

Ma the cow fell into the well!

Wells were hand dug big holes in the ground that usually had barriers. Sometimes livestock would stand on and break through the cover and fall into the well. What would you do? There was no 911 to call. In our area thirty foot depth and five foot around was usually successful. How do you get a cow out. Pioneers had no strong rope or chains. There were no big tractors or tow trucks or special equipment. If the cow pooped or died then the water would be contaminated. Got any ideas?

One good turn led to another

For the most part Indians and settlers were enemies. They certainly did not trust each other. I have heard of some Indians helping the pioneers and of cooperation between them. One very cold winter night an early pioneer heard a knock at his door. Because there was no law in the early years one answered his door with gun in hand. At the door was a nearly frozen Indian family that just wanted to get warm. The settler to protect his family tried to stay awake all night to keep his eyes on the Indians but towards morning he fell asleep. When he awoke the Indians were gone. He looked around saw that his family was OK. They were still sleeping peacefully and nothing was missing. When he opened the door he found that the Indians had left him a present, fresh venison enough to feed his family for several days.

At times Indians and settlers helped each other. At times they fought each other. Many Indians became beggars. Some were proud and honest. One could not blame the Indians for distrusting the white man. After all he stole and cheated them out of their land, and caused Indian groups to fight each other. Many Americans and Europeans had massacred Indians and their wives and children. Some Indians learned the culture of the settlers and lived in peace. Their reward was to be killed, starved or evicted from the very land that was promised them.

Other Old Interesting Events and Stories

Grandma and the bear. One day when we were away from the cabin a bear got in to it and was rummaging around. Grandma did not have a gun but fought the bear with an ax. She won and we had bear meat for several days.

One of the settlers was walking in the woods without his gun and was attacked and killed and partly eaten by wolves.

Grandma Bunert stated they often heard the howl of wolves in the woods where Macomb College is now. Pioneer children reported that they could see wolves outside in the moonlight thru the openings between the logs of log cabins..

Earthquake

On August 17, 1877 an earthquake scared the local horses. Some people reported a rumble noise. This area has not had a devastating earthquake for thousands of years.

Mysterious big tower

What was that mysterious big tower by the Brick St Clement Church? It had a Windmill next to it. I had a very vague foto of it for a year and everyone was uncertain until I noticed a reflection of it in the window of St Clement Grade School. It turned out to be the tall wind powered water cistern.

In September of 1881 a devastating fire struck the Thumb area of Michigan making the skies dark for days. Hundreds of families were lost everything and 282 died.

Huge snow storm

In 1918 there was a huge snow storm that absolutely isolated Warren for several days. It was just impossible to go anywhere. There was little if any snow removal equipment anywhere. People were digging out for weeks. And they did not have snow shovels or show plows. There are several instances of hail in summer. A few years had ice every month. See the index for the pages on Weather Extremes.