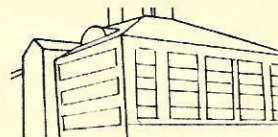




# Clinton County Trails

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## EARLY SETTLER CERTIFICATES

The Genealogists of the Clinton County Historical Society are proud to offer two distinctive commemorative certificates to eligible persons in honor of the 166<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the organization of Clinton County in 1839.

To qualify for a Clinton County "Early Settler Certificate", an applicant must directly descend from an ancestor (male or female) who settled in Clinton County prior to 31 December 1865.

To qualify for a Clinton County "Early Family Certificate", the direct descent must be from a family who resided in Clinton County prior to 31 December 1899.

Applicants must be able to prove descent from the ancestor by official or approved records for each generation, including proof for applicant. Current residency in Clinton County is not required. There is a non-refundable fee of \$15 for each application payable to the Genealogist of the CCHS.

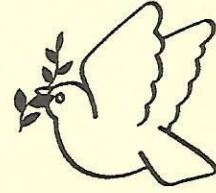
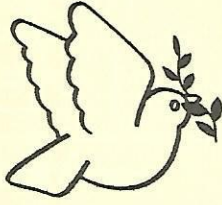
Each proof should be the result of credible genealogical research. Acceptable primary sources are: vital records (birth/marriage/death), land, court, tax, military, church, cemetery, and miscellaneous county records and federal/state/county census.

The following secondary sources may or may not be acceptable: Bible records (must have copy of title page with publication date), obituaries and newspaper articles (must include name of paper, date published and page), clear photos of tombstones (must have name/location of cemetery and tombstone therein), local histories, state pioneer records, city and county directories, private papers etc.

LDS Family search or other Internet records are **not acceptable** proofs.

If brothers/sisters/children/grandchildren of the applicant wish a certificate on this same line and apply in the same packet, on a separate sheet, with proof of relationship to the main applicant, the fee is only \$7.50.

An application form and detailed information on the Early Settler and Early Family certificate program is available via the Internet through the DeWitt Public Library at: [www.dewittlibrary.com/cchs](http://www.dewittlibrary.com/cchs), Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum, The Genealogist of the CCHS, Box 23, St. Johns, MI 48879 and other libraries. It is also available at the Archives of Clinton County Historical Society, 13121 Brook Road, Lansing, MI.



In Memory of  
**JEANNE I. TEMPLE**

June 30, 1920 – December 28, 2004

President of the  
Clinton Co. Historical Society  
1999 – 2004

*Jeanne was well known as an avid collector of material concerning Clinton County's past and an active, knowledgeable promoter of historical conservation. She was especially interested in Clinton County's Rural Schools and the Rochester Colony area.*

### Surnames

- ♦ **Bruce Anderson** - 200 Dexter Rd., Eaton Rapids, MI. *Dewstoe & Heibeck.*
- ♦ **Ronald Bauerle** - 376 Joshua Drive, Apt. 2, Erie, PA. *Bancroft, Beck, Ocobock, Peterson & Baske.*
- ♦ **Marilyn Baumgras** - 7801 W. Parker Road, Laingsburg, MI. *Baltzell, Dexter, Bentley, Masters & Lowel.*
- ♦ **Georgia Becker** - 1660 Lillian, Westland, MI. *Bunting, Kiser, Lennox, Gordon & Marshall.*
- ♦ **Roger D. Berg** - P. O. Box 57, Cedaredge, CO. *Abel, Knapp, Berg, George W. Smith & James Smith.*
- ♦ **Corabelle DeClerg** - 873 Kent Street, Portland, MI. *Morse, Parks, Murdock, Vincent & Bouck.*
- ♦ **John H. Fildew II** - 1105 Harvard Road, Grosse Pointe, MI. *Fildew, Alexander, Charles W. Lyon & Willard Lyon.*
- ♦ **Kay & George Gallup** - 423 White Pine Blvd., Lansing, MI. *Gallup, Bailey, Beckwith, Moore & Cogswell.*
- ♦ **John & Carol Gardner** - 1308 Wisconsin St., Stevens Pointe, WI. *Gardner, Pierson, Inslee & Myers.*
- ♦ **Carole Henry** - 8711 Meridian Road, Bannister, MI. *Salisbury, Falor, Burch, Britten & Evert Lacy Holcomb.*

## CHARLES BLAKESLEE & HARPER SCHOOL

By Charles E. Blakeslee, November 2004

I started school in Bengal District No. 3 in September 1917 at the age of seven. I had my wooden pencil box filled in May so I must have been eager to start. The school was located on what is now Park Road just 1½ miles west of the Bingham township line.

It was a half mile east of the **Lat Simmons** blacksmith shop and a half mile west of the Bengal United Brethren Church.

From the blacksmith shop lived my father's Aunt **May Travis Harper** on the north side of the road. Later her son **Ray** and his family built a house. On the south side of the road lived **Lynn Harper** (later **Otto Jacobs** and **Opal Whitaker**). Between the church and the school were **Clarence Hicks** and **Ethan (Harper?)**. On the south side of the road was the **Dow Pope** family and (I think his father) **Si Pope**.

