

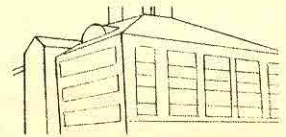


1871-1998

# Clinton County Trails

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## Clinton County Murders

(Second in a series)

By Wayne Summers

### Chesley Dew Murder



Chesley Dew<sup>1</sup> was a 5'6", 140 pound, light-skinned black man. Born in North Carolina about 1820, he appears in the 1850 Clinton County census as working for Thomas Wilson in Watertown Township. Two years later, on March 1, 1852, Chesley purchased 80 acres on Chadwick Road, between Francis and Forest Hill, in Riley Township.

Through hard work and frugal living, he was able to purchase additional land until his holdings exceeded 200 acres. His most recent purchase had been an 80 acre parcel on the northwest corner of Francis and Chadwick Roads. The land came with a house which he moved into leaving his old one on the south side of the road unoccupied. Chesley also owned 10 horses, a prize stallion, 50 sheep, 10 hens, 2 roosters and various other livestock. By anyone's reckoning he was one of the most successful farmers in the area.

Neighbors considered Chesley to be quick tempered, opinionated, and quick to file lawsuits. Many had had disagreements with him at some point. They also considered his practice of tethering his animals by placing ropes around their necks as abusive.

During the summer of 1880, Mary M. Guy<sup>2</sup>, a black woman in her mid-30's, arrived in the area from her home in Montcalm County and started up a relationship with Chesley, a man in his early 60's. At about the same time, her brother, Benjamin F. Guy, arrived and began using the alias William W. Cooper<sup>3</sup>. He contacted Chesley in the fall of 1880 about working some of his land. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February of 1881, Cooper and his family<sup>4</sup> moved into Chesley's unoccupied house on the south side of the road.

Cooper, six foot and muscular, had married Martha Lett in Berrien County in 1859. He enlisted in Company I of the Michigan 1<sup>st</sup> Colored Infantry in 1864. After the war he had resided in Montcalm County's Bushnell Township until moving to Eagle in 1880.

<sup>1</sup> He was often referred to as "nigger Dew." His relatives were a brother in Canada and several nephews.

<sup>2</sup> Mary M. Guy was from Bushnell Twp., Montcalm County. In the court testimony she refers to her little boy. It's not known where her son was living during the time she was married to Chesley.

<sup>3</sup> The 1880 census for Eagle Twp. lists him as Wesley W. Cooper with wife Mary M. and three daughters. Since his wife was Martha, the Mary M. may have been his sister or a second wife. Although he claimed to have used the Cooper name since 1864, he is listed as Benjamin F. Guy in military records and the 1870 and 1900 census.

<sup>4</sup> Two or three of his children were living with him at the time. He had at least two older children who were living with relatives.

On March 10, 1881, Chesley and Mary<sup>5</sup> were married. Soon after the wedding they began to quarrel. In early June a violent argument broke out between the two. Mrs. Dew reported that Chesley had her on the floor choking her when her brother arrived. At first Cooper had tried to talk Chesley into letting go. When that didn't work he pulled him off, wedged him against a wall, and cut off his air supply. After the fight, Mary Dew, complaining of illness, moved across the road with her brother. At the end of June she filed for a divorce on the grounds of cruelty, demanded a share of the property, and moved back with her mother in Montcalm County.

On July 3, 1881, Cooper visited his sister in Montcalm County and returned home the next day.

On July 8, 1881, William A. "Lonnie" Burritt and Lyman Tyler went to Lansing together to get some supplies. Lyman had lived in the house Chesley now occupied before moving to Gratiot County. During the trip Lyman and "Lonnie" discussed Chesley. They talked of the problems Lyman's wife had had with Chesley, of the way he treated his animals, and how he had beaten his wife. They decided that he should be taught a lesson. While in Lansing, Lyman bought some tar. Upon arriving back in Riley Township, they shared their plan with neighbors, including Cooper. Since it was getting late, it was decided to postpone the deed until the next night.

On July 9, 1881, a group of neighborhood men gathered at Nathan E. Jones' house. They decided that Darius<sup>6</sup> Utter would do all the talking. Cooper did not want to be involved, but was told what to say and do when the men arrived. Nathan Jones collected feathers from a cushion along with a brush while his son George gathered some rope.

Later that night, Nathan E. Jones and his sons George and Almeron "Myron", Nathan Daniels, Darius Utter, Lyman Tyler, Monroe Eddy and William A. Burritt arrived at Chesley's home. Utter knocked on the door and told Dew he was needed to get a doctor for Mrs. Jones. When Chesley refused to open the door, they broke it down. He attempted to beat them off with a bed slat while they dragged him out of his house. The men then stripped him, bound his hands and feet with rope and proceeded to tar and feather him. As soon as the men left, Cooper arrived, cut the rope and helped him up.

After that, Chesley began sleeping on a horse blanket in the mow of the barn with an axe next to his side.

On July 13, Mary Dew wrote to Cooper and asked that her things be sent to her. Cooper collected the items and had his wife deliver them.

In late July, Mrs. Dew approached a cousin, Isaac Drenshaw, who was visiting Granny Dew in Montcalm County. According to him, she offered \$400 and a pair of horses if he or his brother would kill Chesley and he refused. Mary Dew and several of her family members said this conversation never happened.

