

# Clinton County Trails

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1 1986 Looking For Your Roots? Come visit us.

A publication of the Genealogists of the Clinton County Historical Society



The 1986-87 officers for the Clinton County Historical Society are:  
Pres. Charles Coletta  
Vice-Pres. Randy Phelps  
Recording Secy. Dorothy Cressman  
Corresp. Secy. Janet Snyder  
Treasurer, Janet Tiedt  
Program Chairman Arlene Lounds  
Delegates to Michigan Genealogical Council, Janet Tiedt and Janet Snyder  
Board members are the officers and John Caudy and Arlynn Gantz.

The officers for the 86-87 year for the Genealogists are:

Pres. Alta Catherine Reed  
Vice-Pres. Dorothy Cressman  
Secy. Maralyse Brooks  
Corresp. Secy. Janet Snyder  
Treasurer, Janet Tiedt  
Program Chairman, Arlene Lounds  
Green Thumb Librarian, Wilma Soule  
Volunteer Librarian, Lois Fohl  
Projects Co-ordinator Librarian, Arlynn Gantz.

The Genealogists of the Clinton County Historical Society are proud and happy to present Volume I, Issue 1, of their new quarterly. We plan to print information about Clinton Co. before 1867, the year vital statistics were first kept on a mandatory basis. This does not mean that we will not use anything dated after 1867 if it has historical value. If you have old Bible records, a family journal, letters, War, school, or township records which you would like to see printed, send us a xerox copy or the original. All originals will be returned, of course.

If you have some ideas about what you would like to see in this quarterly, please feel free to make suggestions. We want you to feel that this is YOUR publication and your input is most welcome.

The Archives, maintained by the Genealogists, houses the written and pictorial history of Clinton County. It is located in the Dewitt Twp. office building on Brook Rd., one block east and one block south of the US-27--State Rd intersection, just north of Lansing. Hours are 8 am to 3 pm Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

The Genealogists are not a separate group from the Historical Society. We are a committee, but grew so large that we needed our own officers. Another committee which has grown so large that they, too, have their own officers and board, is the Museum committee. It is headed by John and Catherine Rumtaugh and they maintain our two story brick museum called the Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum after the doctors who once practised there. It is located just west of the courthouse square in downtown St. Johns and is open from 1 to 5 on Sunday and 2 to 8 pm on Wed., closed in mid-winter. You may call (517) 224-2894 or 224-7402.

Vital Records Gleaned from Letters of Riley Township Pioneers

"For your perusal" was a favored opening of the Cook family in their correspondence of the mid 19th century as they sought to keep the network of family communication open from the wilds of Riley township to relatives in Oakland Co., Michigan and Livingston Co., New York.

This outstanding collection of letters, which span from 1841 to the early 20th century, records the lives, events and personalities of four generations of the Cook family. They begin with the initial settlement of Joseph and Charlotte (Herrick) Cook in Riley township in 1841 and roughly a third of the collection dates from that time up to the Civil War. The letters of this pioneer era lend much insight into the hardships of the rural settlements as well as a first-hand look at DeWitt society at the time.

The correspondences of the Civil War period are rather unique as they follow the lives and events witnessed by the four principal authors, two sons and a daughter of Joseph and Charlotte as well as the daughter's husband, as all four (yes, even the daughter) go off to war.

Of the remaining letters, there is a small number dating from the post-Civil War years pertaining largely to the second and third generations, followed by a large number of letters written by William Randall, a lumberman in Michigan's great north woods, to his wife Ida (a granddaughter of Joseph and Charlotte) who stubbornly refuses to leave the comfort and security of her Riley home.

The collection, which also included numerous party invitations, legal contracts and poetry, was largely preserved through the efforts of the late Faye Hanson who first became aware of the collection in 1939 as a young bride living on the old Cook homestead. She immediately realized their historic worth. But it was not until 1957 that she was able to purchase a large percentage of the documents at the estate sale of Maude (Randall) Cutler.

Now, nearly 30 years later, the collection is nearing the final process of being compiled into an edited and indexed manuscript for use by historians and genealogists; an enormous project which will hopefully be completed in the not too distant future.