My father, **Archer Hoy Blakeslee**, graduated from this school, as did my three brothers, **Levi**, **Leonard**, and **Gordon** and my sister, **Bernice (Blakeslee) Rice**. On the first day of school my brother **Gordon** led me into the schoolhouse and "planked" my books on the desk third from the front and second row from the west side of the room. My brother **Levi's** four children **Paul**, **Dennis**, **Myrna Mae Holloway**, and **Iyla Sjoberg** also graduated from No. 3. **Paul** now lives near **DeWitt** and **Iyla** lives on **Townsend Road**. All that is left of the school is the concrete porch and the lot. I think the school was abandoned in the 1960's.

My three teachers were **Miss Barret**, **Bernice Zacarihis**, and **Esther Kenyon**. I made it through grade school in five years. The reason for doing that was that the teacher could get rid of three grades with only on pupil in each grade. I remember that my brother **Gordon** said something about **Miss Barrett** and dad or mother made him apologize the next day. When he came out of the school after apologizing he was wiping his face. She had kissed him! At one time we had nineteen students in our school. My first year classmates were **Raymond Pope** and **Virgene Heur**.

Most of those five years I walked the 1¼ miles from my home on **Townsend Road** to school. I got in trouble one nice spring day walking because **Mr.**

**Hicks** had placed large stones on his fence posts to keep them from heaving out of the ground during the spring thaws. Apparently it had rained that morning as I had my umbrella closed when walking home. It was lots of fun poking the stones off the posts that evening. Unfortunate for my brother **Gordon**, as he had to put the stones back on the posts. You know, little brother at age 7 or 8 couldn't do it. Later I was able to walk to school cross-lots. Standing in front of our garage, I could hear the first bell ring and make it in one-half hour.

You may think school lunches are a present-day innovation. We had hot lunches then. We brought scrubbed, peeled, potatoes. The teacher dropped them in a kettle of boiling water at recess so that by noon we had hot, boiled potatoes with butter.

We had playground equipment too. Some of the boys went in the woods and cut a tree six or eight inches in diameter, placed a wheel in the top of it and hung ropes from the wheel.

Then we could run and swing on our ropes with our feet off the ground. One November some horses wandered into the school yard and left piles of dung which froze. The day after my grandfather **Risley** died, the boys amused themselves at noon by throwing the frozen "horse biscuits" into the girls' outhouse. The teacher made all of the boys stay after school and clean out the mess. The boys and girls had separate outhouses and separate entries into the schoolhouse—boys' on the west and the girls' on the east. Our common drinking water was in a pail in the girls' entry. We had a common cup. We got the drinking water from **Dow Pope's** as the school didn't have a well.

We played hockey with crooked sticks and a beat-up tin can. If you don't believe that I can still show you the broken septum in my nose where **Ronald Williams's** hockey stick broke my nose and gave me a black eye. After that he cut notches in the handle of his stick so it wouldn't slip out of his hand.

# Harper School 1909-1910 School Census Teacher: Mary M. Lanning District 3, Bengal Township, Clinton County

Report Form No. 2 30,000

SCHOOL CENSUS of District No. \_\_\_\_\_  
County of Clinton

Three

of the Township of

Bengal

State of Michigan, for the school year ending July 11, 1910, as taken by Leslie G. Brown  
during the last fifteen days next preceding the first Monday in June.

STATE OF MICHIGAN,

County of Clinton ss.

L. G. Brown

above named, being duly sworn, says that the

following is a correct list, as taken by him, of the names and ages of all children belonging to District No. \_\_\_\_\_ aforesaid, five years of age and under twenty years,  
together with the name and address of parent or guardian, and that said census was taken during the fifteen days prior to June 6, 1910.

Subscribed and sworn to this 26 July day of July, 1910.  
Before me

(Signed) Leslie G. Brown

Joseph J. W. Clark

My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_

(The census list must be sworn to, to enable the district to public money.)

### READ THESE NOTES.

1. If the district is fractional, write the names of the children in each township separately under the name of the township, beginning with that township in which the schoolhouse or site is situated. A separate statement must be made to the clerks of the several townships in which the district is in part situated, giving the number of children five years of age and under twenty years residing in that part of the district lying within their respective townships.
2. If there is not space on this page sufficient to contain the names of all the children in the district, write the remainder upon ordinary foolscap paper, properly ruled, and attach the same to this sheet. Do not use additional blanks.
3. The ages of the children must be given as they are on June 6, 1910.

