



Clinton County Trails

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Wilma R. [Cowles] Sowle

The durable Wilma Sowle has died but she has left genealogists with a treasure trove with which to remember her. She was instrumental in establishing our archives and they are full of the results of her work. She spent countless hours retrieving vital statistics from local newspapers. She indexed three plat maps, about seventy scrapbooks, a Clinton County history, and

a myriad of other material. She gathered details on Clinton County veterans and local history. Then, she chose to share the results of all this work.

Blessed with a keen mind, a sharp wit, and good eyesight, she was active in these and other activities until her last days. Although Wilma will be treasured for many other reasons, we will remember her outstanding commitment to genealogy.

1881 Marriages

This data on marriages in 1881 was extracted from *The Clinton Independent* of 24 August 1882. The births were printed in the same paper on 20 and 27 July 1882. **Sandra Post** is to be credited for bringing this information to the editors' attention.

The *Independent* columnist had this to say about the marriage records:

"We do not presume that the above list comprises all the marriages in the county for 1881, for there is a general and deplorable lack of promptness on the part of ministers and magistrates in recording the work of this kind done by them. Neither would we like to vouch for the correctness of all these names, for it is a matter of much difficulty to copy as long a list as the above from anyone's chirography and get all names correct; though we will here pay county clerk **Kelser** a deserved compliment by saying that he writes a plain and beautiful hand, and his books are models for neatness of transcription; so we lay none of the responsibility upon him. The trouble is farther back. The clerk, in copying into his books the reports sent him, has to deal with the pen-work of many different men, and some of it is extremely difficult of decipheration. The wonder is that he gets them as nearly correct as he does.

"From this list we see that some unwarrantably early marriages occurred in this county in 1881; for instance, **Frank A. Sanford** at 17, though perhaps it was thought excusable since the bride was 20. Another instance of tender age was that of Miss **Lena Parks** of 14. We are glad to notice that such marriages are very infrequent."

husband	wife	marrdate
Abbott, William H.	Roberts, Adella	06 Mar 1881
Arthur, Daniel	Gardner, Hattie	05 Jul 1881
Bacon, Miles E. (Rev)	Pitcher, Florence E.	13 Jul 1881
Baker, Jonathan	Haefner, Anna M.	01 Feb 1881
Barlow, Walter	Pooley, Minnie E.	04 May 1881
Bartlett, Frank H.	Krepps, Emma J.	27 Feb 1881
Bartlett, George W.	Parmeter, Jennie M.	09 Mar 1881
Bartram, Edward S.	Kinman, Ella M.	04 May 1881
Baxter, Emory	Russell, Ida M.	12 May 1881
Beecher, John L.	Chaffin, Mary	17 Oct 1881
Benedict, Warren	Pratt, Hattie M.	03 Sep 1881
Bengal, Charles	Schmitt, Mary A.	21 Jun 1881
Bennett, Charles D.	Ariss, Lydia L.	30 Apr 1881
Bennett, David A.	Cupit, Sarah R.	05 Jan 1881
Bettis, Jonathan G.	Walker, Cynthia I.	17 Nov 1881
Bishop, William	Kimbell, Aurora J.	29 Mar 1881
Blizzard, Alfred	Miller, Celia	01 Dec 1881
Blizzard, Thomas	Whittelsey, Ellie	17 Feb 1881
Boyer, Frank E.	Shoambowm, Lucy J.	19 Feb 1881
Bradley, Henry H.	Ennis, Eveline	23 Jan 1881
Bray, Cassius M.	Ferguson, Alice	21 Sep 1881
Brewbaker, George W.	Henry, Sarah L.	30 Dec 1881
Briggs, James H.	McMannis, Ada M.	04 Jul 1881
Brilhart, William H.	Robert, Sarah C.	03 Aug 1881
Brooks, Frederick S.	Myers, Julia	20 Dec 1881
Brown, Abraham R.	Kosht, Viola M.	10 Nov 1881
Brown, George E.	Hiffner, Meda E.	31 Jul 1881
Buck, William	Groom, Eva E.	13 Aug 1881
Burdick, William	Blank, Minnie	20 Nov 1881
Burley, George	Vine, Elizabeth	04 Aug 1881
Burt, Edwin	DuBois, Hattie B.	21 Dec 1881
Butler, Eli	Low, Mary	06 Nov 1881
Carter, Charles W.	Howe, Esther A.	19 Dec 1881
Casler, George P.	Hall, Jennie E.	01 Sep 1881
Castel, Romeo	Atkinson, Emily	13 Oct 1881
Castiel, Austin B.	Hudson, Ettie J.	26 May 1881
Chapman, Frank B.	Reed, Jennie M.	21 Aug 1881
Churchill, DeWitt	Carter, Lillie M.	06 Sep 1881
Clary, Frank A.	Harlow, Florence A.	13 Oct 1881
Clary, Myron D.	Harlow, Minnie J.	13 Oct 1881
Coffman, Jay	Crandall, Emma E.	03 Apr 1881
Cook, Frank M.	Myer, Alice R.	23 Feb 1881
Cooper, William S.	Reed, Jennie S.	11 Jun 1881
Copp, William G.	Oppenlander, Louisa	10 Oct 1881
Coss, Harvey S.	Culver, Ella V.	17 Jan 1881
Crawford, Jonathan J.	Parker, Mary J.	17 Feb 1881
Creasinger, Seth E.	Hewitt, Alice M.	08 Jun 1881
Culver, Luther	Wakely, Minnie	01 Jun 1881

