



Genealogists of the
Clinton County Historical Society

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FAMILY SKETCHES

Featured in this issue are some of the family histories which were submitted ca 1993 for a proposed supplement to the *1980 Clinton County History* and which are now on file at the archives. (See *Clinton Co. Trails*, Vol. 12, No. 1.)

RALPH CALVIN WOODARD

by Dorine Woodard

Ralph Calvin Woodard was born 7 Sept. 1882 at Elsie. He was a farmer and stock dealer in the Elsie area most of his life. On 24 Dec. 1908 he married **Lydia Ann**, daughter of **Edwin** and **Martha (Henning) Field**. Lydia was born 12 Dec. 1887, the youngest of several children:

Cora (1877-1967)

George Henry (1879-1955)

Mae Minne (1880-1971)

Nora Belle (1883-1979)

Grace (1884-1975)

Lydia's father died when she was very young, and her mother remarried, but Lydia grew up in Fairfield Twp., just into Shiawassee Co.

Ralph and Lydia spent most of their life together on a farm near Elsie. They had 10 children:

Elgin May (b 1909)

Josephine Catherine (1911-1989)

Clayton Edwin (1913-1988)

Walter Ernest (b 1915)

Lester Calvin (b 1917)

Wilma Lucille (1919-1979)

Florence Irene (b 1920)

Dorothy Marie (b 1923)

Joyce Margaret (b 1926)

Ralph Wendal "Bud" (b 1928)

Lydia died 19 Jan. 1966. Ralph died 5 Nov. 1981, mostly of old age, as he was 99 years plus 2 months of age!

Ralph's father, **John Clayton**, was born 5 May 1853 in Ray, Macomb Co., MI. He came to a farm near Ovid with his parents as a young child. He lived in and near Elsie all of his married life and was a farmer and a stock buyer. On 12 Apr. 1877 he married **Orpha Margaret Van Deusen**, daughter of **Ralph Henry and Maryette Margaret (Rockwell) Van Deusen**. Orpha was born in Elsie 21 July 1858. They both died at home in Elsie--"Clayton" on 25 Jan. 1917 and Orpha on 30 June 1928. There were five other children besides Ralph:

Retta Esther (1878-1913)

Lady Elgin (1879-1950)

Nellie Myrtle (1884-1923)

Ernest Elmer (1888-1935)

Mary "Lucile" (1900-1978)

Ralph's grandfather, **John "Calvin" Woodard** was born 20 Aug. 1824 in Steuben Co., NY. He was married 15 Nov. 1846 in Macomb Co., MI, to **Martha Wood Hall**, daughter of **Jacob Esmond and Huldah (Wood) Hall**. Martha was born 29 Nov. 1825 in Yates Co., NY. "Calvin" and Martha had nine children; eight were born in Macomb Co., MI, and the youngest in Clinton Co.:

Caroline (1848-1852)

Huldah J. (1849-1926)

Mary Cordelia (1851-1930)

John "Clayton"

George Clarence (1855-1895)

Eliza "Ella" (1857-1904)

Emma Ruth (1857-1904)

Laura Ann (1863-1934)

Ada Belle (1865-1893)

More information can be found on these families in the Elsie Library Historical Room.

MATHIAS HALFMANN

by **Julia Wieber**

Mathias Halfmann, born Aug. 2, 1869, in Westphalia, MI, was the son of **Joseph Halfmann** and **Anna Maria Thelen**.

On Oct. 30, 1894, Mathias married **Anna E. Huhn**, b July 9, 1873, daughter of **Joseph Huhn** and **Margarethe Naumes** of Westphalia. They were married at St. Mary's Church in Westphalia. They had eight children (2 sons and 6 daughters):

Margaret Ann, b Sept. 15, 1895, married to **Benedict J. Thelen**.

Anthony Philip, b Mar. 9, 1897, married to **Gertrude Simon**.

Dorothea M., b Sept. 27, 1898, married to **Arnold M. Schafer**.

Frances M., b Sept. 17, 1900, married to **William A. Rademacher**.

