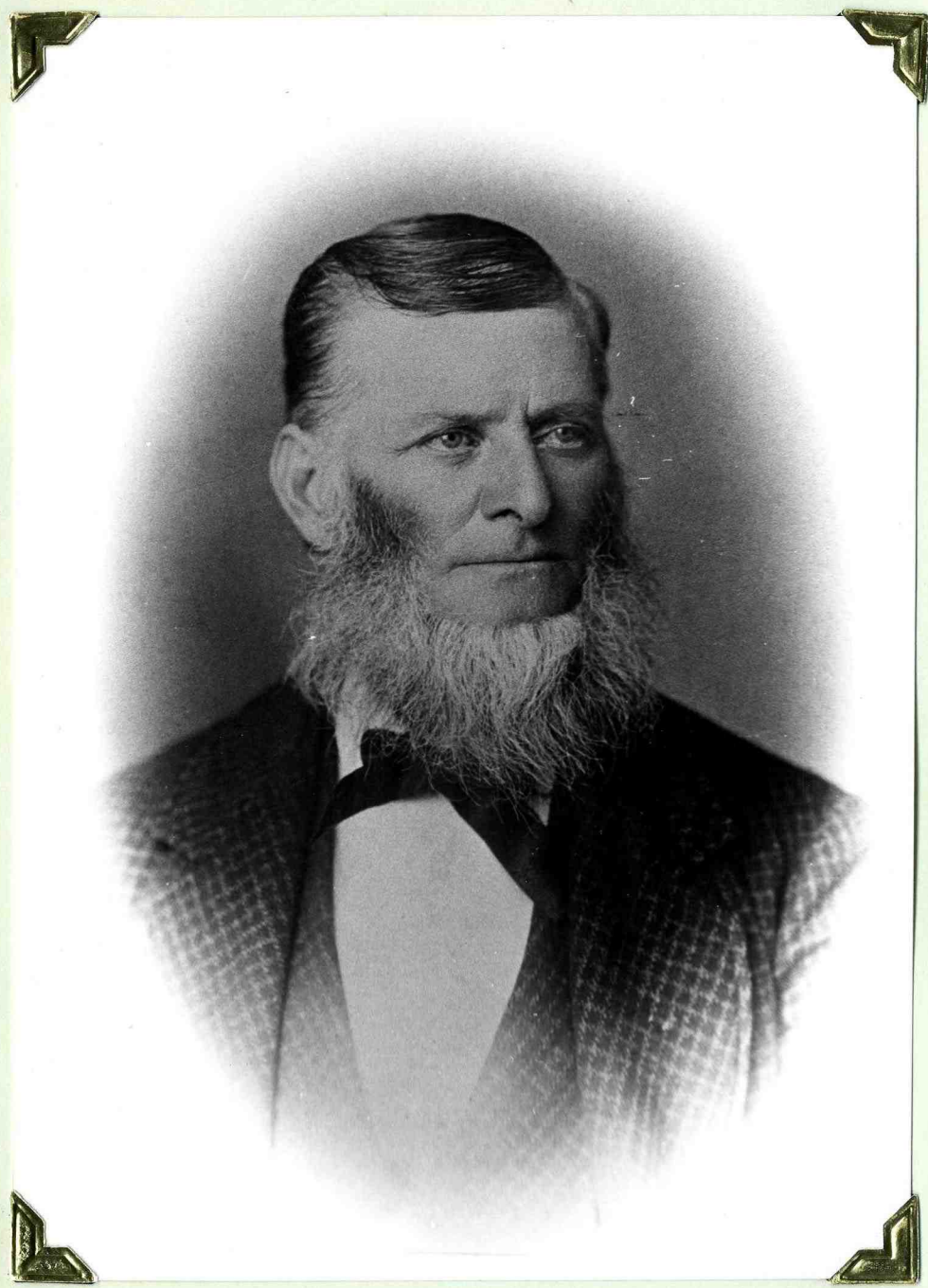
HANNAH ALMIRA HAVENS  
MRS. EDWIN GRAY



MR. EDWIN HALL GRAY

JOHN R. HAVENS

Brother of Hannah Havens Gray



Great Grandmother Havens' name was Miranda Leach, who was English. Grandfather Haven's family was Pennsylvania Dutch. Great grandmother Havens had several brothers. One, Nehemiah, lived to be 97 years old. Three of her brothers went blind and Grandmother Havens went blind at age 94 in Dakota where she went to live with her daughter, Huldah and Sidney Dean. Grandmother lived with Edwin in the stone house at Eden for a year from the time Huldah & Sid moved to Dakota till they were settled in their new home. They moved to Dakota in the spring and she went the following spring to Dakota. She died there in Dakota and is buried there.

*Mrs. Edwin Gray's father was of English descent and mother was born in Vermont of Dutch ancestry. She was married April 1851. She died 59 yrs 9m. 5d. Mar 15, 1892.*

FAMILY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

BY Nathan Henry Gray, Eden, Ont.

Having urged my brothers to write incidents of their lives and of family affairs, I decided to put in writing some of the things which come to my remembrance of affairs in the family at home and neighbourhood doings. What is written remains; unwritten incidents may soon be forgotten. Much has already been forgotten that might be of interest to those who come after.