So, for the time being, and "for your perusal", the following are some of the vital statistics which have been extracted from the first two decades of letters:

ADMINISTRATOR'S SALES, CHANCERY SALES, PROBATE ORDERS, ETC.  
THAT APPEAR IN "THE CLINTON REPUBLICAN" (mid-1863 - 1866).

by Arlynn G. Gantz

Death records were not required in Michigan until 1867. Here in Clinton County, we genealogists are constantly looking for an older record or account of these early pioneers. The following newspaper abstracts from the "Clinton Republican" may enlighten your research if you're looking for an ancestor during the 1863-1866 time period.

We invite you to visit our Clinton County Archives & Research Center in the DeWitt Charter township hall on Brook Road to view these old newspapers on microfilm.

This report tells you the pioneer's name; the type of sale, order or claim; and the edition of the "Clinton Republican" that it appears, with page number and column number added.

AS = Administrator's Sale

CS = Chancery Sale

ES = Executor's Sale

GS = Guardian Sale

MS = Mortgage Sale

NC = Notice of Claims

PO = Probate Order

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>EDITION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>COLUMN</u>
ALEXANDER, HARVEY	PO	29 Apr 1864	4	2
ALLEN, WILLIAM R.	PO	11 Mar 1864	4	1
ARENS, PETER	PO	6 July 1866	3	3
ASHLEY, ISAAC W.	PO	7 July 1865	2	7
BAKER, GEORGE W.	PO	5 Feb 1864	3	4
BAKER, WILLIAM	NC	2 June 1865	4	5
BEACH, DEWITT C.	PO	4 Dec 1863	3	4
BEACH, RANSOM	PO	17 Nov 1865	2	7
BENNETT, MORRIS	PO	21 Sept 1866	1	5
BENSON, EDWIN	PO	4 Dec 1863	3	4
BENTLEY, ISAAC T.	PO	24 July 1863	4	2
BLIZZARD, OLIVER	PO	9 Mar 1866	2	7
BOYLAN, JAMES	PO	22 Dec 1865	3	4
BRADFORD, CHARLES	NC	30 June 1865	4	6
BRASS, SAMUEL	PO	1 Apr 1864	3	3
BRASS, SAMUEL	PO	5 Jan 1866	2	7
BRECKINS, ANDREW	PO	25 Mar 1864	3	4

ADMINISTRATOR'S SALES, PROBATE ORDERS, ETC. (con't)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>EDITION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>COLUMN</u>
BRIGGS, RUFUS	PO	6 Nov 1863	3	5
BRIGGS, RUFUS	PO	8 June 1866	4	6
BROWN, CHARLES W.	NC	14 Aug 1863	4	6
BUECHEL, JOHN	PO	23 Mar 1866	2	6
BURKE, CHARLES H.	PO	7 Dec 1866	1	4
CALDER, ALEXANDER	AS	24 July 1863	4	3
CARROW, PETER	PO	30 Oct 1863	4	1
CASE, ALONZO S.	NC	2 June 1865	4	6
CASE, ALONZO S.	PO	26 Jan 1866	4	6
CHRIST, MICHAEL	PO	11 Dec 1863	3	4
CLARK, DAVID	GS	2 Nov 1866	4	7
CLARK, JAMES	GS	2 Nov 1866	4	8
COATS, BRAZILLAI	PO	10 Nov 1865	2	7
COATS, ISRAEL B.	AS	2 June 1865	4	6
CONN, WILLIAM H.	PO	24 July 1863	4	2
CONRAD, CHARLES G.	PO	14 Sept 1866	3	4
COOK, JOSEPH	PO	29 Jan 1864	3	4
COREY, JAMES M.	PO	21 Sept 1866	1	8
CORYELL, JOSEPH	MS	20 Nov 1863	3	3
CRAVEN, JOSEPH	PO	24 July 1863	4	2
CROSS, JOHN W.	PO	29 Apr 1864	3	4
CURTIS, JEROME L.	PO	30 June 1865	4	7
CURTIS, JEROME L.	PO	2 Mar 1866	3	4
DANIELS, EZRA P.	PO	8 Apr 1864	3	4
DESPREZ, JOHN P.	PO	16 Mar 1866	2	7
DIBBLE, CHARLES L.	AS	16 June 1865	4	5
DOYEN, MERLIN	PO	7 Dec 1866	1	4
DUNKLE, WILLIAM	PO	28 Aug 1863	3	3
EMERY, JEREMIAH	PO	22 Jan 1864	3	2
EVANS, JANE	PO	14 Aug 1863	3	3
EVANS, LORENZO	PO	23 Mar 1866	2	7
EVANS, LORENZO M.	PO	24 July 1863	4	2
FERRIS, REUBEN	PO	20 Nov 1863	3	4
FINCH, RICHARD G.	PO	7 Aug 1863	3	4
FISK, MARTHA A.	PO	23 June 1865	4	5