On August 17, Mary Dew purchased a revolver in Muir and then went to Fowler where she met up with Cooper. She gave him the gun and \$385 in notes. According to Mary, Cooper had requested the gun because he feared for his life. Others saw it as giving him the tools to arrange and pay for a murder.

On Monday, August 22, Chesley went to St. Johns on business.

On the morning of Tuesday, August 23, Cooper's daughter saw Chesley doing his chores.

About a half-mile west of Cooper's house on the south side of the road, there was a footpath that led back to a spring which Chesley used to water his livestock during the summer months. It was probably on this path that Chesley was attacked.

About 10 o'clock Tuesday night, Edson Smith said his dog barked as though people were going across in back of his house.

Mary Smith said she heard a noise south of her house and saw a man going toward Dew's woods.

Dr. Bates and his daughter were returning to DeWitt about the same time when they saw a wagon heading away at a rapid speed with nine men sitting in it.

Cooper said his wife woke him in the night saying she heard someone call out "murder." He went outside, saw some men and thought Dew was being tarred and feathered again. Not wanting to get involved he went back inside.

The next morning Cooper awoke about 5:30 and started a fire in his stove. Looking across the road, he noticed the barn doors were open. Cooper and his wife crossed the road to the barn and found Chesley's body hanging inside. His hands were bound behind him. A rope was strung from a beam and tied around his neck allowing his feet, one missing a shoe, to hang about 6 inches off the ground. Cooper's wife fainted.

After carrying his wife back across the road and putting her to bed, Cooper headed east to the homes of Nathan E. Jones and Robert Pinkham. He

<sup>5</sup> Since the marriage was not recorded with the state, it's not known if she used the Cooper or Guy name.

<sup>6</sup> Some sources say Darwin Utter

told them that Chesley had been shot and hung in his barn.

By nine o'clock when Nathaniel Daniels, a county coroner, arrived, about 20 men were examining the scene. The house was locked and there was no sign of a struggle in the barn or yard. Near the gate they found Chesley's hat, one of his shoes, and a small amount of blood.

The blood on the body was dry and there was no blood on the barn floor. There were deep cuts in the front and back of his head. His neck had been broken. The hat, found near the gate, had gashes in it that corresponded with ones on his head. One shoe had dried blood on the bottom. It was felt that either Chesley had been killed somewhere else and the dead body brought to his barn and hung or he had been knocked senseless and the hanging cut off his air and killed him.

While Cooper was helping with the investigation, his wife went to Montcalm County to get Mrs. Dew. Upon arriving, Mrs. Dew was reported to have said, "Who is killed, Ben or Dew?"

As a coroner's inquest jury of twelve men was convened in Wacousta to examine the evidence, Cooper took his revolver over to Nathan E. Jones' house for safekeeping.

Nathan E. Jones came over to Cooper's house and burnt a piece of rope in the stove which some said matched the rope used to hang Chesley. Jones, however, said it was the rope used for the tar and feathering.

A search of Cooper's house was made by the sheriff. They were looking for a shirt that might have bloodstains on it. Oddly, no shirts were found.

Dr. Fasquelle performed an autopsy on the body and concluded Chesley had been beaten by either the blunt end of an axe or a wooden club. His skull was fractured in two places and neck broken. He was unable to determine which of these had caused his death or if death had been instantaneous. Fasquelle also found non-life threatening injuries to the right knee and backbone.

Cooper went to Jones' house and retrieved his revolver from Nathan's wife.

At noon on Thursday, August 25, Cooper's wife and Mary Dew arrived from Montcalm County with a bundle of clothes. The funeral was 2 p.m. that afternoon followed by burial in the South Riley Cemetery. Cooper was observed at the funeral wearing a white shirt with dark spots that someone had unsuccessfully tried to remove. Nathan E. Jones was also seen with spots on his shirt. He claimed he

didn't know how they got there, but it might have been from killing a chicken, a nosebleed, or having two teeth pulled.

In the middle of the night, Cooper was visited by Nathan E. Jones and William A. Burritt. They said if asked about the tar and feathering incident he should say it was done by a group of men wearing masks and riding gray horses.

A mysterious fire broke out on the path leading to the spring where Chesley had watered his livestock. Some claimed that Cooper had suspiciously thrown a good rail into the fire.

During the eight days of testimony, Cooper was asked about the tar and feathering and gave the story of the men on gray horses. When that story was not believed, the prosecutor pressed William A. Burritt until he broke down and admitted that he and seven others had done the tar and feathering.

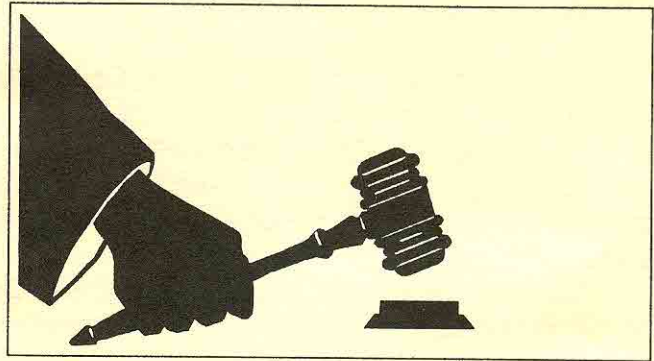
The inquest jury concluded that Benjamin F. Guy, alias William W. Cooper, and other unknown persons broke Chesley's neck and then suspended him by a rope in his barn. Cooper was arrested and placed in the St. Johns county jail to await trial in circuit court. Mary Dew and Mrs. Cooper were also arrested as accomplices.