NAME OF CHILD.	Age	Date of birth of those 5 and 10 Mo. Day Yr.	NAME OF PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN.
Behrens, Piffist H.	18		Chas Behrens &
Berd, August	7		R. D. Bird
Blaker, Lou A.	8		A. H. Blaker
Barnice	7		
Leonard	6		
Barnice, George	18		Byron Hamer
Doty, Earnest	18		Geo. N. Doty
May E.	16		
Irma A.	14		
Myra E.	12		
Alfred N.	8		
Willard R.	8		Geo. Ballet
Harper, Joseph A.	19	July 17 1900	A. E. Harper
Blair	12		Edward Harper
Russell	10		Fred Harper
Hugh	8		
Roberta	6		
R. Lynn	18		Wm. May Harper
Ross E.	17		
Dan E.	15		
Sever, Frank	15		Wm. Sever
Tracy, Clarence H.	14		J. M. Hicker
Grace	15		
Wardell	13		
Howard G.	10		
Merle	6		
Carl	6		
Hill, Florie B.	17		Trider Hill
Joner, Cora	14		Chas. Joner
Moravec, George	14		Frank Moravec
Parker, Agnes	13		Frank Parker
Neva M.	17		
Blumson	13		W. D. Blumson
Merle	16		R. D.
Neva J.	11		B. E.
Charlief	17		
Harriet	10		
Lydia W.	8		
Lucile M.	14		Lee
Reith	12		
Dorothy J.	9		
Pope, Leonard H.	8		Leroy L. Pope
Frank W.	7		
Helen	5	Feb 17 1902	
Maybill	5	Mar 2 1907	Dora J.
Severance, Frankie	12		Melvin Severance


NAME OF CHILD.	Age	Date of birth of those 5 and 10 Mo. Day Yr.	NAME OF PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN.	ADDRESS.
Severance, Cora A.	14		Melvin Severance	St. John R. 3
Leslie B.	7	Aug 17 1904		" " " "
Caron	5		Carl	" " " 2
Simmons, Otto V.	16		A. B. Simmons	" " " 3
Pabor, Harmon	6		Delos Pabor	" " " 2
Park, Hazel A.	12		C. B. Park	" " " 3
Whittaker, Opal	8		Wm. Whittaker	" " " "
	50			
	57			

## TOM THIELL

In February 2005, Tom Thiell reached the milestone of having volunteered at the archives for ten years. During those years, he drove from Ashley to work on Thursdays and Fridays from 2-6 p.m., thereby providing some evening hours for researchers.

His generous assistance and cheerful attitude is greatly appreciated by staff and patrons alike. The benefit of his long service for the improvement of our organization is beyond calculation.

**THANK YOU!!**



*Clinton County Murders*  
*(Fifth in a series)*  
*By Wayne Summers*



*Ax Murders of Riley Township*

One might wonder if there could be something in the soil of Riley Township which causes people to commit murderous acts. About a mile and a half north of where the Chesley Dew murder<sup>1</sup> occurred, two grisly ax murders took place.

In the early 1860's, Thomas H. Jones married Mary Hungerford and began farming on section 22 of Riley Township. On May 28, 1865, Mary gave birth to their first child, a daughter which they named Agnes.

Thomas left the house on the morning of July 16, 1867, with no inkling that his life would be irreparably changed by the time he returned home.

A Mr. Palmer<sup>2</sup> was passing by the house when Mary beckoned him to come in the house. As he entered, Mary led him to a room where, much to his horror, he saw the lifeless body of two year-old Agnes lying on the floor in a pool of blood. Her throat had been cut with an axe by her mother. While a dazed Palmer looked on, Mary, in a fit of insanity, walked over to the child and began to kick her with her foot.

Mr. Palmer contacted the neighbors and they were gathered at the house when Thomas returned home. When told that his wife had killed their daughter, he became enraged and threatened to kill her, but his neighbors prevented him from doing any harm.

Agnes was laid to rest in the South Riley Cemetery.

One must assume that Thomas came to believe that his wife's actions were the result of insanity, not malice. For when Mary died on July 31, 1871, at the age of 30, she was buried next to Agnes. Thomas later married Fannie Temple and moved to Gratiot County and had a second daughter.

When Thomas died on August 29, 1916, he was buried with Agnes and Mary in the South Riley Cemetery.

On Lowell Road about ½ mile south of Pratt Road was the residence of John R. and Betsey M. Kimball. Nearby, in a corner of the farm, lived their oldest son Charles L. and family including son Valentine<sup>3</sup>. Valentine Kimball, age eleven, came

by his grandparents' house about five o'clock on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 29, 1902, to help his grandparents with the chores.

Arriving at the house, Valentine attempted to open the door, but found something was wedged against it. After calling out and getting no response he pushed against the door and pried it open enough to see the bodies of his grandparents lying on the floor in pools of blood. Valentine turned and ran home to get his father.

Arriving at the home, Charles Kimball and neighbor Merville Smith found Betsey, age 72, near the stove where she had been baking pies. Two pies were on the table and it appeared that she had been preparing to remove the third when she had been struck on the forehead by an ax. A second blow to her neck had severed her jugular causing almost instant death. Judging by the coolness of the pies and stove she must have been dead for two or three hours. The murder weapon, a bloodied ax, was leaning against a chair.

John Kimball, age 78, was lying on the floor against the door. He still held the large jackknife in his hand which he had used to repeatedly stab his own throat through his long beard while attempting to end his life. Although his neck was badly mangled and he had lost a lot of blood, John was still breathing. The two men left to summon help. Doctors P. H. Banta and S. E. Gillam were called along with the sheriff. The men then returned and tended to John who died just prior to the arrival of the doctors.

