

# **Genealogists** of the Clinton County Historical Society:

Mailing Address P.O. Box 23 St. Johns, Mi 48879

# Clinton County Trails

Published Quarterly, March 1997

Volume 12, Number 1

#### HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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#### **ARCHIVES**

Myrna Van Epps

**NEWSLETTER**Co-Editors

Myrna Van Epps Arlene (Conley) Smith

## ATTENTION

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS

All members of CCHS are urged to attend the April 17 board of directors meeting. It is at 7:30 p.m. in the community room of Community First Bank in St. Johns. (Enter via rear door).

The board would like member input on what direction the society should take in the future.

There will be discussion on changing the by-laws which are outdated and often impossible to comply with; and new blood is needed on the board itself.

All CCHS members are urged to attend as the turnout will indicate interest in the Society ©.

## WE ARE ON THE INTERNET!

We are sharing cyberspace with Mid-MI Genealogical Society, Eaton County and Ingham Co. Societies. Our home page can be accessed by the following address: http://www.sojourn.com/~mmgs/gofcchs.html
The home page is still under construction, but stop by and visit us. E-mail any suggestions to improve our image to asmith@im4u.net. ©

## LANCE-WHEELER FAMILY

The following account was submitted by Rosemary Lance. (See her query in this issue.) She thinks it was originally written (after 1905) by Ora Gibbs, the adopted daughter of James and Sarah Lance. Ora was born 16 June 1876 and perhaps married a Fink. Although Rosemary copied Ora's story with no editing, it has been edited for use here.

In 1854, when Ohio was still in its infancy, a young man left his home and started with his half brother and the brother's wife for the unknown wilds of Michigan to make his fortune. They bid farewell to loved ones and started on their way. After driving for some little time, they stopped to rest and feed their faithful horses. The young wife might have been sitting on the wagon tongue thinking and crying. Upon questioning, she says she will go no farther unless they go back and get her sister. Undoubtedly, the young man was not adverse to this because she was the sweetheart he had left behind. Accordingly, they hired another horse and wagon, drove back for her, and after a short time again started on their way.

These people's starting place was Chippewa Twp., Wayne Co., Ohio. They were David, Mary (Wheeler) Richard Lance; and James and Sarah (Wheeler) Lance. The sweethearts were married at Jackson, Michigan, on the way.

James and Sarah only stayed one year the first trip. They journeyed back to Ohio and lived a year with his parents. During this year a son was born (John). He was only two weeks old when in April 1855 they started on a second trip to Michigan.

This time they drove direct to Clinton County, and for six weeks they lived with the **Stephen Parks** family, one mile south and one mile west of Fowler, while they were clearing a small tract of land and putting up a little log cabin on a farm which they bought and which was to be their home for the next few years. It was located one mile south and a half mile west of the present village of Fowler.

The hardships of those first few years are but of our imagination. They stayed in Michigan nearly two years and then again journeyed to Lafayette Twp., Medina Co., Ohio. James bought a store at Lafayette and engaged in the merchandising business for the next three or four years.

During this period (1857-1861) two daughters, Mary and Rachel, and two sons, James and William, were born. They had spent part of the time in Michigan usually journeying back to Ohio in the fall. It was during one of those sojourns in Michigan that the husband was called back to Ohio on account of the death of his mother, and the brave young wife and mother with her babies was left to keep house. While he was gone an epidemic of diphtheria broke out, and the oldest son, John, contracted the dread disease and died. Mary was very ill at the same time but was spared. The father came back to a desolate home.

In 1860 or 1862 they moved from the farm to the old station of Dallas. This was three-quarter mile east of what is now Fowler. Here James was a storekeeper, postmaster, and station master at different periods of time. At first he had his store in a part of his home, but later moved it across the road, which was very lucky for shortly after moving, their house burned. This was in 1866 or 1867.

Three children were born at Dallas:

Amanda 1862; Almeada 1864, Alice, 1866.

Alice was the baby who was left in the cradle when the house burned. At this time a new

village called Isabella sprung up at the present site of Fowler. J.W. Fowler owned this land, and by paying the Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad \$750, he induced them to move their depot and building to this new site. Consequently, business began to flow that way. James Lance was store keeper and postmaster at the time. He moved his store from Dallas and his home from the Dallas Hotel where they had been living since their home burned. They moved to a new building just south of Isabella on land owned by him and which later was platted and known as the "Lance Addition." The building was later known as the "Dallas House" and was the first house to be built in Fowler, as Isabella was now renamed. (Dallas House was moved in the spring of 1925 to make room for a gasoline station.) The family lived here and kept store for about five years. During this time three children were born: Robert 1867; Isora 1869; George 1870.