During the eleven day trial in April of 1882, the prosecution presented a parade of witnesses who claimed that Cooper had made threats to kill Chesley Dew. That Mary had tried to hire a cousin, Isaac Drenshaw, to kill Chesley. That failing to convince him, she gave a revolver and about \$400 to her brother to have the job done. It was suggested that Cooper and his sister had arrived with a false identify to bilk the wealthy Dew out of his money. That Cooper's motive was financial gain.

The defense brought in witnesses to testify of Cooper's good character. It questioned the believability of the cousin's testimony because he had a criminal background. It read back testimony from the inquest showing several key prosecution witnesses, in particular Nathan E. Jones, Ralph Watson and William A. Burritt,<sup>8</sup> had changed their stories. It stated that men of property like Nathan E. Jones and William A. Burritt also had a strong motive to kill Chesley Dew. On the day before he was murdered he had gone to St. Johns, a fact that Nathan E. Jones first denied and then admitted to knowing. This could have been interpreted as his preparing to file charges against those involved in the tar and feathering incident. Killing him would save them criminal and civil prosecution.

After eleven days and a cost of \$5,000, the prosecution and defense attorneys gave their closing arguments. The jury took less than two hours to reach a decision. They found that the prosecution had not proven its case beyond a reasonable doubt and therefore Benjamin F. Guy<sup>7</sup>, alias William W. Cooper, was not guilty. Charges against Mary Dew and Mrs. Cooper were dropped and all three were released.

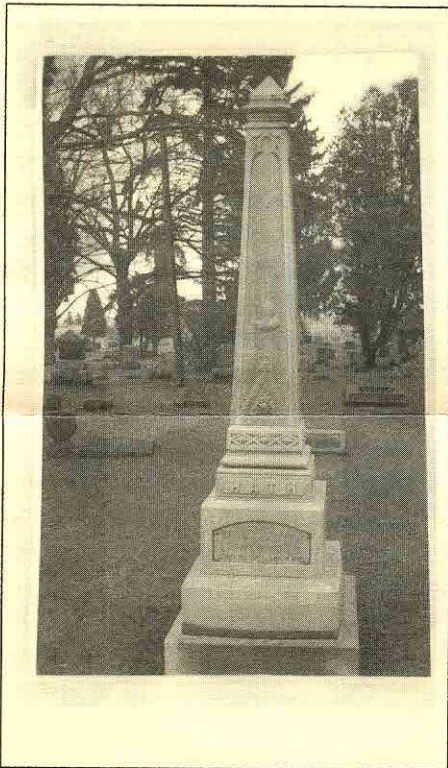
The case is still officially unsolved.



## Zinc Markers

by Wayne Summers

As you wander the older sections of Clinton County's cemeteries, you may occasionally come across a bluish-gray marker that sticks out among the stone markers surrounding it as a bit odd. Upon closer examination, you find that it's hollow and made of metal. What you've discovered is a zinc marker.



Sanborn Hath

The process of casting cemetery markers in zinc was developed in 1873. The Monumental Bronze Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut, began making and selling "silver bronze" markers in 1874. The term "silver bronze" was used because it was felt to be more appealing to customers than zinc. All zinc markers were made at the Bridgeport factory. First, artists created wax models. Plaster casts were then made from the wax models. Finally, metal casts were created in pieces and then fused together using hot zinc. Markers created after 1879 were sandblasted to mimic stone.

All casting was done at the Bridgeport factory. The pieces would then be sent to the subsidiary where they were fused and delivered to the customer. A subsidiary opened in Detroit in 1881 and operated until 1885 under the name Detroit Bronze. After Detroit Bronze closed, American Bronze opened in Chicago and operated until 1909.

The monuments were sold through a network of sales agents armed with a company catalog. Customers would select the style and decoration from choices listed. After choosing the size and style, the customer could pick as many decorative images as they wished for no additional cost. Names and dates could either be cast in the zinc or nameplates that screwed on could be added at a later time. In the later case, temporary decorative plates were attached until a family member died and a nameplate was created. Prices ranged from under \$6 to \$5000.

These markers have withstood the test of time far better than their stone counterparts. While the stone markers of the late 1800's are badly weathered and hard to read, zinc markers show little sign of age because zinc resists corrosion. The markers scattered around Clinton County are as easy to read today as they were when placed in the cemeteries. A drawback of zinc is that it is somewhat brittle and can be easily damaged. Another drawback is that the larger markers tend to

<sup>7</sup> Benjamin F. Guy died in Lansing in 1904 and is buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery.

<sup>8</sup> All three of these are also buried in the South Riley Cemetery.

creep, bulge out at the bottom, due the weight of the marker. However, overall, they have withstood over a century of Clinton County weather admirably well.

