



Louis and Emily Gross; daughters, Belle and Elizabeth. Louis was a Civil War Veteran.

ed many road construction companies in Mid-Michigan.

One of the best known stock dealers in the county of Mecosta was John A. Bracy. He, his brother, George and their parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Bracy, migrated to Michigan from Ontario, Canada in 1871 but did not move to Mecosta until 1881. John was born in Oxford, Ohio in 1862. The family first migrated to Canada before coming to Michigan.

Lawrence Gross



In 1883, John married Sarah Robinson of Little River. Of the eight children born to them, one Gertrude Bracy Lett still survives. Last August, her 90th birthday was occasion for the family to honor her at the Burcham Hill Center in East Lansing. John spent thirty-two years in cattle buying and was the only colored stock buyer in Michigan at the time.

Carloads of cattle were shipped to Detroit, Chicago, and Buffalo, New York. He had the reputation of judging the beef within five pounds of its actual weight. His brother, George, moved to Grand Rapids and became a barber. At one time, he had the "swankiest" barber shops there.

Another early family was the Alexander Steeles. Their daughters, Lydia and Christina, were both born in Mecosta. Lydia graduated from the Mecosta High School. Christina still lives at the Cedar Knoll Rest Home at Grass Lake, Michigan. Steele had the reputation as being the fastest potato digger in Mecosta County. According to John Berry, "It took two 'good' men to pick behind him". After the family moved to Altona, they lost a son, and Alexander carried the body in its homemade coffin on his shoulders to Mecosta for burial.

George and John Bracy came to Mecosta in 1881

