

## WILLIAM R. GANNON TELLS ABOUT THE WINTER OF 1895 IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY

(The following is another wonderful article  
researched by member Claire  
Prechtel-Klusken of Alexandria, VA)

William R. Gannon served five years in the Regular Army in Co. D, 10th U.S. Infantry from his enlistment 12 January 1858 at Trenton, New Jersey, until his discharge on 12 January 1863. He was a tinsmith before his enlistment. He moved to Hartland Twp., Livingston Co., Michigan, in 1863, where he owned a "First Class General Store," including a pharmacy, from 1869 until sometime after 1912. His store's letterhead in 1912 advertised "prescriptions carefully compounded day or night." His pension file contains much useful genealogical information about him and his family, particularly since his wife, Mary, in 1917 applied for a widow's pension.

To maintain eligibility for a pension, many veterans were required to periodically report for a medical examination by a board of three physicians (sometimes one physician) designated by the Bureau of Pensions. Examinations were usually held at the county seat, although sometimes pensioners were permitted to report for examination to the board of a neighboring county.

On 5 February 1895, William Gannon wrote to the Commissioner of Pensions explaining that bad winter weather had prevented him from reporting for his examination at Howell within the specified time limits. Next winter, as you speed along in automobiles on snow-plowed superhighways, take a moment to remember the days when traveling 12 miles through the snow in a horse-drawn buggy was not practical or safe. Punctuation has been

added, but Mr. Gannon's unique spelling and capitalization have not been changed:

**Hartland, Mich. Feb. 5/95 [1895]**

**Mr. Wm. Lochran**

**Dear Sir**

**The Weather been so sever here in Michigan I could not make Howell where I was ored [ordered] to report for medical examination. Our Country roads is Impassable and is not Travied mutch in winter tim. The Snow Blow the roads full from each side and not been able to undertake the Journey of 12 miles. I am obliged to return the card and ask the Honorable Commisisoner to send me before the Examing board at Howell again. Hoping that the weathe will moderate so I can make the Journey I Remain Very Respectfully,  
William Gannon Co. D, 10 U.S. Infy.  
No. of claim is 657,377**

*Source: Pension File for William R. Gannon (widow Mary A. Gannon), Corporal, Co D, 10th U.S. Infantry, Civil War [and "Old War"] Pension File No. WC 832,851 National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Washington, DC 20408.*