In spite of the lasting properties of zinc markers, they never proved to be very popular. A major reason was many people refused to believe the company's claims that zinc markers would last longer than stone. The Monumental Bronze Company stopped making markers in 1914, but continued making nameplates for a number of years.

A few of the zinc markers of Clinton County are:

- I. Jennie and Adell Hill in North Eagle Cemetery who died in 1903 and 1904. This is one of the smaller zinc markers of the later period. It has some cracks, but otherwise is in good shape.
- II. Sanborn Hath (died 1879) marker in the Gunnisonville Cemetery is an obelisk shape and is in excellent condition other than some creeping.
- III. Orril Moore (died 1875) marker is in the Gunnisonville Cemetery. It has some damage, but is still very readable. It's an earlier marker and not as well fused as later markers.
- IV. Lucinda DeWitt (died 1876) in the South Bingham Cemetery is another early marker with an obvious fuse line and no sandblasting.
- V. Roxanna Carpenter (died 1918) is also in the South Bingham Cemetery. It's an example of the later sandblasted style. The 1918 nameplate would have been added later.
- VI. The Whitney-Flewelling marker in Section C of the DeWitt Cemetery is one of the more impressive zinc markers. It is a large obelisk topped by an urn with leaves sticking out into the sky. Also on this site is a tablet style zinc marker for Ezra Whitney. Both are 1870's zinc markers. Other than the fact that it's base is tilted toward the west, the large marker is in excellent shape.



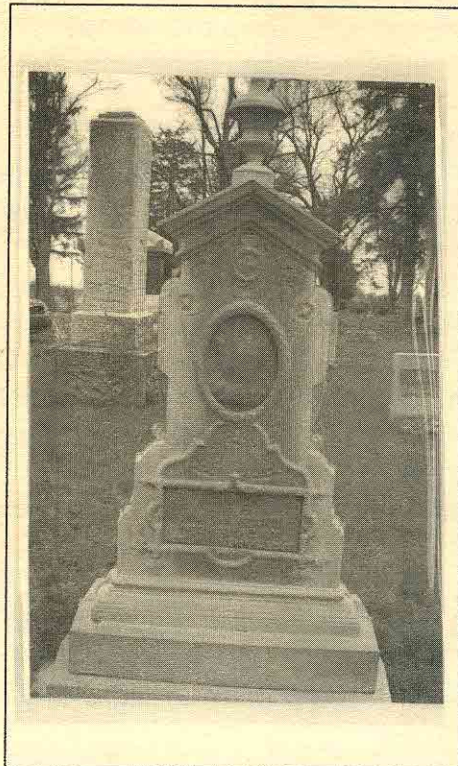
Jennie & Adell Hill



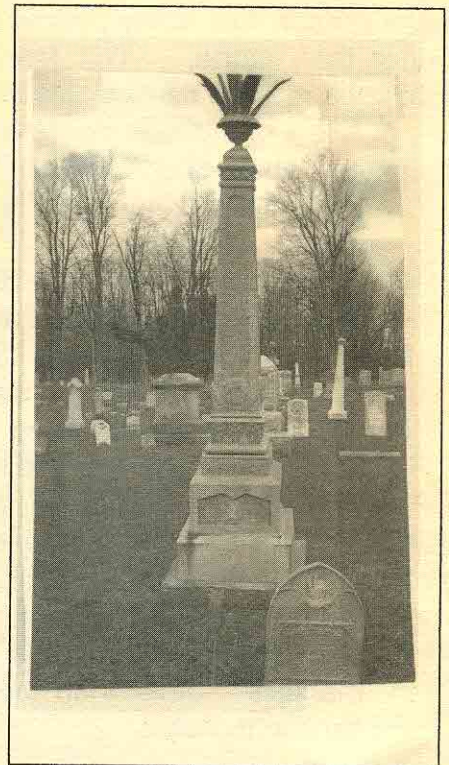
Roxanna Carpenter



Orril Moore



Lucinda DeWitt



Whitney-Flewelling

### RECENT ACQUISITIONS

- Photos of Plowman School Students, 1933-4, 1959-60, 1960-1, 1962-3
- Michigan Mortality Schedules on microfilm; 1850, 1870, 1880
- Index to 1860 Federal Census for Mich. & Wisc. on CD
- Business Journals of George W. Chapman Dept. Store, 1916-1926 (4 vols.)
- Business Journals of St. Johns Portable Bldg. Co., 1914-1926 (3 vols.)
- North Eagle Cemetery Index, 2003, by Wayne Summers
- Gunnisonville Cemetery Index, 2000, by Wayne Summers & Ken Coin
- Hurd Cemetery Index, 2002, by Wayne Summers
- South Riley Cemetery Index, 2003, compiled by Wayne Summers
- Niles Cemetery Index, 2003, by Wayne Summers
- Fitch Studio negatives 1976-1995
- Index to the History of Ionia & Montcalm Counties, MI
- Clinton Independent, 1864-1887, 8 reels of microfilm

# Clinton County Historical Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum presents---"Fast Facts"... The Early Railroad at St. Johns

Written & contributed by Merritt B. Scharnweber

In July of 1843, the Detroit and Pontiac Railroad Company completed a line of track from Detroit to Pontiac. Immediately after road was completed from Detroit to Pontiac, a project was developed to build a railroad from Pontiac westward through Shiawassee, Clinton and other counties to Lake Michigan at the mouth of the Grand River, to make a connection at that point with steamers for Milwaukee and other Lake Michigan ports. On February 123, 1855, an act by the State Legislature authorized the partnership of the Detroit and Pontiac with the Oakland and Ottawa Railroad Company, under the name, Detroit and Milwaukee Railway Company.

