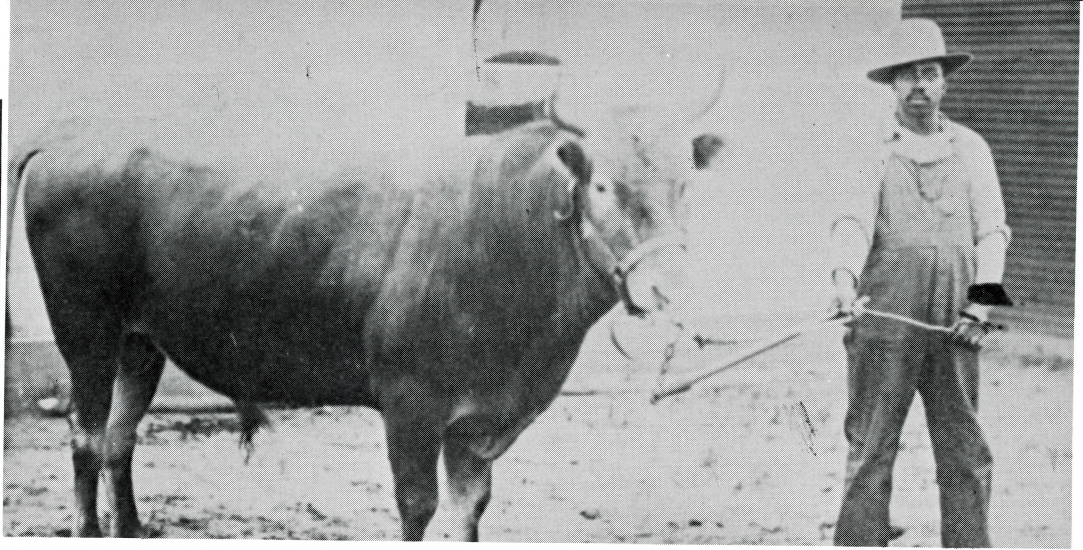




Faye Lett, grandson of John Bracy.



Noah Gross with bull.

Probably the most beloved community member was Daniel Branson. He owned forty acres on 50th Avenue. He was an ex-slave, born in Georgia in the year "the stars fell", he used to tell (1833 according to historical almanacs). He was a bachelor and had lived in Pennsylvania and Canada before coming to Michigan. "Uncle" Daniel, who had no known relatives, carried with him a plate and cup his master had given him, and he ate and drank from none other. He died at the John Bracy home, and that plate and cup are the proud possession of John's granddaughter, Harriet Hill of Grand Rapids. Albert Ockert remembers "Uncle" Daniel well. The cart and pony was a well-used conveyance for the community's children. John Berry remembered that Uncle Daniel kept his chewing tobacco stashed in the hollow of a tree. "The first chew I ever had was stolen from that hollow tree", John told his daughter.

Julius and Mary Pointer Robinson lived in the village of Mecosta many years. Jule was the janitor for the high school. They adopted Elsie Adams in 1912. When Christina Steel's parents died, the Robinsons gave her a home. They also raised Josephine Lett after her mother died. After Mary died in 1925, Jule and Elsie moved to Lansing. There, Jule worked for the then Reo Motors.

Mary Ann Bannister also lived in the village of Mecosta and was a neighbor of the Bracy family.

Rev. and Mrs. Mortimer came to Mecosta from Canada and Rev. Mortimer preached in the A.M.E. Zion Church. His wife cooked for John Kirvan's

hotel. Many of the younger people found leftovers from Mrs. Mortimer's kitchen welcome sustenance.

John H. Berry, youngest son of Isaac and Lucy Berry, was born on the bank of School Section Lake in 1882 in a lumber shanty. While Little River was his base of reference for most of his life, he and his wife, Mabel Porter, moved to Mecosta from the lake in 1919. While few jobs could be had after World War I, John worked at whatever needed doing in the village. He hand graded the stretch of road from Mecosta to Rodney and painted the first M-20 signs along that stretch after it was designated a

"Cot" Lett and Clara Gross Lett.