I, Nathan Henry Gray, was born the 13th day of November 1865, the third son of Edwin Hall Gray and Hannah Almira Havens Gray, and was named after my father's father who died about six months before I was born. He, grandmother Eunice Hall Gray and Uncle Friend, father's youngest brother are buried in a plot in the first neighbourhood cemetery on the Ridge Road. The brothers are Abram, born 11 years before (1854) and Court, (Courtland), born 7 years before I was (1858). Abram was named after mother's father, Abram Havens, Courtland after a friend of the family, Courtland, (Dr. Courtland, a beloved family doctor).

The Grays originally came from Glasgow, Scotland, where John Gray was a manufacturer of Marmalade. Arriving in America, they settled in Rochester, N.Y. Grandfather, a U.E.L., with Grandmother and the younger members of the family, having sold their possessions, took boat to cross Lake Erie to Canada and was caught in a severe storm. The boat was lost near Long Point. All on board reached land safely near Port Rowan, but all goods and chattels were lost. It was reported that Grandfather lost \$6,300.00 in gold, the price which he had received for property in York state sold when leaving there for Canada. (It was reported in the History of Norfolk County in libraries of Parliament.)

Grandmother Havens, known throughout the neighbourhood as Aunt Miranda, was a Leach of whom there was a large family. (This lady acted as a midwife for neighbour women.) The first Leach to settle in Canada was an officer on Nelson's Flag Ship, Victory, when the great Admiral was shot. Members of the family had in their possession for years a button cut from his uniform, his "spirit jug" also a Masonic regalia worn by this Leach.

It has been reported for his services this Leach was given 1000 acres of land on which is now built the City of St. John, New Brunswick. Later this family held 1000 acres mostly in the Township of Bayham, in Elgin County. In conversation with Nehemiah Leach, a brother of Grandma Havens, I was told the Leaches were English, Pure English, repeated with considerable pride. Knowing the Grays were from Glasgow, Scotland, I asked where the Pennsylvania Dutch came in and was informed the Havenses were "tainted".. Following this lead, I learned the Leaches and Havenses had for a time been in Pennsylvania, and had accepted the Rodger Williams teachings and were Baptist in faith and practice.

A peculiar feature of the old house was the floors which were from pine boards unplanned and tapering just as the tree grew. This being the way lumber was sawn in the early days by a big saw going very slowly up and down, it was a common saying that the saw went up today and down tomorrow.

The shingles originally were made by hand using straight-grained pine, splitting it thin with an axe and then with a special draw knife for the purpose of shaving them thin at bottom edge or top. These were known as shave shingles and lasted more years than any modern shingle yet produced.

The heating system in my early days was rather crude. A big cooking stove standing on long legs with an elevated oven furnished the heat for the kitchen which, in this house, as well as in most, served as kitchen, dining room, and living room in cold weather.

The parlor was heated with a big box stove but seldom used, and the bedrooms were without heat. A bathroom and toilet (inside) were unknown. Earlier than my time, stoves were unknown. Cooking, baking, and heating being all done by a big fire place. Beds were warmed by heated bricks in bags, heated logs sometimes being used. (Note: when I was small, there was a round tin bath in the attic, the door opened off stair landing, then ascended in the opposite direction.)

Matches for lighting fires were in use as early as I can remember but the generation before me used to keep coals buried in ashes and if, by some means, the coals had burned out, they had to go to the neighbour to borrow fire. A large woodbox at the back of the stove was filled from the woodshed and it had two covers, one by the stove.

The earliest lighting system I can remember using or seeing were tallow candles. Every farmer fattened one or more animals for their winter meat and to have a supply of tallow from which to make candles to light the house, and also a candle in a four-sided lantern, one side being on hinges to light the candle or to replace the used candle with a fresh one.

To make the candle, the cold tallow was placed in an iron kettle over a fire and melted. Tin moulds were used. We had two sets of moulds, one set having two parallel columns of six each. Candle wick, a soft cotton string wound in balls was doubled over a small round stick whittled with a pocket knife and long enough to make six candles. Each wick being drawn over the stick, through the mould which tapered sharply to a point which the wick would fill and prevent the tallow running on through. When the tallow had cooled the candles were pulled from the moulds by the sticks around which the wick had been placed. Candle holders were usually called candlesticks and were in various forms, fancy and plain, made from silver, brass, or iron. As the tallow burned down the wick became ashes which dimmed the light. A pair of snuffers similar to a pair of scissors with a pocket on one blade to catch the ashes were used to snuff or top the candle. The light would immediately brighten up. (Note: I remember them, also quantities of iron pots and

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would immediately brighten up.

The next incident I remember <sup>1861</sup> was going with my father & mother to visit at John Colbridge's near Sagersoll. It was here I saw a train of cars. at this time the ~~Great Western~~ <sup>Great Western</sup> from London through Sagersoll, to London, but there was no railway at Lillsbury. Mr. Colbridge and Angus McKay, were associated with my father in operating a stage route from Sagersoll to Pt. Burwell under the name which I remember seeing in big gold letters on a red bodied four horse coach. Gray McKay & Colbridge. These stages left Pt. Burwell about 8 o'clock in the morning and arrived in Sagersoll about 11.30 carrying passengers, mail, express and freight. Leaving Sagersoll at 1 P.M. it arrived at Pt. Burwell about 6.30. It picked up its load at Pt. Burwell, Vienna, Griffens Corners, Straffordville, Eden, Lillsbury, Atrander, Mt. Elgin, Salford, Hayes and Sagersoll. At all these points

Note: Photostat of original story of Family and Neighbourhood News which was handwritten by Nathan Henry Gray, Eden, Ont.