

# ECHOES FROM THE PAST

(Excerpted by Evelyn Derenzy from writings of early days in Antrim Co.)

It will always be a badge of honor in this country to have it known that a person's father, or even his uncle, enlisted in the service of the country when the Great Rebellion broke out, to assist in saving the Union and to eradicate slavery from our soil. It is a pleasure to write of the subject of this sketch, who was one of the "boys in blue" that went forth to die on the field or in the no less dreadful fever camp, if need be, for the salvation of the country. The subject of this sketch is a native of Canada, where he was born July 29, 1849, and is the son of John and Charlotte (Tulop) Murphey. The subject's father was born in Dublin, Ireland, from whence he emigrated to this country and later to New York State, where his last days were spent. He was a butcher by trade and also spent some time in railroading. However, the son John W. Murphey received his elementary education in the public schools of New York, but his studies were interrupted at the age of fourteen years by the sounds of the oncoming struggle. The southern states were in insurrection and the cloud of civil war lay over the land, arousing the spirit of patriotism in every lover of the old flag. Among those who went forth to do and die was Mr. Murphey, who enlisted in Company G, Fourteenth New York Heavy Artillery, in 1863 and spent two years in the service of his country. He took part in a number of battles in which his command participated, being in seventeen battles and suffering captivity by the rebels at Petersburg, Virginia. At the close of the struggle, he received his honorable discharge and returned to his farm home in New York. In 1869 Mr. Murphey came to Antrim County,

Michigan, and homesteaded eighty acres of land in Echo Township. He was engaged for some time in the Lumber business, but at length devoted his entire property and labored earnestly to the task of clearing the land and making it fit for cultivation. The end result being an accumulation of one hundred and sixty and a quarter acre of and, of which one hundred were under cultivation. He also raised a limited number of stock.

Mr. Murphey was an earnest and uncompromising Republican and a staunch advocate of party measures. In 1877 Mr. Murphey was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Hosler (age 15). Mr. and Mrs. Murphey had ten children born to their union, namely: Mary Ann, born Feb. 22, 1878; Ralph, born March 12, 1880; William, born Dec. 2, 1882; Hattie, born June 8, 1886; May, born March 2, 1887; Sarah, born June 5, 1891; Charlotte, born April 26, 1893; John Erwin, born August 21, 1897; Belle, born Sept. 28, 1900 and one that died in infancy.

## **ECHO TOWNSHIP 1875 – 1975**

by Evelyn Derenzy

Interesting history is found in the minutes of the Board of Supervisors of Antrim County, beginning with the year 1863. A study of these records shows a community of courageous men, who wanted a better life for everyone, pauper or rich.

A few residents in the early years of this area were: William J. Bennet, 1868; John W. Murphey, 1869; Ephraim Kidder, 1870; John Hackett, 1871; Noble L. Marsh, 1871; George Bradshaw, 1872; Edward Hebden, 1872; Asa M. Beal, 1873; Donald McDonald, 1873; Edward

Derenzy, 1874; George Vance, 1874; Peter Murray, 1875; John Broderick and LaVanway.

These people lived east of Central Lake Village and east of Muckle Road. They incorporated their area into a Township in the year 1875. They chose "ECHO" for a Township name.

Edward Hebden was appointed as Supervisor. In this capacity, he assessed the property tax, maintained the birth and death certificates, and attended the Annual Meetings of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Antrim, State of Michigan, held in the Court House at the Village of Elk Rapids. Wednesday, the Fourteenth day of April, A.D. 1875; Edward Hebden attended his first Annual Meeting. Several meetings were held that summer and on Friday, October 15, 1875 the following resolution was passed by a majority vote of the Supervisors.

"it is resolved that the Supervisor of the Township of Echo be directed to spread upon the assessment roll of 1875 of said township the sum of \$557.18 Contingent Tax, the further sum of \$150 Special Highway Tax, the further sum of \$100 School Tax to District Number One; \$179 to District Number Two; \$95 to District Number Three and \$110 to District Number Four". With these few words, a way of life was established.

(A series of articles will be published in The Torch concerning Echo Township in commemoration of the Centennial Year, 1975)

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