ADMINISTRATOR'S SALES, PROBATE ORDERS, ETC. (con't)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>EDITION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>COLUMN</u>
FITZ, GEORGE	PO	6 July 1866	2	7
FLINT, NATHAN	PO	11 Sept 1863	4	5
FOSTER, NELSON	PO	1 Jan 1864	3	4
FOSTER, WILLIE	PO	13 July 1866	3	2
FOX, GARRY C.	PO	22 June 1866	2	7
GOFF, POLLY	PO	22 Apr 1864	3	4
GREEN, MERRIHEW	PO	5 Jan 1866	2	7
HANSON, EBBE	PO	20 Nov 1863	3	4
HILL, PARDY	PO	22 Apr 1864	4	3
HITCHCOCK, HORACE	PO	27 Apr 1866	2	7
HOLBROOK, RUSSELL W.	PO	8 Apr 1864	4	2
JOHNSON, ADELAIDE	PO	11 Mar 1864	2	6
KEEFER, ABRAHAM	ES	15 Jan 1864	3	4
KNOWLES, HIRAM	PO	20 Oct 1865	3	3
LATTIMER, WILLIAM S.	AS	7 July 1865	2	7
LINNEMAN, MARY E.	NC	30 June 1865	4	6
LOUNSBURY, HERMAN H.	NC	23 June 1865	2	7
LYON, ALFRED H.	PO	27 Nov 1863	4	2
MARTIN, ANTON	PO	8 June 1866	2	7
MARVIN, BETSEY G.	GS	4 Sept 1863	3	3
MARVIN, SETH P.	NC	23 June 1865	2	7
MARVIN, SETH P.	NC	19 Oct 1866	4	7
McDONALD, MARTIN	PO	10 Nov 1865	4	2
McDONNELL, MARTIN	PO	18 Sept 1863	3	3
McKEE, AARON	PO	24 July 1863	4	2
MORGAN, EZRA	NC	24 July 1863	4	2
MORSE, JOSEPH J.	PO	2 Nov 1866	1	5
MYERS, AZUBAH	PO	24 July 1863	4	1
NEWTON, HARRIS	AS	18 Aug 1865	2	7
NILES, ANTHONY	NC	18 Sept 1863	3	3
NILES, CLARISSA	GS	17 Nov 1865	4	7
NIMOCKS, RICHARD	GS	16 Mar 1866	4	6
OWENS, JONATHAN	PO	18 May 1866	4	7
PAGE, GEORGE	PO	29 Apr 1864	3	4
PARMELLE, RICHARD W.	PO	2 June 1865	4	6

