

Clinton County Trails

1871-1998

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ALWARD LAKE CEMETERY

Alward Lake Cemetery is located on corner of Alward and DeWitt Roads in the NE corner of section 20 of Olive Township. In earlier days it extended across DeWitt Road and to the west also.

Waunita (Rockwell) Hardman, secretary of the Alward Lake Cemetery Aid and who along with her husband, **Clare**, was sometimes caretaker of the cemetery, wrote the history which follows ca 1946.

The land for the cemetery, now called the Alward Lake, was given by **Nathan Smith** about 1750 [sic] when a member of the family passed away; and it was to be called the Smith Cemetery, the east side to be for the Smith relatives. Mr. Smith owned the land to the south of the cemetery and ran a halfway house, one part for the white people and a shed for their horses and one part for the Indians and corral for their ponies. Whiskey was the drink most sold. (Son, **John**, was killed while pulling a barrel of whiskey up to the floor; daughter, **Marie/Mary Lonnier** --both were young and buried here.)

As this was the only cemetery around this part of the county, other settlers used it to leave their relatives, and as they were markers made of wood, they soon were gone and graves became lost. The Smith family moved away to a place on US-27, later called the **Treadwell** farm, and the cemetery became a forgotten place. On the west side of the road back in the field was land given by **Mrs. Huot**

Russel for a Catholic Cemetery when her daughter and son passed away. Anyone who was Catholic could use it.

About 1900 the ladies of the neighborhood formed a reading circle and [they] would meet in the homes. Someone would read while the ladies sewed, usually carpet rags for the hostess. About 1902 the reading circle was changed to the "Cemetery Aid" and by bees the ladies, men, and horses cleaned the place up as the northern part was full of brush and wild rosebushes. The southern part was a swamp and on still nights the frogs hollered so loud people could not sleep. The people bought tile and drained the swamp and cleaned it up. Many graves were found here. Mr. **Peter Huot**, who owned the land around it, gave dirt from a hill near and it was used to fill the swamp up. The north part was cleaned, old sod taken off, and new seeding sowed. Many graves were found here. The Aid bought small, round markers with letter "G" on top and placed [them] on these graves.

About 1909, when DeWitt road was made wider, a white baby and an Indian baby were found on west side under the oak tree. These were moved across to the east side cemetery.

The people who had relatives buried there took no interest in the cemetery except **Mrs. Herblet** whose husband was buried there. She never missed an Aid meeting unless very ill and as long as possible saw that each of her daughters attended the Aid, and would entertain them, and was a hard worker there.

About 1908, when Peter Huot went north deer hunting, Mrs. **Flora Huot** notified all who had some relatives buried in the Catholic Cemetery to move all bodies. Mrs. Huot moved son and daughter to DeWitt (against Peter's will and he did not know it 'till spring when snow melted and he saw grave holes in the field); others from St. Johns including **Laura Lamp** (sic). Mrs. Herblet then moved her daughter across to the east side of road.

And as far as anyone knew, it did not have a name, so the name of Alward was given in 1900--as the land now known as Brown place. It was called for the Alward family and the lake named for them. They lived on farm on DeWitt

Road that borders the west side of lake. A son, **Lyman Alward**, later became night watchman of St. Johns.

The Aid would meet only in the summer. Ten cents was paid for dinner. The town[ship] gave \$10 a year to help with work each year. Spring and fall the men and ladies had bees and would clean up the place. There were many people around who had relatives there but would not help in any way but did not approve of the way it was done.

When the steam railroad (later electric car company) connecting Lansing and St. Johns was built, the Aid was active in getting the name of the crossing changed from "Bums' Corners" to Alward Lake and helped build the waiting rooms at that crossing and the corner north, which was called "Schwab's."

November 29, 1928, the first of the Smith family relatives were buried here:

- ◆ A **Mr. Falor** of Fowler
 - ◆ In 1950 a **Mr. and Mrs. Drumheller** who were killed in an accident were placed here; and then, when the relatives of Mrs. Drumheller came to my house to get someone to open the grave, I learned it should have been named "Smith" and that the family was very unhappy because of change of name!
 - ◆ In 1952 **Chester Varney Smith** from Petoskey
 - ◆ In 1955 Mrs. **Zada Smith Lyon**
- All are great, great, great, grandchildren of the Mr. Nathan Smith.

As there are not lots plotted out, people would just go in and bury where they wanted to. There are many unknown and unmarked graves, and in digging, [they] would find another buried there.

Waunita Hardman's essay also exists in a slightly different version at the archives and includes the following additional information:

Mrs. **Virginia Huot** and Mrs. **Flora Huot** left money to be used in caring for the cemetery. Some of the early presidents of the Aid were **Myra Brown, Flora Huot, Elsie Reynolds, Virginia Lapham, Millie Miller, Lydia Huot, Dill [Edilla] Rockwell, Ida Brink, Anna Nichols, Hattie Holley,**

Eugenia Herblet McConnell, and Mrs. George Guile.

