

# **The Life of Stanford Tappan Crapo**

**Compiled by Joshua McKenzie**

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**Stanford Tappan Crapo operated the Crapo Farm from 1887 until 1939. Some of his other business ventures were in railroads, coal mines and cement mills. From 1894 to 1922 he was a director of the Second National Bank of Saginaw, the Detroit National Bank and the Old Detroit National Bank. Mr. Crapo made the Crapo Farm one of the finest in the area as well as funding the Mary Crapo School. He named it Mary Crapo after his Grandmother Mary Ann Slocum Crapo, wife of Henry Howland Crapo.**

**William Wallace Crapo, son of Henry, owned the Crapo Farm until his death in 1926. His son Stanford moved to Michigan in 1887 to take over his responsibilities of managing the farm, which he did until his death in 1939. Henry Crapo wanted his namesake and Stanford's brother to inherit the farm at the time of his son William's death. However, Henry II, who was living in New England did not want the farm, so instead, it went to Stanford. Like his father and grandfather he spent his youth in Massachusetts and graduated from Yale at the top of his class in 1886. Although, he moved to Michigan in 1887, he never lived in Swartz Creek. Except for his visits to the farm Stanford and his family lived in Saginaw and later in Detroit.**

**Stanford's first position in the family empire was in the freight house of the Pere Marquette Railroad in Saginaw. Within a year, he was in the Superintendent's office, and in 1889 he became the Division Superintendent. By 1891 he was the Assistant General Manager of the Division, in 1894 he became General Manager, and in 1900 he became General Manager of the entire railroad.**

**By 1903, Stanford branched out into coal mining and cement mills. He became a director of the Consolidated Coal Company and the Crapo Mine near Flint. At different times he was Vice-President and Secretary of the Huron Portland Cement Company, Wyandotte Portland Cement Company and the Huron Transportation Company. A great lakes freighter still in operation, "The S. T. Crapo" was named for him.**

**However, despite the busy work life he led, he spent much of his time at the farm after he became manager in 1887. Stanford Crapo married Emma Caroline Morley in 1894 in Painesville, Ohio. They moved to Saginaw in 1900. Later they moved to Detroit, their second and final home.**

**Stanford and Emma were the parents of three children; William Wallace II, Catherine Tappan and Mary Morley.**

**Mr. and Mrs. Crapo and family were frequent visitors to the home of Arthur Jones, as well as the Daniel Miller residence in Swartz Creek. Mrs. Arthur Jones was the Crapo Farm housekeeper, taking care of the Mansion House, as it was called, when the family was away. She can remember Emma as friendly, fun and ordinary. often sharing with Mrs. Jones the efforts of running the four Crapo homes. In addition to the Mansion House and the house in Detroit, there was a house in Tyrone North Carolina and a summer house at Pointe Aux Baroque's, Michigan.**

**If Mrs. Crapo was friendly to the farm inhabitants, then so were her two daughters, Catherine and Mary. Vera Jones Tremblay was often Mary's playmate when the family was in residence. She remembers dining with the Crapo Family in the Mansion House and riding ponies. Tremblay also recalls that Mary was quiet the director, who would stage productions using the farm children with shrubs and trees for a background. Mary would also coax her mother and Mrs. Jones into sewing costumes for her plays.**

**As the little town of Swartz Creek prospered and grew, parents became angry at having to ship their children to Durand or Flint to finish their education. In the year 1928, Stanford gave five acres of land and \$40,000 for an add auditorium and gymnasium, if the village would bond themselves for an additional \$55,000 needed to build the school. It would instruct children from kindergarten though twelfth grade.**

**S. T. Crapo was a magnificent man, a fine businessman, a good husband and a great father. I hope that after reading this paper, you will respect and cherish the memory of Stanford Tappan Crapo, a man who did so much for Swartz Creek**

*Note: This paper was written when Joshua was a Middle School Honor student. The paper was one of his public service requirements as an honor student. The Swartz Creek Area Historical Society provided a booklet and newspaper clipping as resources for him.*

*Here is another interesting fact. At the time of his donation to build Mary Crapo, S. T. Crapo was building and selling homes in the school area as well as on Crapo and Maple streets. The companies were called Crapo Land Development, Plot One and Plot Two. At the time of his death in 1939, his net worth exceeded \$4,000,000 and his inheritance tax liability to the State of Michigan was a record \$270,000.*