In 1870 or 1871 they moved further south to the farm home which they had built and which most of us know as the "Lance Homestead." The first house on this site they had the ill luck to lose by fire; but they went to work harder than ever and rebuilt, this time with brick.

This house is still standing and looks much the same as it did when they lived there. Four children were born here: Hattie 1872; James 1874, Ernest 1876, Charles 1877. This made fifteen children in the family, all of whom are still living except John, James, Robert and George. Even with this family they had room in their hearts and home for another girl, Ora Gibbs, whom they adopted in 1890 and who had a home with them as long as they lived, and to whom they were father and mother.

The two earnest homemakers were just as earnest religiously. Their home was the

gathering place for all the ministers and church people of the country around them. They belonged to the United Brethern Church but were not stingy either with their help or money to other denominations.

For years the nearest church home was the Bengal Church, and they always did their share (and often someone else's share), and always helped by being present. Later they built a church on some of their own land and helped to pay the minister that they might have a church nearer home. They were attendants at the quarterly meetings, and it was neither their fault nor teachings that caused things to happen at home during those meetings. For instance, they weren't at fault because the minister called and found Isora having a grand old smoke on the spring seat under the pine tree. She just wanted to find out to her own satisfaction. Oh, wasn't she sick!

Although with such a large family it would seem they would need all they had, no one was ever sent from their door hungry. Even the lowliest tramp had a place at the table. Any poor down-and-outer around them knew the latch string was always out at Jim Lance's, and many a morning would find one or two more for breakfast than were there the night before.

Their children grew to establish homes of their own. When Christmas and their holidays came along, all gathered at the old home. It was a merry crowd. The youngest grandchildren are the only ones who are most unfortunate in not being able to remember the great, long table laden with good things to eat and the good times we had on those occasions. In 1900, on account of failing health, James and Sarah sold the farm and moved into a house just north of it. They spent their remaining years here, comfortable and happy as possible living within sight of the old home where they had

so many joys and sorrows together. James died on 10 June 1902 after a weary month of suffering. Ora lived on with Sarah who was a patient sufferer for many months, remaining cheerful until she passed away on 14 April

1905. It is not necessary for me to eulogize or try to tell the good that came from their lives as their influence for good still lives with us. They tried earnestly and prayerfully to do right. Theirs was a race well run ©

## HISTORY BOOK

A few years ago a supplement to the Historical Society's publication, 1980 History of Clinton County, Michigan, was proposed. Although many family histories were submitted toward that possibility, there were not enough to carry out the plan. The Clinton County Historical Society has now turned the submitted material over to the archives where it can be used by researchers. See the following list of families included in this endeavor.

#### **FAMILY HISTORY**

ARMSTRONG, FLOYD & MINNIE (CARROLL) BAKER, JOHN BARTON BECKER, J. LAWRENCE BERTRAM, JOHN PETER BINGHAM, FLOYD & FLORENCE CLARK, ROBERT SAYERS COOK, PHILIP **CURRY, ROBERT & LOIS** DAVIS, DONALD GLEN DAYTON - PHILIPS - ROBERTSON DERSHEM, HAROLD & LOUISE DOAK-DAYTON EPKEY, NEIL E. GIBSON, ROY & MAMIE GIER/GUYER, FREDERIC GLEASON, CHANDLER H. GOERGE, DAVID & BRENDA GREGORI, VITO GURK, GLEN ROBERT HALFMAN, JOSEPH HALFMAN, MATHIAS HUHN, JOSEPH HUTCHINS, RICHARD G. JOHNSON, JAMES L. KEENEY, EBER D. KLOECKNER, JOHN JOSEPH LA BAR, CECIL & DOROTHY **LANNIN & SMITH** 

#### **SUBMITTED BY**

VAN VLEET, SHIRLEY ELLEN WALLING, LEANNE K. WING, THEDA WIEBER, JULIA LA BAR, DOROTHY A. BUSH, M.J. MAC NAUGHTON WIEBER, JULIA LA BAR, DOROTHY A. DAVIS, DONALD ROBERTSON, ALICE L. LA BAR, DOROTHY A. ROBERTSON, ALICE L. EPKEY, JOYCE GIBSON, JEAN RANDALL, BETSY J. DENNY, GWEN E. GOERGE, BRENDA WIEBER, JULIA GURK, SUSAN WIEBER, JULIA WIEBER, JULIA WIEBER, JULIA HUTCHINS, RICHARD G. JOHNSON, JAMES L. KEENEY, VESTA D. WIEBER, JULIA LA BAR, DOROTHY A. SMITH, R. K. MOSS, LOIS

LUCK

### **FAMILY HISTORY**

MAYER(S), LOUIS FREDERICK

MAYERS, LOUIS T.