The road was completed to St. Johns in Clinton County on January 16, 1857. The line was of great benefit to Clinton County, but it proved to be a bad investment for its original stockholders. It went into bankruptcy in 1860, and remained thus until October 19, 1878, when it reorganized and became the Detroit, Grand Haven and Milwaukee Railway Company. This line came under control of the Grand Trunk Western Railway Company. In May, 1928, the Grand Trunk Western Railway was reincorporated as Grand Trunk Western Railroad Company.

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Company sold their line from Durand west through St. Johns and onto Muskegon, to Central Michigan Railway Company on September 4, 1987. Central Michigan Railway Company served St. Johns until 1993 when they then abandoned the line from Owosso to Ionia. The track was removed in 1995.

In 1853, while the Detroit and Pontiac Railroad was slowly extended from Detroit, a party of Lansing officials formed a company to purchase land along the railroad right of way in anticipation of future town sites. The four were: John Swegles, Auditor General; Porter Kirby, Commissioner of the Land Office; B.C. Whittemore, State Treasurer; and R.S. Mead, Deputy Attorney General. Through John Higham, chief engineer of the new railroad, they definitely learned that a station was to be built where St. Johns now stands. John Swegles was immediately delegated to purchase this land. He bought eighty acres from George W. Estes. Swegles immediately began surveying the proposed village.

Robert M. Steel, the builder of the Steel Hotel in St. Johns in 1887, came to St. Johns in 1856. He worked for the firm of Hayden & Ross who had the contract to build the road bed of the Detroit & Milwaukee Railway Company. He engaged in completing this contract until the fall of 1858.

The Detroit & Milwaukee Railway was completed to Owosso Junction in July 1, 1856. At this date the state capitol, Lansing, was still without a railroad. The D & M people were anxious to have the members of the legislature, on their adjournment, to go home by rail via St. Johns. The track was hurriedly extended on the ice and snow to St. Johns by January 16, 1857. When the legislature adjourned in February, they were brought to St. Johns by stage and boarded the train. When the spring thaw came, O.L. Spaulding said, "One train a day continued to St. Johns, bumping its slow length along, sometimes on the rails and sometimes on the ties."

With the railroad now terminating at St. Johns, the village gained more importance in the county.

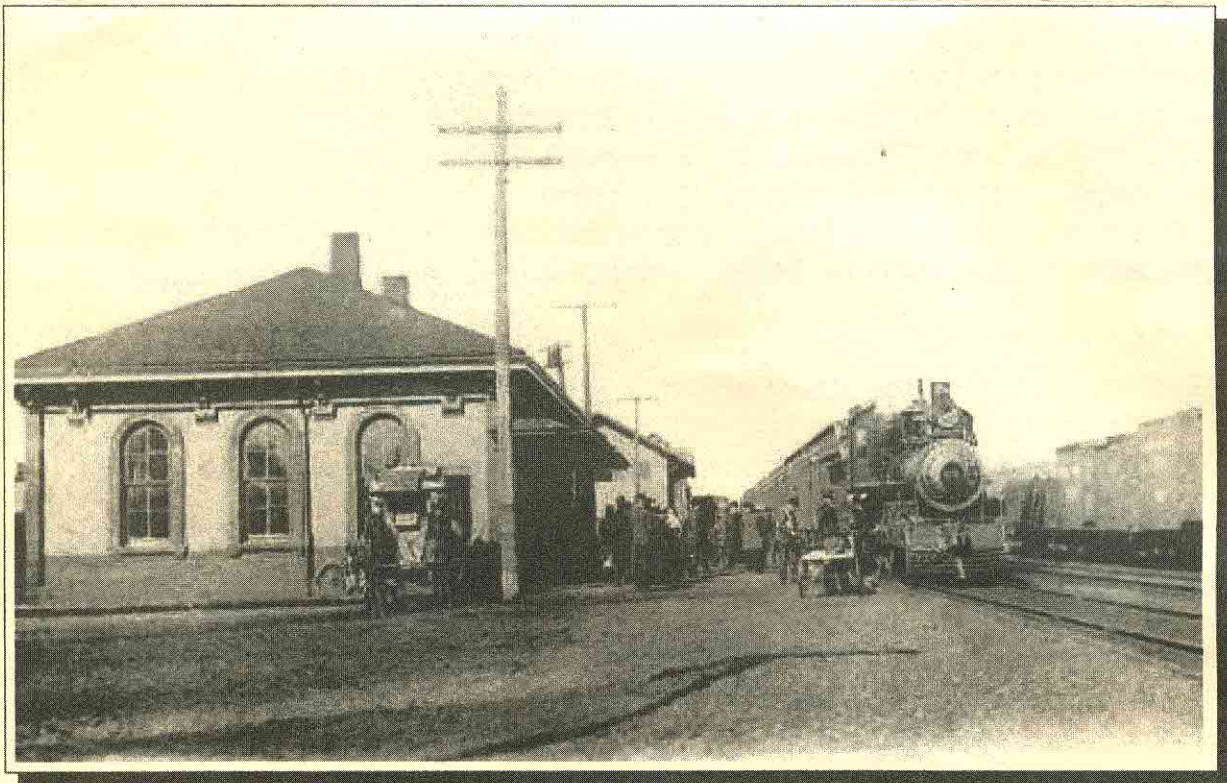
The county seat, which was in DeWitt, was moved to St. Johns. Also, some business people moved from DeWitt to St. Johns because of the new outlet furnished by the railroad.