When the Smith family moved away to the Treadwell place on US-27, a **Mr. Russel** from Ohio bought the farm and ran the halfway house. He had married a **Mrs. Huot** in Ohio who had four children. They were: **Peter Huot; Virginia (Huot) Lapham; and John and Mary Mahonley.**

In 1908 Mrs. Flora Huot decided, much to the displeasure of her husband, that the Catholic cemetery was to be cleaned up, and while her husband was north deer hunting, notified all people who had relatives there to move them and with the priests from their church, the remains were moved to DeWitt, St. Johns, Lansing, and Laingsburg.

In 1912 the Aid hired someone to take care of the cemetery and [he] was paid fifty [cents] for [mowing the] north part. Some man would use team and mowing machine and mow the south part for one dollar.

Mary Lou (Hardman) Courtland, on 11 Sep 2001, added these recollections to her mother's story: "There was no sexton to dig graves at the cemetery, so Clare Hardman got the job when there was a need for one. One of the times was during the summer when the ground was as hard as cement. He and a friend from DeWitt were doing their best, but were running out of time. They got some dynamite and that helped the job go a lot faster. Another time, in the winter when the ground was not only hard, but frozen, they got some old tires and had a bon fire over the grave site. This helped to make the task easier and they got warm at the same time. Another time they got a tractor to run over the grave and pack the dirt down. This was not a good idea because you are not supposed to walk on the graves. You should stay on the path between the grave and the headstone of the next one. The grass was mowed by anyone who wanted the job. Finally the township took over the job and they take care of getting someone to mow it. There have not been any graves dug for a long time."

The Alward Lake Cemetery Aid kept records

February 19, 1942.
The A.L.C.A. met with Laura Kirkpatrick for dinner.
The business meeting was opened by the president and the Lords prayer repeated. A motion was made that \$75.00 of the association's savings be used to buy 3 war bonds. The president made application for sugar and coffee she received 17 lbs. of sugar and 1 lb. coffee. The last (coffee) to be applied for each meeting.
The meeting closed to meet with Mrs. Lillian Challender next month. Bingo played for balance of party.

Dinner Coll.	\$ 2.75
Bingo " "	1.60
	4.35
Bill to W. W. W. W.	1.40
(17 lbs. sugar, 1 lb. coffee)	2.95
	1.00

Four war bonds were purchased instead of the three decided on in meeting. 4 could be purchased for the \$75.00.

31

of their meetings. The archives holds their book of minutes 1943-1961. Feb. 19, 1942. The A.L.C.A. met with **Laura Kirkpatrick** for dinner. The business meeting was opened by the president and the Lords Prayer repeated. A motion was made that \$75.00 of the association's savings be used to buy 3 war bonds. The president made application for sugar and coffee. She received 17 (seventeen) lbs. of sugar and 1 lb. coffee. The last (coffee) to be applied for each meeting. The meeting closed to meet with Mrs. **Lillian Challender** next month. Bingo played for balance of party. Dinner Coll. \$2.75; Bingo coll. \$1.60; [subtotal] \$4.35; Bill to Waunita \$1.40; (17 lbs. sugar, 1 lb. coffee) \$2.95 Bal. Four war bonds were purchased instead of the three decided on in meeting. Four could be purchased for the \$75.00.

The Genealogists of the Clinton Co. Historical Society surveyed the cemetery in 1977. They listed the following stones:

	Born	Died	Age
Alward, Nathaniel		- 28 Mar 1851	23/6/13
, Henry C.		- 10 Jan 1884	81/11/6
, Roday (wife of Henry C.)		- 7 Mar 1856	49/0/23
Drumheller, William	1874	- 1946	72
, Lora	1885	- 1946	61
Falor, Albert L.	8 Feb 1896	- 21 Aug 1896	
, Delbert L.	9 Feb 1896	- 20 Aug 1896	
, Alex	26 Sep 1859	- 16 Mar 1929	69/5/20
, Martha O.	22 Jan 1857	- 16 May 1900	43/3/24
Herblet, John N. (bro)	12 Oct 1864	- 16 Oct 1926	
, Jessie (sis)	1861	- 1886	25 y
, Nicholas (fa)	29 Sep 1838	- 5 Oct 1875	37/0/7
, Mary B. (mo)	11 Aug 1832	- 11 Jul 1920	88
, Frank A. "Gus" (bro)	12 May 1875	- 9 Jan 1961	85/7/27
Lyon, Zada V.	1881	- 1955	74
, Charles L.	1878	- 1960	82
Merchant, Lucy Tucker		- 29 Aug 1888	76/1/18
Newman, Jay J. (son W. & L.)		- 3 Sep 1869	16
Reed, Ransom	28 Oct 1806	- 14 Nov 1872	66/0/17
, Julia (wife)	21 Nov 1819	- 17 Oct 1900	80/10/26
Reed, Zada J.		- 15 Feb 1859	9/10/8
(dau Ransom & Julia)			
Smith, Lewis	1824	- 1894	70
, Mary J.	1835	- 1923	88
, Casper	1877	- 1953	76
Smith, Nathan		- 27 Dec 1878	89/5/24
Mary (wife)		- 16 Dec 1853	64/2/12
Tucker, Esther M. (dau Hiram & Lucy)		- 29 Sep 1861	19/1/0
Tucker, Hiram		- 31 Oct 1870	61/5/12
, Alice R. (dau H. & L.)		- 29 May 1873	16/10/20
White, Charley W. (son A.M. & U.N.)		- 11 Feb 1871	0/1/19