MC CUNE, CLARENCE J.

MORRIS, DAVID

MOSS

MOTZ, FRANCIS H.

MRAZEK, LOUIS & EDNA WILSON

MUELLER, PETER & KATH. (FIEDERLING)

PERRY & OBERLA

PINO, SANDER PLINY

REED, LEVI IVAN

SAMPLE, VIRGIL

SILVESTRI, THEODORE

TEMPLE, MERRITT

THOMPSON, WILBERT

VAN DEUSEN, RALPH HENRY

VAN VELSOR, HEWITT

VAN VLEET, FREDERICK CLARENCE

VAN VLEET, GARY ALLAN

VAN VLEET, PHILO

VAN VLEET, ROBERT FRANCIS

VREDENBURG, ALBERT HAMILTON

WALTER, DELBERT PHILIP

WALTER, GERALD LEWIS

WEBER, GEORGE LOUIS

WHITLOCK, EARL JAMES

WIEBER, ANTHONY & CATHERINE

WIEBER, ANTHONY WILLIAM

WIEBER, JOHN J.

WIEBER, LUDWIG

WEIBER, MELVIN L.

WILKIE GEO. & MARGARET (MC DOUGALL)

WILKIE, ROBERT T.

WIRTH, LOUIS G.

WOLCOTT

WOODARD, RALPH CALVIN

### **SUBMITTED BY**

MAYERS, FRED

MAYERS, FRED

SAMPLE, MILDRED M.

ROWLAND, MARY R

MOSS, LOIS

MOTZ, FRANCIS H.

VAN VLEET, SHIRLEY ELLEN

BOZUNG, SALLY

RANDALL, BETSY J.

SHEAP, DOROTHY (PINO)

REED, ALTA CATHERINE

SAMPLE, MILDRED M.

WIEBER, JULIA

TEMPLE, RALPH L.

HORTON, MARTHA

WOODARD, DORINE

VAN VELSOR, BARBARA

VAN VLEET, SHIRLEY ELLEN

WALLING, LEANNE K.

WALLING, LEANNE K.

WEBER, THERESE

WHITLOCK, JOYCE

WIEBER, JULIA

WIEBER, JULIA

WIEBER, JULIA

WEIBER, JULIA

WEIBER, JULIA

MAYERS, CLARIBEL R.

MAYERS, CLARIBEL R.

EPKEY, JOYCE

MOSS, LOIS

WOODARD, DORINE ©

## **CHARTS**

On the following two pages charts have been submitted. On page 6 is a 4 generation chart by Joyce (La Flame) Laird. On page 7 is a family sheet submitted by Rosemary Lance.

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Clinton County Trails

Volume I, Number 1

HUSBAND: James LANCE Born 23 Dec 1833 Marr 1854 Died 10 Jun 1902 HUSBAND'S

FATHER: Abraham LANCE

Place Chippewa Twp, Wayne Co, OH Place Jackson, Jackson Co, MI Place Fowler, MI

HUSBAND'S

MOTHER: Mary MC CORMIC-RICHARDS

WIFE: Sarah WHEELER Born 1833

Died 14 Apr 1905

WIFE'S

FATHER: John WHEELER

Place Doylestown, Wayne Co, OH

Place Fowler, MI

WIFE'S

MOTHER: Mira (?)

M/F CHILDREN	WHEN BORN	WHERE BORN	FIRST MARRIAGE WHEN DIED
1 M John LANCE	06 Apr 1855	Wayne Co, OH	1860
2 F Mary R. LANCE	1857	Fowler, MI	22 Sep 1933 Freeman CROWELL
3 F Rachel Ann LANCE	30 Jun 1858		Charles F. GRAYLORD/GAYLORD/GRAY
4 M James LANCE	23 Dec 1859	* August.	Jan 1860
5 M William H. LANCE	06 Jan 1861		1935 Alice KIDER/KRYDER
6 F Amanda LANCE	1862	Dallas, Clinton Co, MI	Floyd MARREN
7 F ALMEDA LANCE	02 Apr 1864	Dallas, Clinton Co, MI	Otto RUST
8 F Alice LANCE	06 Jan 1866	Dallas, Clinton Co, MI	1947 William WILSON
9 M Robert LANCE	20 Sep 1867	Clinton Co, MI	
10 F Isora LANCE	27 Jan 1869	Clinton Co, MI	1938 George BALDWIN
11 M George LANCE	1870	Clinton Co, MI	
12 F Harriet LANCE	1872	Clinton Co, MI	28 Jun 1898 Samuel DURST
13 M James LANCE	10 May 1874	Clinton Co, MI	1960 Anna BAKER
14 M Ernest G. LANCE	05 Jan 1876	Clinton Co, MI	Mary BAKER
15 M Charles LANCE	23 Oct 1877	Clinton Co, MI	
16 F Ora GIBBS-LANCE	16 Jun 1876 (a	dopted 1890)	-

FINK?