St. Johns first depot was built on the south side of the track just west of what is now Mead Street. The freight house was on the north side of the track. The reason for this location, there was an old road that ran north to Rochester Colony and from this point, it west southwest and crossed where the courthouse is today, it then angled sharply to DeWitt. The depot had an eating house adjoining on the Westside, but this was later moved to Owosso. The railroad also built a four stall engine house and turntable just east of Mead Street. Hibbard's line of stagecoaches for Lansing, Ionia and points north met the passenger trains at the St. Johns depot.

The land west of the depot was swamp and the railroad construction crews graded fill from the deep cut at Whittemore Street for the road bed going west of the depot site. For quite a few years there was a pond on the south side of the railroad most of the year and a pond on the north side all of the year. There was no clearing of land north of the railroad for a number of years.

In these early years, the depot at St. Johns was the center of communications for the village and surrounding area. In 1868 and 1869 a new depot was built in St. Johns that was later destroyed by a tornado in March of 1920.

The railroad at St. Johns continued to be of great importance to the village for the shipping of goods in and out of the immediate area. In the early 1900's, the automobile and better roads started the decline of business for the railroad.





## PRESIDENTS, SOLDIERS, STATESMEN.

(CONTINUED - See Vol. 19, No. 1)

**JAMES ANDERSON**, a native of Scotland, was born Aug. 12, 1828, in Fenwick, Scotland, and was a son of **Gabriel and Sarah (White) Anderson**, long ago numbered with the dead. He was united in the bonds of matrimony Dec. 1, 1859, in Essex twp., Clinton county, Mich., to **Phoeba A. Lyon**, who was born in 1832 in Morrow county, O., and passed away Feb. 8, 1893. Her father, **Conger Lyon**, is deceased, as is also her mother. Five children have graced this union—**Sarah Eulalia, Mary V., Wilton E., Nellie, and Rowland S.** Comrade Anderson enlisted in defense of the Stars and Stripes Dec. 12, 1863, from Maple Rapids, Mich., when 35 years of age, in Co. A, 23 Mich. V.I., 2<sup>nd</sup> Brig., 2<sup>nd</sup> Div., 23 A.C. He was enrolled as a private and in due time was promoted through all grades to 1<sup>st</sup> Sergt. Nov. 14, 1864, he was wounded at Resaca by piece of shell in right ankle; he was treated in field hospital for six weeks in consequence of wound. Apr. 1, 1866, he was furloughed for thirty days and reported for duty at end of time. June 28, 1865, he was transferred at Salisbury to Co. E, 28 Mich. V.I. He was with the 23d in all its battles—Resaca, Lovejoy Station, Burnt Hickory, Buzzard Roost, Ft. Anderson, Kenesaw Mt., Town Creek, Franklin, Nashville, Atlanta, Johnson's surrender, and New Hope Church. He was honorably discharged June 5, 1866, at Raleigh, N.C. He had three brothers in the Union army: **Gabriel** in Co. G, 5<sup>th</sup> Mich. Cav., was in rebel prisons for fourteen months; **Thomas** in 6<sup>th</sup> Mich. Cav.; and **Robert** in Co. A, 23d Mich. V.I. His wife also had two brothers who served their country in the time of peril: **Aaron** in Co. G. died in Andersonville prison, and **Daniel** who ranked as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. of 16 Mich. V.I. Comrade Anderson is a charter member of Billy Begole Post. He has held various offices of trust, having been highway commissioner, nine years J.P., which office he is holding at present. He is a farmer by occupation. He also served five years in the standing army in England. His post office address is Maple Rapids, Mich.

(*Presidents, Soldiers, Statesmen...*; Hardesty; 1896 Soldier's Edition; Vol II; p 1184)

**STEPHEN C. BLISS**, whose parents, **David and Samantha (Griswald) Bliss**, are deceased, was born in Windham county, Vt., April 19, 1814. He was married Oct. 1845 in Wilmington county, Vt., to **Marilla Moore**, who was born in 1819 and passed to her reward in the fall of 1866. The issue of this marriage was five children: **George, Mary, Clark, Martha, and Franklin**. He was married secondly, Oct 1867, in Riley twp., this county, to **Charlotte Temple**. When the war cloud settled over our country, our subject was engaged in farming. He was enrolled Sept. 12, 1861, at Ionia, Mich., when 47 years of age as a private soldier in Co. E, 1<sup>st</sup> Mich. Eng. & Mech. Jan. 5, 1863, he was detailed as nurse in hospital at Louisville, Ky., and served in this capacity for thirteen months. He was granted his honorable discharge Nov. 2, 1864, at Atlanta, Ga. His son, George, served in Mich. Regt. Two brothers, **Horatio and Augustus** also served their country. His present wife had two brothers in action: **Thomas and Othol** in N. Y. Regt. Comrade Bliss is at present engaged in farming and his address is Riley, Mich.