Another researcher's more recent Alward Lake Cemetery research, including an inventory of the grave markers, is on the DeWitt Public Library website at www.dewittlibrary.com.

The Clinton Co. Cemetery Restoration Project's plans include work at the Alward Lake Cemetery in the summer of 2002. www.rootsweb.com/~miclinto/restore.htm

FAMILY HISTORIES

Featured here are family histories which were submitted ca 1993 for a proposed supplement to the 1980 Clinton County History book. (See *Clinton Co. Trails*, Vol. 12, #1.)

Louis Frederick Mayer(s)

by Fred Mayers

Louis Frederick Mayer/Meyer (18 May 1825 - 26 Mar 1914) was b in Neidenstein, Germany. He was the son of **Ludwig Friedrich** and **Maria Evan (Olbert) Meyer**.

He was discharged from the German army on 10 Apr 1852 after six years of service, three of them in actual warfare. At that time he was offered a petty office in the German army, but decided to come to Canada instead.

Frederic Meyer and **Magdalena Foerch** (15 Oct 1838 - 2 Aug 1908) were m 27 Mar 1856 in Wellsley, Waterloo Co., Ontario, Canada. Magdalena was b in Spechbach, Baden, Germany, oldest child of **John** and **Katrina (Bauer) Foerch**.

Frederic Meyer was a Lutheran, and by trade, a teamster. We do not know just when they came to Michigan, but the 1910 census said he was naturalized in 1884. In 1886 they came with their family to Olive Twp., Clinton Co., and settled on the farm where they lived and died. To them were born nine children but only two sons, **George** and **Frederick**, and three daughters survived them.

First record of land purchase that we have states that on the 13 May 1889, for \$3,000, Frederick Meyer purchased 80 acres in Olive Twp. In 1915 it was transferred to his two sons, George and Fred Mayer, and later to **George Mayer**.

George Mayer (10 May 1866 - 2 Feb 1948) m **Mary Therese Rohrer** (28 Jan 1868 - 28 Dec 1942) dau. of **John Martin** and **Theresa L. (Lorenz) Rohrer** on 10 May 1891, in a double wedding ceremony with his sister, **Lena Mayer** and **Bert Gardner**. The two couples were married in Olive Twp. by the pastor of the Lutheran Church in Lansing at that time, **F. Haeuser**. George and Mary lived on the homestead farm until 1941 when they moved to Bengal Twp. to be near their only son, **Louis T. Mayers**.

Louis Theodore Mayers

by Fred Mayers

Louis Theodore Mayers (16 Apr 1892 - 6 Mar 1976), son of **George** and **Mary (Rohrer) Mayers**, m **Ethel Viola Lamberson**, dau. of **Riley**

M. and Edna O. (Pierson) Lamberson on 12 Sep 1910. Ethel passed away 5 Jul 1940. After the early death of Ethel, Louis m **Mary Matter, Maude Grubaugh Eisler, and Mary Dush**. The first two of these wives also preceded him in death.

Louis T. Mayers, successful and admired as he was, quit school before he graduated from the 8th grade to work on the farm. He purchased his own farm on Jason Road just east of US-27 after he and Ethel were married. In 1927 they bought their farm on Walker Road west of St. Johns. Louis and Ethel had three sons: **Raymond Lyle** (b 27 Dec 1913), **Louis Frederick** (b 25 Oct 1917), and **William Clifford** (b 9 Aug 1932).

