



Genealogists of the
Clinton County Historical Society

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FAMILY HISTORIES

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

GLEN ROBERT GURK

by Susan Gurk

Glen Robert Gurk is the middle child of **Roland** and **Betty (Stickney) Gurk** of Lansing, MI. **Susan Kristine (Nedry) Gurk** is the fourth child of the five living children of **Clara Marion (McCarthy)** and **Charles Truman Nedry** of Edmore, MI. Susan came to the Lansing area in 1977 to attend Lansing Community College and become a registered nurse. Glen and Sue bought 10 acres of Clinton Co. land located in DeWitt Twp., in 1981. They were married on September 17, 1983. Glen works as a journeyman pipe fitter at Buick-Olds-Cadillac and Sue is a registered nurse employed by Lansing Community College, Lansing General Hospital (now Michigan Capitol Medical Center), and Michigan State University. Their children attend Bath Schools. **Adele** is in the 4th grade (b Dec. 2, 1983), and **Betty Sue** is in kindergarten (b Mar. 6, 1988). Susan is a 1993 graduate of Ferris State University, receiving the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Her current hobby is doing genealogy research on her mother's paternal grandparents--**John Calvin "Jack" and Carrie Violetta (Colby) McCarthy** of Edmore, MI.

WILBERT THOMPSON FAMILY AND FARM

(1854-1906) by Martha Horton

Adventure stirred young Wilbert Thompson

When in 1854, welcome news of government offers

Reached the Eastern settlers

Which promised them a new beginning

In the Northwest Territory,
He left his native Pennsylvania,
Left his parents and their farmstead.
Shrouds of early morning mist
Had settled on the Alleghenies
As he began his westward journey,
Trails to blaze and murky swamp lands,
Rivers to ford and hostile Indians,
Before he reached the dark interior
Wilderness of Michigan.
When a government grant was given
Of one hundred twenty acres,
Wilbert settled in Bath township
And began his homestead living.
In a clearing, built a log house,
Built a log barn for his livestock,
Cleared the land for crops and pasture,
Cleared stands of hickory and pine trees,
And growths of red oak and hard maple.
Drained the swamps with open ditches.
Planted trees in apple orchard-
Greenings, Maiden Blush and Winesaps.

Indians came and pitched their wigwams
On the nearby lakes and rivers
Close to Wilbert Thompson's cabin.
Potawatomi tribes who wandered
Northward from the Maume river;
Ottawas from Great Lake regions,
Migrant Chippewas from the Northlands
Wearing puckered moccasins
Unfriendly Sauks from Canada
Were driven from the territory
Into the western wilderness
Of vast swamp lands of Ohio.

Wilbert scouted forest thickets,
Hunted bear and deer and foxes,
Bagged wild turkey, grouse and rabbits,
Plenteous game that filled his larder,
Shared the bounty with his neighbors.

Wilbert was welcome at the cabin
Of Moses Smith and daughter Mary,
Pioneers who came from York state.

Mary had gained her education
From a local country school.
When love blossomed from the courtship
Of Mary Smith and Wilbert Thompson,
Mary gave her hand in wedlock.
They settled in his small log cabin.

In the span of years which followed,
They raised ten of eleven children.
All were reared by Baptist precepts.
The daughters learned the art of spinning
Linsey-woolsey for their garments;
Were shown how tallow shaped in molds
Made candles to supply their household.
Learned when bellows flamed the fire,
Beneath the caldron by the hearth,
(Twas rightly done) to cook their victuals.

Sons were taught to break the sod,
Potatoes, maize and grain were planted.
Wood was chopped and corded high.
They learned to master awkward muskets
And snared the wary wolves and foxes.
Family bonded for existence.

Wilbert labored and he prospered;
Built a frame house for his family,
Built a barn for grain and storage,
Housed his hogs, his sheep and cattle,
Built a blacksmith shop soon after,
Rendered service to the settlers.

Children grew, matured and married
Members of their nearby neighbors,
Settled in the small community,
Raised another generation--
Progeny of Thompson family.

Wilbert and Mary's frailties
Bonded in their solitude,
Slackened pace and stamina.
Their hearth, a citadel evoked
Flares of homespun memories.
Mary rocked, attentive to
Wilbert's oft repeated tales:

How he joined the Union Army,
 Fought in Michigan's 9th Division
 Of infantrymen from Clinton County.
 Told of casting his first ballot
 For Franklin Pierce, the Democrat
 Who became our 14th president.
 Related sagas of his boyhood
 When Iroquois and Erie tribesmen
 Warred against defenseless settlers
 And pillaged homes in Pennsylvania.