ADMINISTRATOR'S SALES, PROBATE ORDERS, ETC. (con't)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>EDITION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>COLUMN</u>
PAUL, MARTIN	PO	5 Jan 1866	2	7
PEET, LOREN L.	PO	31 July 1863	3	4
PLOWMAN, JOHN N.	PO	21 Aug 1863	3	3
REYNOLDS, CHARLES W.	NC	23 Feb 1866	4	7
RIDENOUR, JACOB	PO	13 May 1864	4	4
RING, IRA	PO	13 July 1866	3	2
ROUSE, WILLIAM	CS	12 Feb 1864	4	2
ROUSE, WILLIAM	PO	5 Jan 1866	2	7
ROWE, GILBERT	PO	26 Oct 1866	1	5
RUSSELL, NATHANIEL	PO	16 Feb 1866	3	5
SCADDIN, JOHN C.	PO	3 Aug 1866	3	5
SHEPARD, SAMUEL	PO	11 Dec 1863	3	4
SIMON, MATHIAS	PO	27 July 1866	4	6
SMITH, CHARLES	PO	8 Jan 1864	3	2
SMITH, EBENEZER	PO	4 Sept 1863	3	3
SMITH, JAMES, SR.	PO	16 Mar 1866	2	7
SMITH, ROBERT	PO	9 Feb 1866	3	7
SMITH, SAMUEL ABRAM	PO	11 Sept 1863	3	3
SMITH, SAMUEL, SR.	PO	16 Mar 1866	2	7
SPERRY, JOSEPH A.	PO	2 June 1865	4	5
SPRAGUE, MOULTON	PO	29 Jan 1864	3	4
SWEET, JOHN B.	PO	4 Dec 1863	3	4
TEMPLE, STEPHEN W. B.	PO	24 Nov 1865	2	7
THAYER, JOHN B.	NC	2 June 1865	4	6
THAYER, WILLIAM W.	PO	17 Aug 1866	3	6
THOMAS, WILLIAM J.	CS	13 Nov 1863	3	4
THROOP, WILLIAM	ES	24 July 1863	4	1
VAN SICKLE, CORNELIUS	PO	11 Aug 1865	2	7
VAN VALKENBURG, ZACHEUS AS	AS	23 June 1865	4	6
WALKER, EDWARD	NC	2 June 1865	4	6
WALLACE, JOHN H.	PO	1 Apr 1864	3	3
WALLACE, JOHN H.	PO	2 Mar 1866	3	4
WARREN, EDWIN W.	PO	19 Feb 1864	3	4
WHEAT, JAMES P.	PO	30 Oct 1865	3	3
WIEBER, PETER	PO	20 July 1866	2	7

Marriages mentioned in letter dated Mar. 7, 1848:

Peck, William to Nancy Jones  
Ward, David to Mary Ann Shears  
Macomber, ? to Nancy Oliver  
Terry, Bartle to Aurelia Turner  
Baker, "Lawyer" (Joab) to Oliva Stowell  
Treat, Samuel to Jane Gardner  
Bowers, ? to Susan Conklin

Marriages mentioned in letter dated Jan. 27, 1850:

Gibbs, Monroe to Fanny Utley  
Pike, E. C. to Frances Marshall  
Apthorp, J. M. to Ann Naracong  
Foreman, John to Martha Parker  
Blair, Milo to Sally Ann Townson (Townsend?)  
Goodrich, Elizabeth to ?  
Sprey, Peter to Lillian Goodrich  
Briggs, James to Sarah Chappel

Marriages mentioned in letter dated Mar. 22, 1854:

(Believed to be December, 1853 weddings, as the letter alludes to notices in the first newspaper of the year.)

Hicks, John to Eliza A. Huston (both of DeWitt), by  
Rev. Louis Coburn, at DeWitt on the 11th.  
Bigelow, Abram (of Ottowa) to Eliza Boughton (of Riley)  
by R. (Randolph S.) Strickland, Esq., in Riley on  
the 17th.  
Towner, William (of Danby, Ionia Co.) to Martha Eddy  
(of Riley) by Henry Jones, Esq., in Riley on the 17th.  
Perry, Solomon C. (of Danby, Ionia Co.) to Mary Ann Reed  
(of Riley) by Henry Jones, Esq., in Riley on the 17th.

Marriages mentioned in letter dated Mar. 11, 1855:

Hammond, Leander to Miss Drake  
Miller, Ben to Janette Frost  
Jones, Andrew to Persis Cutler

Misc. Marriages:

Eddy, Daniel to Isabell Roberts Mar. ?, 1847  
Jones, Henry to Emma Jane ? June ?, 1847  
(Married at Portland, Mich., did not ask parents'  
permission until after their return.)  
Ganoung, Isaac to ? Oatman Jan. 4, 1849  
(Lived at Hemlock Lake, New York.)