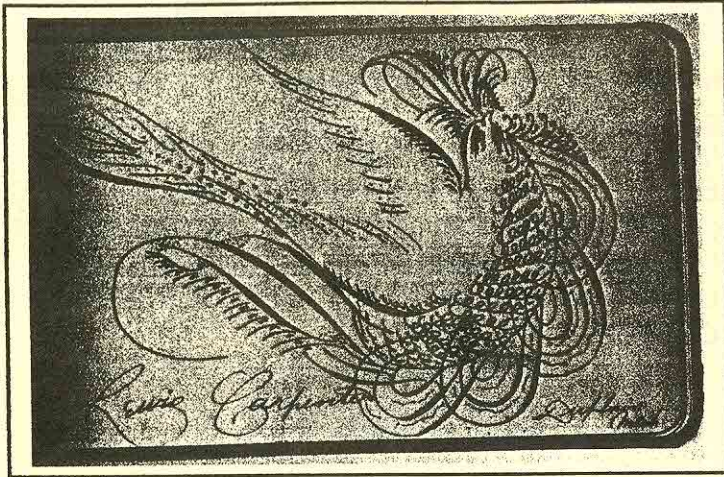
L. Frederick Mayers m **Claribel Rose Wilkie** (b 29 Mar 1918), dau. of **William G. and Rose (Barnhart) Wilkie** on 9 Aug 1940. Claribel taught for twenty-five years in the local schools. Fred took a short course in agricultural engineering at MSU in 1939-1940. They lived west of St. Johns. They both led 4-H clubs for over ten years and were active in the community. Fred sold all of his dairy cows at auction on 31 May 1972 and retired from all farming in 1980 when they moved to Rainbow Lake. Their three children are as follows:

David Frederick (b 28 Jun 1941) m **Carolyn Jean Peterson** (b 10 Feb 1943) dau. of **Dr. Forrest** and **Irma (Huber) Peterson**, on 26 Aug 1967 in Chicago. David got his B.S. degree from Kalamazoo College and David and Carolyn both got their doctorate degrees from the University of Chicago. They now live in Fairfield, NJ, and have one son, **Michael Frederick**, b 16 Dec 1978 in Canton, MA.

Phyllis Diane (b 7 Dec 1942) m **Stephen Ray Thornburg** (b 19 Aug 1944), son of **Gerald H. and Virginia Geraldine (Cochran) Thornburg**, on 3 Jun 1967 in St. Johns. Phyllis got her B.A. degree from Albion College and her M.A. degree from the University of Michigan. Steve got his B.S. degree from Purdue University. They have two sons, **Scott Erich** (b 13 May 1972) and **Brian Leigh** (b 24 Nov 1973). Both boys were born in Germany. Phyllis and Steve live in South Bend, IN.

Dale James (b 26 Nov 1948) m **Myrna Jean Hetrick** (b 9 Jan 1947), dau. of **Rev. Bernard Dale** and **Bessie A. (Mills) Hetrick**, on 27 Jul 1974 in Lansing. Dale received his B.S. in chemistry from Kalamazoo College and Myrna attended L.C.C. They live in Holt and have one dau., **Holly Jean**, b 25 Nov 1975, and an adopted son, **Jonathan James "J.J."**

Edith (Bond) Smith Autograph Book

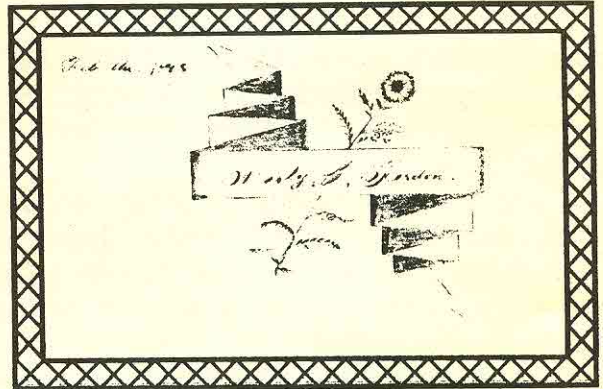


Edith (Bond) Smith was born Dec. 4, 1863, the daughter of Stephen and Nellie (Mogg) Bond in Duplain Twp. She died Jan. 17, 1948, and is buried in Riverside Cemetery. (from her obituary. *Clinton County Republican-News*; 22 Jan 1948, pp2 c4) Edith's autograph book, dating from the 1880's, was given to the archives by her daughter, Helen S. (Smith) Wiltsee. It contains the signatures of:

Avery, Jennie
Berry, Flora E.
Berry, W.C.
Bond, Alice
Boughton, Hattie
Carpenter, A. M. (Mrs.)
Carpenter, Lewis
Ferdon, Wesley C.
Fizzell, Cizzie
Frank, William
Mogg, Mary
Moore, J.B.
Root, Eliza C.
Settingington, H. (Mrs.)
Sherburne, Ginnie (?)
Stewart, Carrie
Watson, D. E.
Watson, Hugh

PAGES FROM AUTOGRAPH BOOK

You may fall from a masthead to the deck.
 You may fall from the skies above.
 You may fall from a chair and brake your
 neck,
 But, Edith, never, never fall in love. E.S.