At the inquest conducted by Justice Adelbert Burns, a number of witnesses were called. They recounted that John and Betsey had been well respected residents of Riley Township for 32 years. Lately John had suffered from a painful rupture. At times when the pain was particularly unbearable he pleaded to die and to be put out of his misery. While some neighbors recalled he had acted strangely at times, no one thought him to be dangerous. After three hours of testimony the jury found that John Kimball had murdered his wife and then committed suicide in an act of temporary insanity.

The funeral was held in DeWitt and attended by a large crowd. Chairs were set up outside on the lawn of the funeral home to accommodate those who couldn't fit inside. Some appeared to be there mostly out of morbid curiosity. A newspaper article stated, "one woman in particular was seen to bend over the open coffin of Mrs. Kimball and pass her fingers over the face and upon the bit of court plaster that covered the wound upon the forehead."<sup>4</sup> After the service conducted by Rev. Bard of Lansing, the bodies were interred in the DeWitt Cemetery<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> See Clinton County Trails Vol 19 No. 2

<sup>2</sup> Probably Shubal Palmer

<sup>3</sup> Other children of John and Betsey were John of Bengal Twp., Maggie Utter of Idaho, and Erma Terwilliger (wife of Tunis W.) of DeWitt. Charles Lincoln Kimball had five children. The oldest son Germain had married in 1901 and was probably not living with his father at the time of the murder. Valentine would likely have been the oldest son living at home. Charles' first wife Mary (Gay) had died on November 29, 1897, and was buried in the Boughton Cemetery. He married Daisey Ella Reed on December 17, 1900.

<sup>4</sup> Undated newspaper clipping found in the DeWitt Library people file.

<sup>5</sup> At first the burial was announced to take place in the South Riley Cemetery, but plans were changed prior to the funeral and the burial actually took place in lot 67, Section C of the DeWitt Cemetery. Charles, his second wife and son Germain and his wife are also buried in the same lot.

## THE SON OF TARZAN

Found on the book jacket of a WWII era reprint of *The Son of Tarzan*, first published in 1917.

### THE SON OF TARZAN BY EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS

Author of

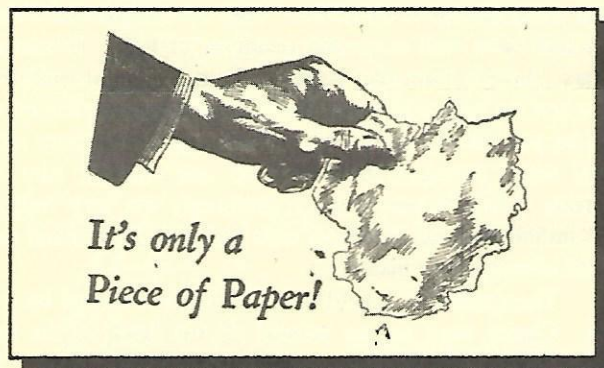
*Tarzan of the Apes, Etc.*

Tarzan's son inherits his father's love of the jungle and by an extraordinary combination of circumstances is taken to the African Wilderness. The lore of the jungle came easily to him--he battles mightily with Numa the Lion, with Hista the Snake, with crafty savages and slave traders till there is no one greater in the forest than Korak (the killer), on of Tarzan.

Just as much action in "The Son of Tarzan" as in the preceding volumes, so don't miss reading the fourth of the series.

GROSSET & DUNLAP

Publishers New York



It doesn't look like much, does it? It could be the torn-off cover of a cardboard box, or a piece of an old magazine, or just some discarded wrapping paper.

But if it is saved and collected it will become the container for a quart of blood plasma that will save a GI's life. (Every precious bottle of blood plasma is wrapped in corrugated paper to protect it against breakage. Each blood plasma box is made of heavy brown paperboard.)

Or it may become part of an airborne container (yes, they're made of paper) dropping food or medicine to liberated peoples.

Or it may show up as the shell case for the shell, or the bomb band for the bomb, that will

be the very last explosion to finally shatter the nerve and will-to-fight of the enemy!

Or as the map that points the way for our final break-through (our invading forces used more new maps of France, for instance, than the total number made from the beginning of history to 1940!)

So you see, that piece of paper can be pretty exciting. But only if it is saved. Our armed forces need every scrap of every kind of waste paper. Throw them away and you're throwing away helmet linings, gun covers, ration containers--countless war materials too numerous to mention here. Save every scrap and you'll help end the scrap!

