

704 S. Hayford Ave.
Lansing, Mich. 48912
August 19, 1979

Dear 'Historian':

I have 'inherited' lots of research papers from an Aunt, Jane Hagle, who is now in a nursing home but still very keen of mind, Thank Our God Lord. In going over one of her interviews I wanted to make this copy for you:

In 1955 my Aunt was interviewing a Mr. Rollin Sprague of Kalamazoo who owned a hardware store there, he had been in business 45 years. I won't go into that part of his story but ----- "As to the Sprague family -- My great-grandfather came to Michigan with his family about 1840 and settled around Battle Creek. My grandfather Sprague settled there also. There were five children of his first marriage. Two sons went south before the Civil War. When Grandfather left the Battle Creek area he went to Vermontville. There he married my grandmother. She was from an original family there--Scovill. Grandmother had lost her first husband and three children in two or three years. Bloody dysentery went through the community. Later she married my grandfather. Last summer there was a reunion at Vermontville and my sister showed me their wedding certificate.

When the Vermonters were coming to Michigan they sent three men ahead to find a location. Nineteen families came together. The first building they put up was a sort of community affair and they all stayed there until houses could be built. They platted the town and each family had a house lot, then bought their own farms outside. They brought a whole community with them, a teacher, minister, and doctor. The school teacher was named Benedict. He started an academy. They invited people from elsewhere to attend. On the walls of the building is a little bulletin telling people why they should come there--

Excellent book: *Telling the Story* (over)