May your life be like a snowflake
 which leaves a mark but not a stain.
 Your friend, Mrs. H. Settingington
 Elsie, Oct. 12th/84

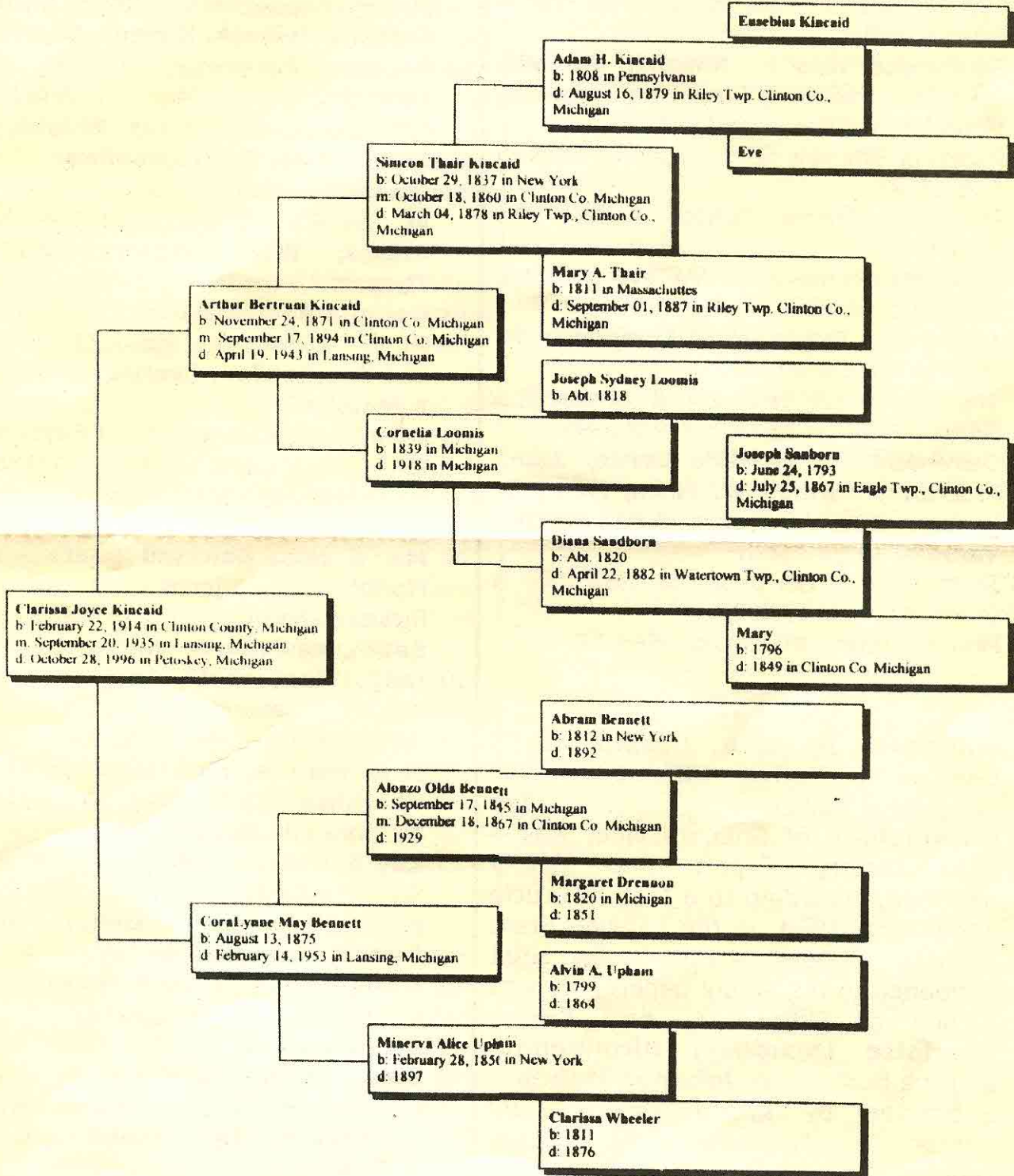
SAMUEL DEXTER REVISITED

The article in the previous issue about Gordon Hall in Dexter, MI, and Judge Samuel W. Dexter passed on some serious misinformation. On Dec. 30, 2001, we were informed by the University of Michigan researcher that she now realized that the Washtenaw Co. Samuel Dexter who build Gordon Hall and the Clinton Co. Dexter who lost the infant, Riley, were two different men. She further says, "I speculate that the second Samuel Dexter (yours) was a cousin or some such relation to our Samuel Dexter, and that yours came to Michigan in 1832 on recommendation of ours who had come out in 1824, though he returned to NY more than once to bring settlers back with him."