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

- *Descendants of Palmer Columbus Temple.*
- Island School records, 1939.
- Photographs: Hardie, Mary, Peter & Wm. Miller; Mary-Anna Maria (Miller) Baxter; John Connell.
- *Land Atlas & Plat Book*; Clinton Co.; 1996.
- *The Daniels Family 1630-1951; A Genealogical history of the Desc. Of Wm. Daniels of Dorchester & Milton, MA.*
- Assessment Roll, Duplain, 1875.
- Record book of Colony School, 1866-1907.
- Rowell School scrapbook.
- *Echoes of Yesteryears, Shiawassee Co. Schools, Hazelton & New Haven Twps, 1837-1987.*
- *The Cobweb*; newspaper column by Jeanne Temple for *Ovid Reg-Union*; ca 1951-55.
- Class Record Book by Esther R. (Oyer) Smith 1923-29 (Marshall, Eagle, Colony, Eureka, Ovid-Elsie Schools).
- Civil War Records of Andrew E. Ferdon, Nelson W. Beebe, Benjamin B. Tucker, & Andrew J. Miller.
- Photos of school buildings & students: Colony, Dennison, Elsie Elem., E.E. Knight, Eureka, Grove (Greenbush Twp.), Gunnison, Little Brick, Mead, Merle Beach, Ovid, Page, Rheubottom, Richards, Rowell, Sherwood, Sowle, Stafford, & Watson.
- Wilsonian, 1952 yearbook of Rodney B. Wilson
- *H.S. Howard, Not Forgotten*; WWI letters of Howard S. Scofield.

## PRESIDENTS, SOLDIERS, STATESMEN (continued)

See Vol. 19, No. 1, 2, & 3

**JAMES COVERT**, whose father, **Andrew Covert**, is living, aged 83 years and whose mother, **Lezaann Covert**, is deceased, was born in Seneca county, N.Y. Dec. 10, 1841. He was married Feb 2, 1873, in Ovid, Mich., to **Anna Baker**, who was born in Franklin county, Pa., July 26, 1843. She was a daughter of **Peter and Elizabeth (Lance) Baker**, both of whom are deceased. Three sons and one daughter constitute this family—**Charles A., Bertha A., Oliver E., and Fred A. [Covert]**. Comrade Covert was engaged in farming when the war began. He was one of the brave soldier boys to respond to the president's call for troops. He was enrolled Aug. 28, 1862, at Lodi, N.Y., when 20 years of age as a private in Co. E, 148 N.Y.V.I., 18<sup>th</sup> A.C. He was detailed to guard fort at Norfolk, Va., for one year. He was to the front in the following battles: Drewry's Bluff, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, and several skirmishes and minor engagements. He was honorably discharged June 28, 1865, at Richmond, Va. His brother, **Anthony [Covert]**, fell at the battle of Drewry's Bluff. His wife's brother, **Solomon [Baker]**, served from the beginning to the end of the war. Comrade Covert is a pensioner, and his address is Ovid, Mich., near which place he is successfully engaged in farming. (*Presidents, Soldiers, Statesmen...*, Soldiers Edition, Vol II, H.H. Hardesty, 1896, p 1202)

**JAMES DAVIS**, son of **James and Elizabeth (Kline) Davis**, deceased, was born in Tonawanda, New York, Aug. 31, 1847. He was united in wedlock Aug. 31, 1872, to **Sarah Rollson** who was born in Wood County, Ohio, in 1849. Her father, **John Rollson**, is deceased, but her mother, **Cynthia (Tonahill) [Rollson]** is still spared. One child was the issue of this marriage, **Minnie [Davis]**. Comrade Davis was engaged in farming when the war broke out. He was enrolled February 1865 at Toledo, Ohio, as a private in Co. K, 185 O.V.I. His record as a soldier is one of gallantry and faithful service. March 1865 he was confined in hospital at Emblins, Ky, two and a half months. He was granted an honorable discharge Sept. 1865, at Lexington, Ky., the war having come to a close. His brother, **William [Davis]**, served in 157 O.V.I., and was confined in

Andersonville prison for three months. A second brother, **Daniel [Davis]**, also served and fell at Chattanooga for the glorious cause he had upheld. Our subject is a member of the Grisson Post, 156. He has a pension and he resides in St. Johns, Mich. (*Presidents, Soldiers, Statesmen...*, Soldiers Edition, Vol II, H.H. Hardesty, 1896, p 1204)

**JACOB DRUMHELLER** was born in Northampton Co., Pa., June 4, 1812, and was a son of **Philip Drumheller**, who has passed away. March 4, 1838, in his native state, he married **Sarah Chiser**, whose parents, **Peter and Elizabeth (McComb) Chiser**, have gone to their reward. The record of their children is as follows—**Mary A.; Benjamin H., dec.; Thomas J., dec.; Edwin, dec.; William H., dec.; Belle (married Davis Vanuss); Susan; Sarah; and Charles [Drumheller]**. When the war cloud settled over our country and treason trailed our flag in the dust, like thousands of other boys, Thomas (son of our subject) shouldered his musket, enlisting in the fall of 1862 as a private to Co. D, 72 O.V.I., and in due time was promoted to Sergt. He was actively engaged in all the battles of his command until stricken with typhoid fever. He was treated for same in camp picket hospital at Memphis, where he passed away April 1864. In the fall of 1863 he had received a slight gunshot wound and was given a leave of absence of ten days from Fremont, O. His father resides in Bath, Mich. (*Presidents, Soldiers, Statesmen...*, Soldiers Edition, Vol II, H.H. Hardesty, 1896, p 1206)