(*Presidents, Soldiers, Statesmen...*; Hardesty; 1896 Soldier's Edition; Vol II; p 1190)

**WILLIAM S. BRONSON** was born in Monroe county, NY, April 22, 1822; he was united in marriage to Alma C. Davis who by a former marriage had four children—John L. DeWitt (married Rosa Harmester and they have one child, William), Sydney S. (married Bertha Chase and they have two children), Ellsworth B. (married Mahalia Doap and they have two children, Byrl and Edna) and Rosa B. (married Hiram Knickabocker and they have six children, Maud, Nellie, Willie, Maggie, Ray and Carrie, the latter died from eating meat.) Comrade Bronson endured the hardships and privations of a soldier's life during the late Rebellion, in defense of the Union; he was engaged in farming when he was enrolled Aug. 15, 1862, at Detroit, Mich., and served with distinction and honor in Co. F 24<sup>th</sup> Mich. V.I. His battle list includes some hard-fought battles—Siege of Fredericksburg, Port Royal, Fishers Crossing, Chancellorsville, West Moreland and Gettysburg where he fell for the glorious cause he had upheld, July 3, 1863, having been wounded by gunshot. His son has taken charge of the father's hotel at DeWitt, MI. (*Presidents, Soldiers, Statesmen...*; Hardesty; 1896 Soldier's Edition; Vol II; p 1192)

**L. D. BURDICK** was born in Lenawee Co., Mich., in April 1829, and was a son of Corydon and Nancy (Lane) Burdick; the former is deceased, the latter is deceased; his wife, to whom he was married, April, 1862, in Hillsdale, Mich., bore the maiden name of Susan Gillette. She was born in Lenawee Co., Mich., Nov. 1841, a daughter of Gilbert Gillette now deceased. They have had two children: Della and Alta. When the war cloud settled over our country and treason trailed our flag in the dust, like thousands of other boys, he enlisted Nov. 1862, when 22 years of age as a private in Co. D, 15 Mich. V.I., 1<sup>st</sup> Brig., 2 Div., 15<sup>th</sup> A.C. Dec. 1864 he was confined in hospital at Chattanooga, was then transferred to Nashville, four months suffering with chronic diarrhea. In May, 1865, he was transferred to Co. D., 4<sup>th</sup> Regt.; he was detailed most of his enlistment to guard property and on scouting expeditions; he took part in the battles of Stone River, Stevenson, Decatur, Athens, Nashville and others not mentioned; he was honorably discharged Sept. 9, 1865, at Springfield, Ill.; his brother, Henry and his wife's brother, Ephraim, served in the Union Army. Comrade Burdick is a member of G.A. Winans Post 104, in which he holds the office of Adjt; he is foreman in a lumber yard and is a resident of Ovid, Michigan. (*Presidents, Soldiers, Statesmen...*; Hardesty; 1896 Soldier's Edition; Vol II; p 1195)

**GEORGE W. CARTER** was born in Sandusky Co., O., Feb. 8, 1847, and was a son of John and Eliza (Duncan) Carter, deceased. Margaret Murry, who became his wife Nov. 15, 1876 in Dewitt was born in Stark Co., O., Feb. 14, 1850. Her parents, Andrew J. and Eliza (Young) Murray, both of whom still survive. Their only child, Murray, was born Sept. 30, 1877. When the war broke out, he was engaged in farming. In response to the president's call for brave boys to don the blue in defense of the Stars and Stripes, he was enrolled as a private in Co. C, O.V.V.I., 16 A.C. Dec 15, 1864, he was wounded in right hand at Nashville; the same day he was taken to hospital at that place where he was treated for wound six days. He was an active participant in the battles of Oldtown, Cupalo, Spanish Ft., Mobile, Nashville, and was at Spanish Ft. sixteen days before the enemy evacuated. He was honorably discharged Sept. 11, 1865, at Newbury, Miss.; he had two brothers

who served their country in the hour of peril, Duncan in Co. C., 72 O.V.I., and John, a member of Co. F, 72 Regt. His wife's uncle Murray Adam enlisted in Co. C. O.V.I. Comrade Carter is engaged in farming near Bath, Mich., which is his postoffice address. (*Presidents, Soldiers, Statesmen...*; Hardesty; 1896 Soldier's Edition; Vol II; p 1196)