Deaths mentioned in letter dated Jan. 27, 1850:

Townson (Townsend?), Levi  
Roberts, "Old Mrs."  
Daniels, Robert B.  
Daniels, Mrs. Robert B.  
Clark, "Merchant" (George T.)  
Clark, "his wife" (Jane)  
Lott, Peter Died Jan. 1, 1850 from a fall at the  
Lee Distillery at New Albany (DeWitt).

Misc. Deaths:

Cook, Ebenezer (Vermont) Oct. 2, 1841  
Roberts, Mrs. More Apr. ?, 1847  
Coats, Marvin Apr. 7, 1847  
(Brother-in-law of Ray G. Andrews of Riley.  
Drowned at Seymour's sawmill in Lansing.  
His body was found the 10th and buried the 11th).  
Daniel(s), ? Apr. 15, 1847  
(Young girl, about 8 years old).  
Pierce, Henry (Livonia, N.Y.) 1847  
Marvin, "Deacon" (Calvin ?) Apr. ?, 1848  
Knapp, "Old Mrs." (Polly ?) Apr. ?, 1848  
Lyon, Seth (Livingston Co., N.Y.) Aug. 4, 1849  
Newman, Joel ( " " " ) May ?, 1849  
Young, Isaac ( " " " ) Jan. ?, 1849  
Pratt, George ( " " " ) Jan. 3, 1850  
Warner, Capt. Wm. Jan. ?, 1850  
Warner, Wm., Jr. Jan. ?, 1850  
Wells, Mrs. Geo. Mar. ?, 1855  
Parker, Gerley Mar. ?, 1855  
Parker, Mrs. Gerley Mar. ?, 1855  
Wells, George O. Mar. 6, 1855  
Short, Phillip (Livingston Co., N.Y.) Mar. ?, 1855  
(Died suddenly at the breakfast table)  
Briggs, "Widow" (Livingston Co., N.Y.) Mar. ?, 1855  
Jones, C. Jan. ?, 1862  
Cook, William H. H. (Pvt. Co B, 3rd Mi. Cav.)  
(Died of disease at New Madrid, Mo.) Mar. 22, 1862

Elected Officers of Riley Township, 1854:

Burritt, Philip, Supervisor  
Peck, P. P., Clerk  
Jones, Henry F., Treasurer  
Andrews, Ray G., Justice of Peace  
Reed, Nathan, Commissioner  
Owen, J., Commissioner  
Miller, Joseph, Canstable  
Fritz, Samuel ( )  
Bennett, Mr. ( )  
Sheldon, Leroy ( ) Path Masters  
Simmons, George R. ( )



ADMINISTRATOR'S SALES, PROBATE ORDERS, ETC. (con't)

NAME	ITEM	EDITION	PAGE	COLUMN
WIESLAR, CONRAD	PO	27 Oct 1865	2	6
WILCOX, GUY N.	PO	30 Oct 1865	3	3
WILLIAMS, ELIZA ELVIRA	PO	19 Feb 1864	3	4
WOOD, JOEL	PO	12 Jan 1866	2	6
WOODMAN, ANGELINE	PO	27 July 1866	4	6

James 21 Sturgis David 20 Sturgis		PULPIT		N.N. 18 Thompson David 19 Olin.	
22	J.D. Edwards *	23	Merrills	17	F.R. Read *
24	J.D. Edwards *	25	J.H. Merrills	15	J.M. Estes *
26	J.D. Edwards *	27	Bacon *	13	S. Walton
28	A. Sanderson *	29	R. * Strickland	11	E. Gunderman *
30	John B. Clark *	31	J.F. McKeen *	9	Wm. Hockenbury *
32	J.W. Gardner	33	T. Dunlap *	7	J. H. Marshall *
34		35	D&J (&Co) Sturgis	5	D. Gunderman
36		37		3	D. Olin
		38	J.R. Pearsall	1	Merrills
				16	A.W. Pattridge
				14	J.R. Pearsall
				12	Goodrich *
				10	R. Webber *
				8	P. Webber
				6	D. Olin
				4	E. Mains *
				2	

E  
N + S  
W

Drawing of the Baptist Church pew arrangement according to the original sale in 1853.

\* Indicates persons leasing pews in 1854.