Volume 1, Number 1

## **RESEARCHING THESE NAMES**

Members can submit five surnames to be published in this newsletter, as space permits, when they pay their membership dues. See form on last page of this issue.

- Submitter: Georgia HAINES, 31 Chaparral Circle, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601.

  PARKS; VAN AMBURG; PATRICK; MORRIS; SMITH.
- Submitter: Phillip D. HOVEY, 12005 Berrybrook Terrace, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. LEWIS; SMITH; TUCKER; HORR; GARDNER.
- Submitter: Joan R. KIDWILER, 28 N First St. #202, San Jose, CA 95113-1210. HAUSE; MOORE; LANNIGAN; PAGE.
- Submitter: Laura KOUGH, 3128 Nicholson Dr., Winter Park, FL 32792. RININGER; KOUGH; GETZINGER; CLIMES; WEIDA/W.
- Submitter: Diane M. SIMKINS, 3124
   Dean Lake, NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505.
   WARREN, BRIGGS, WOLF,
   ANDERSON, PARTELLO.
- Submitter: Jane HOSKINS, 1116 Wieland Rd., Lansing, MI 48906-1898.
  BRUBAKER/BREWBAKER;
  CAMPBELL; CUDNEY; EDDY;
  PHINNEY.
- Submitter: LaVerne W. ROOT, 5953 N.
   Stiles Rd., Ludington, MI 49431.
   PENNINGTON; RAY; HAZEN;
   HEMINGWAY; ROOT.
- Submitter: John CASTLE, 761 E. Columbia St., Mason, MI 48854-1305. HOWE; CASTLE; WRIGHT; PERRIGO; HOPP.

- Submitter: Bonnie BURKHARDT, 43751 Verdun Ct., Canton, MI 48188-1729. PERVORSE; RICE.
- Submitter: Gayle J. CARSON, 2028 S
   120th East Ave., Tulsa, OK 74128-6440.
   SHINDORF; SCHOENDORF; MESSIG;
   COFFEY; MC CORMACK.
- Submitter: Ronald D. BAUERLE, 376 Joshua Dr., Apt. 2A, Erie, PA 16511-1466. OCOBOCK, BECK; BASKE; LANCE; NELSON.
- Submitter: June BLACK, 309 Robinson St., PO Box 383; Perrinton, MI 48871-0383. BLACK; DUTTON; RALL; PAYNE/PAINE; SOUTHWORTH.
- Submitter: Eugenia Marina ARENS, 4344 S. Gramge Rd., Fowler, MI 48835. RADEMACHER; HALFMANN; NAUMAS/NAU.
- Submitter: Marilyn BAUMGRAS, 7801
   W. Parker Rd., Laingsburg, MI 48848-9267.
   MASTER; LOWELL; CRAMER;
   QUAKENBUSH; BAUMGRAS.
- Submitter: Joyce C. LAIRD, 101 Bejac
   Circle Dr., Battle Creek, MI 49017.
   KEENEY; ROBERTS/ROBARDS;
   MALLORY; SMITH; FRO T.S
- Submitter: Ralph & Darleen TEMPLE, 14847 Airport Rd., Lansing, MI 48906. TEMPLE; GILBREATH; BLISS; FRISBIE; GIFFORD.

## RESEARCHING THESE SURNAMES (CON'T)

Submitter: Elizabeth MAY, 4352 Fairview, Toledo, OH 43612-1835. CROWELL, WIGHT; CALVIN & DEBORAH (GIBBS) MARVIN; DANIEL WELCH.