**ALLEN DRYER** was born in Ingham Co., Mich., June 14, 1840, and was a son of **David and Emeline (Morse ) Dryer**. The former is an active and venerable man at the age of 90 years. The latter is deceased. Settling in Clinton Co., Mich., in 1850, he was married March 25, 1867, in DeWitt to **Jane Ferris**. She was born in Watertown, Mich., March 22, 1843. The father, **Thomas Ferris dec.**, but the mother, **Mary (Forman) [Ferris]**, is still spared. Comrade Dryer was 22 years old when he went forth to help save the Nation. He had been engaged in farming when he was enrolled Sept. 15, 1862, as a private to Co. G, 6<sup>th</sup> Mich. Cav., 1<sup>st</sup> Brig., 1<sup>st</sup> Div. In 1862 he was detailed for one month as teamster at Washington, D.C. May 20, 1863, he was wounded by a gun explosion, which he was carrying on his back. In May 1863 he was confined in hospital at Fairfax, Va., one week, receiving treatment for chronic

diarrhea. In the fall of 1864 he was furloughed for twenty days and returned to his command at end of time. He took conspicuous part in several important battles—Gettysburg, following the rebels at Monterey, Hanover, Williamsport, Beaver Dam Station, Wilderness, Petersburg, and several skirmishes. He was honorably discharged Nov. 24, 1865, at Jackson, Mich. His wife's brother, **Peter [Ferris]**, served in 5 Mich. V.I. and was discharged on account of disability. A half brother, **Chauncey Berry**, also served in Co. I, 10 Mich. Cav. He was captured with eight others, but he and another comrade escaped. Comrade Dryer is a member of Anderson Post 58, in which he is Q.M. and his wife belongs to W.R.C. He is a farmer by occupation, and his address is Bath, Mich. (*Presidents, Soldiers, Statesmen...*, Soldiers Edition, Vol II, H.H. Hardesty, 1896, p 1207)

**CHRISTOPHER C. EVANS** was born in Ada, Mich., Jan. 30, 1845, and was a son of **Thomas and Sarah (Misner) Evans**, deceased. He has been twice married, his first union being in Sparta, Mich., Feb. 22, 1871, with **Matilda Hope**, who was born September, 1852. Her parents, **Joseph and Mary Hope**, are still spared. Five children were born to them—**James, Henry, William, Jessie, and Matilda [Evans]**. He married secondly **Emma Haskins**. Comrade Evans was a laborer when the war broke out. He enlisted in defense of the Stars and Stripes April 1, 1862, when but sixteen years old as a private in Co. D, 9<sup>th</sup> Mich. V.I., 13 A.C. In June 1862, he was confined in hospital at Paducah, Tenn., two weeks suffering with typhoid fever. In 1863 he was captured at Murfreesboro, but was soon retaken by Union forces. He was honorably discharged to re-enlist as a veteran and was granted a veteran's furlough of thirty days. In 1864 at Chicago, Ill., he was transferred to Co. H, 8<sup>th</sup> V.R.C. He was also put on police duty six months in 1864. He was honorably discharged Sept. 1865 at Cairo, Ill. His brother, **Thomas [Evans]**, served in the war and was discharged on account of disability. His wife's father, **Joseph Hope**, and two brothers, **James and Henry [Hope]**, also served in the late war. Comrade Evans is a G.A.R. member. He has a pension, is a laborer, and his address is St. Johns, Mich. (*Presidents, Soldiers, Statesmen...*, Soldiers Edition, Vol II, H.H. Hardesty, 1896, p 1208)

**JOHN EVANS**, a native of Pennsylvania, was born Nov., 1823, and came to Clinton Co., Mich., in 1866.

He was a son of **Joseph and Catherine Evans**, deceased. On Nov. 27, 1843, he united his fortunes for life with **Anna Welty**. She was born in York Co., Pa., Aug. 30, 1826. To this marriage were given these children—**Jacob W., John H., Joseph F., Mary F., William A., Sarah E., Eli S., Emma, and George S. [Evans]**. At the age of 40, like many other boys of this country, he responded to the president's call for troops to don the blue. He was enrolled in 1862 as a private in Co. E, 166 Pa. V.I. He was detailed to build forts several days. His Regt. followed the rebels under Longstreet to Blackwater twenty miles from Suffolk where they went to take up the railroad track, but they were forced to retreat. At the time of the battle of Gettysburg he was in Washington awaiting his discharge which was received in the summer of 1863. His son, **Jacob [Evans]**, enlisted from Pa. and re-enlisted from Mich. He was wounded in action. His second son, **John [Evans]**, served in one hundred days. His grandfather fought in the Mexican War. Comrade Evans was a member of Wm. Showerman Post 355. He is living in retirement and his address is Bath, Michigan. [*Presidents, Soldiers, Statesmen...*, Soldiers Edition, Vol II, H.H. Hardesty, 1896, p 1209)

**JOSEPH F. EVANS** was born in Lancaster county, Pa., Feb. 2, 1850, and was a son of **John and Ann (Morsie) Evans**. The former is living at the age of 75 years; the latter has passed away. He was wedded in the spring of 1878 in Bath, Mich., to **Ella Clise** who was a daughter of **Frederick and Margaret (Gordon) Clise**, both of whom are still spared. The result of this union is as follows—**Margaret, Herbert, and Herman [Evans]**, the latter two being twins. When the war broke out and the nation's flag was being trailed in the dust in the South, he was engaged in farming. He was eighteen years old when he entered the service in the spring of 1864 as a private soldier in Co. F, 195<sup>th</sup> Pa. V.I. He was never wounded but in the spring of 1865 he was confined in hospital in Virginia a short time on account of general debility. He was an active participant in the engagements of his command, including the Shenandoah Valley Campaign. He was granted an honorable discharge June 1865 at Philadelphia, Pa. His brother, **John [Evans]**, served in the late war. Comrade Evans is in receipt of a well-deserved pension. He is successfully engaged in farming and his address is Bath, Michigan.