**ABRAM L. CASTERLINE**, son of Abram and Maria (Randall) Casterline, deceased, was born in Ithaca, N. Y., Oct 8, 1829, and came to Clinton Co., Mich., in 1856; he was united in wedlock Oct. 3, 1851, in Ithaca, N.Y., to Charlotte J. Gray, who was born in Ithaca, N.Y., June 26, 1829. She was a daughter of Bethel and Cornelia (Carter) Gray, who have long since been numbered with the dead. Four children have blessed their marriage, Orrin D., Warren B., Herbert L., who died Jan. 25, 1896, at Maple Rapids when 34 years of age, and Fred G. Comrade Casterline is an old soldier who served his country faithfully and well; he was 32 years of age when he was enrolled from Dewitt, Mich., Aug 12, 1862, as a private in Co. A, 23 Mich. V.I. 2 Brig., 2 Div., 23 A.C. He was furloughed for twenty days April, 1863, and returned to duty at the end of time. Sept. 22, 1862, he was detailed as asst. Regtl. Steward for two years at Louisville; he was actively engaged in the battles of Campbell Station, Harper's Ferry, Siege of Knoxville, Strawberry Plains, Resaca, Chattanooga, Lost Mt., Siege of Atlanta, Lovejoy Station, Columbus, Franklin, Nashville, Ft. Anderson, Tower Creek, Wilmington and Goldsboro; he was honorably discharged July 20, 1865, at Detroit, Mich. One brother, Wm., served in N.Y. Regt., was taken prisoner. Another brother, Benj., served in Black Hawk war. His father served in the War of 1812 for 18 months. His paternal grandfather served in Rev. war. His wife's grandfather served in Rev. war. Her brother, Herman, served in the N.Y. Regt. Comrade Casterline belongs to Billy Begole Post; he has been twp. treas., councilman and president protem.; he is unable to pursue any occupation and his address is Maple Rapids, Mich. (*Presidents, Soldiers, Statesmen...*; Hardesty; 1896 Soldier's Edition; Vol II; p 1197)

## Surnames

- ⊗ Betty Driscoll, 9394 W. Silver Lake Road, Mears, MI 49436 [bdriscoll@voyager.net](mailto:bdriscoll@voyager.net) - **Wardwell, Barnes, Snyder, Dickenson & Gantz.**
- ⊗ Mr. & Mrs. Halbert J. Cogswell, 4746 Tolland Rd., Holt, MI 48842 - **Vincent, Jackson, Buck & Cogswell.**
- ⊗ Mrna VanEpps, 9731 Riverside Dr., Grand Ledge, MI 48837, [nvanepps@aol.com](mailto:nvanepps@aol.com) - **VanEpps, Wakefield, Sliker, Thurston & Bevins.**
- ⊗ Fritz Kellermann, 1805 Willow Woods Ln., Lansing, MI 48817, [J.Kellerman@comcast.com](mailto:J.Kellerman@comcast.com) - **Harry Phillips, William Kinney, Harriet (Kinney) Phillips, Theodore Harvey (Phillips) Townsend & Effie Townsend**
- ⊗ Ethel Flegler, 7422 W. Church Rd, St. Johns, MI 48879 - **Flegler, Horman, Hopp & Sehlke**
- ⊗ Marilyn Baumgras, 7801 W. Parker Rd., Laingsburg 48848, [mbaumgras@earthlink.net](mailto:mbaumgras@earthlink.net) - **Baltzell, Dexter, Bentley, Masters & Lowel.**
- ⊗ Judith A. Vance-Lowery, 195 Brookstone Crest, Newnan, GA 30265 - **Vance, McVeigh/McVey, Dean & Irish.**
- ⊗ Janet Tiedt, Box 44, 800 N. Wright Rd., Fowler, MI 48835, [tiedtj@mintcity.com](mailto:tiedtj@mintcity.com) - **Tiedt, Mohnke, Fischer & York**
- ⊗ Ralph Temple - 14847 Airport Rd., Lansing, MI 48906 - **Temple, Sherwood, Steward, Burress & Chamberlin.**
- ⊗ Ms. Diane Schafer - 1116 Boulder Ct., Lansing, MI 48917, [DinnyS@aol.com](mailto:DinnyS@aol.com) - **Schafer, Goerge, Ulrich, Droste & Williams.**
- ⊗ Reva Ernst - 7288 W. Taft Rd., St. Johns, MI 48879 - **Rininger, Ayres, Myers, McGinley/mcginley**

⇒ **The Archives of the Clinton County Historical Society** are located at 16101 Brook Road in the DeWitt Twp. Community Center. Volunteers are there to give research assistance from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursdays & Fridays. Phone: (517) 482-5117. Web Page: [www.dewittlibrary.com/CCHS](http://www.dewittlibrary.com/CCHS)

⇒ **The Genealogists of the CCHS** meet the first Monday of each month at 1:00 pm November through March or 7:30 pm April through October in the Firstbank community room, located downtown St. Johns. E-mail address: [ccgensoc@yahoo.com](mailto:cgensoc@yahoo.com). The **Historical Society meetings** are held 30 minutes prior to the Genealogist's meetings at Firstbank, the first Monday of January, April, July & October.

⇒ **The Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum** is located on the west side of the Courthouse Square in St. Johns. Open April 1 - Dec 31. Sunday 1:00-4:00 p.m. & Wednesday 2:00-7:00 p.m.

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**ANNUAL DUES to join both the Clinton County Historical Society and the Genealogy Committee are \$15 single and \$20 a couple/family.** Membership is based on the calendar year and includes a subscription to the quarterly newsletter, *Clinton County Trails*. Checks should be made payable to the Clinton County Historical Society and mailed to P.O. Box 174, St. Johns, MI 48879. Genealogical queries should be addressed to: Genealogists of the Clinton County Historical Society, P.O. Box 23 St. Johns, MI 48879.