**Ancestors of Clarissa Joyce Kincaid compiled by:
Jim & Jam VanHoesen**

4703 M-68 Highway, Rogers City, MI 49779 vanhoese@freeway.net

Ancestors of Clarissa Joyce Kincaid



RECENT ACQUISITIONS

- ◆ *Descendants of John Loomis*, and other family data on **Loomis, Baker, Clark, Kincaid, Yarger, Law**, et al.
- ◆ *Descendants of Richard Belding Walton*, showing related families: **Wooll, Hicks, Slesman**, et al.
- ◆ 1900 census on microfilm of Dickinson & Eaton Counties.
- ◆ Genealogical data on **Kincaid, Bennett, Loomis, Sanborn/Sandborn, Upham, Wheeler**, and **Drennon** families.
- ◆ Photos of Simmons School students 1924-25 & ca 1930.
- ◆ Photo of Cramer School students ca 1910-1911.
- ◆ 12 scrapbooks mostly on WWII veterans and Clinton Co. war news.
- ◆ *Letters from Sylvia (Hall) Sprague to her children in Michigan 1877-1908*.
- ◆ *The Gratiot Co. Historical & Genealogical Society, The First 18 Years (1978-1996)*.
- ◆ Descendants of **Frederic Guere, Jacob Ridenour, Norman W. Finch, Henry B. Howard, Bethel Osborne, & Pad Barrus**.
- ◆ **VanHoesen** genealogy.
- ◆ South Riley School photo ca 1898-1900 & souvenir booklet 1922-23.
- ◆ Plowman School students ca 1948-49.

QUERIES

- Submitted by **Zoe Lappin**, 1246 Glencoe St., Denver, CO 80220-2559 zlappi@hotmail.com. **Ira Birmingham** of Shepardsville, was a local history expert and family historian, according to a feature article about him, 1964, in *the Lansing State Journal*. Does anyone know what happened to his family papers? Is was a son of **Millard F. and Emma Charlotte (Scudder) Birmingham** and the husband of **Johanna Mahnke**.
- Submitted by **Linda Taylor**, 307 Kanter St. Negaunee, MI 49866. Looking for sisters and brothers who were children of **John Henry Wonsey & Delores Ellen Wonsey**. **Thomas** b 21 Apr 1952; **Dick** b 21 Oct 1954;

Ellen ?Katheren b 25 Jul 1956; **Katheren ?Ester** b 14 Apr 1962. First three children were adopted out. 4th child kidnapped in 1963-64.

SURNAMES

- 📖 **Bruce Anderson** - 200 Dexter Road, Easton Rapids, MI, 48827. **Anderson, Cutless, Heibeck, Havens, Dewstoos**
- 📖 **Barbara Barrus** - P.O. Box 81275, Kenmore, WA 98028-0175. BJBSEA@AOL.COM. **Barrus, Wright, Jenks, Southworth, & Houghthaling**.
- 📖 **Diane Simkins**, P.O. Box 876356, Wasilla, AK 99687. Dsimkins@MTAONLINE.NET. **Briggs, Wolf, Warren, Anderson, Thayer**.
- 📖 **Georgia Becker** - 1660 Lillian, Westland, MI 48186. Howie31@JUNO.COM. **Bunting, Gordon, Kiser, Lennox/Lennex & Marshall**.
- 📖 **Bonnie Burkhardt** - 1500 Bayberry Park Circle, Canton, MI 48188-5241. Burkhard@flash.net. **Burdick, Pervorse, & Rice**.
- 📖 **Mr. & Mrs. Rowland Smith** - 609 N. Morton, St. Johns, MI 48879. Rowlanr@hotmail.com: **Dundon, Ferris, Smith, Newman & Pierce**.
- 📖 **Judy (Stanton) Dircks** - 6343 Douglas Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49009, drksj@earthlink.net. Ancestors & siblings of **Richard R. Bird, Siblings of Henry W. Bliss, Nell Stanton Nelson & Truman Lile Nelson**.
- 📖 **Kay & George Gallup** - 423 White Pine Blvd., Lansing, MI 48917 polkcat27@aol.com: **Gallup (Gallop, Gallup), Cogswell, Bailey**.
- 📖 **Marion Bates** - 1403 Mould, Niles, MI 49120, marionbates@juno.com. **Haire, Everest & Ells**.
- 📖 **Diane Stanuszek** - 324 Jay Street, St. Charles, MI 48655. **Frank H. Hall; McPherson; Moss; Stebbins & Walter B. Tripp**.

Amy (Birmingham) Smith

Interviewed by Jeanne Temple on 17 June 1983
(edited version)

I was born June 12, 1892, on Faragher Road about 1/2 mile east of what is now called the Richards School or the Avery School. My parents were **Millard Fillmore Birmingham** and **Charlotte Emma (Scudder) Birmingham**, married in 1878. My oldest brother was Ira Birmingham, born in 1879. My only sister was **Lillie Birmingham**, born in 1880. My second brother was **Charles Birmingham**, born in 1885. **Lillie** married **George McLeod**.