Clara Margaret, b Sept. 1, 1902, married to **Anthony William Wieber**.

Johanna, b May 24, 1904, married to **Sylvester Schafer**.

Martin J. (twin) b Mar. 29, 1909, married to **Florence E. Smith**.

Martha A. (twin) b Mar. 29, 1909, married to **Julius M. Schmitt**.

Mathias was a farmer. He and Anna began their farming life in section 34 of Dallas Twp. on Taft Rd. They built the large house on their farm, starting construction in 1905, and moving into their home in 1906. In the first years they had lived in a log house that had been built by the former owner.

After Mathias retired from farming, he and Anna moved to their home on Price Rd., two miles east of Westphalia. Mathias died at his home on April 12, 1941, at age 71.

Anna was a very active Red Cross worker, making surgical dressings and knitting numerous items for the armed forces in World War II. She died at the home of

Benedict and Margaret Thelen, her daughter, on March 29, 1944, at age 70.

JOSEPH HALFMANN
by **Julia Wieber**

Joseph Halfmann, b Sept. 21, 1829, in Welcherath/Eifel, Germany, was the son of **Peter Halfmann** and **Anna C. Schmitt** of Germany.

Joseph immigrated to America in the 1850's with his brother **Peter**. They settled in Westphalia, MI, in Dallas Twp., Section 33.

About 1856, Joseph married **Anna Maria Thelen**, born Oct. 8, 1836 in Jammelshofen/Eifel, Germany, daughter of **John Joseph Thelen** and **Anna Maria Thelen** of Germany. They had eleven children (6 sons and 5 daughters):

Maria Anna, b Feb. 13, 1857.

John, b Oct. 18, 1858.

Maria Anna, b Aug. 11, 1860.

Peter, b Feb 22, 1864.

John Joseph, b Oct. 19, 1866.

Mathias, b Aug. 2, 1869, married to **Anna E. Huhn**.

Catherine, b Sept 12, 1871.

Anthony, b ca 1874.

John, b ca 1876.

Margaretha, b May 6, 1878.

Elizabeth, b July 13, 1880.

Joseph and Anna's centennial farm was purchased by them in 1857. It is located on Hinman Rd. and is owned by **Allan B. Halfman**, their great-grandson.

Joseph died Nov. 13, 1912, at age 83. Anna Maria died Aug. 4, 1903, at age 66. Both are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Westphalia.

ARMSTRONG , FLOYD
& **MINNIE (CARROLL)**

by **Shirley Ellen (Mrazek) Van Vleet**

Floyd Armstrong was born in Duplain Twp. on June 30, 1881. He was a farmer all of his life.

Floyd's parents were **Francis** and **Salina (Bartel) Armstrong**. Floyd married **Minnie Alice Carroll** in October 1912. They had one child, **Arleita Belle**, born Dec 12, 1913.

Minnie Alice Carroll, a resident of Clinton Co. all of her life, was born in Duplain Twp. on Feb. 18, 1889, the daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. James Carroll**. Minnie passed away at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 21, 1934, at Clinton Memorial Hospital after a four-week illness at the age of 45 years. Floyd passed away at Pleasant View Hospital in Corunna, MI, at the age of 79 years.

DAVID MORRIS

by **Mary (Morris) Rowland**

David Morris was born in Streatham, Cambridgeshire, Isle of Ely, England, June 20, 1857. His father, **William M.** was born 1810 in the same area in England. David's mother, **Elizabeth Stimpson**, was born Oct. 1816 at Littlepost, Isle of Ely.

When David was eleven, his parents, also a brother and sister, left England to arrive in Utica, MI, April 7, 1868. **Mary Ann, Eliza, William, Rebecca, and James** were the other siblings. Later the family moved to Westphalia, Clinton Co. A log house and barn were built. At age 12, David commenced working by the month. The parents are buried in the North Eagle Cemetery.

In 1879, David married **Cornelia David** in Westphalia. One year later they moved to section 20 in Eagle Twp. They were always farmers. To this union were

