

and son in becoming ways she sets about buying considerable amounts of cloth and sewing items, as well as special foods and other things that will be pleasing to her family. The entire bill is paid up in April of 1855, which must signal the return of James from Australia and preparations to take up farmland in Wisconsin.

#### On to Wisconsin

When James Sutherland returned in 1855 he was 44 years old and Hannah was 37. The children were between 17 and 4: Hannah Rebecca, Sarah, Elspa Philena, Robert, and Collin Stephenson Sutherland. Soon they were on the way to Wisconsin. Undoubtedly, Australian gold financed the move. Lowell Watson relates the story.

When he came back he came by London for a short stay. He wanted his family to return to Australia with him, but his wife didn't want to leave her folks. Instead they decided to go to Wisconsin. Leaving Fredericton, they sailed to Saint John, then on another boat to Portland, Maine. From there they traveled by train to Boston where they visited Mrs. Sutherland's relatives. Leaving Boston they journeyed on to Chicago and on to Madison, Wisconsin going to the home of Warren Lincoln who lived near there at the time. Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Sutherland were sisters, and they stayed there for two months.

James Sutherland had bought 160 acres in the Town of Belmont, and while Mrs. Sutherland and the children were staying with the Lincolns, Mr. Sutherland and Mr. Lincoln went to the Town of Belmont to see about a place for the family to live in.

The Warren Lincoln family decided to move with them to the Indian Lands. At Madison, James Sutherland bought a span of horses, some furniture and a cook stove. Then with the two teams the two families headed north for new frontiers. What they expected to find when they arrived at their new home was a comfortable log house, but it seems as if Mr. Sutherland neglected to tell them that it was only a small board shanty.

The Lincoln family stayed with the Sutherlands in this small shanty while building their new home on land they had bought nearby. The shanty was so small that they had to set the chairs and table outdoors to make room for the beds on the floor. It was not long, however, before James Sutherland had enough lumber to build a comfortable, small frame house and barn and had dug a well.

The Sutherlands lived out the rest of their lives on their farm in the township of Belmont and are both buried in the First Belmont Cemetery.<sup>27</sup>

Belmont Township was situated between the Wolf and the Wisconsin Rivers, belonged to Menominee Indians and was off limits to whites until June 1, 1852. A big crossing at Fremont started at midnight the day before. The land is generally rolling and some is hilly, fairly easy to clear and break. The first crops were predominantly wheat but also corn, potatoes, rye and oats. Most people had two cows and a hog or two.<sup>28</sup> Sutherland had 160 acres. Not far away was the farm of Warren and Izetta Lincoln.

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<sup>27</sup> Lowell K. Watson of Garrettsville, Ohio in *History and Memories of Belmont Township*, 13-14

<sup>28</sup> Wayne Guyant, *History and Memories of Belmont Township*, 2-3