

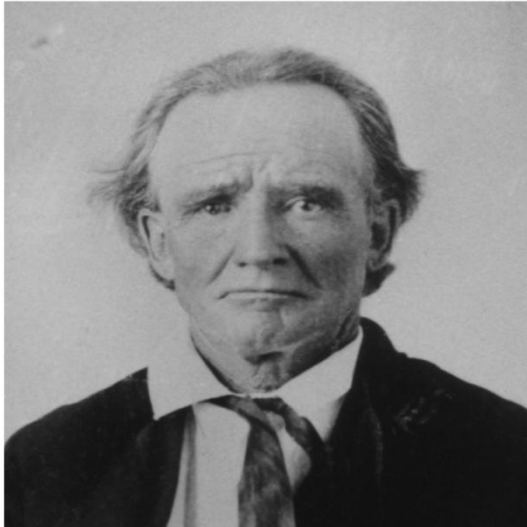
Gordon and Carolyn Worth
Hastings, MI 49058-8716

My interview with Gordon Worth was held on March 23, 2004 Hastings, Michigan.

Gordon Worth was born in Hart, MI and raised near Little Point Sable Lighthouse.



Gordon and Carolyn Worth



Alexander A.L. (Alonzo) Hyde
Keeper of Big Sable Point Lighthouse
October 8, 1867 – January 29, 1869

Gordon Worth's great great-grandfather was Alexander A.L. (Alonzo) Hyde, the first keeper of Big Sable Point Lighthouse October 8, 1867 – January 29, 1869. Alexander A. L. (Alonzo) Hyde was born October 9, 1804 in Woodstock, Windsor County, Vermont. Alonzo married Laura Wood in Hartford, New York.

They moved to Michigan in 1837 or 1838, about the time Michigan became a State. They had two children, Laura Jane who was born in New York and Alonzo W. who was born in Saline, Washtenaw County Michigan.

Alonzo and Laura moved to Hagar Township, Berrien County a small township on the shore of Lake Michigan. While living at Hagar, Laura Jane married William H. Worth and Alonzo W. married Elsa J. Stoddard.

In approximately 1862 the Hyde and Worth families immigrated to Oceana County, MI. with a population of about 1,400 along with many Native Americans.

Alonzo lived in a cabin on the lakeshore less than a mile from the future site of the Little Sable Point Lighthouse. He owned 800 acres and one mile of Lake Michigan frontage, which was frequently the entry point into that part of the county. Most of the travel was on foot up and down the lakeshore.

Alonzo was known as a strong supporter of recruiting men to enlist in the Union Army of the Civil War and a strong advocate and prohibitionist of hard spirits.

Alonzo signed on as the first Keeper at Big Sable Point on October 8, 1867 – January 29 1869. The assistant keeper was his son, Alonzo W. Hyde.

Alonzo resigned as Keeper on January 29, 1869, Alonzo W. was promoted to lighthouse keeper, and his wife Elsea J. (Stoddard) Hyde was made his assistant.



Alonzo Hyde circa 1870

Alonzo died in Benona Township, Oceana County on March 14, 1878 at the age of 73. None of the family attended the funeral because they were emigrating to Texas. His wife Laura died on September 12, 1885 at the age of 75. Both are believed to be buried in the Benona Cemetery.

Alonzo W. Hyde and his wife Elsea held their positions for 2 years, and then both resigned on March 22, 1871. Nothing is known of Alonzo W. and family from 1880-1902. In February of 1902, Alonzo W. sister, Laura Jane (Hyde) Worth wrote home from California to her children stating; Alonzo was well and living in Campton Ville, Yuba County, California, and was probably placer mining. Alonzo W. Hyde died in 1908 at the age of 70. The place of his death is not known. The place and time of Elsea's death are likewise unknown.

I so enjoyed meeting the Worth's and recording their great history. Gordon has corresponded with me over the past 10 years and after hours of research has given the "Sable Point Lighthouse Keepers Association" many pages of the Hyde Historical Collections including documents and photos of

Alexander A. L Alonzo Hyde and Alonzo W. Hyde. I am anxious to continue to enjoy the research of the Hyde families. George and Carolyn continue to volunteer with SPLKA on an annual basis.



September 2004 while volunteering at Big Sable Point Light we had the pleasure to meet Gordon, Carolyn, Gordon's younger brother, Tom Worth and his wife Kathy,



Gordon's sister Linda Crane and her friend Dick Schoelten whom attend the 130th year Anniversary in 1997 at the Big Sable Point Light