- Submitter: Melissa A. BELEN, 1426
   Comfort St., Lansing, MI 48915. BELEN;
   MOON; SKINNER;
   HOLLIDAY/HOLIDAY; PUNG.
- Submitter: Elizabeth J. MILNE, 5207 Island View Rd., Harbor Springs, MI 49740-9612. KIRBY; SCHIEDEL; REIST; BROWN.
- Submitter: Steven H. SCHAFER, 1307 Alpine Dr., DeWitt, MI 48820. HASTINGS; REEVE; ADAMS; BUECHEL/BUCHEL; MARTIN.
- Submitter: Elaine JOHNSTON, 1909
   Bobwhite St., Oscoda, MI 48750. SLY/SLIE (anywhere); SHEPARD (MI & NY); BAIN (NC & IL); MORRIS (Ireland & MI); MADDEN.
- Submitter: Reva ERNST, 7288 W. Taft Rd., R #2, St. Johns, MI 48879. AYERS; MC GINLEY (from Ireland in 1800's).
- Sub mitter: Stella MYERS, 1100 Sunview Dr., #216, St. Johns, MI 48879.

ISSAC "IKE" BORDON; AMELIA/EMELIA BEECHEM; FRANCIS COE; MYRON HAYES.

- Submitter: Robert K. SMITH, 4 Herold Place, Netuchen, NJ 08840. A.A. LANNING (d. 1905); MARY ALLEN GAY, (d. 1858); GAY; KINSEL; OEL THAYER SMITH family
- Submitter: Virginia RITSEMA, 3434 Hathaway Lane, Jackson, MI 49201-9736. THROOP (NY), BUTTON (VT) MOORE (NY); CULVER (NY).
- Submitter: Alice WARD, 531 S. Francis Ave., Lansing, MI 48912-3815. PARKS; HOFFMAN; GRIFFIN; HOWE.
- Submitter: Patricia W. GEYER, 601 Manor Dr., Albion, MI 49224. JOHNSON & CHARLOTTE GREEN; REUBEN MC WETHY; SHELDON & LEONARD WIGHT; CALVIN & DEBORAH (GIBBS) MARVIN; DANIEL WELCH.
- SUBMITTER: Clark TINNEY, 4155 E. Megan Dr., Tucson, AZ 85712-1427. TINNEY; FRAZEE; HUNTLEY WHEELER; PARKINSON. ②

1997 DUES ARE DUEPlease check the upper right hand corner of the label on your newsletter to see if your dues have been paid and recorded. The date shows when your dues are paid to. Dues are due the beginning of each year. Please help us keep in touch with our members and publish our quarterly newsletter by paying your d ©

## PAINE GILLUM SCOTT MUSEUM OPENS APRIL 6

Exhibits "Remembering Edison"-Sesquicennial of Birth and "Hooks, Needles, Thimbles & Thread"-Quilt Coverlets & Needlework.

Museum hours will be Sunday 1-5 p.m. and Wed. 2 - 7 p.m. For more information on these exhibits call (517) 224-2894 or (517) 224-7402. ☺

## **QUERIES**

Please send all queries (with SASE) to Query Editor, Clinton County Trails, Box 23, St. Johns, MI 48879.

- Submitted by John D. Rose, 13619 W. Terrace, Lenexa, KS 66216: Would appreciate correspondence with anyone with familiarity with Rose family members in Dimondale or Ovid, MI, areas.
- Submitted by Rosemary Lance, 468 E. Chicago St., Jonesville, MI 49250: Has Xeroxed copies of Lance family in front of brick home and other 1890's and early 1900's pictures likely of this family taken in St. Johns. Interested in identifying pictures. Will send copies to anyone who might help. Would like to hear from anyone with information on the family. ©

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS AT THE ARCHIVES

Bible Records of Frank L. Bishop,
 Thomas Louck/Luck, and Chauncey

- S. Wolcott, prepared by Phyllis (Olin) Bielanski.
- Pictures, obituaries, and other papers regarding Ocobock, Grubaugh, and related families, collected by Linda K. (Orr) Barnes.
- Lance family history, prepared by Rosemary Lance.
- Back issues from 1991 to present of Eaton County Quest, quarterly of Eaton Co., Michigan, Genealogical Society.
- Descendants of Captain Thomas
   Hewitt of Stonington, Connecticut, by
   Virginia (Hewitt) Watterson.
- Sixty-six family histories submitted for proposed supplement to 1980 Clinton
   Co. History. Index to names appear on page 4 & 5 of this issue.
- The Shellito Family History, compiled by Becky Idzkowski & Clarence Shellito.
- Rose family charts and data compiled by John D. ROSE
- Thiell Family of Bengal Twp., Clinton Co., MI, by Thomas Thiell.
- Photo archives from Fitch Studio (formerly Toben's) in St. Johns.
- Miscellaneous back issues of several periodicals:
  - The Clark Clarion
  - The Clark Clan Newsletter
  - The Second Boat
  - The Dinghy
  - The Car-Del Scribe
    - 1972 photo Clinton Co.

Commissioners. ©