My father was always a farmer. We moved from the place where I was born when my grandfather Birmingham lost his second wife. His first wife was a Welsh lady, **Parry (Peavy) Birmingham**. They moved here in 1856 and Parry Peavy didn't like Michigan so she left my grandfather and went back to live with her people. She took the youngest child, Fred, with her. He was adopted by some people in Friendship, NY, and had the name of **Fred Stearns**. My father's sisters were **Eva** and **Lillie**. I don't know when grandfather Birmingham was married again exactly. His second wife died when I was 6 years old.

Ira Birmingham lived on my grandfather, **Dennis Birmingham's** farm. His brother, **David Birmingham**, lived on the same road. It used to run at an angle from the colony clear through to Laingsburg. The Birmingham Road was part of it and it ran across what was then the **Simmons** farm at an angle from the Colony across the Simmons farm. When I was little you could see the track across there yet.

When I went to school we played games like "pom pom pollaway," "anti-i-over," and sliding down hill. In the winter we went down to the--I guess it would be the Harmon Bridge now--and skated on the river, tried to. We slid down hill on the Richards farm on a plank. The whole school would get on that one plank and slide down hill. We slid down hill in the school yard on small sleds. An uncle, **George Washington Lewis Napoleon Soper** (He

married my great aunt.) made things like that and small painted pictures on glass, odds and ends. He was the sexton of the cemetery at West Webster, NY. It's now part of Rochester. In his spare time in the summer, he gardened, and in the winter he made these little things from cigar boxes and pieces of wood he had.

I was almost seven when I started school in the spring before my brother, Charlie, finished the eighth grade. Then the next year I was put into the second grade, so I finished country school in seven years. Arithmetic has always been my best subject. On my graduation diploma my highest mark was arithmetic. Principal Eddy told me that I had the highest mark in the county in mathematics.

I could have had 100 if I had cheated a little because somebody told me the weight of wheat a bushel. I didn't cheat.

In the country school my first teacher was Guy _____. The next one, was Millicent Temple; the next one was **Minnie Simmons**, and the last one was Mrs. **Frances Parmalee**.

She lived one mile west of Shepardsville on the west side of the road, north of the railroad tracks. I think **Millicent (Temple) Ellinger** and Minnie Simmons drove to school every day. Millicent Temple lived on the main corner in Duplain. Her father was **Bliss Temple** and lived on the east side road--the southeast corner where **Walter Kaufman** lived for a long time. Minnie Simmons lived across the Maple River, just east of the Harmon Road, on the south side of the road. We wrote the eighth grade exam at the Shepardsville School and **Blanche Hazel** conducted the examination for the county.

I had a good friend in my grade named **Leta Baker** whose father had bought the David Birmingham farm lived just north of us. In the winter our folks would hitch up the sleighs and take us to school. The rest of the time we would walk. I can remember in the spring we usually were given a day off to go flowering. The whole school would go east down by that Birmingham bridge and go flowering in the woods there. Of course, there were spring beauties, Dutchman's breeches, those tall flowers that look like larkspurs (wild ones). The

ferns there were gorgeous.

For lunches mother packed eggs, sometimes some fruit, apples or bananas, or whatever she could get. We didn't have bananas very often. She made her own bread

When I started in to Ovid to high school, at first I roomed and boarded with Gleasons who were relatives of **Sam Gleasons**. They lived where **Louella Canfield** lives. I took food to add to the food they had, but when winter came it was so cold in the bedroom upstairs that I moved to **Dr. Hill's**, kitty-corner from the Baptist Church. Of course, I furnished food.

They had several, sometimes as many as five, girls upstairs who were rooming and boarding there.

At first, when I started school, the old brick school had burned, so we started school upstairs over the Oddfellow buildings. The big room was the assembly hall; what was Oddfellow's dining room was a classroom; and what was their kitchen was offices. There was a long, long hall to get up there. The seventh and eighth grades were over the Register Union and they had a back stairway to go up and down. My class was about thirty-three who started and fifteen graduated in 1910. Our class roll when we graduated was **Beardsley, Birmingham, Boyd**. That was the start of the class roll, and the three first ones were the three who stayed in this area. All the rest scattered out.

When I was a little girl, my parents had built an additional room to the house and I would go out under that room and play with books and dolls. I had a doll that my sister brought me from Rochester, NY, when I was ten years old. It was a very nice, jointed doll. I still have it but it's not connected up any more. I had a doll cradle that this Uncle George Soper had made for me. I have a picture of myself under a tree covered with wild grape vine and I have that little cradle and a small folding chair, one about a foot long and six or eight inches high, that I still have. I'm playing there under that grape vine arbor. That's my playhouse.