Tragic death occurred when Wilbert
 Homeward bound one afternoon,

As he trod the railroad tracks,
 Failed to hear the warning whistle.
 Mary went into seclusion
 After Wilbert's sudden death,
 Endured two years of loneliness
 Until the day of her demise.

Now, side by side in peaceful rest,
 Mary Smith and Wilbert Thompson
 Share a modest plot together
 In Laingsburg's rural cemetery.
 Their epic sealed in history.

Note: See Thompson family data in *History of Clinton County*, 1980, Family #408. ☺

MARKS AND ESTRAYS

The following data was abstracted by **Wilma Sowle** from an early record book of Greenbush Township. Among other things this book details the marks which early settlers and owners of livestock registered for identification purposes. The "estrays" entries describe various stray animals which have been found, by whom, and how they may be reclaimed. The names included are given below along with the year of record. The book which also contains chattel mortgage records may be further examined at the archives

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Auten, Mary E.	1879	Curtis, George	1862
Baxter, C. Chauncey	1855	Curtis, J.L.	1857
Beebe, William F.	1882	Daggett, Reuben	1872
Bennett, J.D.	1863	Daggett, Willard N.	1848
Besley, William	1859;1862	Davies, R.E.	
Bishop, John J.	1889	Davies, W.L.	
Blanchard, Orrin	1877	Doty, Franklin	1888
Blank, N.S.	1882	Eaegle, David L.	1871
Botsford, William C.	1861	Eaegles, Isaac	1855
Brown, B.F.	1866	Ferdon, Lorenzo	1868
Bryant, John F.	1883	Field, Joseph	1880
Budd, Samuel	1868	Finch, Ezra	1884
Buttolph, Frank W.		Fisks, Henry S.	1848
Carr, James V.	1854	Forbes, L.J.	1875
Carter, Charles W.	1879	Fox, John C.	
Caruss, William I.	1867	Gillison, Oliver O.	1850
Cordray, Thomas	1855	Gilson, William	1893
Coverstone, Marcus	1873	Gradt, Charles	1881

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Hait, Davis M.	1864	Russell, D.T.	1870
Hiscock, J.E.	1883	Russell, James	
Holbrook, Edwin	1857	Russell, W.M.	1885
Holmes, David	1874	Russell, William	1882
Ingersol, Oliver	1872	Saclair, S.W.	1885
Jolly, Marcus	1880	Scott, Nelson	1894
Jones, Benjamin H.	1856	Sevy, David	1850;1860
Jones, Elizabeth	1861	Sevy, E.F.	1873
Keen, Peter	1855	Sevy, John	
Kerby, Emeline	1875	Silver, William	
Kieffer, George M.	1897	Simonds, T.C.	1890
Knight, Edwin	1893	Sitts, Edward A.	1867
Knowles, Ann	1880	Smiley, B.F.	1889
Knowles, Charles	1894	Smith, Henry A.	1858
LeClear, W.H.	1892	Smith, Henry V.	1887
Manchester, John	1857	Smith, William B.	1874
Marshall, Frank	1882	Stevens, Edwin C.	1888
Marshall, George H.	1882	Stickney, Thomas	1872
Marshall, William	1879;1882	Stiles, Benjamin	1879
Martin, Charles	1892	Stiles, E.B.	1879
Mathews, Nathan	1861;1863;1872	Stiles, Eben B.	1860
McMaster	1880	Stiles, Glen B.	1869
McMaster, S.	1882	Stiles, James	1849;1860
Morton, M.L.	1887	Strouse, Joseph J.	1879
Mullet/Mullett, S.J.	1878	Teare, Robert	1884
Odle, Laura E.	1863	Thomas, George	1885
Perrin, Henry M.	1881	Tinklepaugh, Erastus	1846
Peters, Philip	1894	Tinklepaugh, John	1854
Pierce, J.D.	1890	Uhrbrock, Lewis	
Post, S.M.	1892	Wagner, Jacob	1856
Putt, B.L.	1882	Wagner, John	1855
Putt, C.L.	1883	Walling, Virgil	1889
Richman, -. C.	1885	Waltrous, G.H.	1882
Richmond, Adam	1856	Watson, W.J.	1894
Richmond, Alvah	1849	Wecas, Frank	1883
Richmond, C.O.	1865;1882	Wesbrook, James	1854
Richmonds, David	1852	West, Samuel	1888;1889
Riddle, Frank D.	1895	Westbrooks, William	1857
Riddle, George H.	1857	Whitlock, Orange	1850
Rummel, Elias	1890	Whitney, George A.	1857
Russell, Adam	1875	Whittacer, N.	1856

Some sample entries on the following page