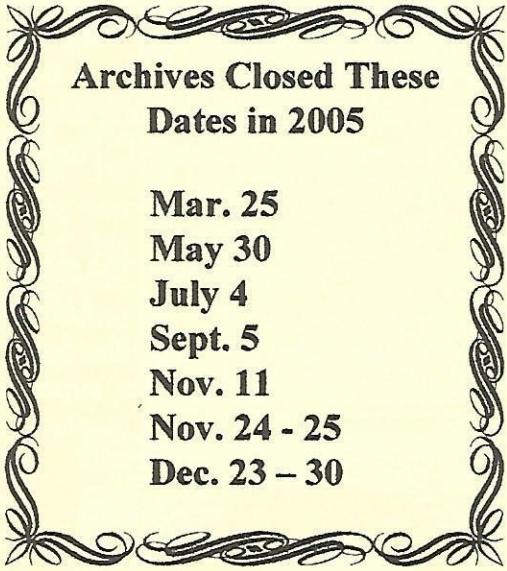


(*Presidents, Soldiers, Statesmen...*, Soldiers Edition, Vol II, H.H. Hardesty, 1896, p 1209)

**VALENTINE FISH** was born Feb. 3, 1832, and was a son of **Stephen and Catherine Fish**. The former is living at the extreme old age of 102 (1897); the latter passed away. He has been married three times, his first union being Sept. 1853 to **Catherine Bale** who was born in this county. Two children were the issue of this union—**Walter L. and Franklin P. [Fish]**. He married, secondly, **Ada Wilson** by whom he had one daughter, **Hattie [Fish]**. His present wife was, before marriage, **Hannah M. Wood**. When the Stars and Stripes were hauled from Ft. Sumter, he was among the volunteers to enlist in the Nation's defense. He was engaged in farming when he was enrolled Jan. 1, 1864, at Lima, Mich., as a private in Co. H. 10<sup>th</sup> Mich. Cav. In May, 1865, he was confined in hospital at Knoxville, Tenn., for three weeks, on account of general debility. He did not take part in any regular battles and was honorably discharged June 1865 at the close of the war. His wife's brother, **Franklin Bale**, was wounded by gunshot during service. Comrade Fish is a member of Grisson Post 156. He is a teamster and his address is St. Johns, Mich. (*Presidents, Soldiers, Statesmen...*, Soldiers Edition, Vol II, H.H. Hardesty, 1896, p 1211)

**JOHN C. FLEISCHER**, a native of Pennsylvania, was born May 15, 1839, and was a son of **Michael and Sarah (Stem) Fleischer**, deceased. Mrs. Fleischer, who before marriage in 1871, was **Emma J. Woodworth**, was born at Silver Creek, N.Y., Nov. 1, 1849; her father, **William Woodworth** still spared, aged 88 years; her mother, **Sylvia (Andrus)** is deceased. Their domestic ties have been graced with eight children—**Clara, Dora, and Irene [Fleischer]**, living. When the war broke out, he was teaching school. His loyalty to the Stars and Stripes enthused him to enlist Aug. 17, 1861, at Huntingdon, Pa., when 21 years of age. He entered the ranks of Co. C, 49<sup>th</sup> Pa. V.I., which did duty in 1<sup>st</sup> Brig., 5<sup>th</sup> Div., 6<sup>th</sup> A.C. In the fall of 1862 he was confined in hospital at Antietam for six months, suffering with chronic diarrhea. He was with the 49<sup>th</sup> in the battles of Williamsburg, Richmond, seven days fight, Gaines Hill, Savage Station, Seven Pines, Fair Oaks, Malvern Hill, Harrison's Landing, Bull Run, and Antietam. He was honorably discharged April 23, 1863, at hospital at Antietam. He had two brothers in Southern service.

**Uriah [Fleischer]** in 8 Virginia was killed at the battle of Seven Pines and **Andrew [Fleischer]** who was wounded and taken prisoner at Gettysburg. He died during service. Our subject has a pension and his post office address is Ovid, Mich., near which place he is successfully engaged in farming. (*Presidents, Soldiers, Statesmen...*, Soldiers Edition, Vol II, H.H. Hardesty, 1896, p 1211)



### Archives Closed These Dates in 2005

Mar. 25

May 30

July 4

Sept. 5

Nov. 11

Nov. 24 - 25

Dec. 23 - 30

### ARE YOU AN EARLY PIONEER DESCENDANT?

St. John's City is celebrating its sesquicentennial, beginning in January of 2006. Each month the City will have some activity celebrating different areas of the city's and its inception. As part of this special recognition time, the Genealogist of Clinton County Historical Society are hoping to find and recognize:

- I. Living descendant(s) of any of the original founder/settlers of St. Johns.
- II. A Living descendant of the longest continuous family line that has lived in and still resides in Clinton County.