I used to be able to drive horses on the slings when they were hauling up the hay in the

barn. As I got older I had a flock of sheep, not very many, but enough so my mother had a sheep wool batt made and it was covered with the wool crazy quilt that my Grandmother Scudder had made. Grandmother Scudder had sixteen grandchildren and she made a crazy quilts for all of them.

Aunt **Minnie Scudder** had a dressmaking shop over Uncle **Dar Scudder's** store in Shepardsville. That had been an apartment but she used the front room and one other room for sewing and a dressing room. I used to go there to play and learned a little about sewing there. **Mary Olson** learned the trade there of my Aunt Minnie and later worked all around the country to make dresses. She made my eighth grade and high school graduation dresses.

We were ten girls who graduated together from high school. We all wore white dresses, all different. My reception dress was pink wool, silk faced, trimmed with silver lace, White lace was "silver lace." The juniors always gave the reception for the seniors. My senior reception was at **Mrs. Dr. Campbell's** house. You were allowed to invite two guests. My brother Charlie went with me. I should have invited my father and mother, really, but she wasn't well. For some reason they couldn't go. Usually they had ice cream, cake, and punch, coffee. The year before **Harriet Gates** had invited me to go to their reception, and that was at **Lowe's** up in the Northwest corner of this town.

After graduation I stayed home. My mother had an operation after I graduated. I stayed home and tried to keep house. I wasn't very good at it. Mother's operation was done right in the home. The parlor of the house was stripped and scrubbed. The operation was done right there by **Dr. James McGillicuddy, Dr. Campbell**, and another doctor. **Edna Hudson** was the nurse. She got so faint at one time that my brother Charlie took over as the nurse. He was studying to be a veterinarian. Edna Hudson stayed and took care of mother. Her arm--she'd had, not cancer of the breast, but close to it--and there were long tentacles taken out under her arm. So she always carried

her arm across her stomach about at her waistline.

My brother studied in Chicago for three years and went on to Kansas City, I believe, for his final graduation.

We were married the first day of January, 1914, at the home of my husband's parents in Shepardsville, on the farm. They were celebrating their 25th anniversary, so when they had their 50th, we had our 25th. The farm was just north of Shepardsville on the east side. It was the George Frank Smith farm. His name was **George Franklin Smith**, and he was always called Frank Smith or "G.F." My husband's name was **Paul R. "Paul Revere" Smith**, but he was always called "P.R." at Elsie.

I liked that. His brother was **Oliver Smith** who married **Josephine Alderman**. They were married later, sometime in October 1915, I believe, before our daughter **Charlotte Smith** was born.

When we were married, Paul was working in Toledo for the Merchants & Mechanics Railroad. He was the billing clerk. After we were in Toledo, we came back to the farm, north of Shepardsville. It was the first farm house north of the railroad track on the east side which belonged to **George Franklin Smith**, commonly called "Bird Smith," and when he bought it, it was only partly cleared. The field back of the houses on Shepardsville road was not cleared and he and the boys cleared it all. Later it was drained, tile drained. Charlotte, started school in first grade in Shepardsville.

Paul worked for his brother, **Oliver Smith**--learned the trade. Oliver had a Ford agency in Ovid after he had quit the railroad. Oliver was in officers training at Michigan State College when WWI ended so he didn't go overseas.

When Paul was a sophomore in high school, some of the boys skipped school and went hunting and he got black powder back into his right eye. He didn't tell his parents about the accident and got infection in his eye. It was very badly damaged and for years he had trouble with that eye. At one time he went to a lady specialist in Lansing and she said the

glasses he had on were entirely wrong and they shouldn't be magnifying. They should be decreasing. Anyway, he went on for years; quite often painful when we would use hot salt packs to help the eye. Finally, in 1968 or '9, **Dr. Phillips** operated on the eye because a cow had switched her tail when he was milking and cut the cataract loose at one corner so it rolled up. Dr. Phillips was about an hour doing the operation, because it was hard to get out.

When Paul came to Ovid to work for Oliver in the Ford garage, we left the farm. We had an auction and sold implements and whatever we had and moved to a small house, second house north of the tracks on the west side. We moved to Ovid in the fall of 1924 and lived up on the hill in the large house with the tower in front; and then moved on to a house on First Street just south of the railroad track where we lived until April; then we moved to Elsie. Charlotte stayed with her uncle Oliver and Aunt Josephine until she finished the year. We lived in Elsie until 1930 when we came back to Ovid. The Ford Company had discontinued making Model T's, and so we had nothing to sell for over a year and lost out. The garage in Elsie was where the post office now is and it was set on fire and burned. We came back to Ovid for that winter and then went to the farm in the spring.

When we left the farm in 1923, father Smith owned it. I believe they moved back there themselves. It stayed in the family until after Paul's death. (*The rest of the story will be continued in the June newsletter.*)

