

# **“Back to the Future”**

**By: Thomas Simasko**

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It is the year 1818 and I am 10 years old living on a farm just outside of the village of Mount Clemens. The village has just been named after my Pa's friend Christian Clemens. He is the whole reason we left Pennsylvania and moved to Michigan. Mr. Clemens came here many years ago and then in 1801 bought about 500 acres down by the river. He bought even more land after that and then just recently platted out his land by the river making public streets and creating the village of Mount Clemens. We came here because Mr. Clemens promised my Pa work in his distillery and tannery. Pa and Ma knew that this could be a better life for all of us so we made the long journey this past summer. Mr. Clemens even tried to give my Pa some land right in the village but my Pa is too proud to accept anything for free. So instead we started squatting on some land just outside of the village and not too far from the river. Hopefully soon we will own this land.

My life is a little different than it was back in Pennsylvania. In Pennsylvania there was a school that I went to which was fun for me and I had some friends. Now since there is no school in Mount Clemens I have to practice my learning on my own. My Ma and Pa made sure to bring lots of books from Pennsylvania. Now they have me even teaching my little brother everything that I know, which is not fun.

This morning we woke up to a huge blizzard outside. Pa said it was snowing all night and he had to stay up to make sure that the fire didn't go out or we would have all frozen in our sleep. Ma said I don't have to do any studying this morning because there is a lot of work to be done because of this storm. She said the winds were so bad last night that they blew one of the

doors off of our barn. Pa would not be going in to the distillery or tannery because of all of the snow. So me and Pa headed outside to fix the door. It had snowed so much it was hard to walk and we had a hard time getting our cabin door open. We put as much clothing on as we could but it still felt like it was negative twenty degrees out. We finally fixed the door and then we had to carry a lot of wood that we had cut down last week to the cabin. This was really hard because the winds were still bad and the snow was so deep. Ma was so happy to see all of that wood. She needed it to cook and keep the cabin warm.

Later on me and Pa went hunting. Pa nicked a squirrel, but I got a rabbit. I brought home the rabbit and started to skin it. It took a good hour but I finished cleaning and skinning it. My Ma made all of us some rabbit stew from the rabbit I shot. It tasted so good we ate the whole pot. Tomorrow Pa said that I should go ice fishing down at the river to try to catch some good salmon. We were both too tired to go today. Pa fell asleep right away since he had been up all night keeping the fire going. I stayed up helping Ma clean up from cooking the rabbit stew. I told Ma that she could go to sleep first and I would keep the fire going. She thanked me for this and went off to bed. My little brother was asleep too because he was too little to stay awake. I kept a candle lit and sat at the table and read from one of my books to try to keep myself awake so that the fire wouldn't go out. At like 1 a.m. my Ma found me sleeping on the table so she helped me to bed and said she would watch the fire. Before I fell asleep again I thought about how Mr. Clemens said more people would be moving to Mount Clemens now that it was officially made a village. I was excited about that because I knew that meant a school would be starting and with more people moving here I would meet some friends. I couldn't wait to see what Mount Clemens would be like in the future.