If you think this might be you, please send your ancestry documentation to the Genealogists at P.O. Box 23, St. Johns, MI 48879.

## Clinton County Historical Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum Presents -- Fast Facts-- "*Street Names of St. Johns*"

Many street names were for the founders of our city, St. Johns. Two were named for assassinated Presidents, Lincoln and Garfield. The prominent street behind the Clinton County Court House, was named for General Lewis Cass, who served as territorial governor of the northwest territory, a part of which became Michigan in 1837.

J. L. Hudson Company had a tremendous interest in the history of Michigan. The Museum has in its permanent display a Clinton County Flag, one of 83 County flags, made and presented to each of Michigan's counties by J.L. Hudson Co., in 1940. A book was also published with the county history and a sketch of each county's flag. More on flags in coming issues.

I quote from a booklet that J.L. Hudson distributed of Michigan Pioneers-- The First One Hundred Years of Statehood, 1837 -- 1937.

"Dedicated to the memory of the foremost of Michigan's pioneers"

### GENERAL LEWIS CASS

"More than any other man he shaped the development of Michigan and the whole Northwest Territory. He negotiated twenty-two Indian Treaties, supervised the movement of numerous tribes to the hinterlands west of the Mississippi, conducted important exploration tours into the wilderness to discover and measure resources, enforced the edicts of a young nation on one of its most difficult frontiers. As territorial governor he set up geographic boundaries throughout the state created judicial districts, organized many of the counties of the state. He served his country in the War of 1812, attaining high rank. After 18 years as our territorial governor he served in two presidential cabinets, 12 years in the U.S. Senate. Appointed minister to France he published in Paris his celebrated "Inquiry into the Right of Search" which made maritime history. He was nominated for President in 1848. Often ranked first in the second generation of American statesmen--which included Clay, Webster, Calhoun----he is Michigan's permanent representative in the Nation's Hall of Fame!"



Lewis Cass

1782 - 1866

*We indeed have a prominent street named  
for a prominent man.*

**MUSEUM INFO:** Closed for the winter, the Museum reopens Wednesday, April 13th, 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.. The hours remain the same, Wednesday's 2-7:00 p.m. and Sunday's 1-4:00 p.m..

Our future projects are establishing a school room and a general store. If you have an item to enhance anyone of these exhibits, please consider a donation. Your gift is tax deductible and we have a memory of you for years to come.

***VOLUNTEERS are most welcome in many areas.***

# SONIER FAMILY

Submitted by Ralph Temple

Victor and Josephine Sonier were natives of France where Victor was born in 1835 and Josephine was born on Sept. 3, 1842. When she was 6 years old her father brought her to America and settled in Stark Co., Ohio.

Victor and Josephine were married in 1866 in Ohio and became the parents of: Frank (1867), Janie (1870), John (1872), Charlie (1874), Joseph (1876), and Lucy (1879). They moved to Clinton Co. in 1884 and settled in Olive Twp., Clinton Co., at the corner of Airport and Centerline Roads. There they built a log cabin. A modern home was built at a later date and it still stands.

Their daughter, Anna was born there in 1884. She married Jessie William Speer on July 26, 1906, and eventually became the great-grandmother of William Speer who recently visited the archives. He provided the details for this article and showed a photograph of the two homes in Olive and the large, framed marriage certificate of his great-grandparents Speer. He also donated this picture of an elaborate, floral "feather painting" thought to have been created by either Anna Speer or Josephine Sonier. Apparently it was made by dying, cutting, and arranging poultry feathers.

Bill Speer is a volunteer at the Steam Railroading Institute in Owosso, Mich., which houses the only working steam engine of its kind. This engine was featured in the 2004 motion picture, Polar Express.



✍ **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:ccgensoc@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.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

### LIST 5 NAMES YOU ARE RESEARCHING

Mr./Mrs./Miss \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**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.



## Harper School

*Original owned by Bernice (Blakeslee) Rice*

*Probably Fall of 1909 or Spring of 1910 -- -- Dist. #3, Bengal Township, Clinton County, Mi.*

Back Row (l-r): Dow Newman, Otto Simmons, Ross Harper, Mary M. Lanning-Teacher  
Middle Row: Clyde Plowman, Russell Harper, Raymond Ramer, Howard Hicks, Marshall Hicks, Neva  
(Plowman) Padgett, Gladys I (Harper) Darnell, Audrey Bird, Opal (Whittaker) Barnes  
Front Row: Glen Parks, Dan Harper, Leslie Serverance, Hugh Harper, Claude Pope, Carl Gillet, Levi  
Blakeslee, Bernice (Blakeslee) Rice, Theo Bird, Herbert Plowman Hazel Turk, Gladys M. Harper