

This page was added for notes and documentation by Les Jackson. Bev Willis (Washtenaw County African American History and Cultural Museum) sent these photos by email. They are from Karmen Brown and Patricia Whisett's personal files.

Some are unidentified and Linda Bowie Williams sent me a copy of the Eglon Aray photo (in the Gold frame).

Photos rec'd on February 16, 2014 Email from "imani313@aol.com" AKA Bev Willis

“Asher Aray (deceased) was a resident of New Jersey. He removed to Romulus, Seneca Co., N. Y., and in 1827, came to Washtenaw County, where he died June 26, 1871. He was an efficient "employee" of the Underground Railroad, and always kept a wagon in his stable for the express purpose.”

History of Washtenaw County, Michigan, Chas. C. Chapman & Co., 1881

ASHER ARAY – born a free black in New York state– came to Michigan in 1817 with his parents, who had purchased 160 acres on the Chicago Road near Saline in what was to become Pittsfield Township. The elder Aray bought the land with a grant received for his service in the Revolutionary War: a rare honor for an African American. When he died in 1839, Asher inherited the property.

Asher and Catherine's son Eglon Aray was born on September 11, 1844 and earned his living as a barber and mechanic. Eglon married Alice Hardy and both died very young leaving one daughter, Evangeline to survive. Evangeline Aray was sent to live with her Mother's family (Hardy's) in Grand Rapids. She married and had two sons; only one of whom, Lloyd Albert Loomis had children. Evangeline was the one who kept all kinds of pictures and albums of her Aray relatives.

(Images are from the private family collection of Karmen M. Brown and Patricia Whitsitt, descendants of Asher Aray)



Eglon and Alice Hardy Aray *(From the Aray family)*



Evangeline Aray (*From the Aray family*)



Lloyd A. Loomis (*Ypsilanti Historical Society*)



Unidentified Aray descendant (*Ypsilanti Historical Society*)



Unidentified Aray descendant
(*Ypsilanti Historical Society*)



Unidentified Aray descendant (*Ypsilanti Historical Society*)



H. Aray Loomis (*Ypsilanti Historical Society*)



Sisters Karmen Brown and Patricia Whitsett's
Great Grandmother (From the Aray family)



Sisters Karmen Brown and Patricia Whitsett's
Grandmother (From the Aray family)